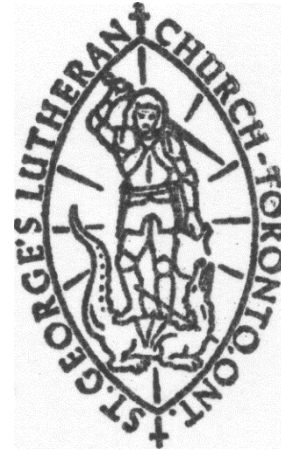


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Church - Newsletter

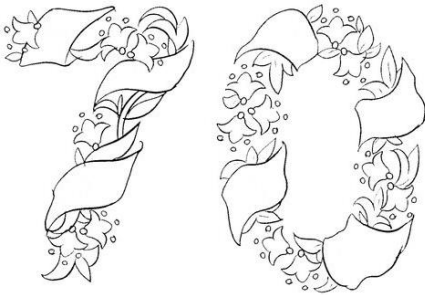
March 2024 – June 2024

1. Devotion

*This is the day the LORD has made.
We will rejoice and be glad in it.
Please, LORD, please save us.*

Please, LORD, please give us success. Psalm 118:24+25

Dear members and friends of St. George's!



On Sunday, May 26, we will be celebrating the 70th anniversary of our congregation!

We are looking forward to this special celebration and cordially invite you all to join us.

Please bring your families and friends with you!

Let us rejoice and be happy together. We are grateful for everything we have been able to experience and achieve together.

We are grateful to those who founded our church with Pastor Goegginger in 1954.

We think of those who were members or friends of our congregation for a long or short time.

We also think of all those on the church council and in other groups and committees who have moved the congregation forward over the years and continue to do so.

There are many reasons to be grateful, for example for all the baptisms, confirmations and weddings that have been celebrated in our church. Countless services, concerts, groups and meetings have taken place. Over and over again people have come together to be a loving church family. There are many reasons to be grateful when we look back into the past.

We recognize: God has accompanied and supported us and has been with us, in good times and in difficult times.

Let us never forget that there were also times when it was not certain in which direction the path of the congregation would continue.

We also had to say farewell to many members who were very active and supported the community. That was and is always a great loss.

Good and bad times are part of our lives as well as our church life.

The word from Psalm 118 contains both aspects.

***This is the day the LORD has made.
We will rejoice and be glad in it.
Please, LORD, please save us.
Please, LORD, please give us success.***

These verses apply to our 70th anniversary as well as to many other church services and highlights of our church life.

The second half of our psalm is also an integral part of life in the congregation:

It is a plea for God's help and for his blessing for everything that we plan and do.

We have often prayed for God's help and have seen our prayers answered in the history of our congregation. We have been able to find new paths and move forward.

We are now preparing for our anniversary and are pleased that we have the opportunity to beautify and tidy up many things in the church.

We are grateful to all those who support us with donations and active help. Everything helps us to prepare the way for the future.

We don't know what the future of our church will look like. We trust that God will continue to be with us with his blessing so that things can succeed in the coming years. Let us move forward with gratitude and confidence.

We can always ask for God's guidance and blessings, but also should rejoice in all that we can do together. From the bottom of our heart, we are grateful for everything that we can accomplish.

During the weeks leading up to our 70th anniversary, we want to create a poster.

We will write down what we are grateful for with regard to our church and congregation.

We also will include, where we recognised that God answered our prayers.

Please write down some milestones in your lives or some events or services that were important to you, or something else that made you grateful.

It would be great if you could bring it to church or send it to us by mail or e-mail!

You could send us whole sentences or just some phrases or single words!

We look forward to your comments and pictures*!

The poster should be colorful and diverse and make our gratitude visible.

Certainly, we will find a nice place for it in our renovated church hall!



The words of Psalm 118 also apply to each and every one of us.

What made you happy and thankful today?

Where did you need God's closeness?

Please think about this at every day so that you together with all of us will continue to walk on God's paths into the future to come.

We ask for God's blessing and great success for our church, our congregation and for all of you! AMEN.

*Please label the pictures and, if possible, add a year!

2. Word from the Church Council President

Dear members and friends of St. George's:

Since my last report, so much has happened: Christmas has come and gone, we have had seminars on Preventing Falls and Estate Planning, and we just held our Annual General Meeting.

Since many were unable to attend our Annual General Meeting, I would like to share excerpts from my report.

After several challenging years triggered by COVID, I am feeling increasingly hopeful about the future of our church. Highlights for me include our recent Christmas Eve services, which attracted over 170 people – well above the pre-COVID levels of 150; our new and growing number of attendees; the many repairs we were able to make to our church; and most importantly, the kindness and caring for our members who experienced difficult times.

Actions taken to generate more revenue include:

1. Claiming HST rebates – in 2023, we received \$16,939 in HST rebates for the period January 2020-June 2023 and are now in a place where we will consistently apply for these rebates.
2. Increasing rental opportunities – we put a sign outside advertising our space and spruced up the interior to make it more attractive to potential tenants. In 2024, we will continue with this work including trying to repair a water leak, repairing ceilings, painting the floors, etc. Once most of this work is done, we will also update our website to include information about rental opportunities at St. George's.
3. Monitoring legacies for our Church - Karin Schemeit oversees this, but it is a lengthy process.
4. Identifying fundraising opportunities - we hoped to have a garage sale in front of the church but were unable to do so due to the construction.
5. Exploring potential insurance savings – we increased our deductible resulting in a 5% savings.
6. Exploring Government grant opportunities – we received another \$7500 anti-hate and security grant, that we used for a new fence for the repair of the gate and for two motion detector lights.

Actions to better serve our members and grow our church community included, starting a faith group; having more services followed by special events e.g. Preventing falls and Estate Planning seminars; improving our social media presence (thanks to Jacqueline Myers for managing our Instagram account -- please follow us); more outreach events such as garage sales, concerts, an Open-Door event; and sprucing up our building to make it more inviting from the outside. We will also be interviewing interested members and friends of our congregations to obtain their ideas on how we can move forward to reach our goals.

We are incredibly grateful for the generosity of members and friends of St. George's who have stepped forward to help us improve our church and hope that the giving continues. The latest donation has been from the Canadian Baltic Society (Toronto) Inc. which enabled us to replace the lighting in our Fellowship Room. Soon we will paint the floor, so we have a wonderful space to celebrate our upcoming anniversary.

I see 2024 as a pivotal year for us as we carry forward the strong 2023 momentum. It is also an incredibly significant year as we celebrate our 70th anniversary. The fact that St. George's has been a vibrant community for 70 years despite the passing of many of our founding members is an amazing accomplishment. We are planning an incredibly special celebration that will be held in the afternoon.



Please mark your calendars for May 26 and if you would like to help with the preparations, please reach out to Katharina and members of your Church Council. Help is needed to clean the Church well in advance of the celebrations, to find and organize memorabilia, to set up for the event, to prepare food for the event, and to spread the word about our upcoming celebrations so it is well attended.

We are blessed that we are almost seventy years old and still going strong with much to look forward to.

I want to thank you for your love and support of St. George's -- without you, we would not be where we are today.

Chris Duffield

3. Announcements and Information

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

Please pay special attention to our worship services during the Easter week, Pentecost Sunday and our 70-year Anniversary.

March 24th – Palm Sunday

11 am worship service

Maundy Thursday - March 28th

7 pm modern English service with Holy Communion

March 29th – Good Friday

11 am bilingual worship service with Holy Communion

March 31st – Easter Sunday

11 am Family service

May 26th – Anniversary Sunday

3pm bilingual Celebration Worship Service

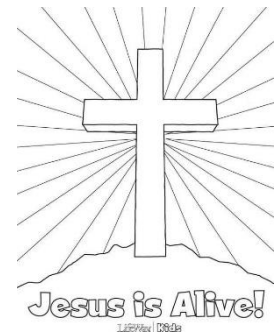
(There will be NO service at 11 am that Sunday)

**We want to celebrate a joyful service,
share our joy and express it before God.**

Bishop Michael Pryse will give the sermon.

After the service, you are invited to a reception in the church hall.

We look forward to this special day of celebration and to seeing you all!



All following service are held **Sundays at 11 am.**

4. Georgenkreis (conducted in German)

The next gatherings are scheduled for Tuesday, April 2nd (**one week earlier than usual!**), May 9th and June 13th at 11 am in the church.
We are looking forward to seeing you! Guests are always welcome!

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

The next services are planned for March 21st and April 25th at 11 am.
We always look forward to seeing you again! Please sign up soon!

6. Faith Class & Youth Group

The dates for upcoming meetings are to be determined by the members of the two different groups.

7. Our web site www.st-georges-lutheran.com

Our web site is an important component of our public relations and outreach program.
We often receive inquiries regarding our church.

You can find a link to all our video and live stream 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**

8. Joy and sorrow in our congregation

We bid farewell to:

Mr. Edmund Jabs, 95 years
Mrs. Elsa Lenski, 96 years
Mrs. Kate Groskopf, 96 years
Mrs. Rosie Notta, 98 years



Jesus says: I am the resurrection and the life.

John 11, 25

9. 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.

I wish you and your families a blessed Easter, God's protection and good health!

Let us continue to hope and pray for peace in the world!

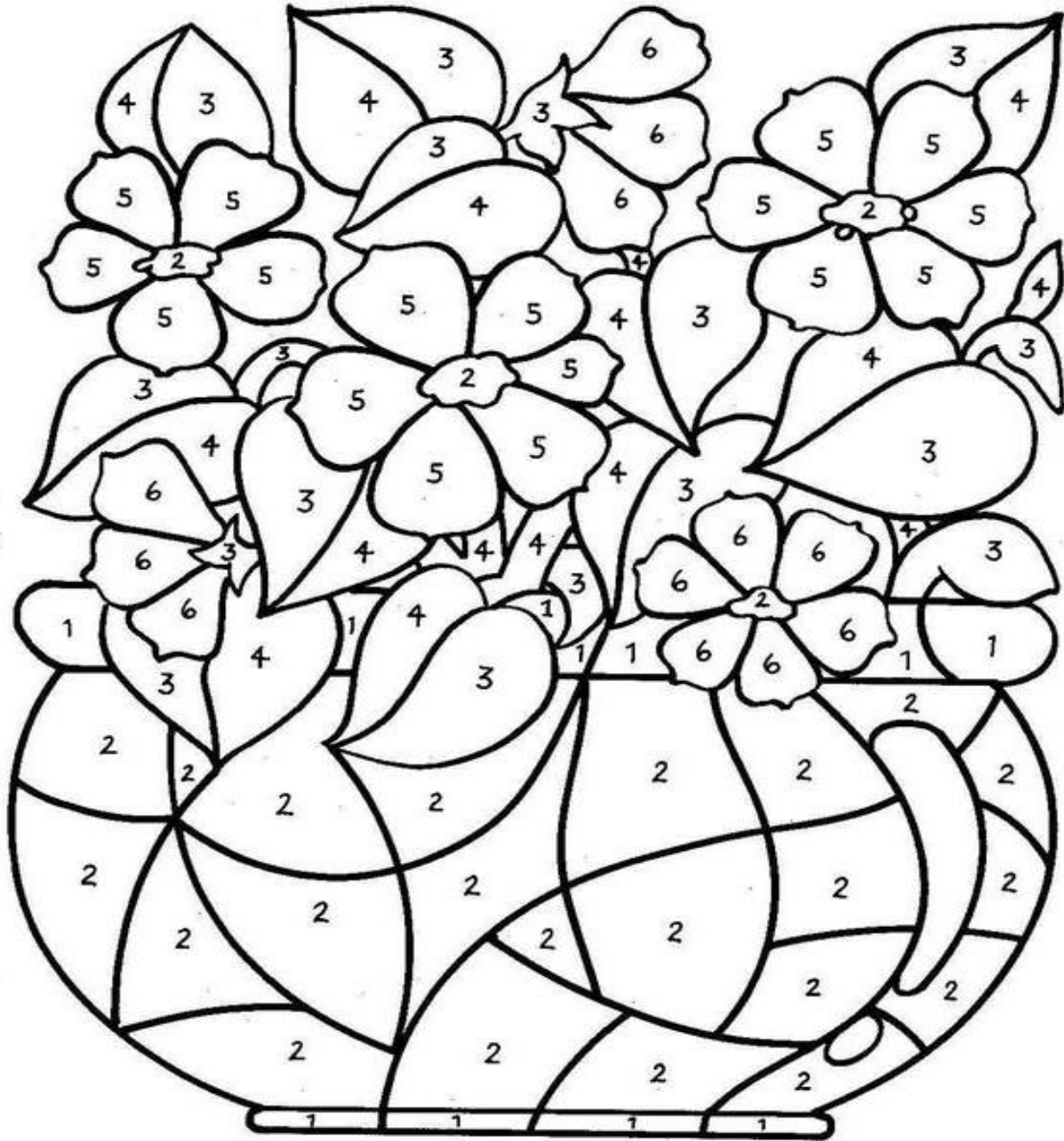
With kind regards!

Your pastor,

Katharina Heller

10. Children's page

We need many flowers to decorate the church for the 70. Anniversary of our congregation.
Have fun colouring the flower bouquet!



1. Red 2. Yellow 3. Light Green 4. Dark Green 5. Blue 6. Purple