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Church - Newsletter September 2022 - November 2022



1. Devotion

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory for ever and ever. Amen

Dear Friends and Members of St. George's

This year I participated in a Bishop's retreat led by our National Bishop, Susan Johnson*.

We talked about each of the seven petitions of the Lord's Prayer.

The Lord's Prayer is the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples and all of us.

It is the foundation for all other prayers.

It is important to keep focusing on this prayer so that we do not just pray it out of routine.

During the retreat, it was very interesting to participate in conversations and discussions, sharing our thoughts and experiences on each petition of the Lord's Prayer.

Each of us was given the task of rewriting the Lord's Prayer in our own words.

In this way, many new interesting prayers were created, all very different, but with the Lord's Prayer as their center and foundation.

Today I have brought you my version of the Lord's Prayer.

Would you like to try to find your own words for the Lord's Prayer? Please feel free to bring your prayer to church.

Triune God,

You are like a father and a mother for all of us.
You are the Creator and Lord of the earth on which we are at home.
You are also the one who holds the infinite vastness of the universe in your hands and make it work as it should.

We praise you because you are holy. We will never comprehend your greatness.

Your name means much more than we will ever imagine.

We pray that we can build a little piece of your unending kingdom,

so that love and peace may grow among us.

In this way the darkness and everything that is difficult to us will become brighter and finally have no place anymore.

We would like to listen to you and live according to your will.

We ask for everything we need for our daily lives that the riches of the world be distributed justly and that no one goes empty-handed.

Each and every one should have enough for this day and the next day. Forgive us everything that we did wrong, where we have turned away from you and relied on other people's opinions or life settings.

Let us always orientate on your word and will.

Give us the courage that we can take steps towards each other, in order to forgive one another,

that we can open ourselves to reconciliation and to your peace.

There are so many temptations and distractions in this world.

Help us to hold fast to your word and will,

even if it is not in accordance with the trend of the time.

Let us always turn to your light

and not be deterred by anything else.

We belong to your kingdom when we live and when we die.

We thank you and praise you

that each and every one of us is a part of your creation.

Your power and goodness transcend all boundaries and remain

in eternity. AMEN

The book: "Praying the Catechism" was the basis for our continuing education. Bishop Susan Johnson has revised and expanded her father's book. This book explains all parts of the small catechism by Martin Luther in a contemporary way and gives much food for thought.



2. Word from the Church Council President



Dear members and friends of St. George's:

As we approach Thanksgiving, it is time to reflect on the many things we can be thankful for at St. Georges. It is with immense joy that we see our pews filling up more and more each week and the increasing willingness of our members to stay for "Kaffee and Kuchen" after our services.

We are also excited that for the first time in years, we are able to start a confirmation class.

The classes are led by Pastorin Katharina and supported by Karin Schemeit and Daniel Bornman. The confirmation will take place next May, on Pentecost Sunday.

We look forward to celebrating services with the students of our confirmation class.

We wish them joy and God's blessings as they will learn more about faith.

As for the refugees we started sponsoring over two years ago, things are starting to move -- they have completed medicals and should arrive in Canada by the end of the year. We are excited that we could be involved in the process with the support of The Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR) and look forward to meeting them here in Canada.

Our e-waste event scheduled for Saturday, September 17 is attracting a lot of attention and should be a great event for our congregation, our surrounding community and for promoting sustainability.

Last, but not least, the ladies' washroom has been renovated and by the time you read this, we should have a new roof thanks to a very generous anonymous donor.

This is all cause for a big celebration and we hope you will join us for a Thanksgiving service and lunch on Sunday, October 2, so we can rejoice together. It is hard to believe that due to COVID, it has been three years since we have been able to hold such an event and we hope that there will be a great turnout at the festivities! We plan to serve frankfurters, salads, and dessert and if you would like to bring food, please speak to Angela Sen Gupta.

On Sunday, November 13, there will be Heinrich Schuetz service that will be celebrated in the style of services during his lifetime and it will include his hymns and his music. Please mark your calendars. Please note St. George's is part of the team of collaborators putting on the event. For those that do not know, Heinrich Schuetz was a German composer and organist, and is regarded to be the most important German composer before J.S. Bach. This year we celebrate the 350th anniversary of his death.

I would also like to share another piece of fantastic news. Our Constantin Moeller was awarded a scholarship from the Eastern Synod and also by U of T, for being the one of the top music performance students. We are thrilled for him and grateful that we benefit from his talent. Congratulations Constantin!

As you can see, we have so much to be grateful for. Of course, nothing would be possible without the unwavering support of our church family, so thank you and happy Thanksgiving! God's Blessings to all!

Chris Duffield

3. Announcements and Information

Our Sunday services are held every Sunday at 11 am.

We are happy to be able to gather again for our coffee hour after the service. Please let us know if you could contribute a cake or could help in the kitchen once in a while. We will let you know when we will start with our regular English worship services again. We look forward to welcoming you in church!

We strive to continue to record one service per month on our YouTube channel.

October 2nd, 2022 German Thanksgiving * 11 am Church Service followed by a potluck lunch

We thank God for everything he provided for us this year, especially the new roof.



October 9th 2022 – Thanksgiving *

11 am bilingual worship service

October 16th 2022 *
11 am worship service with Karin Schemeit

October 23rd 2022
11 am worship service with Pastor Ralph Carl Wushke

October 30th 2022 – Reformation Sunday*

11 am worship service with Holy Communion

November 6th 2022 11 am worship service

13. November 2022

11 am music service with hymns music and the liturgy from the time of the composer Heinrich Schütz. We are inviting the other German congregations in Toronto And are expecting guests for this special service.

November 20th 2022 – Last Sunday of the church year

11 am worship service with Holy Communion

We commemorate our members who passed away this year and are inviting all families and friends

November 27th 2022 – Advent 1 11 am worship service

*This year, in the month of October, we will again be collecting for the Toronto Food Bank. What is needed is 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 needy people. There are more and more people who find themselves dependant on the food bank. Please place your contribution at the front 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 11th, November 8th and December 13th (craft circle) We are looking forward to seeing you again! All are welcome!

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

On Thursday, September 29th at 11 am we will be gathering for our next worship service, followed by lunch. We will discuss and set future dates there.

We are looking forward to seeing you again! Please let us know if you are coming!

6. Confirmation class 2022

The confirmation class has started, and we are welcome **Shannon** and **Brianna Schmidt**, Evan and Ben Syatuk and Helena and Stella Ballarino. We are looking forward to our time together and are grateful for the assistance of Daniel Bornman and Karin Schemeit.

We are asking for God's blessing for the students, that they may they learn new things and grow in faith.

7. Thank you letter

Thank you for being our partner in this work!

Dear Silke, Ethan, pastor Katharina and St. George's congregation!

Thank you so much for making River Run possible! The week was a powerful success

thanks to the efforts of a huge team of people, and members of the delegation from Grassy Narrows have expressed their deep gratitude. Thank you for sharing your space with us and for your patience, flexibility and support.

Esther on behalf of the River Run hosting team

8. Building fund

We are very excited about the projects that are slowly able to be addressed at the church. The roof is just about finished! This includes painting the steeple and cross and other small details. It will all look great by October 2 when we plan to celebrate and give thanks after our German Thanksgiving service. Come and join us!

The downstairs bathroom and hallway are complete. The final price tag came to \$15 000. We are looking towards the next projects!

Renovations are important to our ministry of hospitality and community.

Our two most pressing issues now are:

- The sanctuary walls need plaster repair and a new coat of paint. This is estimated to cost \$7000.
- 2. The kitchen needs replacement of all light fixtures.

Other projects include replacing many ceiling tiles in both the nursery and Sunday School rooms as well as a variety of other painting projects. The list is long!

Please consider how you may be able to help. Do you have skills in these areas? Do you have good contacts? Perhaps you can help with painting or electrical work? Are you able to donate to the building fund? Any amount you are able to give whether in time or in dollars is a blessing to us. We are very thankful for all donations that have already been made. Here is the update of total monies raised:

Collected: \$18,168.34

Spent on: Washroom/Hall: \$15,119.23 and Asbestos test: \$316 (it was negative!)

Remaining in the fund: \$2,733.11.

9. Electronic Waste - Fundraiser

We held our electronic waste fundraiser on September 17th.

A lot of church members collected from their neighbourhoods and brought it all that day.

THANK YOU! We were also able to recycle a lot from the church and to connect with the church neighbours. All together it was a worthwhile event.

Thank you to everybody who was able to help!

We will find out in the coming weeks how much money we were able to raise.

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

Our web site is an important component of our public relations and outreach program.

A number of guests have found us using the web site, 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

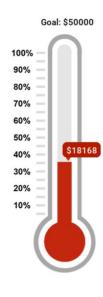
11. Joy and sorrow in our congregation

We bid farewell to:

Mrs. Anna Dick, nee Lang, 94 years

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





12. Request

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

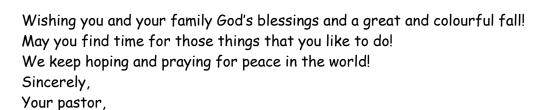
<u>Please let me know</u> if you or a family member would like a visit
or if anybody is in the hospital

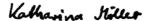
<u>Please let me know</u>, if you have time to regularly call a congregation member.

<u>Please don't forget</u>, to let us know when you move.

We want to stay in touch with one another.

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





13. A Thanksgiving prayer

O God, we thank you for this earth, our home; for the wide sky and the blessed sun,

for the salt sea and the running water, for the everlasting hills and the never-resting winds, for trees and the common grass underfoot.

We thank you for our senses by which we hear the songs of birds, and see the splendor of the summer fields, and taste of the autumn fruits, and rejoice in the feel of the snow, and smell the breath of the spring.

Grant us a heart wide open to all this beauty; and save our souls from being so blind that we pass unseeing when even the common thorn bush

is aflame with your glory,

O God our creator, who lives and reigns forever and ever.



—Walter Rauschenbusch

