



Christ the King - Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Lutheran Church



NEWSLETTER * GEMEINDEBRIEF

May / June 2011

Wen kümmert's wenn unsere Gottesdienstbesucherzahlen zurückgehen? Gott liebt nicht nur die großen Kirchen. Der Wohlstand, die Demografie, der Rückgang der Zuwanderung aus lutherischen Ländern, die geringere Bedeutung von Gott und der Kirche in der Gesellschaft, Geschäftigkeit, und andere Faktoren spielen hier eine Rolle.

Jedoch, wenn man sich ausschließlich auf Zahlen konzentriert, kann man leicht betrogen sein. Zahlen zeigen nur einen Teil des Bildes. Einige Beispiele: eine Kirche mit weniger als 20 Personen an einem Sonntagmorgen kann einen Vollzeit-Pfarrer unterstützen, während eine andere Kirche mit 70 sich kaum einen Teilzeit-Pfarrer leisten kann. Eine Kirche mit mehr getauften Mitgliedern als wir, hat vor kurzem beschlossen, ihre Türen zu schließen.

Es gibt andere Wege Kirchenwachstum zu erfassen als bloß die Menschen in den Kirchenbänken zu zählen. Wachstum geschieht in erster Linie, wenn eine Organisation bereit ist, zu wachsen, zu lernen und sich zu verändern. Wie bei Einzelpersonen, hören Kirchen nur auf zu lernen, wenn sie sterben. Wenn eine Kirche bereit ist, Risiken einzugehen, ihren Horizont zu erweitern und zu sehen, wohin Gott sie in der Zukunft führen wird, dann erlebt diese Kirche Wachstum. Allerdings entkommen die meisten Kirchen, die in einer Erhaltungs- und Pflege-Situation stecken bleiben, selten ihren Tod.

Ich habe viel Hoffnung für unsere Kirche. Ihr habt wesentliche Risiken und Änderungen vor kurzem erlebt, und ihr seid dabei gewachsen: die Berufung eines kanadischen Studenten, den Kauf eines neuen Klaviers, eine größere Anzahl zweisprachiger Abendmahlsgottesdienste und eine Veränderung der Gottesdienstzeiten. Eine Kirche wächst wenn sie Offenheit zeigt sich zu verändern, zu lernen und sich durch den Heiligen Geist führen zu lassen. Lassen wir uns nicht durch Zahlen entmutigen.

Who cares if our worship attendance is down? God doesn't only love big churches. Furthermore, prosperity, demographics, the decline of immigration from Lutheran countries, the decreased importance of God and the church in society, busyness, and other factors have been playing a role in recent trends.

Yet focussing exclusively on numbers can be very deceiving. Numbers only show part of the picture. Several examples: a church with less than 20 people on a Sunday morning can support a full-time pastor, while another with 70, can barely afford a part-time pastor; a church with more baptised members on their rolls than us has recently voted to close their doors.

There are other ways to measure church growth than to count the people in the pews. Growth happens primarily when an organization is willing to grow, learn and change. As with individuals, churches only stop learning when they die. When a church is willing to take risks, to expand their horizons and to see where God is leading them in the future, then that church is experiencing growth. However, most churches that settle into a maintenance and preservation mode rarely escape an inevitable death.

I have a lot of hope for our church. You have taken on some significant risks and change recently, and have grown all the more for it: calling a Canadian ordinand, purchasing a new piano, increasing bilingual communion service frequency, and modifying worship service times. A church that shows an openness to change, learning and guidance by the Holy Spirit, is growing. Let's not be fixated on the numbers.

Herzlichst, im Dienst Christi,
Pastor Sebastian Meadows-Helmer



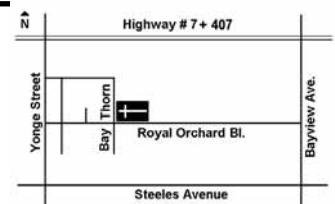
CHRIST THE KING - DIETRICH BONHOEFFER LUTHERAN CHURCH
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News from our Pastor:

EKD Grant ceases 2012



Since the beginning of the founding of Dietrich Bonhoeffer Lutheran Church, and until 2011, the EKD (German Protestant Church) has been supporting our church with an annual grant. For this we are very grateful, as it is doubtful we would have succeeded this far without their support. In the last few years, our grant has been decreasing steadily since we have become financially self-sufficient and have paid off our outstanding debts. This February, the EKD informed us that this year's grant (€2500) will be our last. They are hoping to consolidate their funding to mission opportunities in the Americas where there is true need.

Christian Education Committee

Our Christian Education Committee is up and running. So far we have completed the Lenten Lunch & Learn event and are planning to set up a Bible Study in May. If you have any questions, or if you have a passion for learning, speak with Diana Habekost or Gisela Neitzert.



Edgewood Camp Funds



Our Endowment Fund is once again providing financial support for families wanting to send their children and youth to Camp Edgewood. Week and day camps run in July and August for ages 7 to 18. More information at <http://www.edgewood-camp.on.ca/> or speak to the pastor.

Willis Upright Piano for Sale



Since our purchase of our new baby grand piano, we are no longer using the black Cunningham Upright in the Sanctuary, and Church Council and Worship & the Arts has decided to move that piano into the fellowship hall. As we do not need two pianos in the hall, we have decided to sell the Willis Upright Piano donated by the Meissners, for \$500. If you are interested in purchasing this vintage piano (prob. late 19th century), please talk to the pastor.

DELKINA Conference

The biennial conference of German Lutheran Churches in North America is taking place Oct 11-17th 2011 in Philadelphia. All are welcome to attend. More information can be found at <http://www.delkina.org/> or by speaking with the pastor.



Lenten Series



Once again this year, the Thornhill churches got together for our Lenten worship series, on Sundays in Lent at 4 p.m. We hosted the first service on March 13th (many thanks to those who helped with the reception!), and Pastor Sebastian preached at Thornhill Baptist on March 20th. The final service was held April 10th at St. Luke's, and our choir joined the other church choirs for a particularly wonderful send off. The theme this year was "Were you there? Faces at the cross". This lenten series, now in its fourth decade, is an inspiring show of Christian unity and cooperation. If you would like to participate in planning next year's series, speak with the pastor.

Synod Youth Event



Our Eastern Synod (ALSOC) Youth Gathering will be held Aug 12-14 in Kitchener. More information can be found on Facebook or at <http://youth.elcic.ca/events.php>. or by talking to the pastor.

Peter Mikelic's Retirement

Pastor Peter Mikelic, long-time pastor at Epiphany Lutheran, Scarborough, one of the German cluster churches, retired end of April. Epiphany Lutheran is thus seeking a new pastor.



Kontaktkreis



On March 24th, we hosted the German "Kontaktkreis", the tri-monthly gathering of lay and clergy from the five bilingual German-English churches in the GTA. When we meet, we have time for devotions, discussion and idea exchange. All are welcome to join us at our next meeting, Thursday, June 2nd, 7 p.m. at the Martin Luther Church (2379 Lakeshore Blvd W.)

Thanks

Many thanks to the Property Committee for small repairs around the church, including the meeting room table, the church lectern and other items. Thanks as well to Kevin Tobin and Martin Habekost for upgrading our office computer system.



Choir Invitation



Do you like to sing? Since January, our choir has been up and running again. Tony Streisslberger is leading rehearsals on Thursday evenings from 8-9.30 p.m. The choir helps with musical leadership primarily at bilingual services. We'd love to have your voice join us. Talk to Tony for more information.



Lunch & Learn Highlights

On four Sundays this Lent, we gathered at 12.30 p.m. to share a meal and talk about worship. The first two Sundays, we explored our new cranberry English worship book (ELW) from cover to cover, the third Sunday we hosted José Figueroa, while the last Sunday we talked about the history of worship. Expect another series in the near future to talk about communion.



Some highlights:

*The word "liturgy" originally means "the work of the people". This means that worship should not be a one-person show, but a place where all can share their gifts to praise and worship God.

*As the service of communion is considered the primary Sunday service in the ELCIC / ELCA, and to reflect growing diversity, the ELW has 10 different Communion settings.

*The structure of the services highlights that as important as it is to gather and receive Christ into our lives through Word and Sacrament, even more important is that we are sent into the world to spread the good news and pursue our God-given vocation.

*The earliest accounts of Baptism is that it was an initiation into the Christian family. A time of preparation and instruction (during Lent) culminated in baptism at Easter.

*The early church celebrated communion weekly for all the baptised. During the Middle Ages, for fear of laity misusing the elements for superstitious purposes, communion was restricted to a few times a year, if at all. Although Reformers such as Calvin and Luther advocated for weekly communion, the Protestant churches continued the infrequent celebration of communion from the Medieval Catholic church. Since 1991, the practice of the ELCIC has been to return to weekly Sunday communion.

May 15th Joint Communion Service

On May 15th at 4 p.m., we will be celebrating a joint communion service with our Anglican brothers and sisters at Holy Trinity Anglican, 140 Brooke St., Thornhill. This year is the 10th anniversary of the ELCIC being in full communion with the Anglican Church of Canada, and such a joint service will really demonstrate how our churches are working together. We have been worshipping with our other ecumenical partners in Lent for many years now, but this is the first time (in a while) that we will be gathering around the Lord's Table with our Anglican friends. Pastor Sebastian will be presiding, Father Finlay will be preaching, and our joint choirs will be singing!



June 19th Spring BBQ and Outdoor Service



On June 19th we will be having our annual Father's Day BBQ, with outdoor service, weather permitting, on the grounds of the church. Children's entertainment will be provided. Bring a lawn chair or two.



José Figueroa

On Sunday, April 3rd, José Figueroa and his son José Ivan were our guests for our English service and the Lunch & Learn. José is a refugee from El Salvador threatened with deportation from Canada after living in B.C. with his family for 13 years, and was hitchhiking across Canada to raise support and awareness for his case and that of other refugees. He helped us to understand some of the problems with the current immigration and refugee legislation. For illustration purposes, if Dietrich Bonhoeffer applied today as a refugee into Canada, he would be declared inadmissible. You can follow José's struggle at <http://wearejose.wordpress.com/>.

Pastor Sebastian Meadows-Helmer

Frauengruppe (German-speaking Ladies Group)



Wir freuen uns Ihnen mitteilen zu können, dass wir nun wieder zusammengekommen sind und uns am ersten Dienstag jeden Monats um 2 Uhr treffen wollen. Bereits beim letzten Treffen im März konnten wir mehrere neue Teilnehmerinnen begrüßen, was uns eine grosse Freude war. Die Programmgestaltung, die bisher fast ausschliesslich bei Leni Schwartzel lag und vorzüglich von ihr durchgeführt wurde, soll nun auch auf andere übergeben werden, jeweils fuer ein Treffen. Zur Zeit planen wir nicht nur

Lesungen und Diskussionen, sondern auch einiges an Handarbeiten, eventuell kleine Ausflüge und manches andere. Auch werden wir uns weiter um den Kirchkaffee kümmern, beim Basar mitarbeiten und bei besonderen Veranstaltungen zur Verfügung stehen.

Alle deutschsprechenden Damen sind herzlich eingeladen. Bringen Sie ihre Freundinnen mit, auch wenn sie nicht zur Gemeinde gehören.

Frohe Runde (German-speaking Seniors Group)

Die Frohe Runde trifft sich jeweils am dritten Samstag des Monats um 14 Uhr im Gemeindesaal. Bei Kaffee und Kuchen finden rege Unterhaltungen statt, es wird gesungen und ab und zu gibt es Musikbeiträge. Erika Koepke hat die Leitung dieser Gruppe übernommen und bietet oft ein gutes Programm. Sie wäre für alle aktiven Beiträge dankbar, seien es Geschichten, Gedichte, Fragen des täglichen Lebens, Reiseerlebnisse oder andere besondere Vorkommnisse. Sollte ein bestimmtes Thema für Sie wichtig sein, rufen sie bitte an bei Erika Koepke, 647-345-8781

Nicht nur Gemeindeglieder sondern auch deren Freunde und Verwandte sind herzlich eingeladen, an diesen Nachmittagen teilzunehmen.

Gitta Urbschat



Congregational News – Aus dem Gemeindeleben

Funeral/Beerdigung

Gerry Munich, 71 passed away on March 5 after a long illness. A memorial service was held on Saturday, March 12 at Ogden Funeral Home in Scarborough. We extend our deepest sympathy to his wife Ellie, his children and other family members, and also to all his friends.



Good wishes.....

Again, we would like to express our concerns and offer our prayers for all members and friends who are currently unwell. We are thinking of you and wish you courage and strength in dealing with your suffering. We also think about your caregivers and pray that they will continue to find the strength they need.



New Member

WELCOME

We welcome Ann Bender not only as our newest member but also as a new Council member. Ann and her family have been attending services for some time, and now she is also officially "one of us". We are especially grateful that she has offered her knowledge and experience to Council for the benefit of us all.

Positions on Council:

Petra Georges continues as Chairperson

Marika Samulewitsch (Speck) continues to serve as Vice-Chair

Edith Schiller will continue as Treasurer

Freya Hellwinkel-Sahu will continue as Secretary of Council

Olga Jurgeneit has agreed to continue as Financial Secretary

We thank all of them for giving their time and commitment in the service of our congregation.

We also thank **Denise Jack-Wanschura** and **Gisela Neitzert** who have completed their terms on Council, for their many years of service in this important office.

Our thanks to all who are willing to serve.

Invitation – Einladung

Please join us for these important events:

Saturday, May 7, 10.00 a.m.

Cooking Mother's Day Luncheon



Sunday, May 8, 10a.m.

Bilingual Mothers' Day Service followed by lunch

Gemeinsamer Gottesdienst zum Muttertag mit anschließendem Mittagessen



Saturday, May 14, 6.30 p.m.

Springfest Dinner/*Frühlingsfest mit Abendessen*



Sunday, May 15, 4 p.m.

Joint Communion Service at Holy Trinity Anglican Church

Gemeinsamer Abendmahlsgottesdienst in der Holy Trinity Church



Saturday, June 11, 7.00 p.m.

Concert/*Konzert* – Piano Fundraising Recital (see separate notice)



Sunday, June 19, 10.00 a.m.

Bilingual Outdoor Service with Communion

Zweisprachiger Freiluftgottesdienst mit Abendmahl

Location: Our Church Property



Highlights of Council Meeting March 16, 2011



- Big thank-you to all returning and new Council members!
- Council binders will be prepared this year, containing constitution, by-laws, all terms of references for all committees, all policies and procedures and other pertinent information pertaining to Council and Christ the King - Dietrich Bonhoeffer Lutheran Church
- Resigning Council members will be required to turn in their Council Binder, which in turn will be given to new incoming Council members
- Letter from EKD stating that they will no longer be financially supporting our church
- Database demographic categories have been reviewed and agreed upon
- Database will be cleaned up, errors corrected by the Pastor and Church Secretary
- The Rental Committee truly requires another member, any one interested please call or email the Chair of Council, Petra Georges
- Council is looking into setting up and participating in a retreat
- Goal of retreat will be to look at broader issues and brainstorm; monthly Council meetings are not conducive for such discussions
- The Meissner Piano is to be sold; price has been set at \$500; open to anyone
- Worship and the Arts is looking for lay readers; anyone interested please let Deborah Tobin know via telephone or email
- Christian Education Committee is now up and running and have had their first meeting
- The Frauengruppe is up and running again; they will be meeting the first Tuesday of every month from 2pm-4pm

A big thank you goes out to Kevin Tobin for installing the new office computer and setting up all the programs; the old computer will be scrubbed and then disposed of

Respectfully submitted
Petra Georges, Chair



Baptismal Sundays

In 2008, Church Council passed a baptismal policy noting there would be five Baptismal Sundays a year which would be marked on the annual calendar. This baptismal policy was drafted due to a divisive incident in the congregation that occurred that year. Starting this year, five Sundays have been designated as Baptismal Sundays and these were indicated on the 2011 calendar.

These Sundays are all Sundays with historical, theological and liturgical Baptismal links: Baptism of our Lord, Easter, Pentecost, and All Saints. Furthermore, Sept 18th's Gospel reading talks about God's mercy and love given freely to all. In the early centuries of the church, there was only one Baptismal occasion: Easter Vigil (with Lent being the time of preparation and education for the baptismal postulants). These five special days in the life of the church particularly lend themselves to understanding why we baptise. Thus, baptismal preparation and the sermon can better link the baptism to Christian life, the Christian story, and the events where God's actions intersect with our lives.

There need be no rush to baptise. Baptism long has been popularly understood as a "vaccination" that must be effected immediately otherwise the baby risks hell or purgatory. While this belief is marginally Biblical, it is different from the earliest Christian, or even the current Lutheran, understandings of Baptism.

Baptism is a welcoming into the body of Christ, the Christian family, and this occurs best during the Sunday worship when the assembly is gathered. At that time, the parents/ candidate make public promises of faith, God makes a promise to the baptised (that they are God's child) and the congregation promises to support the baptised.

Unfortunately, people sometimes see baptism as no different from any other professional service provided, such as a dental polishing or an oil change (although with an extended family photo-opportunity). A congregation which supports the initiation to its membership as being linked to the key stories of our faith and the life of our church assembly can better help others understand what baptism is about.

In the case of particular need, an alternative Sunday can naturally be arranged with the pastor.

Pastor Sebastian Meadows-Helmer

BAPTISMAL POLICY (Children)

(adopted by Church Council on June 18, 2008)

[The policy for adults is very similar]

Thank you very much for your interest in having your child/children baptized at Christ the King-Dietrich Bonhoeffer Lutheran Church. We are looking forward to receiving your child/children into the community of faith!

Before your meeting with our pastor we would like to inform you about what to expect:

We offer to celebrate the sacrament of Holy Baptism 5 times per year in our congregational services (English or German), usually in February, June, July or August, September and November. The specific dates are published in our calendar. You may also inquire at our Church Office or ask the Pastor about those Baptismal Sundays.

There can be more than one baptism per service.

If you are not (yet) a member of Christ the King-Dietrich Bonhoeffer, you will have to supply us with a letter of permission by your former pastor or priest.

For the day of your child's baptism, we will need at least one person to be a sponsor and who is a member of a Christian Church. The prospective sponsor will have to submit a certificate of her/his church membership to our congregation.

During the baptismal service you will be presented with the baptismal and sponsors' certificate(s) and your child will receive her/his baptismal candle.

After you filled out the information on the back, contact our Pastor to arrange for a meeting with her/him. At that time, the date and time of the baptism will be confirmed.

Please, feel free to ask our Pastor any questions you have in mind! She/He will be pleased to listen, learn and, if possible, answer.

We are delighted about your interest in Holy Baptism and are looking forward to sharing our journey of faith and life together with you. We look forward to a joyful celebration and welcome of your child/children into the community of our Lutheran congregation.



Please join us for our annual
Springfest:
Saturday May 14, 2011

Doors open @ 6:30pm

Tickets will be \$ 18 per person,
Children 10 & under \$5.
A children's entertainer will be supplied.
Tickets are available at the church, or by
phoning fellowship committee members.



Petra Boehringer.....	(905) 477-4322
Ruth Moskowitz	(905) 787-8713
Ingrid Lottermoser.....	(416) 222-5712
Marika Samulewitsch ...	(905) 882-8447
Gisela Neitzert	(905) 853-5740
Annette Hinrichs-Pymm	(905) 884-0292



We need your HELP!
Raffle donations are needed as well as



Piano Fundraising Recital:

From Beethoven to Jazz: highlighting our new
Heintzman baby grand

Saturday, June 11, 2011

7 p.m.



**Mark Kieswetter
Paul Helmer
Anton Streisslberger
Sebastian Meadows-Helmer
and friends**

**Tickets: \$30 adults, \$10 youth and children
Refreshments to follow**

**Christ the King-Dietrich Bonhoeffer Lutheran Church
149 Bay Thorn Drive, Thornhill
Information/ Tickets: 905-889-0873
For tickets: contact Ruth Boothby, or Helga Freund**



May 2011



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:30 Gottesdienst (Abm) 11:00 Holy Communion	2	3 2:00 Frauengruppe 7:00 Confirmation (Konfirmandenkreis)	4	5	6	7 10:00 Cooking Mothers' Day lunch
8 Mothers' Day 10:00 Bilingual Communion Service	9	10	11 7:30 Christian Education	12	13	14 6:30 Springfest
15 9:30 Gottesdienst 11:00 Service of Word 4:00 Joint Communion at Holy Trinity Anglican	16	17 7:00 Confirmation (Konfirmandenkreis)	18 7:30 Church Council	19	20	21 2:00 Frohe Runde
22 9:30 Gottesdienst 11:00 Service of Word	23	24 7:00 Newsletter mtg.	25	26	27	28
29 9:30 Gottesdienst 11:00 Service of Word	30 Pastor away till June 8	31 7:00 Confirmation (Konfirmandenkreis)	Office Hours: Tuesdays, Thursdays & Saturdays 10:00 - 1:00 Pastor's days off—Thurs. & Fri. Pastor away May 30—June 8			

Church Office: (905) 889-0873

Pastor Sebastian Meadows-Helmer (905) 881-9154

Internet: www.lutheran-church-thornhill.org



June 2011



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5 9:30 Gottesdienst (Abm) 11:00 Holy Communion	6	7 2:00 Frauengruppe	8	9	10	11 7:00 Piano Fundraising Recital
12 9:30 Gottesdienst 11:00 Service of Word	13	14 7:00 Confirmation (Konfirmandenkreis)	15 7:30 Church Council	16	17	18 2:00 Frohe Runde
19 Fathers' Day 10:00 Bilingual Outdoor Communion Service (church grounds)	20	21 7:00 Confirmation (Konfirmandenkreis)	22	23	24	25
26 9:30 Gottesdienst 11:00 Service of Word	27	28	29	30	Office Hours: Tues, Thurs & Sat 10:00 - 1:00 Pastor's days off—Thurs. & Fri. Pastor away May 30—June 8	

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