

TÕE TERA / THE SOWER - DECEMBER 2025

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

Lugupeetud Peetri kogudus,

Aasta hakkab peagi lõppema ning soovin siiralt tänada kõiki, kes on sel teekonnal kaasa löönud. Ilma Teieta ei oleks kogudust!

Aasta algas keeruliste asjaolude keerises, mis ulatusid üle möödunud aastatest. Ent juba suveks olime saavutanud kindla jalami, mis on kandnud meid läbi kirikuaasta uude talveaega. Olen enam kui kindel, et Kõigeväelise toel saab ka tulev aasta olema erakordselt õnnistus-terohke meile kõigile.

Kandku saabuv jõuluaeg meid armastuses ja üksteise toetuses. Ärgem unustagem tänada Loojat kõige hea eest, mida Ta on meie ja meie lähedaste ellu toonud, ning püsigem ustavalt sellel rajal, mis meile on ette seatud.

Olge hoiatud, olge õnnistatud!
diakon Karl Paju

Dear St. Peter's congregation,

As the year draws to a close, I want to express my sincere gratitude to all who have journeyed with us. Without you, there would be no congregation!

The year began amid complex circumstances carried over from previous seasons, yet by summer we had regained a solid footing—one that has carried us through the church year into this new winter season. I am fully confident that, with the help of the Almighty, the coming year will be richly blessed for all of us.

May the approaching Christmas season surround us with love and mutual support. Let us not forget to thank our Creator for all the good He has brought into our lives and the lives of those we love, and let us remain faithful on the path set before us.

Be safe, and be blessed!
Deacon Karl Paju

817 Mount Pleasant Road
Toronto, Ontario M4P 2L1



416-483-5847



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@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.
Neljapäeval/Thurs. 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Deacon Karl Paju

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

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

The Story of the Three Trees

There is an old American folk-tale, told for many years, about three trees growing on a hillside. As they reached toward the sky, each dreamed of what they might one day become.



The first little tree looked up at the stars twinkling like diamonds and dreamed of being made into a beautiful treasure chest, covered with gold and jewels, and containing valuables. "I want to be the most beautiful treasure chest in the world!"

The second little tree looked at a river flowing out to the ocean and dreamt of being made into a strong sailing ship to travel across the oceans carrying important cargo. "I want to be the strongest ship in the world!"

The third little tree looked at the people in the village in the valley below, bustling about leading busy lives with no time for God. It didn't want to be made into anything. It dreamed of growing tall on the hillside, pointing people towards heaven. "I want to be the tallest tree in the world!"

Years passed and the little trees grew. Then one day a woodcutter came to the trees with his axe.

The first tree was pleased when it was cut down and taken to a carpenter's workshop. "Now I shall be made into a beautiful treasure chest," thought the first tree, "and I shall hold wonderful treasure." But instead of being crafted into a treasure chest, it was roughly constructed into a feeding trough, covered in dirt, and filled with hay for hungry farm animals.

The second tree was delighted when it was taken to a boatyard. But instead of being made into an ocean-going ship, it became a small fishing boat—too small and too weak to sail an ocean or even a river. It was put into a little lake. Every day simple fishermen got on board and filled the boat with loads of dead smelly fish.

The third was sad when it was cut down. It stood straight and tall and pointed bravely skyward toward heaven. All it wanted was to grow tall and

point people to God. But with a swoop of the woodcutter's axe, the third tree fell down to the ground. The tree was roughly split into beams, chopped into blanks, and dumped in the corner of a lumberyard. It felt rejected, abandoned, and hopeless.

Time passed, and the trees forgot their dreams. But then, one starlit night, the light shone over the first tree as a young woman placed her newborn baby in the feed trough made of smooth, sturdy wood. "This manger will be perfect for our newborn baby." And suddenly the first tree realized that it was holding the greatest treasure of all.



Years later a tired traveler and his twelve friends crowded into a fishing boat made from the second tree. A thundering and thrashing storm arose. The other men in the boat started screaming in fear that they would all perish! The tree shuddered. It knew it did not have the strength to carry so many passengers safely through the wind and rain. The traveler stood up and commanded the storm, "Quiet, be still." and it became perfectly calm. The second tree realized it was carrying the greatest cargo of all, the real King, the King of heaven and earth.



Then one Friday morning the third tree was startled when its beams were yanked from the forgotten wood pile. It flinched as it was carried through an angry, jeering crowd. It shuddered as a soldier nailed a man's hands to it. It felt worse than ever, ugly, harsh and cruel. But on Sunday morning, when Jesus rose from the dead, the third tree knew that God's love had changed everything.

He'd made the first tree beautiful; the second tree strong; and whenever anyone thought of the third tree, they would think of God - and that was better than being the tallest tree in the world!

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UUDISED / NEWS

Nov. 2nd - Hingedepäev



We honoured and remembered our departed loved ones at the All Souls' Day service by lighting candles in their memory. We paused and reflected as Erik Kreem played "Asuur" by Tõnu Kõrvits on the piano. It was a beautiful and touching service followed by fellowship in the Guildroom.



Nov. 15 - Christmas Craft Show and Café – another Heartwarming Success

This year's annual Church Craft Show and Bake Sale blended creativity, fellowship, and a shared spirit of generosity, as the event brought together church members, local artisans, and families from across the community.



From the moment the doors opened, visitors were greeted with a vibrant display of handmade crafts. Tables overflowed with beautifully knitted scarves, socks, and children's wear, intricate angels, children's stuffed toys, jewellery, and food items such as fresh honey, jams, gingerbread cookies and marinated pumpkin.



Local crafters expressed gratitude for the chance to share their work while supporting a meaningful cause. "It's a joy to see people appreciate something you've poured your heart into," one artisan shared.





Just steps away, the aroma of fresh coffee filled the fellowship hall. The bake sale, always a crowd favorite, offered homemade cookies, breads, and cakes prepared by church members and volunteers.



The event was not only joyful, but also impactful. Funds raised from the raffle and silent auction will support a variety of church ministries.



Guild volunteers served a steady stream of jumbo hotdogs. The freshly baked pirukad sold out quickly as did the donated kringle.

This year's musical treat was brought to us by Hollis Kwan.



As the day came to a close, volunteers celebrated a job well done—and began sharing ideas for next year's event. This year's success is a reminder of what can happen when creativity, generosity, and faith come together.

A great thank you for the donors, volunteers, guest musician, and vendors that made this year's Craft Show a great success.

Photos: Anne Keelmann & Tiiu Roiser

Nov. 16



The November English-language service saw our Sunday School and Moms, Pops, and Tots program in full swing. We welcome new youngsters to join our groups. The service was lead by Deacon Karl Paju and organist Erik Kreem.



Above: Sunday School teacher Leena Gates-Kass.

Below: Sunday School & Moms, Pops & Tots. Missing from photo: Ilo Maimets.



Nov. 17th - Meditation



Organized by Maimu Mölder and the Ehatare Foundation, the Nov. 17th event featured a fascinating talk led by Toomas Sepp on strengthening mental health through meditation. He emphasized concentration, mindful breathing, and cultivating compassion.



Described as a powerful experience, Sepp proved to be a calming and inspiring meditation instructor. Attendees remarked that they hope to gather again to hear him speak further on the use of **mantras**.



St. Peter's Constitution & Bylaws

On September 13, 2025, the congregation held a Special Meeting during which members voted to approve the Articles of Amendment to the Letters Patent, as well as updates to our Constitution and Bylaws to comply with ONCA requirements.

We are pleased to report that the Articles of Amendment have been endorsed by the Ontario Business Registry and that our updated Constitution and Bylaws have been approved by the Eastern Synod, ELCIC.

We are now operating under the rules of our new Constitution and Bylaws.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/TEADAANDED

Seal, kus sulgub eluraamat, algab mälestuste tee...



Eda Oja

5. septembril, 1961 – 14. novembril, 2025



*Siigavas kurbuses leiname meie armsat sõpra
ja kaua-aegset Peetri Kirku toimetajat, töolist ja vabatahtlikku.*

*Siiras kaastunne abikaasale, lastele, ja lastelastele.
~ Juhatus ja Peetri koguduse pere.*

Hea karjane - Taaveti laul.

*Issand on mu karjane,
mul pole millestki puudust.*

*Haljale aasale paneb ta mind
lebama,
hingamisveele saadab ta mind;
tema kosutab mu hinge.*

*Ta juhib mind õiguse rööbastesse
oma nime pärast.*

*Ka kui ma kõnniksin pimedas orus,
ei karda ma kurja,
sest sina oled minuga;
su karjasekepp ja su sau,
need trööstivad mind.*

*Sa katad mu ette laua
mu vastaste silma all;
sa võiad mu pead õliga,
mu karikas on pilgeni täis.*

*Ainult headus ja heldus
järgivad mind kõik mu elupäevad
ja ma jään Issanda kotta elua-
jaks.*

*Aeg ühiseid rõõme ja muresid ei mata,
aeg kaunimad ajad meelde jätab...*



Eda Oja

5. septembril, 1961 – 14. novembril, 2025

*Avaldame sügavat kaastunnet Eda perele.
Peetri Koguduse Gild*

*Tulge Minu juure kõik,
kes olete vaevatud ja koormatud,
ja Mina annan teile hingamise!
Mat. 11:28*



"Heavenly Father, during this Christmas season, we pray for those who are grieving the loss of a loved one. Be their comfort and their peace. Fill the spaces left by sorrow with your love, and grant them the strength and hope that comes from knowing you are with them. In Jesus' name, Amen".

St. Peter's is preparing to launch a new Bible Study and invites all interested members to contact the church office. Sessions may be offered during the day, in the evening, or via Zoom—based on the preferences of the group.

**Bible
STUDY**

Classes may be in Estonian or English

Please register your interest by
contacting the office at 416-483-5847



This is a wonderful opportunity to grow in God's Word, enjoy fellowship, ask questions, and encourage one another in faith. Whether you're new to Bible study or have been reading Scripture for years, we would love for you to join us. And please feel free to bring a friend!

We look forward to learning and growing together.



Toronto Peetri Koguduse

Jõulu õhtu jumalateenistus

24. detsembril

Eestikeelne teenistus algab kell 2 pl

Teenivab õp. Ando Kass ja diakon Karl Paju.
Orelil Erik Kreem.
Esineb koguduse koor.



St. Peter's Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church of Toronto

Christmas Eve

ENGLISH-LANGUAGE SERVICE

Reverend Ando Kass & Deacon Karl Paju
Organist Erik Kreem

Wednesday, December 24th at 12:00 noon



*Blessings for Christmas
and a Happy New Year!*

From St. Peter's Congregational Council & employees.

*Rõõmsaid ja õnnistatud jõulupühi,
kaunist aastavahetust ja head uut aastat!*

Soovivad EELK Toronto Peetri Koguduse
juhatuse ja teenistujad.

Jõulud.

*Tulgu jõulud lõbusad,
piparkoogid magusad.
Et, kõik te soovid täituksid,
ja mured rõõmudeks muutuksid.
Uus aasta õnne toogu,
vana, aga kaunilt meelde jäägu.*

Jõuluangel

*Läbi sätendava õhu,
üle karge lume,
pisikene ingel,
paljajalu tuleb.
Süda soe ja särasilmil,
külma ta ei taju,
kannab kuuma küünlaleeki,
läbi valge saju.*

The Lost Purse

A lady lost her handbag in the
bustle of Christmas shopping.
It was found by an honest
little boy and returned to her.

Looking in her purse, she com-
mented, "Hmmm.... That's
funny. When I lost my bag
there was a \$20 bill in it. Now
there are twenty \$1 bills."

The boy quickly replied,
"That's right, lady. The last
time I found a lady's purse,
she didn't have any change
for a reward."

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

- Dec. 3 - Wednesday - 12:00 noon - Guild Christmas meeting in the Guild Room. New members welcome !
- Dec. 3, 10 & 17 Choir practice in the Nave from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. with Erik Kreem.
- Dec. 6 - Saturday - 3:00 p.m. Toronto Estonian Men's Choir Christmas concert. Tickets are \$20. Fellowship, snacks, kringel and coffee following the concert \$10.
- Dec. 21 - Sunday - 4:00 p.m. The Salvation Army invites us to attend their special Candles and Carols event.
- Dec. 24 - Wednesday, Christmas Eve Services with Reverend Ando Kass, Deacon Karl Paju, and organist Erik Kreem.
- 12:00 noon - Service in English
- 2:00 p.m. - Service in Estonian with St. Peter's Choir
- Dec. 28 - Sunday - 3:00 p.m. - Estonian Service at Ehatare with Deacon Karl Paju.
- Jan. 4 - Sunday - 11:30 a.m. 3-Kings Day (Kolmekuningapäev) service.

Church Regular 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 kontoris:
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:

Christmas Office Hours

Please note holiday church office hours & closures.

Tuesday, Dec. 16th - 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 17th - 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 18th - 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 23rd - 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 24th - 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 25th - CLOSED
Tuesday, Dec. 30th - CLOSED
Wednesday, Dec. 31 - CLOSED
Thursday, Jan. 1 - CLOSED

The office will reopen for regular hours on Tuesday, January 6th, 2026.

For emergencies, please leave a message on the church answering machine which will be monitored daily, or contact a member of the Juhatus (email & phone numbers on page 1).



Christmas Shopping

It was Christmas and the judge was in a merry mood as he asked the prisoner, "What are you charged with?"

"Doing my Christmas shopping early", replied the defendant."

"That's no offense", said the judge.

"How early were you doing this shopping?"

"Before the store opened."