TÕE TERA / THE SOWER - NOVEMBER 2026

ST. PETER'S ESTONIAN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF TORONTO

EELK Toronto Peetri Kogudus

The Ministry of Annie Johnson Flint

Imagine enduring chronic and devastating pain day after day, year after year, and yet continuing to shine as a beautiful testimony of God's unfailing grace, goodness, and faithfulness. Annie Flint was a writer, who with crippled, clawed fingers wrote about the majesty and grace of God.

Annie Johnson Flint (1866-1932), born in Vineland, New Jersey, lost both parents in her early childhood. Her life was one of heartbreak and triumph. Born on Christmas Eve Annie was welcomed by Eldon and Jean Johnson as their greatest earthly gift. Three years later, Annie would lose her mother, who died as she gave birth to Annie's sister. Annie's father, who himself was suffering from an incurable disease, willed the children to the Flint family who would bring them up in the Baptist faith.

Annie completed school and trained to become a teacher but the symptoms of chronic arthritis arrived during her second year of teaching and the pain soon forced her to abandon her work. Her adoptive parents died within a few months of each other and the twice-orphaned sisters were alone again.

Annie has stated that at the age of 8, the Spirit of God brought her young heart to faith in Christ. She believed she was converted during a revival meeting, although she joined the church 10 years later. She believed that divine mysteries were often plainer to the simple faith of a child than to many adults, who are blinded by their own prejudices and intellectual doubts.

Annie was cheerful and optimistic despite her devastating, crippling arthritis and doctors telling her she would be an invalid. Soon she was unable to walk and became quite helpless. She endured grievous physical pain for over forty years to a point where her joints became rigid and it was painful for her to even recline in her bed or have contact with bed-clothing and in the end could only move her neck.

Annie composed religious poetry which gave her solace during her long hours of suffering. Two greeting card publishers printed some of her greetings and released a brochure of her poems. When she could no longer write because of the pain, she used her knuckles to type on a typewriter. Annie's afflictions intensified in later years with the onset of blindness and a cancer diagnosis, but never once did she waver from her faith. When her gnarled fingers could no longer write, she dictated her verses and others wrote them down.



Annie reminds us of the Apostle Paul (known as Saul of Tarsus) who was at first a fierce persecutor of Christians. He believed that the followers of Jesus were a threat to Judaism and actively sought to imprison them.

817 Mount Pleasant Road
Toronto, Ontario M4P 2L1

416-483-5847

stpeterstoronto@rogers.com

www.youtube.com/@eelktorontopeetrikogudus8966

www.stpeterstorontoestonianchurch.ca

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.

Music Director & Organist
Erik Kreem erikkreem@hotmail.com

Church Administrator
Tiina Jenkins 416-483-5847

Juhatuse Liikmed / Executive

Toomas Arget, Chairman
416-802-8551
argetthomas50@gmail.com

Tiiu Roiser, Vice-Chair & Treasurer
416-402-1132
tiiu-roiser@rogers.com

Toomas Trei, Facilities Director
416-698-8555
ttrei@sympatico.ca

Mary Donaldson, Secretary
maryots156@gmail.com

Anne Liis Keelmann, Program Director
akeelmann@rogers.com

Ilo Maimets, Archive Director
ilo@yorku.ca

Linda Laikve, Columbarium Director

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

While traveling to Damascus, Saul experienced a dramatic encounter with the risen Christ. Blinded by a heavenly light, he heard Jesus ask, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me"? This encounter led to his conversion and marked the beginning of a remarkable ministry dedicated to spreading the Gospel becoming a passionate preacher, teacher, and missionary. Like Annie, Paul's ministry was not without hardship as he endured imprisonment, beatings, shipwrecks and constant opposition from religious leaders and political authorities, yet he remained steadfast in his calling. Paul's post-Pentecost ministry demonstrates the power of God's grace to transform a life. His story reveals how the Holy Spirit can use ordinary people like Paul and Annie in extraordinary ways to advance God's kingdom.

In an Annie Flint biography, written by her friend Roland Bingham (The Making of the Beautiful), Roland writes that like Paul, Annie became thoroughly convinced that God intended to glorify Himself through her, in her weak, earthen vessel. After careful study and prayer, Annie came to believe that God could heal her if He chose to, but that God could also be glorified through the suffering of His saints.

Like Paul in 2 Corinthians 12:9, Annie hung on to the promise granted to him: "My grace is sufficient for thee, for My strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I glory rather in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me." Annie believed that God had set her apart for a purpose, even when that purpose remained hidden from her and, at times, difficult to understand.

The marvelous thing is that Annie's faith never faltered, and that she was at all times able to say, "Thy will be done." Her words of comfort and reassurance in the face of suffering and unanswered questions are as relevant today as when she penned them.

Annie became a renowned writer across the Christian world. The New York Times obituary called her the 'poet of helpfulness".

May we, too, learn to magnify His mercy and reflect His goodness, even when walking through the darkest valleys of suffering, sorrow, and trial. May our lives proclaim that, no matter how deep the pain or how heavy the burden, God remains faithful, His grace remains sufficient, and His love never fails.

If we experience pain and anguish like Annie, to whom will we cry? And if the pain doesn't go away, will we be able to say like Annie…..

He Giveth More Grace as Our Burdens Grow Greater

He giveth more grace as our burdens grow greater,
He sendeth more strength as our labours increase;
To added afflictions He addeth His mercy,
To multiplied trials He multiplies peace.
When we have exhausted our store of endurance,
When our strength has failed ere the day is half done,
When we reach the end of our hoarded resources,
Our Father's full giving is only begun.
Fear not that thy need shall exceed His provision,
Our God ever yearns His resources to share;
Lean hard on the arm everlasting, availing;
The Father both thee and thy load will upbear.
His love has no limits, His grace has no measure,
His power no boundary known unto men;
For out of His infinite riches in Jesus
He giveth, and giveth, and giveth again."

Christ Has No Hands But Our Hands

Christ has no hands but our hands,
To do His work each day;
He has no feet but our feet,
To lead men in His way;
He has no tongues but our tongues,
To tell men how He died;
He has no help but our help,
To bring them to His side.

We are the only Bible
The careless world will read;
We are the sinner's gospel,
We are the scoffer's creed;
We are the Lord's last message,
He gave in deed and word;
What if the type is crooked?
What if the print is blurred?

What if our hands are busy
With other work than His?
What if our feet are walking
Where sin's allurement is?
What if our tongues are speaking
Of things His lips would spurn?
How can we hope to help Him
And hasten His return?
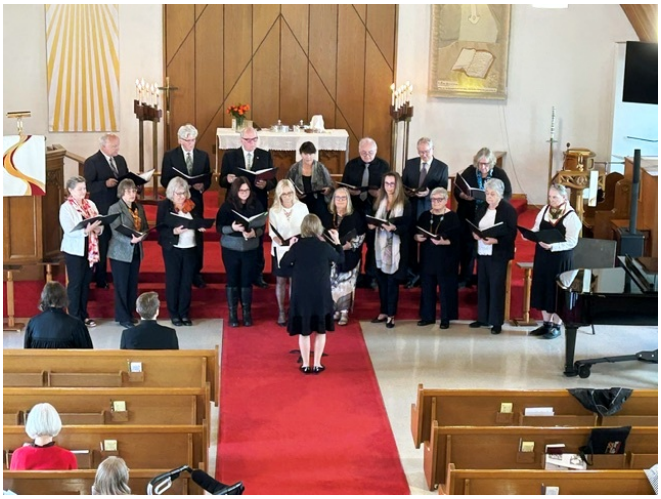
http://www.homemakerscorner.com/annie.htm
https://hymnary.org/person/Flint_Annie
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Annie_Johnson_Flint

NEWS / UUDISED

On Sunday, October 4, the congregations of St. Peter's and St. Andrew's came together to celebrate an early Harvest Thanksgiving Service in grand style.



A warm welcome to Pastor Katrin-Helena Melder from Estonia as the new minister of St. Andrew's Estonian Lutheran Congregation. Our heartfelt thanks go to Deacon Karl Paju for assisting with the service.



The joint choir of the St. Andrew's and St. Peter's congregations enriched the celebration with beautiful music under the direction of Liina Purje-Lepik. Following the service, everyone gathered in the church basement hall for a Thanksgiving Feast.

We extend our sincere gratitude to all the kitchen helpers and food preparers, as well as everyone who contributed to the occasion by beautifully decorating the tables. Your time, effort, and generosity helped make this celebration truly special.









If you see someone falling behind, walk beside them.
If you see someone being ignored,
find a way to include them.
Always remind people of their worth.
One small act could mean the world to them.

St. Peter's Congregation Celebrates its 78th Anniversary

St. Peter's Congregation in Toronto celebrated its 78th anniversary during a special worship service on October 18. The English-language service was led by Pastor Ando Kass and Deacon Karl Paju, who also administered Holy Communion. Erik Kreem provided beautiful organ accompaniment. Tin Wing Tam and Linda Laikve led the congregation in the Scripture readings.

The celebration also included a baptism ceremony led by Pastor Ando Kass and Deacon Karl Paju. Heartfelt congratulations to Ben Flauder on his baptism!









The occasion also provided an opportunity to recognize and honour the dedicated members of the congregation's board and its volunteers. They received a blessing and were presented with the congregation's official lapel pins in appreciation of their commitment and service. We extend our sincere gratitude to everyone who contributes their time and talents to the life of St. Peter's Congregation.

Following the service, members and guests gathered in the Guild Room for a time of fellowship. It was especially wonderful to welcome several new visitors from the neighbourhood and share this meaningful anniversary celebration with them.

Photos by Thomas Arget, Wayne Donaldson, Väino Einola & Anne Liis Keelmann.



Annual Christmas Craft Sale and Café
November 14th!

Mark your calendars! This year's Craft Sale will take place on Saturday, November 14th from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Our musical guest, Taivi, will perform at 11:30 a.m. and 1:oo p.m.

We are collecting prize donations for the raffle and silent auction. If you'd like to contribute gently used items, gift certificates, wine, or other suitable items, please drop them off at the church by **November 4th**. We are also looking for donations of baskets, platters, bowls, cellophane, ribbons, etc. Baked goods welcome on November 14th.



Singer-songwriter Taivi



"Toronto-based folk singer-songwriter Taivi creates roots-inspired songs that blend folk, bluegrass, country, and global influences into human stories of hope and resilience. Her uplifting yet boldly vulnerable songwriting shines on her debut album, Rising Tide, and the single "Ukraiyna". Her music has launched to critical and popular acclaim.

"Good music grounds me in the truth – bypassing so much noise. It always inspires me to excellence," Taivi says.

Taivi crafts songs that cinematically frame intimate, everyday joys while holding a fierce commitment to social justice—an influence rooted in her Estonian ancestry. In her early family life, music was like breathing and Taivi just assumed that every moment had a soundtrack.

Taivi has emerged as an artist with a well-defined aesthetic and strong sense of purpose. "Music can be powerful. It can awaken joy and possibility like nothing else," she says. "I don't write for the purpose social change, but to express what I'm feeling, and this can open new paths."

Her first album, produced my multi-GRAMMY nominee, Claire Lynch, reached the Top 25 on the International Folk DJ Chart and charted in Top Contemporary Folk Albums

In her music career, she has performed with Garth Hudson of the Band, the Toronto Gamelan Orchestra, as part of a 30,000 voice choir in Tallinn, and the Chilean-Greek band the Companeros. In Toronto, she has played venues such as Toronto's Hugh's Room, Danforth Music Hall, Tranzac Club, Acoustic Harvest, Cameron House, and Heliconian Club.

Her songs reflect a close connection to the land, living with hope, experiences of those close to her, the weight of unspoken moments, and the joy of simply being alive."

We are thrilled that Taivi will be performing on Nov. 14th at our Christmas Craft Sale & Cafe!

Hingedepäeva Eestikeelne Jumalateenistus



1 nov. 2026

Kell 11:30 el

Teenib diakon Karl Paju

Orelil Erik Kreem

Esineb trio "Laululinnud"

Järgneb kohvilaud Gildiruumis

Hingedepäev - Esmaspäev, 2. November - kõikide surnute mälestuspäev.

"Lootuse Jumal, me tuleme Sinu ette oma lahkunuid mälestama. Kingi meile lohutust ja rahu. Julgusta meid usus, et need meie armsad on Sinu kätes, ning tõsta meie pilk üle haudade ülestõusnud Jeesusele, kes koos Sinuga Püha Vaimu ühtsuses elab ja valitseb. Igavesest ajast igavesti.

Nii on siis Jumala rahva hingamisaeg alles ees.
Hb 4:9

https://eelk.ee/kirikukalender/





A Sunday school teacher asked, "Why did the wise men follow the star?"
One child answered, "Because it showed them the way to Jesus!
"The teacher smiled. "Exactly!"
Another child raised his hand and said,
"And because Google Maps wasn't invented Yet!"

One Day at a Time!

(Annie Johnson Flint)

"As your days—so shall your strength be!"
Deuteronomy 33:25

One day at a time, with its failures and fears,
With its hurts and mistakes, with its weakness and tears,
With its portion of pain, and its burden of care;
One day at a time, we must meet and must bear.

One day at a time, to be patient and strong,
To be calm under trial, and sweet under wrong;
Then its toiling shall pass, and its sorrow shall cease;
It shall darken and die, and the night shall bring peace.

One day at a time, but the day is so long,
And the heart is not brave, and the soul is not strong,
O piteous Christ, be near all the way;
Give courage and patience, and strength for the day.

Swift cometh His answer, so clear and so sweet;
"Yes I will be with you, your troubles to meet;
I will not forget you, nor fail you, nor grieve;
I will not forsake you; I never will leave."

Not yesterday's load, we are called on to bear,
Nor the morrow's uncertain and shadowy care;
Why should we look forward, or back with dismay?
Our needs, as our mercies, are but for the day.

One day at a time, and the day is His day;
He has numbered its hours, though they haste or delay.
His grace is sufficient, we walk not alone;
As the day so the strength, that He giveth His own.

https://www.gracegems.org/33/one_day_at_a_time.htm



Sincere Thanks to St. Peter's Administrator Tiina Haamer-Jenkins

We would like to share the news that Tiina Haamer-Jenkins has decided to retire after three years as St. Peter's Administrator, effective November 30, 2026. During her time at St. Peter's, Tiina has served as a primary point of contact for congregation members, Estonian organizations, news outlets, and the general public. Her responsibilities have included a wide range of administrative duties, communications, record keeping, and supporting the work of our clergy and board members - always with a kind-hearted, considerate, and helpful manner whenever anyone reached out for assistance, advice, or information.

During the next chapter of her life journey, Tiina tells us she's looking forward to rediscovering some of her favourite hobbies and pastimes, spending more time with her family and friends during the summer at their cottage in the north country, heading south in the winter to enjoy warm sunshine, white sands, and gentle island breezes, and, when time permits, continuing to volunteer at St. Peter's.

We will miss Tiina and wish her many years of happiness, good health, good fortune, and God's blessings.

Welcome to Linda Laikve as our New Administrator



Effective December 1, 2026, we are very pleased to announce that Linda Laikve will take on the position of St. Peter's Administrator and step down from her current board position. Linda brings a wealth of experience to the job along with many relevant skills developed throughout her working career. She is a long-time member of St. Peter's congregation and an active volunteer. She has served with distinction on our Congregational Council (Juhatus), she manages all aspects of St. Peter's Columbarium, and understands the church's Estonian heritage and traditions, its goals, and the central role she will play in St. Peter's operations.

Please join us in welcoming Linda to this important role in St. Peter's organization and wishing her every success.

A man came home from work late again, tired and irritated. He found his 5-year-old son waiting for him at the door.
Daddy, may I ask you a question?" The dad replied: "Yeah, sure, what is it?"
"Daddy, how much money do you make an hour?"
The dad got mad and said, "That's none of your business! Why do you want to know?"
The little boy said, "I just want to know. Please tell me, how much do you make an hour?"
The dad, wanting to sit down and relax, said, "If you must know, I make $20 an hour."
The little boy sighed and bowed his head. Looking up, he asked, "Daddy, may I borrow $10 please?"
The father flew off the handle, "If the only reason you wanted to know how much money I make is so that you can hit me up for some cash to buy some stupid toy, then you march yourself straight to your room and go to bed. You're so selfish. I work long, hard hours every day and don't have time for this."
The little boy quietly went to his room and shut the door.
The dad sat down and started to get even madder about the nerve of his little boy. How dare he ask questions only to get some money. After an hour or so, the man had calmed down, and started to think that maybe he was a bit hard on his boy. Maybe his son really needed the money for something important. And so, the father went up to his boy's room and opened it, "Are you asleep, son?"
"No daddy. I'm awake," replied the boy.
"I've been thinking, maybe I was too hard on you earlier. It's been a long day, and I took it out on you. Here's that 10 bucks you asked for."
The little boy sat straight up, beaming. "Oh, thank you, daddy!" he exclaimed. Then, reaching under his pillow, he pulled out a wad of crumpled up bills.
The dad, seeing that the boy already had some money, started to get angry again. The little boy slowly counted out his money, and then looked up at his dad.
The dad, now ticked off, demanded to know what was going on, "Why did you want more money if you already had some?"
The little boy replied, "Because I didn't have enough, but now I do. Daddy, I have $20 now…and I'd like to buy an hour of your time."

CHURCH SERVICES & EVENTS / JUMALA-TEENISTUSED & ÜRITUSED*

Nov. 1	11:30 a.m., Hingedepäev (All Soul's Day) Estonian-language service with Deacon Karl Paju. We will remember members who passed away during the past year. The service will be led by Deacon Karl Paju with Erik Kreem on the organ. The trio "Laululinnud" (Song Birds) will perform. Coffee and fellowship will follow in the Guild Room. Please drop off all non-perishable donations for the Nov. 14th Christmas Craft Sale.
Nov. 4	12:00 noon, Wednesday - Guild gathering. New members welcome. We are collecting items for the Christmas raffle; please bring them to the church by November 4.
Nov. 14	10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Saturday - St. Peter's Christmas Craft Sale and Café. Taivi will perform at 11:30 & 1:00. Admission: $2. If you would like to help at the event, please let us know.
Nov. 15	3:00 p.m. Sunday service at Ehatare, led by Deacon Karl Paju.
Nov. 18 & Nov. 25	7:30 - 8:30 p.m., Wednesday - Choir practices in sanctuary. New singers are welcome!
Nov. 26	12:00 - 3:00 p.m., Thursday - Ehatare Foundation Kadripäev. Sissepääs $15. Kõneleja meditatsiooni juht Toomas Sepp RSVP Reedeks - 20 Nov. M. Mölder 647-799-1910
Nov. 29	11:30 a.m. Sunday - English-language First Sunday of Advent service. The service will be led by Pastor Ando Kass and Deacon Karl Paju, with Erik Kreem on the organ. The St. Peter's musical ensemble will sing. Sunday school and activities for toddlers will be available. Confirmation class will take place from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m., before the service. The congregation's Christmas celebration (Jõulupuu) will follow. Santa may be visiting! Please register through the church office at 416-483-5847 before November 24.
Dec. 24	Thursday - 12:00 noon - English-language Christmas Service. 2:00 p.m.- Estonian Service. Rev. Ando Kass & Deacon Karl Paju. Organist Erik Kreem. Soloist Heidi Breier.
Dec. 27	Sunday - 3:00 p.m. Estonian Christmas Service at Ehatare.

*** New events may be added to the calendar—please check our church website for any additions: www.stpeterstorontoestonianchurch.ca/event-calendar**

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.

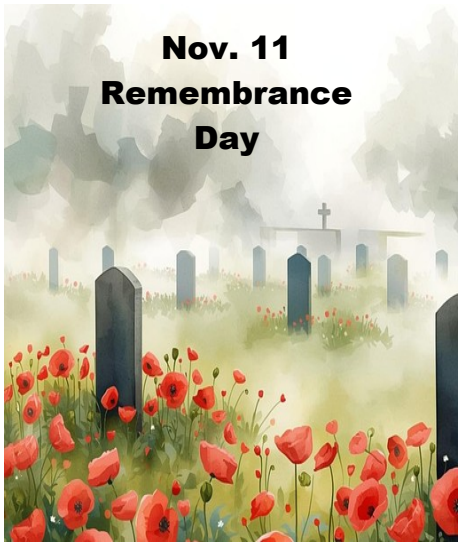
Deacon Karl Paju's Office Hours:
Thursdays from
12:00 noon to 3:00 p.m.

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

Eestpalved võib igal ajal kirjalikult esitada kiriku kontorisse: stpeterstoronto@rogers.com

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.



The pastor's family was invited for dinner at the Olson's home. Mrs. Olson was widely known for her amazing contributions to church potlucks. Everyone was seated around the table as the food was being served. As usual, it was a feast for the eyes, the nose, and the palate.

When the pastor's youngest son, Peter, received his plate he started eating straight away.



"Peter, wait until we say grace," insisted his embarrassed father.

"I don't have to," the five-year-old replied.

"Of course you do, Peter," his mother insisted, also embarrassed. "We always say a prayer before eating at our house."

"That's at our house," Peter explained, "but this is Mrs. Olson's house, and she knows how to cook."