



## TÕE TERA / THE SOWER - JUNE/JULY

ST. PETER'S ESTONIAN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF TORONTO

EELK Toronto Peetri Kogudus



### KIRIKUPÜHAD JUUNIS / JUNE CHURCH CALENDAR COMMEMORATIONS



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#### Pühapäev, 8. Juuni - Nelipüha

Nelipühad on kristlik püha, millega mälestatakse Püha Vaimu las-kumit apostlitele 50. päeval pärast Jeesuse Kristuse ülestõusmist. Ajaliselt on see 10 päeva pärast taevaminemispüha. Tihti peetakse just nelipüha kiriku sünnipäevaks. Paljudes keeltes tulenebki püha nimi kreekakeelsest sõnast pentekoste ("viiekümnes"), Lõuna-Eestis aga tuntakse seda suvistepühana ning vaimulikult viitab see elukülluse ja haljuse tärkamisele, mille Püha Vaim oma andidega toob.

Nelipühad on seotud juudi šavuoti pühaga, mis tähistab kümne käsu andmist Jumalalt Moosesele Siinai mäel. Šavuoti peetakse seitse nädalat pärast paasapühi ja see on pärit kaugest paganlikust minevikust, mil tähistati lõikustänapüha. Eesti rahvakalendris kannavad nelipühad ka suvistepühade nimetust. Mälestatavast sündmusest jutustatakse Piiblis Apostlite tegude raamatu 2. peatükis.

Pühade eestikeelne nimetus tuleneb tõenäoliselt sellest, et see lisati Rootsi ajal jõulude, lihavõtete ja vastlate kõrvale neljandaks tähtsamaks kiriklikuks pühaks. Samas võib see tuleneda ka sellest, et pühi tähistati neli päeva järjest.



Me palvetame: Kõigeväeline Jumal, taevane Isa, me ülistame Sind, sest Sa oled oma Vaimu välja valanud ning Tema kaudu pühitsed ja juhata oma rahvast. Valgusta ja juhata oma Vaimuga meie südameid, kinnita ja kaitse oma väega ning aita,

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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.

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et Sinu kogudus võiks kasvada usus ja armastuses. Jeesuse Kristuse, meie Issanda läbi, kes koos Sinuga Püha Vaimu ühtsuses elab ja valitseb igavesest ajast igavesti.

### Pentecost Sunday – June 8

Pentecost is a Christian holiday commemorating the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles 50 days after the resurrection of Jesus Christ and 10 days after Ascension Day. It is the birthday of the church.

Pentecost is associated with the Jewish holiday of Shavuot, which commemorates the giving of the Ten Commandments by God to Moses on Mount Sinai. Shavuot is celebrated seven weeks after Passover and has its origins in the distant pagan past, when the harvest festival was celebrated.

In the Estonian folk calendar, Pentecost is also known as the summer holidays. The memorable event is recounted in the Bible in the book of Acts, chapter 2.

### Kolmainupüha – 15. juuni



Palve Kõigeväeline Jumal, kes Sa elad pühaduses ja kõrguses, oma loodut Vaimu läbi uuendad ja juhataad ning Kristuses oma kirkust ilmutad: puhasta meid kartustest ja kahtlustest ning tee meid väärilisteks Sind teenima, kes Sa koos Pojaga ja Püha Vaimuga, üks tõeline Jumal, elad ja valitsed igavesest ajast igavesti.

Esimene pühapäev pärast nelipüha on pühendatud pühale Kolmainusele (ld *Trinitatis*). Kolmainuõpetus püüab võtta kokku müsteeriumi, mida Piibel erinevates kohtades esitab: Jumal on taevane Isa, Looja; ta on Jeesus Kristus, Jumala Poeg ja Päästja; ta on Püha Vaim, kellena ta tänagi meie keskel tegutseb ja meid pühitseb. "Me austame üht ainsat Jumalat kolmainuses ja kolmainust ühtsuses, ning ei muuda ähmaseks nende isikuid ega lahuta nende ühtset olemust," öeldakse Athanasiose usutunnistuses.

Seda müsteeriumi ei suuda me siin maa peal kunagi lõpuni ära seletada ega mõista. Me õpime aga Jumalat tundma püüdes teda armastada ja tema käske pidada, teda ülistades ja teenides.



By Laurom - Photo reproduction of art., Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=2126728>

Mõiste "kolmainus" ei pärine terminina Piiblist, vaid kristlaste püüdeist kokku võtta ja lühidalt sõnastada seda, mida Jumal endast on ilmutanud. Seda ilmutust analüüsides on jõutud tõdemuseni, et ühest Jumalast saab rääkida kui Isast, kui Pojast ja kui Pühast Vaimust, kes on küll eraldi isikud, ent siiski üks ning seesama Jumal.

Vanas Testamendis on Jumalast kõneldes läbivaks arusaam sellest, et on olemas ainult üks Jumal:

„Kuule, Iisrael! Issand, meie Jumal Issand, on ainus“ (5Ms 6:4). „Mina olen Issand, sinu Jumal, kes sind tõi välja Egiptusemaalt, orjusekojast. Sul ei tohi olla muid jumalaid minu palge kõrval!“ (2Ms 20:3-4).

Uus Testament rajaneb sellel sõnumil, ent sinna lisandub sõnum, et Jeesus, kelles Jumal inimkonna endaga lepitab, on Jumala Poeg ja Jumal: „Mõtelge iseenestest sedasama, mida Kristuses Jeesuses: kes, olles Jumala kuju, ei arvanud osaks olla Jumalaga võrdne“ (Fl 2:5-6). „Sest temas elab kogu jumalik täius ihulikul!“ (Kl 2:9).

Ka Pühast Vaimust kõneldakse Piiblis kui iseseisvast isikust: „Jeesus ütleb: Tõe Vaimu, keda maailm ei saa võtta vastu, sest ta ei näe teda ega tunne teda ära. Teie tunnete tema ära, sest ta jääb teie juurde ja on teie sees“ (Jh 14:17). „Aga Lohutaja, Püha Vaim, kelle Isa saadab minu nimel, tema õpetab teile kõik ja tuletab teile meelde kõik, mida mina teile olen öelnud“ (Jh 14:26).



Kolmainu Jumal tähendab üht Jumalat, kes on samaaegselt kolm erinevat persooni ehk isikut. Ei ole seega kolme erinevat jumalat nagu näiteks paljude jumalatega kreeka mütoloogias, kes omavahel kaklevad ja muidu arveid klaarivad. Samas ei ole ka Jumal Isa, Poeg ja Püha Vaim sama Jumala erinevad seletused vaid tegemist on erinevate isikutega.

lirimaa misjonär püha Patrick seletas keltidele kolmainusust ristikheina lehe abil, kus on kolm erinevat leheharu, kuid samas on üks terviklik leht. Veel on seletuseks võetud vesi, mille valem on H<sub>2</sub>O, kuid mis võib olla nii tahke, vedel, kui aur.

Kolmainususe isikuid on eristatud ka nende tegude abil: Isa – Looja, Poeg – Lunastaja, Püha Vaim – Pühitseja. Seejuures aga rõhutatakse siiski, et kõik isikud toimivad koos.

Keskaja suurim filosoof ja teoloog Toomas Aquino'st on tõdenud: „Meie jumalatunnuse kõrgeim tipp seisneb teadmises, et Jumal ületab kõik, mida me Temast mõelda suudame.

<https://eek.ee/kirikupuhad/kolmainupuha/>

**Trinity Sunday** is the first Sunday after Pentecost in the Western Christian liturgical calendar, and the Sunday of Pentecost in Eastern Christianity. Trinity Sunday celebrates the Christian doctrine of the Trinity, the three Persons of God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Trinity Sunday is celebrated in all the Western liturgical churches: Latin Catholic, Anglican, Lutheran, Presbyterian, United Church of Christ, and Methodist.

*"Dear God, I humbly seek your guidance and understanding. I yearn to believe in you, to connect with your presence, and to truly understand the teachings of my faith. Help me to grasp the mysteries of your existence, the beauty of your creation, and the profound concept of the Trinity. I ask for the light of your Holy Spirit to illuminate my mind and heart, so that I may better comprehend your will and purpose. Strengthen my faith, help me to overcome doubts, and grant me the wisdom to navigate the challenges of life with trust in your love and grace. Amen."*



## UUDISED / NEWS



### May 4 - Bilingual Confirmation

Congratulations to the new confirmands Leena Gates-Kass and Silje Mia Leppik. The service was conducted by Rev. Ando Kass and Deacon Karl Paju. On the piano and organ, Erik Kreem. Solosist Avo Kittask. Photos by Peeter Pöldre & Ando Kass.







### May 11, Sunday – Mother's Day

An Estonian Service with Deacon Karl Paju, organist-pianist Chung Lee, on guitar Hollis Kwan was held. Readings by Susan Pruvli and Allan Seim. Announcements by Anne Liis Keelmann. Coffee followed in the guild room.



### May 17th - Saturday Eurovision Watch Party

Much fun was had at a watch party hosted by Karl Paju to watch this year's Eurovision finals.

Everyone was excited to watch Estonia's Tommy Ca\$h performing "Espresso Machiato"



and winning 3rd place - only 1 point behind second place and clearly the popular favourite with the public!!! So much fun singing, dancing and drinking our espresso - no stress!!!



Seven days without prayer,  
makes one weak.



## May 24 & 25 Doors Open Toronto



St. Peter's was pleased to again participate in 2 days of Doors Open Toronto this year.

**Saturday's Open House** was a huge success with both Estonian and local community members coming to visit St. Peter's.



Led by Avo Kittask, the Toronto Estonian Men's Choir sang several heartfelt songs. Erik Kreem directed the choir when Avo Kittask sang a solo, and then accompanied the final song on piano.



Avo Kittask, Erik Kreem, Madis Kreem.

Next, visitors were amazed by the organ recital by Erik Kreem, who took the time to speak about each composition and the era in which it was written.



Stained glass artist, Ernestine Tahedl, spoke at length about the commission, design, and creation of our beautiful windows. She has donated her sketches and drawings to our church archive.



Retired architect Enn Ots shared comments about our building's architecture.

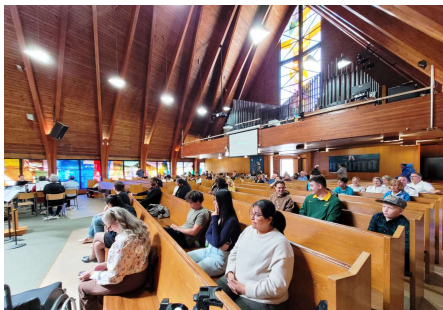
**A great thank you to all the volunteers, and Aida Shelton who fed the hungry crew.**





## Doors Open Sunday

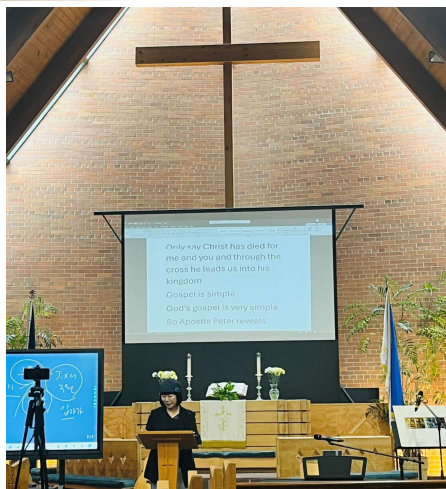
A rainy Sunday did not deter visitors from attending the 2nd day of Doors Open. Sunday's visitors got to participate in the Salvation Army's musical service.



Chung Lee delighted listeners with several songs on the piano and organ.



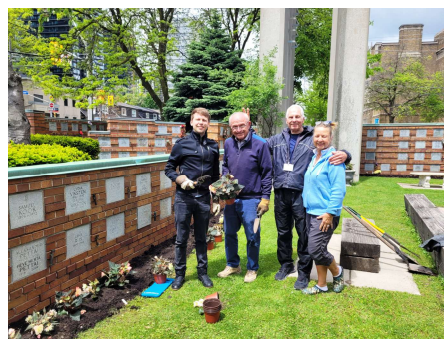
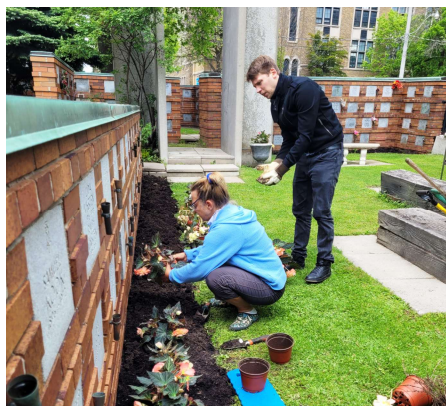
A lovely experience was had for those visiting during the Toronto Korean Open Church (TKOC) musical service.



The Korean service was translated into English and the music was especially moving. God's love surpasses language barriers. We are fortunate and happy to be sharing our space with other devoted Christians.

## Spring Planting

Beautifying our church courtyard were Deacon Karl Paju, Väino Einola, Roul Martjak, and Kay Tüll.



Before celebrating a baptism, the pastor approached the young father and said solemnly,

"Baptism is a serious step. Are you sure you're prepared for it?"

"I think so," the man replied. "My wife has made appetizers and we have a caterer coming to provide plenty of cookies and cakes for our guests."

"I don't mean that," the pastor replied. "I mean, are you prepared spiritually?"

"Oh sure," came the reply. "I've got a keg of beer and a case of whiskey."





One day a man was crossing a bridge in life but was scared so he turned and asked God, "Can I hold your hand so I may not fall?" God said, "No, my child, I will hold your hand". The man asked, "What's the difference?" God replied, "If you hold my hand and something happens, you might let go, but if I hold your hand, no matter what happens, I will never let you go". May the Lord hold your hand tightly in all your ways.

Ühel päeval ületas mees elus silda, kuid oli hirmul, mistõttu ta pöördus ja küsis Jumalalt: "Kas ma võin su käest kinni hoida, et mitte kukkuda?" Jumal ütles: "Ei, mu laps, ma hoian su käest kinni." Mees küsis: "Mis vahet on?" Jumal vastas: "Kui sa hoiaid mu käest kinni ja midagi juhtub, siis sa võid lahti lasta, aga kui ma hoian su kätt, mis ka ei juhtuks, ei lase ma sul kunagi lahti." Issand hoidku su kätt kõvasti kõigil su teedel.

If you have a happy occasion such as a christening or wedding, or would like to honour the passing of a loved one, please advise the office so that they may be included in our newsletter. We do not automatically list such events.



*In loving memory*  
**Heili (Puhm) Strawbridge**  
August 6, 1943 - May 9th, 2025

Daughter of  
Rev. Oskar Puhm and Meta Puhm.



**John 11:25-26:** "Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die."

*Our deepest condolences to daughters Kristina and Justine.*

It is with sadness that we announce the death of one of our beloved members who touched our hearts with good humour and thoughtful, caring ways. Her obituary may be read here: <https://www.mhfh.com/obituaries/Heili-Strawbridge?obid=42683575#gsc.tab=0>

*"Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am."* John 14:1-3



**St. Peter's Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church of Toronto**

**Annual General Meeting**  
June 7, 2025, at 1:30 p.m. (EDT)

**Notice to Congregation Members**

Members of the congregation of St. Peter's Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church of Toronto are invited to participate in the Annual General Meeting of the Congregation to be held at 817 Mount Pleasant Road, Toronto, Ont. M4P 2L1 on Saturday, June 7, 2025, at 1:30 p.m. Registration begins at 12:30 p.m.

**Toronto Peetri ja Vana-Andrese koguduste**  
**Pühapäeval 15. juunil**

**Ühised Surruaiapühateenistused**

Kell 11:00 York kalmistul  
Kell 1:00 Mount Pleasant kalmistul

Teenib diakon Karl Paju, oreli Liina Purje-Lepik.

Järgneb palvus kell 2:00 Peetri kiriku kolumbaariumis



## Remembering Estonian War Prisoners & Victims in Stutthof



This June, as we remember those who have passed and lay in our own cemeteries, it would be appropriate to also remember those lives lost during past wars, some of whom have no graves.

During my family's recent visit to Poland, we made a trip to a former Nazi concentration camp at Sztutowo (Stutthof) which is 55 kilometres east of Gdańsk. Stutthof tends to be unknown to most of the Anglophone world since it was a camp that was liberated by the Red Army. The day was sunny, birds were chirping in the trees, spring was in full force – nature was oblivious to the atrocities that occurred on this site years ago.



*The entrance gate to hell.*

The now Stutthof Memorial Museum, founded in 1962, takes up only about one-fifth of the former campground.

Most of the infrastructure of the concentration camp was either destroyed or dismantled shortly after the war. While the SS burned numerous documents, some were packed and transported alongside evacuating inmates and were later discovered by the Soviet Army in a roadside ditch.

The museum preserves, researches and displays archival records and historical artefacts and includes exhibitions and videos into the haunting insight into the lives of the people that were imprisoned here during the Second World War.



One can visit existing buildings, the gas chamber, ovens, and rail cars. It was a difficult, somber, and truly moving experience confronting the chilling legacies of this dark chapter in history. A visit here is very necessary for anyone that seeks an understanding of the past and its continued relevance today.

One of the first things I learned, is that Stutthof has an **Estonian connection and that there were Estonian camp prisoners here.**

In German-occupied Estonia, the Klooga concentration camp was a Nazi forced labour sub-camp of the Vaivara



*A striped triangle with the letter "E" indicated the prisoner was from Estonia. Here are the records for August Allikmaa and Evald Anton.*

camp complex. Established in 1943, tens of thousands of Jews from other European countries were sent to forced-labour camps inside Estonia. The labourers built military defenses for the German army and mined shale oil. Thousands of foreign Jews were murdered at Kalevi Liiva. It is estimated that 1,800–2,000 prisoners perished at Klooga from wanton killings, epidemics and working conditions. **Those who survived were transported to the Stutthof concentration camp in occupied Poland ahead of the Soviet advance.**



*Prisoner movements to Stutthof.*

In addition to the Estonians, the Stutthof death camp held prisoners from 27 nationalities including Poles, Jews, Russians, Ukrainians, Belorussians, Lithuanians, Latvians, Czechs,



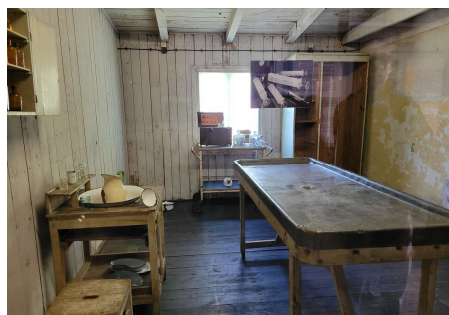


*Flags (including Estonian) and plaques commemorate countries at the gas chambers, from which country prisoners were brought.*

Slovaks, Finns, Norwegians, French, Danes, Dutch, Belgians, Germans, Austrians, English, Spanish, Italians, Yugoslavs, Hungarians and Roma (gypsies). The estimates of camp prisoners vary with some data indicating that 127,000 prisoners were registered upon their arrival at camp. The number of victims who perished runs between 65,000 - 90,000, but the real number is much higher since the inmates who were selected for immediate execution at their arrival were never registered.



*The soles of shoes confiscated from prisoners. Below: The room in which lethal injections were given.*



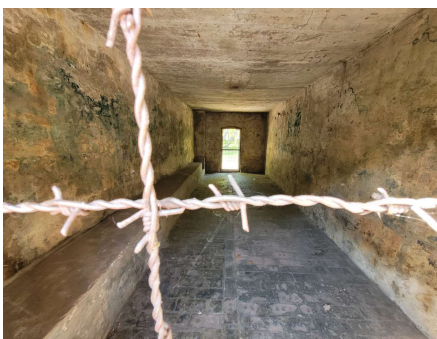
The camp came about with the attack on Poland in September of 1939. The Germans set it up immediately after the invasion as an internment camp and established it in connection with the ethnic cleansing and liquidation of Polish elites (members of the intelligentsia, religious and political leaders) in the Danzig area and Western Prussia.



*Crematory ovens*

The camp was at first identified as a place for "labour education" (forced labour) working to make bricks, doing agricultural work, and SS-owned enterprises. From June 1944 it became a major place in the Nazi camp system and a tool for mass-extinction. At its largest extension, the camp measured 120 ha, stretching out over 39 sub-camps. A special camp for women was added and barbed-wire fences gave way to electrified barbed-wire fences.

*Away for a moment from guards, many prisoners committed suicide in the latrine area.*



*The gas chamber.*

The camp's administration implemented brutal measures, including the use of Zyklon B gas for mass executions. There is a controversial story about medical experiments conducted by the chief doctor attempting to create soap from human fat.

The first political prisoners were forced to participate in the murder of transported mental patients, and bury them in mass forest graves. They were then shot to ensure there were no witnesses. After Himmler's visit in November 1941, the Nazi's expanded Stutthof to an interregional camp.



*New memorial at the site containing found ashes and bones.*





Stutthof emerged as the center of more than 100 sub-camps extending from Neuengamme near Hamburg through Stutthof to the camp at Kovno in Lithuania to Kaiserwald, close to Riga, Latvia, and up to the concentration camp at **Vaivara in north-east Estonia**.

As the war progressed, the camp's population changed and expanded with prisoners being continuously added. Heads were shaved, valuables seized, everyone wore striped lice-infested uniforms.



The old camp was composed of 8 barracks for the inmates and a large building (the "kommandantur") for the SS. In 1942, 30 barracks were added. The crematory and gas chamber were added in 1943 in time to start mass executions. Mobile gas train wagons were used to complement the maximum 150 capacity of the gas chamber. While prisoners were forced to live in cold wooden barracks, the former German headquarters and commanders lived in luxury in a beautiful building which was a former spa. Swans were swimming in the spa's fountain until

the starving prisoners ate them. Hair from the prisoners was used for the commander's daughter's doll. After their daily rushed executions, with blood still on their clothes, camp guards partied in the commander's spa building.

The prisoners were exposed to forced labour, malnutrition, terrible sanitation, disease, mental and physical torture, shootings, hangings, gassing, lethal injections, and beatings. Prisoners died as a result of atrocious living conditions as well as executions. Executions were done by the administering injections of phenol or gasoline directly into the hearts of individuals. Starvation and deliberate sustained exposure to the cold eliminated others, while others were shot, or gassed with Zyklon B pesticide first utilized in Auschwitz in gas chambers. The guards used the gas sparingly so instead of dying within a few minutes, prisoners experienced agonizing pain and suffocation for almost 30 minutes. As more prisoners were brought in, the killings increased reaching 250 per day in January 1945.

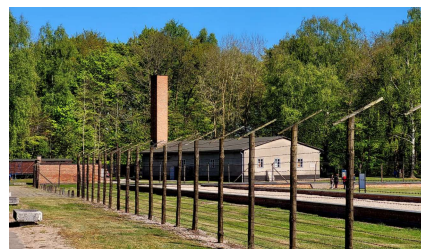
As the Soviet Red Army advanced, the German Death Marches began in the winter

*Trains to nowhere - women were loaded on to trains that drove around in a circle - gassed, and the bodies brought back to be buried or burned.*



and spring of 1945. The SS announced the evacuation of Stutthof on January 25<sup>th</sup>, 1945, two days before the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau. In the first wave of killing in January, the SS executed 5,000 inmates, driving them into the icy waters of the Baltic and gunning them down. Prisoners were compelled to march 80 miles west, and then cut off by advancing Soviet forces, marched back to the site of the camp. Prisoners died on roadsides and beaches of malnutrition, typhus, cold, or German bullets.

Soviet troops set foot in Stutthof on May 9<sup>th</sup>, 1945 and WWII in Europe officially ended. There were only 100 people left alive at Stutthof to liberate.



When arranging for this trip, I was asked why I would want to spend my only day in Poland going to Stutthof. Why not visit new theatres or art galleries and see something beautiful? We went to Stutthof, because the next post-war generations are growing up, and the witnesses of these events are passing away. It is important to visit places that are difficult to see and get a glimpse of the suffering, longing, pain, separation, and finally death, that happened here to ensure that history does not get forgotten, dismissed, or suppressed – the Memory of the Victims obliges us. - Tiit Roiser



## 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)**

June 1 - Sunday at 3:00 p.m. Estonian service at Ehatare with Deacon Karl Paju.

- Kell 3:00 Jumalateenistus Ehatares, teenib diakon Karl Paju.

June 4 - 12:00 noon Guild meeting in Guild room. New members welcome!

- Kell 12 Gildiring. Kokaraamatu täiendamine. Uued liikmed tererulnud.

June 7 - **Saturday - EELK St. Peter's Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church Annual General Meeting at 1:30 p.m. Registration for Members begins at 12:30 noon.**

June 15 - Sunday - Combined cemetery services with Vana Andres congregation. Presiding Deacon Karl Paju. Music by Liina Purje Lepik.

- Pühapäeval - Ühised Peetri ja Vana-Andrese surnuaia-pühateenistused. Teenib diakon Karl Paju, oreil Liina Purje Lepik.

11:00 a.m. - York Cemetery (section 16)

1:00 p.m. - Mount Pleasant Cemetery (Section 46)

2:00 p.m. - Short prayers at St. Peter's columbarium.

Advance Notice :

August 22 - We are pleased to announce that a men's choir from Estonia will be giving a concert at our church. Mark the date on your calendar.

Deacon Karl Paju's office hours are on Wednesdays from 11:00 to 2:00 p.m. Email: [karl-paju@hotmail.com](mailto:karl-paju@hotmail.com)

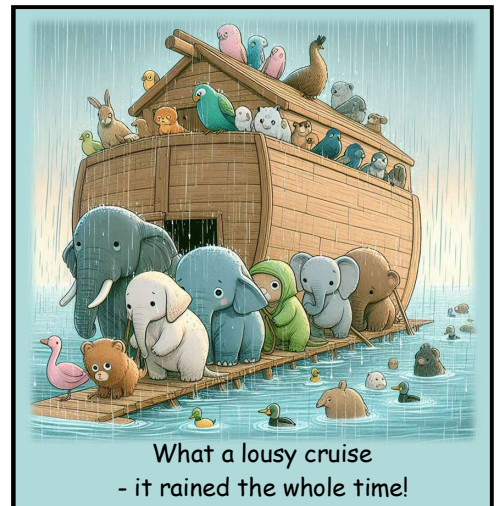
*Diakon Karl Paju kõnetunnid kantseleis on kolmapäeviti kell 11:00 - 14:00*

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

*Eestpalved võib igal ajal kirjalikult esitada kiriku kontoris: [stpeterstoronto@rogers.com](mailto:stpeterstoronto@rogers.com)*

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

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



When my grandson Billy and I entered our vacation cabin, we kept the lights off until we were inside to keep from attracting pesky insects. Still, a few fireflies followed us in.

Noticing them before I did, Billy whispered, "It's no use Grandpa. Now the mosquitoes are coming after us with flashlights."

*May you all have a blessed Summer.*