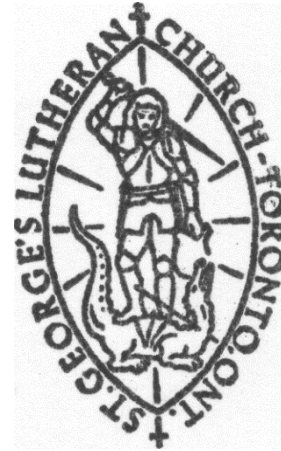


St. George's Lutheran Church
410 College Street
Toronto, Ontario M5T 1S8
Tel: 416 921 2687
www.st-georges-lutheran.com



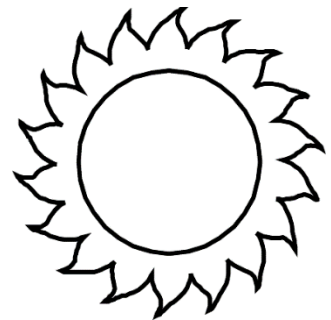
Katharina Moeller, Pastor
2393 Gareth Road,
Mississauga, Ontario L5B 1Z4
Tel/Fax: 905 277 2631

Church - Newsletter

October - November 2023

1. Devotion

I lift up my eyes to the hills— from where will my help come?
My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.
He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.
He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.
The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade at your right hand.
The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.
The LORD will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.
The LORD will keep your going out
and your coming in from this time on and forevermore. AMEN



Psalm 121

Dear Friends and Members of St. George's,
Psalm 121 is a psalm for travellers. The people of Israel sang it on their way to the temple in Jerusalem where they met and celebrated the Passover Feast and other festivals. For many people it was a long and exhausting journey.

I lift up my eyes to the hills— from where will my help come?

The people of Israel had to go up to Jerusalem. When they reached Jericho, a city closer to Jerusalem there was still 17 km to go and the road goes upward over 1000 meters until you finally reach Jerusalem. We know from Jesus' parable about the good Samaritan that it was a difficult and dangerous way to Jerusalem. In Jesus' time everyone knew that.

There were thieves who had no pity and took from travellers whatever they could get. It was good when people went together, they felt safer in the community.

It was a great feeling of security to sing together. Psalm 121 was one of the special psalms and songs that the people always used when they went on a journey.

Certainly, Jesus sang with all of them along the way, when he was 12 years old and went to the Passover feast for the first time.

In the psalm it is said 6 times that God protects us.
The word "keep" in the Psalm means "protect" or "taking care".
God was with them. when the sun was hot in the desert and when
the moon was out in the night, when they all slept outside.
People had to cope with nature day and night.
Sometimes people can't sleep well when the moon is very bright in
the night.



Psalm 121 is a psalm for travellers at all times. It is essential to include God in our journey and ask for his protection. He knows our ways before we know them.
He is always with us and we can turn to him in every situation. This gives us confidence and helps us feel secure even in places, where we were never before.
Everywhere we can find people who believe in the same God.
They may sing or recite our Psalm in a different language but is the same psalm about God's protection. Together we can worship God, sing along with their hymns, even in a different language, pray and celebrate. It is great to visit other churches, learn from one another and make new connections. Maybe we will bring new ideas home to our church or we may feel connected through parts of the service that we have in common.
God is with us wherever we are. He protects us and guides us to find community.
In the same way it is very special to have guests in our church and welcome them with love.
In this way they may feel like a part of our community as long as they are here.

Psalm 121 is also a song during the journey of our lives. It tells us over and over again that we are protected and never alone.
The difficult way is not only the way to Jerusalem. It could also be the way into a surgery, to someone with whom we have difficulties or into a new direction that is completely unknown to us. We all know difficult and uncertain ways in many different areas.
It gives us confidence, that God is close to us and we are never alone.
The last sentence of our Psalm word says:
The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.
It means that we will stay in God's hands forever, on our journey through our lives but also when he calls us home, into his eternal kingdom.
Let us join in the song and thank God for his protection and everything that he provides for us.



Thank you, God, for my life
Thank you for all the good gifts, for food and water.
Thank you for the good thoughts
that help me see life in a positive way.
Thank you for my good words
that praise, help, comfort and speak forgiveness.
Thank you for my good works
that support, help and heal.
Thank you for your grace, peace and love
accompanying my life forever. AMEN

Brother Titus 2001

2. Word from the Church Council President

Dear members and friends of St. George's:



As we approach Thanksgiving, we have many reasons to feel blessed. As you are aware, our finances are an ongoing concern and I am pleased to announce that we received a generous donation from an anonymous donor for which we are extremely grateful. It gives us breathing space for the short term, as we continue to seek long term financial stability. I also feel very blessed to witness the energy and commitment of our members and Council, who are continually striving to make St. George's a wonderful place to worship and to secure our future.

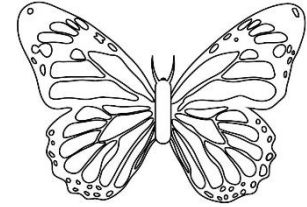
By the time you receive this newsletter, the fall season at St. George's will be in full swing. We will have celebrated the Golden Confirmation and other confirmation anniversaries, at which 27 confirmands are expected. It is great to re-connect and get in contact after a long time. We will be looking forward to celebrating German and Canadian Thanksgiving on October 1 and October 8 respectively (please remember to bring contributions for our food drive!) As I mentioned in the last newsletter, my daughter Kathryn will be getting married at St. George's on October 7, and on October 29 we are looking forward to welcoming back Martin Neuland who will play during the service as well as perform a concert afterwards. Martin is the son of Jutta Neuland, the entire family were former members of our congregation and he was the former head of music at Central Tech, Toronto. The first time he came we didn't quite know what to expect and all of us were blown away by the performance. We are also planning a special event following a mid-November service (date to be advised), when our Church Council member Jacqueline Myers, who is a Personal Trainer, will give us a 30-minute presentation on Fall Prevention. She will provide advice on how to prevent falls before they happen with tips on creating a safe environment in our home and simple exercises to help with balance and strength.

Your Council is also continuing to work on improving our property. Not only is it important to have a nice place of worship for our members, but it will also be more attractive to future renters. Next on the agenda is removing the graffiti. Now that the roof is fixed, we will repair water damage caused by leaks, and repair and repaint affected areas in the sanctuary and Katharina's office. We anticipate work will commence in October.

This summer, your Council also spent time discussing the future of the Church. The focus of our discussions was how to better serve our members, how to grow our community and how to improve our finances. Some highlights of our discussion were as follows:

- Our church community is much larger than the number of people who attend our Sunday services. We estimate that our community is bigger than the 170 members on our congregation list. We have many friends of the congregation, for instance more than 100 on our "newsletter friends" list; other people attend our Swabien Club services or services outside the church in nature, homes and Senior's homes.
- To better understand our member's needs, and what we can do to attract new members, we will be interviewing our community to find out what they need personally from St. George's and what they think St. George should do to be sustainable in the longer term. We have identified some target demographic groups in our congregation, which we would like to interview e.g. this year's confirmation class students and their parents, select regular attendees, those who can no longer attend our services etc.

If you would like to have a discussion with us on this important issue to make your views known, please contact Katharina or myself.



- To attract new members, we need to improve our social media profile. We will increase the number of posts on Instagram – one announcing our upcoming service (Fridays), an inspirational message on Tuesdays, and possibly a third message during the week. Right now, we are focusing on Instagram which tends to attract a younger demographic but will improve our Facebook presence and start sending more frequent email updates in due course. What you can do to help us is to start “following” us and encourage your family and friends to “follow” us as well.
- We have also placed a “Space for rent sign” outside the building which is attracting attention and will redesign our website so that information about rentals is more prominent.

If there is anything you would like to discuss with your Council -- Katharina Moeller, Erna Brusch, Lisa Hoberg, Jacqueline Myers, Andrea Read, Karin Schemeit, Angela SenGupta, Karen Spolsky, or myself, please feel free to reach out – we are all ears. Also, if you would like to help us in any way e.g., kitchen, redecorating, garden, being involved in a service or support the church through a donation, please let us know.

In closing, we look forward to seeing you over the coming months and wish God’s blessings to all!

Chris Duffield

3. Announcements and Information

Our Sunday services are held **every Sunday at 11 am.**

After our services we invite you for coffee cake and fellowship in the church hall.

All are very welcome!



www.gratismalvorlagen.com

October 1st, 2023 German Thanksgiving *

11 am Church Service

October 8th 2023 – Thanksgiving *

11 am bilingual worship service

October 15th 2023 *

11 am worship service

October 22nd 2023*

11 am worship service

October 29th 2023*

Musical worship service

followed by a concert

with Martin Neuland and “Trio Tromba”

November 5th, 2023 - Reformation Sunday

11 am worship service

November 12th, 2023 – Peace Sunday

11 am worship service

November 19th, 2023

11 am worship service
sermon: Karin Schemeit



November 26th 2023 – Last Sunday of the church year

11 am worship service with Holy Communion
**We remember our members who passed away this church year
and are inviting their families and friends**

December 3rd 2023 – Advent 1

11 am worship service

**This year, in the month of October, we will again be collecting for the Toronto Food Bank. We need non-perishable food, for example: flour, sugar, pasta, rice, canned foods, baby food and other foods which can be stored for a longer period of time that can be distributed to people in need. There are more and more people who find themselves dependant on the food bank. Please place your contribution at the front table of the church prior to the worship service. Thank you!*

4. Georgenkreis (conducted in German)

The Georgenkreis will meet every 2nd Tuesday of the month at 11 a.m at the church.
The next meetings are: October 10th and November 14th .
We are looking forward to seeing you again! All are welcome!

5. Service in the Swabian Club (conducted in German)

On Thursday, November 2 and Dec.14 at 11 a.m. we will be gathering for our next worship services, followed by lunch. Please let us know, if you can attend, so that we can order food a few days before the service. We are looking forward to seeing you again!

6. Faith class

Would you like to be part of a faith class, conducted in English?
The course is planned for 8-9 weeks and is expected to start in November.
The topic will be determined with the future participants. Please let pastor Katharina know if you would like to join the group.



7. Lay preacher Karin Schemeit reports

Dear friends,
I am enjoying working in my role as lay preacher. St. George officially commissioned me in May, which for me basically means that I am continuing to serve God together with you as best I can. When Pastor Katharina was in Germany in June, I stepped in to help organize bulletins and lead some of the services. I enjoyed this responsibility. Thank you to Erna, Chris and Pastor Rasma for their leadership as well.

I was invited by the Martin Luther and Thornhill congregations to lead worship twice at each church this summer. It took me away from St. George's but it was a wonderful opportunity. It was the first time I stepped out of my comfort zone in this role as worship leader. And I was a little nervous.

I quickly realized that both of these congregations are as kind and dear as ours. We had a nice time with each other.

I preached the 2 sermons that I wrote this year for St. George's: the one on Romans 1:16 „I am not ashamed of the gospel“ and my hummingbird sermon. It still is enough work though to tailor a service to a particular Sunday, congregation and time of year. There's always more to do than what meets the eye!

I bring many greetings to all of you from both the Martin Luther and Thornhill congregations!

Since my new connection to the Martin Luther congregation, I have discovered that there is a German Lay Preacher's group of North, Middle and South America. They meet every year somewhere else on the continents. This year they are meeting in Bogotà from Oct 17-22 and I have signed up. I have never been to South America and I am looking forward to meeting new colleagues and participating in the seminar. I still have to write a sermon for homework before I go. And I will happily present it to you one Sunday, too!

Peace be with you!

Karin Schemeit

8. Estate Planning, by Karin Schemeit

Dear friends in Christ,

In the last many years I have helped a number of people at the end of their life and have learned a number of things along the way.

You have worked hard for all that you own. You deserve to be honoured by those you leave behind. The best way to do this is to make it clear for everyone as to what your wishes are. And the simpler the better!

Please make sure you have a will. And that it is up to date. Not having a will creates problems for those you leave behind and could mean the government ends up with much or all of your estate

Things to think about:

Who are the people you love and respect that you would like to leave your estate to? Depending on your situation, this could be anyone in your circle that has been special or important to you. Try not to leave anyone out...one of the women I have helped, went through her phone book to make sure she didn't miss anyone. Let love guide you.

Consider leaving some part of your estate to organizations that are dear to you. This can be either in the form of a certain sum or certain percentage. Even a small amount can make a big difference. The church is one such possibility! If you appreciate the role that the church has played in your life than this is a good option for you.

The most important thing is that it is **your** will. And that it is clear and up to date as to what your wishes are. If you need help, please reach out to Pastor Katharina or myself. We can help connect you with a lawyer who is able to ask you the right questions to help you decide what is best.

The church council is inviting a lawyer to come give us a presentation on this topic in the new year. Stay tuned for more details. In the meantime, have a look at your will and see if it still reflects your wishes.



9. Our website www.st-georges-lutheran.com

Our website is an important component of our public relations and outreach program. A number of guests have found us using the website, and we often receive inquiries regarding our church. You can find a link to all our video services when you click on the link to our YouTube channel, or YouTube: “**St. George’s Lutheran Church Toronto**“
You can also visit us on Instagram: **@st_george_lutheran_toronto**

10. Joy and sorrow in our congregation

We baptized:

Louise Frederike Heppa
Daughter of Matthias and Caroline Heppa

You have set my feet in a spacious place. Psalm 31:9b



We bid farewell to:



Mrs. Ursula Reiter, 96 years
Mr. Udo Ernst Friesen, 90 years
Mrs. Eleonore Strube, 95 years
Mr. George Emrich, 87 years
Mrs. Agnetha Brusck, 97 years
Mrs. Ludmilla Stolz, 94 years

Jesus says: I am the resurrection and the life. John 11, 25

11. Request

Please call me, if you have any questions or if you would simply like to talk.

Please let me know if you or a family member would like a visit
or if anybody is in the hospital

Please let me know, if you have time to regularly call a congregation member.

Please don't forget, to let us know when you move.

We want to stay in touch with one another.

Please also let me know if you want us to pray
for you or a family member or friend during our Sunday services.



Wishing you and your families God's blessings and protection and a colourful and sunny fall!

Sincerely,
Your pastor,

Katharina Hölter



HAPPY THANKSGIVING



Vektor Dankeschön-Plakat für Kinder

Have fun colouring this picture!

All coloured pictures that you bring back to the church will be displayed on our bulletin board at the side entrance of the church.