



TÕE TERA / THE SOWER - SEPTEMBER

ST. PETER'S ESTONIAN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF TORONTO
EELK Toronto Peetri Kogudus



CONCERTS AT ST. PETERS

Music is a part of our Estonian heritage characterized by unique folk music tradition called regilaul (runic song), large-scale Song and Dance Festivals that foster national identity, and a thriving contemporary classical and popular music scene. Music has served as a power tool for unity and resistance, particularly during the Singing Revolution against Soviet occupation.

Did you know that Tallinn is a UNESCO City of Music, a title that it holds since 2021? This membership within the UNESCO Creative Cities Network highlights Tallinn's commitment to placing music at the core of its development and fostering cultural collaboration and innovation. The city boasts a rich musical heritage, from the iconic Song Festival—a UNESCO World Heritage event—to a thriving contemporary scene encompassing classical, jazz, electronic, and experimental music.

Music influences everything created by God. The spiritual power of music is so matchless that it is said to be able to cure innumerable ailments and has the power to transform hatred into love. It is a language that can speak in any language, to any culture, and enters our hearts and minds.



Tartu Academic Male Choir Concert - August 22nd.

On Friday, August 22nd, St. Peter's had the privilege and honour of hosting the Tartu Academic Male Choir while they were on their North American Tour. Being the oldest male choir to have been continuously singing since the year 1912 (113 years ago), the Tartu Academic Male Choir has established its honourable place in Estonian history and choir singing.

817 Mount Pleasant Road
Toronto, Ontario M4P 2L1



416-483-5847



stpeterstoronto@rogers.com



[www.youtube.com/
@eelktorontopeetri
kogudus8966](http://www.youtube.com/@eelktorontopeetrikogudus8966)



[www.stpeterstoronto
estonianchurch.ca](http://www.stpeterstorontoestonianchurch.ca)



[www.facebook.com/
Toronto.St.Peters](https://www.facebook.com/Toronto.St.Peters)

Kantselei Tunnid/Office Hours

Teisipäeval/Tues. 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Kolmapäeval/Wed. 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Neljäpäeval/Thurs. 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Deacon Karl Paju

karl.paju@mail.utoronto.ca
Neljäpäeval/Thurs. 12:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Music Director & Organist

Erik Kreem erikkreem@hotmail.com

Church Administrator

Tiina Jenkins 416-483-5847

Juhatus Liikmed / Executive

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argett@interlog.com

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Mary Donaldson, Secretary
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Anne Liis Keelmann, Program Director
akeelmann@rogers.com

Ilo Maimets, Archive Director
ilo@yorku.ca

Please donate to secure the future of St. Peter's with cash or cheques. E-mail transfers accepted at stpeterstoronto@rogers.com



The Toronto Men's Choir, the opening number so to speak, were the first to perform, singing several songs from their repertoire, directed by Avo Kit-task. Next came the main event.

Directed by Roland Viilukas, the large audience that had gathered was captivated the moment the choir began to sing, their deep, rich voices reverberating within the excellent acoustics of the sanctuary of St. Peter's. It was easy to see why TAM is the oldest active men's chorus in Estonia and has been the highest rated male voice choir in Estonia for the last 10 years.

The choir's first song of the concert, most appropriate in light of the venue, was Arvo Pärt's "Seven Magnificent "Antiphons: II O Adonai". Composed in 1988, the seven short verses or prayers are based on seven antiphons sung in the Roman Catholic liturgy during Evening Prayer on the seven days leading up to Christmas Eve - one Antiphon with a magnificent (the Song of Mary) each day. In many languages these are also known as the Greater Antiphons or O-Antiphons, because each of them begins with a respectful appeal to Christ. St. Peter's audience was lucky enough to hear the appeal "O Adonai", the Hebrew word meaning "my Lord".



The concert went on to include works by Veljo Tormis, Tõnu Kõrvits, Pärt Uusberg, Ester Mägi, Valter Soosalu, Miina Härma, Villem Kapp, and Rein Rannap. The concert concluded with the Toronto Male Choir joining in on the singing of Gustav Ernesaks' "Hakkame, mehed, minema".

At the conclusion of the concert, flowers and gifts were presented to and from St. Peter's, along with an honorarium from the church to help the choir cover travel expenses. TAM presented a lovely glass sculpture to the Toronto Men's Choir to commemorate their 75th anniversary.



Concert guests that also stayed to join the choir at the dinner that followed, were treated to several more songs in the church basement. Dinner eaten, coffee & kringel enjoyed, time was spent making new friends and acquaintances late into the evening.

Thank you TAM for such a wonderful evening of music and fellowship!





*“Me jõuame Issandale lähemale muusika kaudu
kui ehk millegi muu kaudu peale palve.”
- J. Reuben Clark jnr, 1936 a.*

Hains Tooming Violin Recital - August 27th - featuring Erik Kreem

Music at St. Peter's continued on Wednesday, August 27th, with a violin recital by Hains Tooming, accompanied by Erik Kreem.



Hains Tooming begins the concert with a prayer.

Hains is the son of our previous guest pastor Ants Tooming and played at St. Peter's as a young child. His musical talents were evident even at such a young age.

Hains is now a violinist and viola player who graduated from the Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre with a bachelor's degree and obtained a master's degree in Ireland, where he also researched the topic of the well-being of musicians from 2021-2023. He has lived and performed in Estonia, Ireland, Chile, and is currently





based in San Francisco. Hains is an active teacher and chamber musician with a passion for promoting the well-being of musicians: "I am very happy to be able to support young musicians on their creative path, promoting their artistic development and mental and physical well-being."

In addition to playing instruments, his love of singing also brings shine to his music. The recital held at St. Peters offered a cross-section of his musical journey with one song being dedicated to Charles Kipper, with whom he had the honour of performing in 2008.

Listeners were fortunate to also hear Erik Kreem who is an Estonian-Canadian composer and pianist living in Toronto. His work has been described as fresh and inventive, combining inspiration from his Estonian roots and Canadian nature. Erik studied composition with Norbert Palejga at the Toronto University. He has been the resident composer of the Kindred Spiritis Orchestra and his works have been performed by numerous ensembles and orchestras, including Continuum Contemporary Music, the Bedford Trio, and the Cathedral Bluffs Symphony Orchestra.



Thomas Arget, Erik Kreem, Hains Tooming, and Anne-Liis Keelmann

In addition to composing, he also works as a pianist. **Erik is St. Peter's new Music Director, organist, and choir director.** The concert featured Erik's masterful piece *Meditation*.



The concert was followed by fellowship and refreshments.



UUDISED / NEWS



Railing Repairs

Summer is the season for maintenance and repairs. The church railings were recently restored.



"Taevane Isa, me täname Sind Sinu kestva armastuse ja andide eest, mida oled meile andnud selle uue töö alustamiseks. Me palume Sinu tarkust ja juhatust edasilükkumisel, et võiksime olla avatud Sinu tahtele ja teenida rõõmsa südamega."

ANNOUNCEMENTS/TEADAANDED

September at St. Peter's is an exciting time. We have a lot of activities beginning for all ages of our membership.

First we invite you to attend and participate in our Special Meeting on September 27th. If you have not received a Meeting Notice, please contact the church office at 416-483-5847.

New Music Program

We are very pleased to announce that Erik Kreem is our new music director, full-time organist, and is eager to start a new choir for St. Peter's.

Choir practices will be held every Wednesday evening, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Anyone interested in singing is very welcome. We need sopranos, altos, tenors, and bass singers. The first choir practice will be on September 10th from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

ANNOUNCING ERIK KREEM

as St. Peter's new

**MUSICAL DIRECTOR
ORGANIST
& CHOIR CONDUCTOR**



"... speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord," - Ephesians 5:19

St. Peter's Church

Sunday School

**Registration &
1st class on Sept. 28**

If you are interested in bringing your child to Sunday School, please register your interest with the church office at
416-483-5847
stpeterstoronto@rogers.com



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Sunday School

It is our intent to offer Sunday School classes beginning this fall subject to there being enough interest. Lessons will be offered in English.

You may begin registering your child/children with Tiina at 416-483-5847 or stpeterstoronto@rogers.com now. The first class will be held on September 28th.

I didn't know if my granddaughter had learned her colours yet, so I decided to test her. I would point out something and ask what colour it was. She would tell me and was always correct. It was fun for me, so I continued. At last, she headed for the door saying "Grandma, I really think you should try to figure out some of these colours yourself!"



St. Peter's Church

Moms, Pops & Tots

**Registration and first play
group on September 28th.**



Join us with your babies and preschoolers for fellowship and playtime! This is a time for parents to grow together in community and in God.

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Moms, Pops & Tots

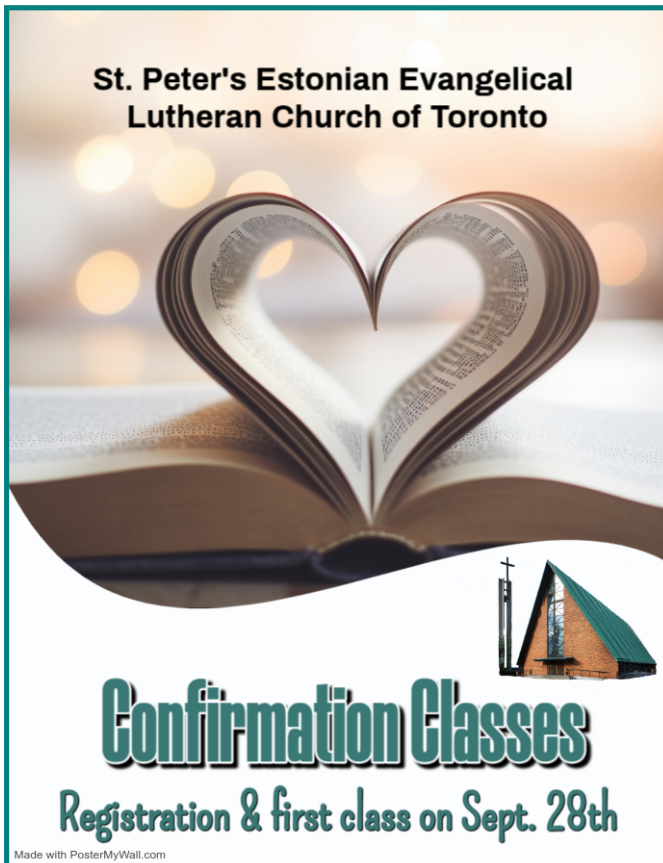
Calling all parents, grandparents, and caregivers with children, infant to preschool, to join our new Moms, Pops & Tots group.

Are you a caregiver of a "little"? Are you looking to connect with other caregivers, parents, or grandparents in the same life stage as you? Does your little one need a change of scenery? Do you?

Lightly structured, this group gives moms, dads, grandparents, and caregivers from our membership an opportunity to chat, make connections and introduce each other as their toddlers play, socialize, and make new friends!

We meet in the downstairs hall of the church during church services. It's a drop-in playgroup so you can come and go as you please.

Our first gathering is on September 28th. All are welcome! Please register your child with Tiina at 416-483-5847 or stpeterstoronto@rogers.com.



Confirmation Classes Are Beginning

As you know, confirmation completes baptism. The confirmation program is intended to help individuals be mindful of their relationship with God, to understand and strengthen it, and to embrace living a Christian life - it is a meaningful journey, a rite of passage, an accomplishment to the benefit of the student, the family, and the church. It represents a personal commitment to grow in the knowledge, love, and practice of our faith through learning about the Bible, Sacraments, Creed, Lord's Prayer, and 10 Commandments. When you are confirmed, you gain a new identity as a full member of the Church.

Calling everyone interested to register for Confirmation classes. The first class will be held on September 28th.

Join our Ushering & Welcoming Committee and Be the First Smile They See !

We are excited to extend a special invitation to you to become a part of our Ushering & Welcoming Committee - a vital ministry that helps

make our church a warm and inviting place for all who enter. The first impression someone receives when they walk through our doors often shapes their entire worship experience. As part of this team, you'll be the friendly face that greets visitors, guides them with a warm heart, and creates a welcoming environment that reflects Christ's love.

What you'll have an opportunity to do:

- Greet members and visitors with a warm welcome;
- Hand out song sheets;
- Help guests find seats and feel comfortable;
- Assist with altar preparations and lightning candles;
- Scripture readings;
- Collect and count church offerings;
- Create a friendly, Christ-centered environment.

Whether you have a natural gift for hospitality or simply a willing heart to serve, we would love for you to join us. Training will be provided and schedules are flexible to accommodate your availability.

If you are interested in joining the Committee or would like more information, please contact Anne Liis Keelmann at akeelmann@rogers.com



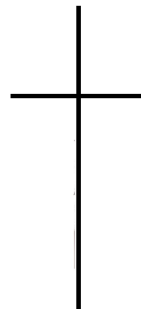
ANNOUNCEMENTS/MEMORIALS



*Always in our hearts,
forever remembered.*

Esther Kass nee Tahevali

April 11, 1931 – August 8, 2025



Esther Kass lived a long life full of love, faith, and quiet strength. Though she faced many trials and losses, her heart always remained hopeful and happy, her spirit resilient, and her family her greatest joy.

Until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand.

Jää minu juure, Jeesus, sest õhtu ligineb. Päev on alati rahutu, aga kui sina tuled omade juure õhtutunnil, siis jääb kõik korraga vaikseks. Siis on hing sinu päralt, Õnnistegija. Oma päevatunde vaevaga mööda saates unustab inimene sind sagely, aga kui õhtu jõuab, näevad sinu omad sind heameelega. Ole minu ligi, kui ma vaatan tagasi elule, mis on olnud üksainus suur tööpäev. Jää minu juure, minu Jeesus, kui õhtu tuleb ja maailm kaob minu silme eest, ning luba mind siis sinna tulla, kus sina oled. Aamen

- Väike Palveraamat - Wallin -

*May you see God's light on the path ahead
when the road you walk is dark.
May you always hear,
even in your hour of sorrow,
the gentle singing of the lark.
When times are hard
may hardness never turn your heart to stone.
May you always remember when the shadows fall
you do not walk alone.*

- Irish blessing -

Register your interest with
Anne Keelmann at
akeelmann@rogers.com
or Erik Kreem:
at erikkreem@hotmail.com

Starting September 10th, practices are on
Wednesdays from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. in the
Sanctuary.

**Do you like to sing?
Come join St. Peter's new Choir
Conducted by Erik Kreem**



Bible Learning Tools

If you are wishing to look up scripture, compare various bible translation versions, NKJV (New King James Version), NIV (New International Version, English Standard Version (ESV) for example, and seeing the same text in Estonian, we recommend visiting www.stepbible.org

One can look up the Bible book name, and then chapters and verses. The right image shows the Estonian Bible Index. In the bottom image, the user has chosen to compare Est (Estonian Bible) with the NIV and ESV English versions.

Quite a handy tool as we research and grow in our Bible knowledge.

Estonian Bible (Est)

Bible book name	Chapters in the book
Genesis	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50
Matthew	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28
Mark	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16
Luke	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24
John	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21
Acts	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28
Romans	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16
1 Corinthians	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16
2 Corinthians	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13
Galatians	1 2 3 4 5 6
Ephesians	1 2 3 4 5 6
Philippians	1 2 3 4
Colossians	1 2 3 4
1 Thessalonians	1 2 3 4 5
2 Thessalonians	1 2 3
1 Timothy	1 2 3 4 5 6
2 Timothy	1 2 3 4
Titus	1 2 3
Philemon	1
Hebrews	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13
James	1 2 3 4 5
1 Peter	1 2 3 4 5
2 Peter	1 2 3
1 John	1 2 3 4 5
2 John	1
3 John	1
Jude	1
Revelation of John	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22

Est, NIV, ESV ▾

Ref: Gen 1 ▾

Q ▾

1Ms 1:1

(Est) Alguses lõi Jumal taevad ja maa.

(NIV) In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

(ESV) In the ^a beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

1Ms 1:2

(Est) Ja maa oli tühi ja paljas ja pimedus oli sügavuse peal ja Jumala Vaim hõljus vete kohal.

(NIV) Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

(ESV) The earth was ^b without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

A story is told about a church in a small town which seemed to have everything going its way. There were no gambling casinos, no liquor stores, and no "beer joints" in the entire area. After several years, however, a night club was built right on Main Street. The congregation was very much disturbed and held several all-night prayer meetings in which some members specifically asked God to burn the tavern down. Well, a few days later, during a tremendous thunderstorm, lightning did strike the drinking establishment--completely demolishing it. The owner, knowing how the church had prayed, sued them for damages. His lawyer claimed that it was their prayers which caused the loss. The church, however, hired their own lawyer and fought the charges. After many hearings and much deliberation, the judge declared: "It is the opinion of this court that wherever the guilt may lie, the tavern owner is the one who really believes in prayer, while the church members do not!"

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CHURCH SERVICES & EVENTS / JUMALA- TEENISTUSED & ÜRITUSED*

***New events may be added to the calendar—please check our church website for any additions.**

www.stpeterstorontoestonianchurch.ca/event-calendar

Sept. 3 - Wednesday - 12:00 noon. Guild meeting in Guild Room. New members always welcome.

Sept. 10 - Wednesday - 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. St. Peter's new choir's first practice with Erik Kreem in the Sanctuary. All singers are invited to join.

Sept. 17 - Wednesday - 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. - St. Peter's choir practice with Erik Kreem. All singers are invited to join.

Sept. 21 - Sunday - 1:30 p.m. - Combined service with Vana Andres congregation at Agricola Church **at 25 Old York Mills Rd, North York** to commemorate the 81st anniversary of the Great Escape with Pastor Kalle Kadakas and deacon Karl Paju. Singing will be the Vana Andres choir joined by some St. Peter's choristers, with a solo by Heli Tenno. A light luncheon will be held after the service.

Sept. 24 - Wednesday - 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. - St. Peter's choir practice with Erik Kreem. All singers are invited to join.

Sept. 25 - Thursday - 1:30 p.m. - Special Meeting proxies due.

Sept. 27 - Saturday - 1:30 p.m. - Special Congregation Members' Meeting. Registration begins at 12:30 p.m.

Sept. 28 - Saturday - 11:30 a.m. - English service with deacon Karl Paju, including the christening of Hailey Sri Keelmann by deacon Paju. Registration and first classes for Confirmation, Sunday School, and the Moms, Pops & Tots group (mudilased). Fellowship and coffee will follow the service in the Guild room.

Oct. 1 - Wednesday - 12:00 noon - Guild meeting in the Guild Room. New members welcome!

Oct. 1 - Wednesday - 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. - St. Peter's choir practice with Erik Kreem. All singers are invited to join.

Oct. 5 - Sunday - 11:30 a.m. - Thanksgiving Estonian service with visiting Bishop Ove Sander, reverend Ando Kass, and deacon Karl Paju, organist Erik Kreem - with communion. Our new choir will perform conducted by our Musical Director Erik Kreem. A hot luncheon for \$25 will follow the service downstairs. Registration for luncheon is required **by September 25th**. Contact Tiina at 416-483-5847 or email: stpeterstoronto@rogers.com

Church Office Hours:

Tues. 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Wed. 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Thurs. 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Dean Karl Paju's Office Hours:

Thursdays from
12:00 noon to 3:00 p.m.



To request prayers, please
contact St. Peter's office.

*Eestpalved võib igal ajal kir-
jalikult esitada kiriku kon-
torisse:*

stpeterstoronto@rogers.com

If you have not already done
so, please ensure that the
church has your up-to-date
contact
information.

*Kui teie ei ole juba teinud,
palun saatke oma kehtivad
andmed (postiaadress,
epost, ja telefoninumber)
kiriku kantseleisse:
416-483-5847.*