

# TÕE TERA / THE SOWER - FEBRUARY 2026

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



## Expanding St. Peter's Ministry



*"Let the children come to me, and do not forbid them; for such is the kingdom of God. Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it."*  
Luke 18:16-17

In 1995, I was decorating the front of our house for Christmas, attaching two large wooden angels holding trumpets to our front patio railing. As I worked, our Christian neighbour's children stood watching. They asked what I was doing and I explained that I was decorating for Christmas. After thinking for a moment, one of them asked, "What do angels have to do with Christmas? Shouldn't you be putting up a Santa Claus?"

That same year, parents were invited to attend my son's elementary school "holiday" concert. Every song was about jingle bells, sleigh rides, Frosty the Snowman, Let It Snow, and Winter Wonderland—you get the picture. In short, the program was entirely secular.

Don't get me wrong, I'm not naïve. I understand that schools serve everyone in our communities—people of all backgrounds, ethnicities, religions, and those who believe in nothing at all. Many of you who are my age may also remember attending Eglinton Public School, where each day began with "God Save the Queen" and the Lord's Prayer. We took turns reading Bible stories aloud at the front of Miss Stanley's Grade 6 classroom. Those days are long gone.

So what is a Christian parent to do? As parents, we feed, bathe, and clothe our children—everything necessary to keep them alive. We teach them to look both ways before crossing the street and not to talk to strangers. These lessons preserve life, but do they give life? Don't we also want to pass on our foundational spiritual teaching and practices that help shape our children into compassionate, grounded people serving God?

### ST PETERS CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



*Please donate to secure the future of St. Peter's with cash or cheques. E-mail transfers accepted at [stpeterstoronto@rogers.com](mailto:stpeterstoronto@rogers.com)*

**817 Mount Pleasant Road  
Toronto, Ontario M4P 2L1**



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### Kantselei Tunnid/Office Hours

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

### Deacon Karl Paju

[karl.paju@mail.utoronto.ca](mailto:karl.paju@mail.utoronto.ca)  
Neljapäeval/Thurs. 12:00 – 3:00 p.m.

### Music Director & Organist

Erik Kreem [erikkreem@hotmail.com](mailto:erikkreem@hotmail.com)

### Church Administrator

Tiina Jenkins 416-483-5847

### Juhatuse Liikmed / Executive

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Ilo Maimets, Archive Director  
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I was deeply saddened a few years ago when I attended a funeral where the grandson of the deceased was devastated by the loss of his grandmother. His parents did not believe in God or, as they put it, the "mumbo jumbo" of life after death. There was nothing to offer that poor child by way of comfort or hope.

St. Peter's is very fortunate to have recently launched a Sunday School program, led by Leena Gates-Kass, a professional teacher. About once a month, we gather in person to learn about God at an age-appropriate level. There truly is no substitute for learning together in community. That said, we also recognize that life can be incredibly busy, and finding time—especially with children at home—can be challenging at times. For that reason, we are pleased to announce that St. Peter's has created an online gallery of Sunday School lessons. When you can't join us in person, you and your child can explore Bible stories together from the comfort of your home.

From our website's Home page, under Ministries, you will find the Sunday School page where you'll find lessons from both the Old and New Testaments, written specifically for children. Each story includes colourful illustrations, a link to a video, and other lesson extensions.

This is an ongoing project, with new stories being added regularly. Currently, the collection includes lessons on Creation, Adam and Eve, Noah, Moses, the Nativity, Jesus' miracles, the Twelve Disciples, the Good Samaritan, Easter, and more.

Estonian text is also being added to each story, though this part of the project is still in progress. Some of this content was written by St. Andrew's (Vana Andres) former Sunday School director Aino Pähn and teacher Maret Kapp. With permission, we are incorporating some of their material from *Lood Vanast Testamendist* and *Jeesuse Elu ja Töö*, originally published by the EELK Kanada Praostkond in 1986. We are grateful for the opportunity to preserve and share their meaningful work with today's generation.

If you would like to explore the Bible with your child but aren't able to attend church, we invite you to visit St. Peter's Children's Ministry page at:

<https://www.stpeterstorontoestonianchurch.ca/sun-schl-lessons>

Tiiu Roiser

## Old Testament



New Testament



A Higher Power - The Sunday School teacher began the week's lesson with a recap of the previous week's topic by saying, "We have been learning about how powerful the kings and queens were in Biblical times. But there is a higher power. Who can tell me what it is?"

Six-year-old Peter blurted out, "I know, Aces."

## UUDISED / NEWS

### December 22, 2025

Members of the Board were delighted to come together for a working luncheon with Bishop Ove Sander and his wife Liina, visiting from Estonia. The gathering was marked by warm conversation, shared vision, and enthusiasm as future plans were joyfully discussed and new connections for the future enthusiastically forged.



### December 24, 2025

This Christmas, congregation members gathered to celebrate the birth of our Lord during two services. The Christmas message was delivered in English at 12 o'clock and in Estonian at 2 p.m., both of which had a great turnout.

The English service was led by Reverend Ando Kass and Deacon Karl Paju, with Erik Kreem as the organist, who also treated the audience to a piano solo. Advent candle lighters included Max Bellerive, Jake Kung, Benoit Bellerive, Sydney Keevallik, and Evan Kung.



The Estonian service featured a special guest from Estonia, EELK Bishop Ove Sander, alongside Reverend Ando Kass and Deacon Karl Paju. St. Peter's choir performed under the guidance of our Music Director, organist, and choir conductor-Erik Kreem. The Advent candle lighters were Olivia diBiase, Kasandra Morris, Sass Soosaar, Sophie Tralla, and Silvi diBiase.





Photos: Thomas Arget, Karin Ivand, Anne Keelmann, and Tiiu Roiser

**December 28, 2025**



St. Peter's brought joy, warmth, and Merry Christmas wishes to all the residents of Ehatare. Deacon Karl Paju and Rev. Ando Kass, together with members of the Congregational Council, shared in the celebration with gifts of gingerbread cookies and heartfelt fellowship, followed by a joyful Estonian church service.



**January 4, 2026**

The Epiphany (Three Kings' Day) Estonian worship service was held on a snowy January 4th and was very well attended. The service was led by Deacon Karl Paju, with organist Erik Kreem.



Scripture readers were Anne Liis Keelmann and Toomas Trei. A coffee gathering followed the service.

The sermon was particularly insightful and may be read in Estonian in its entirety on our website, or watched on our YouTube channel. You may use Google translate if you'd like to read it in English.

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

[www.youtube.com/watch?reload=9&v=p\\_vZjYMe2vs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?reload=9&v=p_vZjYMe2vs)

Translated snippets from the sermon:

Now, brothers, I urge you, by God's great mercy, to present your bodies to God as a living, holy, and pleasing sacrifice; this is your reasonable act of worship. Do not conform to the present age, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, so that you may discern what the will of God is—what is good and pleasing and perfect. For by the grace given to me I say to each one of you: do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but think with sober judgment, according to the measure of faith God has given to each. For just as we have many members in one body, and not all the members have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.

Look, many bad things can and may happen, but the fact that something is possible does not mean that it will necessarily happen. Not every situation inevitably follows Murphy's Law. That means that even if a hypothetical situation could arise, it does not have to arise. The possible bad things that could happen to us are almost endless. And yet we choose two or three bigger fears, larger possible catastrophe scenarios, to which we cling and around which we live as if

everything revolved around those hypothetical fears. And I fear that often the fears to which we devote ourselves are not worth fearing at all, because they are so unlikely.

The sermon concludes thus:

Now—what should you do when your mind is somewhere else? Here Paul comes to our aid, and he does not give us a philosophy but a command that is surprisingly concrete: “present your bodies to God.” Not first your feelings. Not first your moods. Your bodies.

This means: when your mind runs away, do not run after it. Bring your presence back. Bring your body back to where you are. Do what is in front of you—not what your fear is painting for you. If you are somewhere, then be there. If there is a person in front of you, be with them. If there is work in front of you, do it. If there is prayer in front of you, pray. Even if there is a storm inside you.

And when you fail—and you will fail anyway—do not make the second great mistake people make: do not begin to hate yourself. Bring yourself back. Again. And again. And again. For this is the “renewal of the mind” Paul speaks of—not one great revelation, but a steady returning. Like going to the gym. Like practicing an instrument. Like a well-worn path.

And it is precisely here that peace is born. Not when everything is in order, but when you are present in what has been given to you. Not in control, but in trust. Not in escape, but in response.

For in the end, life truly is an adventure. But it is not an adventure we invent ourselves. It is an adventure into which we have been placed. And in the midst of that adventure Christ says, "You are in my hands." And Paul says, "Present yourself to God." **This is our reasonable act of worship.**



**January 18, 2026**

St. Peter's January 18th, 2026, English-language service with Deacon Karl Paju and organist Erik Kreem. Scripture readers Linda Laikve and Thomas Arget.



## Parandame meelt meditatsiooniga x 3!

Toomas Sepp  
Peetri kirikus

817 Mt Pleasant Rd, Toronto

- 1) K. 28. jaan, kell 1 pl
- 2) K. 4. veebr., kell 1 pl
- 3) K. 11. veebr., kell 1 pl

Info Maimullt: 647 799 1910



*Soovitame osaleda kõigil kolmel nädalal, kuid võimalik on osaleda ka üksikutel kordadel.*

Vabatahtlik annetus kirikule



## Lõbus Sõbrapäeva Pärastlõuna

reede, 13. veebr. 2026, kl 12

sissepääs \$15 pirukad, kohv ja magusat!



sponsor:  
**EHATARE FOUNDATION**

**Koht: Peetri Kirik**

817 Mount Pleasant Rd

RSVP : 6. veebruariks!

M. Mölder: 416-421-3812

*Buss tellitud Ehatarest! Palun registreeruda.*



Toronto Eesti Selts  
korraldab



## EV 108.a. KONTSERT-AKTUSE sooga lõunaga

pühapäeval, 22. veebruaril kell 12:00

Kõneleja Eestist: Ivar Raig

Palvus: diakon Karl Paju

Sõjaveteranide austamine & langenute mälestamine:

Korp! Sakala vil Toomas Heinär

Esinevad: T.E.A.S. Ööbik ja T.E. Meeskoor

Piletid saadaval eelmüügil \$45; sõjaveteranid ja õpilased alla 18 tasuta.

Palume registreerida Epp Aruja kaudu enne 15. veebruari:

tel: 416-447-8958 ehk epp.aruja@sympatico.ca

SPONSORID JA TOETAJAD:



Toronto Estonian Male & Mixed Chorus

*Kõigeväeline Jumal, me palume Sind, anna meile oma Vaimu ja jumalikku tarkust, et Sinu pühja sõna meie keskel elaks ja kasvaks. Lase oma sõna rõõmuga ja puhtasti kuulutada ning ehita sellega oma kogudust, nõnda et me Sind kindlas usus teenime ja julgelt tunnistame ning õndsaks saame. Jeesuse Kristuse, Sinu Poja, meie Issanda läbi.*

<https://eelk.ee/kirikukalender/>

## UNITED IN SERVICE FOR OUR COMMUNITY

St. Peter's is pleased to collaborate with other organizations within our community by sharing its facilities and attending and supporting events held at various locations.

We take pride in our co-operative efforts with Ehatare Foundation's outreach program in supporting the social, recreational, educational, physical, cultural, leisure, and spiritual well-being of older adults in our community.

In the spirit of mutual support, we are pleased to assist in sharing information about upcoming community events that may be of interest to our members and friends.

**We congratulate the Estonian Relief Committee in Canada on their 75th Anniversary !**

### March 7th, 2026 - Estonian Relief Committee 75th Anniversary Fundraiser Dinner - Let's Celebrate!

The Estonian Relief Committee in Canada (Eesti Abistamis Komitee Kanadas) is celebrating their 75th Anniversary at a fundraising event on Saturday, March 7th, 2026, starting at 6:00 p.m. Chef Andres Allas of Salt restaurant in Tallinn, will be catering the gourmet dinner. Rising star talent Haldi & ans Flamingo Duo from Estonia will perform live.

Tickets may be purchased at:  
[www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/ehatare-foundation/events/lets-celebrate-tahistame-koos](http://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/ehatare-foundation/events/lets-celebrate-tahistame-koos) or in person at Northern Birch Credit Union at 4 Credit Union Drive. Tickets are \$125 with a \$50 charitable receipt.

**If you would like to sit at a table with St. Peter's congregation members, please contact Anne-Liis Keelmann: [akeelmann@rogers.com](mailto:akeelmann@rogers.com) by Feb. 22nd.**



### Free (Limited) Winter Transport to Friendship Afternoon Events (Lõbusad päraastlõunad) arranged by Ehatare Foundation

Announcing St. Peter's and Ehatare Foundation's Joint Transportation Support Program for Older Adults in January and February, when it is more difficult to get around due to inclement weather. We want to keep you connected with your friends and peers!

*Kõigeväeline Jumal, Sa kingid meile neljakümne paastupäeva näol aja pöördumiseks ja meeleparanduseks. Aita meid, et neid päevi pühitsedes võiksime usus kasvada ja Kristuse lunastustöö väge oma elus nähtavaks teha. Seda palume Jeesuse Kristuse, meie Issanda läbi, kes koos Sinuga Püha Vaimu ühtsuses elab ja valitseb igavesest ajast igavesti.*

*Pöörduge Issanda, oma Jumala poole, sest Tema on armuline ja halastaja, pika meelega ja rikas heldusest, ja Tema kahet-seb kurja! Jl 2:13      <https://eelk.ee/kirikukalender/>*

## 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](http://www.stpeterstorontoestonianchurch.ca/event-calendar)

- Feb. 1 - (Sunday) 11:30 Candlemas - Küünlapäeva Estonian-language service with Deacon Karl Paju and organist Erik Kreem. Singing will be the Toronto Estonian Men's Choir.
- Feb. 4 - (Wednesday) Guild Meeting from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m.
- Feb. 4 - (Wednesday) 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. Meditation with Toomas Sepp, hosted by the Ehatare Foundation. Everyone welcome. Donations appreciated.
- Feb. 8 - (Sunday) 11:30 a.m. English-language service with Deacon Karl Paju and organist Erik Kreem. Sunday School & Moms, Pops and Tots.
- Feb. 11 - (Wednesday) 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. Meditation with Toomas Sepp, hosted by the Ehatare Foundation. Everyone welcome. Donations appreciated.
- Feb. 13 - (Friday) 12:00 noon at St. Peters. Friendship Day gathering. "Sõbrapäeva Lõbus pärastlõuna". The Ehatare Foundation will be hosting a fun afternoon at St. Peter's. Admission is \$15 and includes a fun program and refreshments. The Foundation is offering free pick-up, transport, and return from Ehatare to St. Peter's. Please contact Maimu Mölder at: 647-799-1910. Everyone welcome!
- Feb. 15 - (Sunday) 3:00 p.m. Estonian service with Deacon Karl Paju at Ehatare.
- Feb. 22 - (Sunday) 12:00 noon. Estonian Independence Day 108 commemoration followed by luncheon. Hosted by the Toronto Estonian Society. Speech: Ivar Raig, prayer Deacon Karl Paju, memorial: Korp! Sakala vil Toomas Heinär. Performing will be Ööbik and the Toronto Estonian Men's choir. You can pre-order your \$45 tickets by contacting Epp Aruja at 416-447-8958 [epp.aruja@sympatico.ca](mailto:epp.aruja@sympatico.ca) by February 15th.



**"Vaimulikud loosungid 2026" (\$10) on kohale jõudnud. Palun võtke ühendust meiega kui soovite koopiat! [stpeterstoronto@rogers.com](mailto:stpeterstoronto@rogers.com) või 416-483-5847**



During her sermon on Jesus's teaching that we should love our enemies, Pastor Sue asked the congregation to raise their hands if they had enemies. Everyone did so except for Mrs. Watson in the front row, who had just turned 95. "Mrs. Watson," the pastor asked, "how could you possibly live for 95 years and have no enemies?"

"That's easy," the senior citizen replied, "I just outlived the sons of guns!"

### 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.

### Deacon 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 kirjalikult esitada kiriku kontorisse:  
[stpeterstoronto@rogers.com](mailto: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 kantselisse: 416-483-5847.



**Happy Valentine's Day**