

TÕE TERA / THE SOWER - JUNE-JULY 2026

ST. PETER'S ESTONIAN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF TORONTO

EELK Toronto Peetri Kogudus



Is Father's Day as Popular as Mother's Day?

The short answer is no. In Canada, Mother's Day consistently drives significantly higher consumer spending—shoppers spend roughly 60% less on Father's Day.

This gap isn't about fathers being less valued. It's largely shaped by history, culture, and how each holiday developed. Mother's Day was officially recognized in 1914, while Father's Day didn't become a national holiday until 1972—nearly six decades later. That later start has influenced how deeply each day is embedded in tradition.

Cultural expectations also play a role. Mothers have long been viewed as primary caregivers and emotional anchors, while fathers have often been seen as providers. As a result, Mother's Day tends to emphasize rest, appreciation, and being celebrated, while many fathers prefer a more low-key approach, sometimes even avoiding a "big fuss."

There are also clear differences in how each holiday is marketed. Mother's Day is one of the largest retail events of the year, promoted with emotionally driven campaigns featuring flowers, cards, brunches, and spa experiences. Father's Day marketing, by comparison, is often more limited and focused on practical gifts like tools, gadgets, and BBQ gear, without the same emotional or experiential appeal.

Celebration styles differ too. Mother's Day is often marked by planned events—family gatherings, outings, or special experiences. Father's Day is typically more casual, perhaps a simple meal or a thoughtful but modest gift. While the appreciation is there, the tone tends to be quieter.

The difference really shows up in what kinds of gifts people buy – it's almost like the two holidays have completely different "styles".

Mother's day gifts tend to be emotional, experience-based, or pampering. The number one gift is flowers or plants, followed by jewelry, dining out, spa day, clothing, or a personalized or sentimental gift. The vibe is lavish, memorable, thoughtful, emotional, appreciation-focused to make mother feel special or cared for.

Father's day gifts tend to be practical, hobby-based, or simple, the most popular being a simple card, clothing, food or BBQ-related item, tools or gadgets. The vibe is practical, straightforward and is often practical and utility-driven—reflecting usefulness more than sentiment.

All this said, as the gap between traditional parenting roles is evolving and celebrations are changing. Many families are putting equal thought and effort into both celebrations. In some households, Father's Day is just as meaningful—it simply reflects personal values and traditions.

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

817 Mount Pleasant Road
Toronto, Ontario M4P 2L1



416-483-5847



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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
Neljapäeval/Thurs. 12:00 – 3:00 p.m.

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Ilo Maimets, Archive Director
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Let's keep our Father's in Mind this Father's Day – June 21



Bible verses for Father's Day.

As we reflect on Father's Day, it's meaningful to remember its spiritual roots. The holiday is often credited to Sonora Smart Dodd, whose deep faith and gratitude for her widowed father raising six children alone on a farm, inspired her to advocate for a day that honours fathers through recognition and prayer.

These scriptures offer encouragement and perspective—not just for one Sunday in June, but throughout the year. Fathers play a lasting role in shaping not only their children's lives today, but the generations that follow.

This verse reminds us that when fathers lead their families with reverence for the Lord, they provide a safe haven for their children, nurturing them with love and security:

Proverbs 14:26 - "Whoever fears the LORD has a secure fortress, and for their children it will be a refuge." Proverbs 20:7 - "A righteous person acts with integrity; his children who come after him will be happy."

Fathers take great pride in seeing their children grow in wisdom and character: Proverbs 23:24 - "The father of a righteous child has great joy; a man who fathers a wise son rejoices in him." Proverbs 22:6 - "Start a youth out on his way; even when he grows old he will not depart from it."

The parable of the Prodigal Son illustrates a father's boundless love and forgiveness: Luke 15:20 - "But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him."

The fictional character of Spider-man provides an interesting statement for us to think on: "With great privilege comes great responsibility", which is what God was telling men nearly 3,000 years ago. You get the privilege of raising your kids, but you also have the responsibility of doing it the right way—God's way.

Proverbs 4:11-12: "I will guide you in the way of wisdom and I will lead you in upright paths. When you walk, your steps will not be hampered, and when you run, you will not stumble."

Not just on Father's Day, we remember the profound influence fathers have—through leadership, love, and faith—every single day.

Armas Jumal, me mõtleme tänna tänuga oma lahkunud isale -- Täname Sind kõige hea eest, mis ta meile eluteele kaasa andis. Palume, anna tema hingele igavene rahu ja valgus Oma juures. Aamen.

NEWS / UUDISED



April 26 - Leaf recipients bilingual service

Donors and leaf recipients were thanked and honoured at the April 26th bilingual service led by Deacon Karl Paju with organist Erik Kreem. Scripture readings by Väino Einola and Allan Seim. Thank you to Aida Shelton who prepared the refreshments for fellowship following the service.



May 3 - Mother's Day Service / Emadepäev

A Mother's Day service at St. Peter's took place on Sunday, May 3, 2026. The service was led by Deacon Karl Paju, with Erik Kreem on organ and piano. It brought together the congregations of Toronto St. Peter's and Vana-Andrese churches.

A combined choir performed during the service, with soloists Kristina Agur, Liina Purje-Lepik, and Heli Tenno.



Scripture readings were presented by Kati Kiillaspea and Väino Keelmann and special thanks were extended to Leena Gates-Kass for her dedicated work with the Sunday School, which is now on summer break.





Following the service, the congregations gathered for a traditional luncheon, where a spirited rendition of “Ta Elagu” was sung in honour of Karl Paju’s recent birthday. The two congregations’ support created a very cohesive, consistent and unified service at St. Peter’s. Together it was a service for all which we can only hope will be replicated many times over in the future.

Doors Open - May 23 & 24



A cool and rainy day greeted those who ventured out to explore Toronto's unique buildings and landmarks during this year's Doors Open weekend, discovering the people, places, and stories that make our city a true global mosaic.

Nearly 170 sites participated this year, and St. Peter's was once again delighted to be part of the event.

Celebrating this year's theme, "The World in a City," visitors to the church were able to admire the beauty of our building, enjoy performances by the Toronto Estonian Men's Choir, attend an organ concert by Erik Kreem, and meet stained glass artist Ernestine Tahedl.



Above: Erik Kreem's organ solo. Bottom: Tiina Jenkins, Thomas Arget, Ernestine Tahedl, Ilo Maiments.

On Sunday, guests could also take part in the musical services presented by the Salvation Army and the Toronto Korean Open Church. In the Guild Room, visitors were introduced to Estonia through a video presentation, with the space transformed into a small cinema for the occasion.



Visiting on Sunday were several members of the Estonian Parliamentary Friendship Group delegation including Chairman Mr. Peeter Tali, parliamentary member Tarmo Tamm and staff member Andreas-Ra Adoson.

Chairwoman Aida Shelton kept the volunteers and singers happy and well fed. A great thank you to all the organizers and volunteers whose hard work helped make this year's event another great success.

Photographs: Thomas Arget & Anne Liis Keelmann



UNITED IN SERVICE FOR OUR COMMUNITY

St. Peter's is pleased to collaborate with other organizations within our community by sharing its facilities. 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 Toronto Estonian Men's Choir on their 75th Anniversary !



75. aastapäevakontsert

Toronto Eesti Meeskoor

Dirigent: Erik Kreem

Solist: Avo Kittask



Laupäeval 13. juunil kell 4pl.

Peetri Kirik, 817 Mount Pleasant Rd. M4P 2L1

Sissepääs \$20

(kohv, kringel ja suupisted \$15)



When My Dad Taught Sunday School



The Sunday school lesson for the day was about Noah's Ark, so dad decided to get his small pupils involved by playing a game in which they identified animals.

"I'm going to describe something to you and see if you can guess what it is. First: I'm furry with a bushy tail and I like to climb trees."

The children looked at him blankly.

"I also like to eat nuts, especially acorns."

No response. This wasn't going well at all!

"I'm usually brown or grey, but sometimes I can be black or red."

Desperate, the dad turned to a perky four-year-old who was usually good about coming up with the answers.

"Michelle, what do you think?"

Michelle looked hesitantly at her classmates and replied, "Well, I know the answer has to be Jesus — but it sure sounds like a squirrel to me!"

Lõbus Pärastlõuna *Elagu regilaul*



Esinevad Ilo Maimets, Leena Tiismann, Tõnu Naelapea



neljap. 11. juuni, 2026, kl 12
sissepääs \$15 kava ja suupisted



Koht: Peetri kirik
817 Mount Pleasant Rd

RSVP : 5. juuni

M. Mölder: 647-799-1910

Ilmunud on „Vaimulikud loosungid 2026” (\$10), ostusooviks palun võtke ühendust: stpeterstoronto@rogers.com, või 416-483-5847.

Üks tee on lõpuni käidud, üks süda on vaikinud.



Ludmilla Elisabeth Ots



12. juunil, 1922, Harjumaal -
5. mail, 2026, Torontos

Leiname kaua-ageset Peetri Koguduse
liiget

Kaastunne vennale, lastele, lastelastele, ja
lastelastelastele.

Juhatus ja Peetri koguduse pere.

In Memorium/Mälestades

Ludmilla Elisabeth Ots (née Laigar), age 103, of Toronto, Ontario, passed away peacefully, on May 5, 2026, surrounded by the love of family and friends. Ludmilla was born on June 12, 1922, in Harjumaal, Estonia, Neeme village to Johannes and Alviine Laigar. Ludmilla was a wonderful and caring person, and was known for her love of singing in the choir at St. Peter's Estonian Church, working in her garden, volunteering at the Estonian library at Tartu College, winning at canasta whenever she had a chance, and taking care of the family cottage at Udora. She spent her career working as a book-keeper at Loblaw's Corporation, where she had wonderful colleagues and friends. Ludmilla is survived by her children, Mare (Wayne) and Enn (Diane); her brother, Udo (Eleanor); her grandchildren, Sean, Lara (Peter), Rachel, Alexey, Sylva (Rick) and Karl (Sabrina); her great-grandchildren, Kennedy, Jarrett, Keegan, Nassim, Ansley and Harrison; and many relatives all over the world. She was preceded in death by her loving husband, Leander; her daughter, Anne-Liis; her granddaughter, Aliis; and her siblings, Herta, Leida and Erich. A special thank you to the staff at Ehatare Retirement and Nursing Home who took such wonderful care of her in her final years.

**TORONTO PEETRI JA VANA-ANDRESE KOGUDUSTE
ÜHISED SURNUAIAPÜHATEENISTUSED**
Pühapäeval 14 juunil, 2026

Kell 11:15 Palvus Peetri kiriku kolumbaariumis
12:00 Mount Pleasant kalmistul
2:00 York kalmistul

Teenib diakon Karl Paju
Klaveril Liina Purje-Lepik

If you are celebrating a joyful occasion such as a christening or wedding, or wish to commemorate or honour the passing of a loved one, please inform the office so the announcement can be included in our newsletter. Kindly note that these notices are not published automatically.

"One morning my father didn't get up and go to work. He went to the hospital and died the next day. I hadn't thought that much about him before.

He was just someone who left and came home and seemed glad to see everyone at night. He opened the jar of pickles when no one else could. He was the only one in the house who wasn't afraid to go into the basement by himself. He cut himself shaving, but no one kissed it or got excited about it. It was understood that when it rained, he got the car and brought it around to the door. When anyone was sick, he went out to get the prescription filled. He took lots of pictures ... but he was never in them. Whenever I played house, the mother doll had a lot to do. I never knew what to do with the daddy doll, so I had him say, "I'm going off to work now" and threw him under the bed.

The funeral was in our living room and a lot of people came and brought all kinds of good food and cakes. We had never had so much company before. I went to my room and felt under the bed for the daddy doll. When I found him I dusted him off and put him on my bed. He never did anything. I didn't know his leaving would hurt so much."

(Erma Bombeck, The Ties that Bind ... And Gag! [NY: McGraw-Hill Book Co., 1987], p. 2.)

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

- June 3 - 12:00 noon, Wednesday - Guild Meeting. New members welcome.
- June 6 - Calling all members - your opinion matters! St. Peter's **Annual General Meeting** will be held at 1:30 on Saturday, June 6th. **Registration begins at 12:30.** Proxy forms properly completed and signed must be received at the Church office no later than 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 4th.
- June 7 - 3:00 p.m., Sunday - Estonian service with Karl Paju at Ehatare.
- June 11 - 12:00 noon, Thursday - Ehatare Foundation event at St. Peter's: a Lõbus Pärastlõuna. Performing at this Estonian language event is the regilaulu trio of **Ilo Maimets, Leena Tiismann and Tõnu Naelapea**. Please RSVP to Maimu Mölder and let her know if you need help with transportation getting to the event at 647 799 1910 or director@ehatarefoundation.ca.
- June 13 - 4:00 p.m., Saturday - Toronto Estonian Men's Choir 75th Anniversary Concert at St. Peter's conducted by Erik Kreem, soloist Avo Kittask. Entry ticket \$20; coffee & kringel ticket \$15.
- June 14 - St. Peter's and Vana Andres congregation's joint cemetery services with Deacon Karl Paju. Liina Purje-Lepik on electric keyboard.
- St. Peter's columbarium prayers - 11:15 a.m.
 - Mt. Pleasant cemetery - 12:00 noon
 - York cemetery - 2:00 p.m.
- July & August - Please enjoy a summer break. Watch for notices of any newly-scheduled summer services in Eesti Elu, on our website, or via email.

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 kirjalkult esitada kiriku kontorisse: 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.*

St. Peter's Estonian
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Toronto

2026 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING FOR MEMBERS ONLY

June 6, 2026 - 1:30 p.m.
at 817 Mount Pleasant Road
Registration begins at 12:30

Votes at this meeting may be cast in person, or by proxy. To be valid, the form of proxy must be properly completed and signed in accordance with the instructions provided therein and must be received at the Church office at 817 Mount Pleasant Road, Toronto, Ontario M4P 2L1 by no later than 1:30 p.m. (EDT) on Thursday, June 4, 2026.

Questions? Contact the church at
416-483-5847 or write to stpeterstoronto@rogers.com



Teacher asks Little Johnny, "Johnny, how old is your father?"



"He's as old as me," Johnny informs her. "Now how would that be possible?" inquires the surprised teacher. "Well - he became father the day I was born."