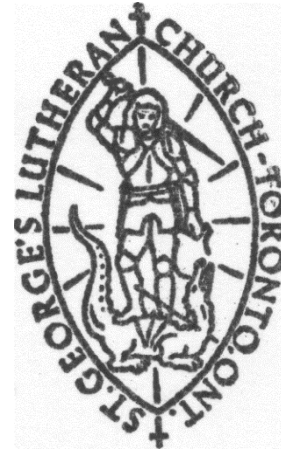


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Church - Newsletter

November 2023 – March 2024

1. Devotion

*Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD rises upon you.*
Isaiah 60:1



Dear members and friends of St. George's!

The German song "Stern über Bethlehem" (EG 545) was written and composed in 1964 by Alfred Hans Zoller (1928-2006).

He was a German composer, jazz pianist, cantor and organist.

A few years ago, it was translated into the English language.

It is an important Christmas hymn of modern times. For many members of our congregation, the German version is a favorite carol that guides us through the Advent and Christmas season and into the New Year. The song takes us into the events of the Christmas story.

**Star over Bethlehem, show us the way,
Lead us towards the manger, where we can pray
Guide us towards the child 'till we are there
Star over Bethlehem, please show us where.**

This first verse is given the title: ADVENT

Like the kings back then, we too need a star, a point of reference to find the child. We need a light to guide us to the essentials of life so that we can focus on preparing ourselves for the celebration of Jesus' birth.

It is important that we do not get lost in the non-essentials. We know that there are many opportunities to keep us distracted during a very busy time.

The path through the Advent season should lead us to the manger.

**Star over Bethlehem now you stand still
And we can see the child born through God's will
This is a miracle none would guess right
Star over Bethlehem during this night.**

The second verse is given the title: CHRISTMAS EVE

The star shines over the stable. We stand before the manger and see the miracle, the newborn child. The Son of God has come into our world as a tiny, helpless baby. No one had imagined that the Messiah would come into our world as a child.

The long-awaited savior has arrived and brings God's love and peace into our world.

On the night of Jesus' birth, everything starts very small, but everything has changed as a result of the coming of God's son to all of us.

We can trust that love will prevail and that light will shine into every darkness, even the darkness of death. Jesus is the Son of God and the only Lord of our lives.

**Star over Bethlehem we've reached our goal,
Since this poor stable contains so much more
You lead us to this place; "Thank you" we say,
Star over Bethlehem, we want to stay.**

The third verse is given the title: CHRISTMAS TIME

We have reached our destination and are standing in front of the manger.

We worship Jesus and feel comfortable in his presence. We are grateful just to be there, to forget many things around us and be free from so many obligations for a while.

Christmas time is a special time of the year. We would like to keep adoring the child in the manger and live in the peace and love of Jesus in a very simple and uncomplicated way.

We also think of the many people who stand with us at the manger and celebrate Christmas.

All of us are all equal before God, just like the shepherds and the kings in the Christmas story.

Because of Jesus' birth, the small, ordinary stable is more valuable than any other house and any palace. We realize that outward appearances are not so important.

We would love to stay longer at the manger and not set off again for new destinations.

**Star over Bethlehem when back we go
We can still see your shine – that's good to know.
And all that made us glad, we will make shown,
Star over Bethlehem, shine in our home.**

The fourth verse is given the title: NEW YEAR

We continue on our journey through life and prepare ourselves for new challenges.

The bright radiance, the light of the child in the manger, accompanies us.

We take the love and peace of Jesus with us into our everyday lives, to the people we meet and into our homes.

We do not keep our joy to ourselves, but share it with others.

We talk about our faith and how the coming of Jesus has changed everything for us.

We thank Jesus that his light shines within us and for us.

We ask God for his blessing that we do what we can to make our world a better place, filled with love, peace and righteousness and the light of God. AMEN



2. Word from the Church Council President

Dear members and friends of St. George's:

The past few months have been extremely exciting at St. George's. In addition to our regular services, we celebrated confirmation anniversaries, enjoyed the music of Martin Neuland's Trio Tromba, offered a Fall Prevention seminar, and gathered contributions for our Thanksgiving food drive. One of my favourite memories was the 70-year confirmation anniversary class. Although it is difficult for many of those members to come to church, they showed up in full force and looked fantastic. It was so nice to see them again and pictures will be available shortly. Please note if you could not attend the Fall Prevention seminar and would like a copy of the handout, please let us know.

We made considerable progress on our church beautification campaign. The water damage in the sanctuary and Katharina's office has been repaired and everything has been painted. Also, a window that was broken by vandals has been fixed just in time for winter. It is uplifting to see the church looking better and better! We are incredibly grateful to our members and guests who helped move items before and after our wall repairs and with the clean up afterwards.



Now that it is late November, we are shifting our focus to one of the most wonderful celebrations of the year – Christmas.

We are looking forward to the children's play and if you know of any children who would like to participate, please let Pastorin Katharina know. This year the fourth advent is on the same Sunday as Christmas Eve. Since we will be celebrating our usual 3:30 pm and 5:00 pm Christmas Eve services, we will not offer our 11:00 am service.

We hope to see many of you for these very special services.

Please note that the 3:30 pm service will be livestreamed to reach those who are unable to attend in person.

If you do not have access to a computer, perhaps you can ask your family or a friend to help you.

As we head into 2024, please mark the following events on your calendar:

- January 21, Estate Planning Seminar following our service by lawyer Wolfgang Pazulla, who speaks English and German and has been supporting our church in many different tasks.
- February 24, Annual General Meeting. It is especially important that you attend this meeting if you are able because your Church Council needs your feedback to help us serve you better.
- May 26, St. George's 70th Anniversary Celebration with a special sermon by Bishop Michael Pryse. Please note Bishop Pryse will be retiring and this will be his last visit to our church. He has been a great friend to St. George's and we would like to show our appreciation as well as celebrate the important milestone in our Church's history. If you would like to volunteer and help with the celebrations, please let us know.
- Last, but not least, we will be starting a Bible study group in January. If you are interested in attending, there is still space. Please let Katharina know.

As I reflect on 2023, I think of the sad times when we had to say goodbye to some of our cherished members. However, I also think of the many good times—the services and celebrations at St. George's, the Schwaben Club, and in our members' homes. I am so proud that it is a high priority for us to look after our members wherever they are and as best as we can.

Thanks to all of you for being part of our amazing St. George's community, your friendship, and your donations. I look forward to a wonderful 2024 with my church family and wish you good health and much happiness. God's blessings to all!

Chris Duffield

3. Announcements and Information

Our Sunday services are held every Sunday at 11 am.

After our church services, everyone is invited to sit together over coffee and cake (*except on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day*). Please let us know if you could contribute a cake or could help in the kitchen once in a while.

We are planning to live stream our Christmas Eve Service so everybody can celebrate at the same time. The services will also be available on our YouTube channel.

December 3rd – 1st Advent

11 am worship service

December 10th – 2nd Advent

11 am worship service with the Christmas pageant

Thursday December 14th at 11 am

We are celebrating a service

followed by lunch in the Schwabenclub. (conducted in German)

December 17th – 3rd Advent

11 am worship service

Sunday, December 24th – 4th Advent and Christmas Eve

There will be no service in the morning!!

15:30 Uhr = 3:30 pm German Christmas Eve Service

17 Uhr = 5 pm bilingual Christmas Eve Service (German-English)

Monday, December 25th - First Day of Christmas

11 am bilingual Choral singing service

Sunday, December 31st, Last Sunday of the year 2023

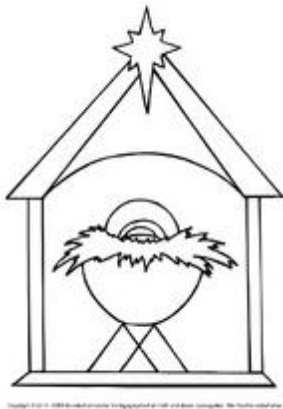
11 am service with Holy Communion

All services in the New Year 2024 are starting at 11 am

beginning with the service on January 7th, 2024

The AGM is set for February 25th, 2024, after the worship service.

Please add it to your calendar.



4. Georgenkreis (conducted in German)

We meet every second Tuesday of the month at 11 am at the church.

The next meetings are planned for December 5th (*a week earlier*), January 9th, February 13th and March 12th. We are looking forward to seeing you again!

Guests and new members are always welcome!

Please call Angela SenGupta or Katharina Moeller if you are unsure about the meeting due to the weather. Thank you!

5. Worship Services in the Schwabenclub (conducted in German)

Please join us for the upcoming services followed by lunch, on December 14th, January 25th and March 12th, always on Thursdays at 11 am. We are looking forward to seeing you!

Please let us know a week in advance if you are planning to attend so that we can order lunch.

6. Faith course



Would you be interested in a faith course in English?

The course is planned for 8-9 weeks starting in January. The theme and actual time are to be determined by the participants. We already have some friends and members, who would like to join the group.

7. Estate planning - written by Karin Schemeit

Have you checked on your will recently? Is it up to date and the way you would like it to be? It is important to have a valid and up to date will.

The church council has set a date for a seminar on estate planning on Sunday, January 21 after the church service. It will be run by the lawyer Wolfgang Pazulla.

All are welcome! Come with questions!

8. Our website www.st-georges-lutheran.com

Our web site is an important component of our public relations and outreach program.

A number of guests have found us using the website, and we often receive inquiries regarding our church.

You can find a link to all our video services when you click on the link to our YouTube channel, or YouTube: "St. George's Lutheran Church Toronto".

You can also visit us on Instagram: @st_george_lutheran_toronto

9. Joy and sorrow in our congregation

We married

Jeroen Jetten und Kathryn Jetten, nee Duffield

Let all that you do be done with love! 1.Cor. 14:16



We bid farewell to:



Mrs. Susanne Luer, 53 years

Jesus says: I am the resurrection and the life. John 11, 25

10. Request



Please call me, if you have any questions or if you would simply like to talk.

Please let me know if you or a family member would like a visit
or if anybody is in the hospital

Please let me know, if you have time to regularly call a congregation member.

Please don't forget, to let us know when you move.

We want to stay in touch with one another.

Please also let me know if you want us to pray
for you or a family member or friend during our Sunday services.

We wish you and your families a blessed and joyful Christmas time
and a healthy, happy and peaceful year 2024!

Sincerely,
your pastor,

Katharina Heller

11. Children's corner

Find the ten differences between the two pictures.

