

# FOCUS ON FAITH



## From the Pastor's Study

Recently St. John's lost one of their founding members. It was one of those situations, when death comes totally unexpected. Just a few days before Henry and I had sat together, chatting and sharing a few laughs. As he often did, when we met, Henry began reciting the words of one of his favourite German church tunes, singing God's praises for his mercy, love and help each new day. Henry had become a bit forgetful over the years, but he still knew his church hymns by heart and sang them with a passion and joy that just pulled you in. The folks at St. John's will miss him. They will miss his faith, his unwavering commitment, his excitement and all that he did for the church over the many years.

Henry's memory resonates with a verse from Acts: "To this day I have had help from God, and so I stand here, testifying to both small and great." *Acts 26:22 (NRSV)*. The Apostle Paul once said these words to explain his own passion for Christ. And it's the testimony of people like him or ordinary people like Henry and you and I that encourages others to discover God's presence in the world and seek ways to serve him. We may sing to the glory of God. We may dedicate our time to a refugee committee or support another social justice issue. A few weeks ago a bunch of folks from our Bay Area congregations got together to plant 2000 trees in Brantford in one day. Imagine 2000 trees! People were exhausted, but also exhilarated. What a beautiful testimony to hope and faith in a world struggling with climate change and destruction of the environment.

Sunday, June 4 all of you are invited to participate in a "town hall meeting" to discuss the potential of amalgamation of Faith with one or more of the Hamilton Lutheran congregations. You will be asked to give permission to your church council to engage in exploratory conversations with Grace, Transfiguration and St. John's. And wherever these conversations might lead us I pray that along the way we seize the opportunity to give testimony to our faith in God.

**Pastors Thomas and Daniela Mertz**



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## From the Parish Nurse

### Ticks, Bugs and Lyme disease

Summer fun can become pesky when bitten by nasty pests like mosquitoes, bees, wasps, and any number of flying insects and creepy crawlies. These pests are annoying but can be effectively managed by simple measures.

There is one pest that is disease carrying and blood-sucking - the black legged tick. This insect is prevalent in many countries of the world as well as Canada, especially in Eastern Canada. It seems to be more prevalent this year. Infected ticks can cause Lyme disease.



Lyme disease is an infection transmitted through the bite of an infected tick. The ticks become infected by biting infected animals like deer and mice that live in moist, humid grassy areas in the forest. If one is hiking in these areas the ticks can attach themselves to an individual's body, or to pets that are traveling with people. The black legged ticks also feed on, and are transported by migratory birds.

Ticks can attach to any part of the human body but are often found in hard-to-see areas such as the groin, armpits, and scalp. In most cases, the tick must be attached for 36-48 hours or more before the Lyme disease bacterium can be transmitted. Most people who get tick bites do not get Lyme disease. However, the longer the tick is attached to the body, the greater the risk.

There is no evidence that Lyme disease is transmitted from person-to-person through touching, kissing, or having sex with a person who has Lyme disease. There are no reports of Lyme disease transmission through breast milk.

#### Symptoms of Lyme disease:

- ◆ Circular expanding rash called "bull's-eye" rash at the site of the bite in 70% - 80% of cases
- ◆ Flu like symptoms like fever, chills, headaches, fatigue, swollen lymph glands, joint pain and muscle aches
- ◆ The longer the disease is not detected, the more seri-



ous the symptoms; it can affect joints, heart and the nervous system

#### Diagnosis and Treatment:

- ◆ Doctors diagnose through physical findings such as the distinctive "bull's-eye" rash and a history of symptoms, BUT not everyone has a rash nor can people recall if they have been bitten. Special blood tests and other tests can be done several weeks after suspected contact to confirm the diagnosis.
- ◆ Treatment with antibiotics is effective and cures Lyme disease when the infection is diagnosed.
- ◆ There is no human vaccine for Lyme disease.

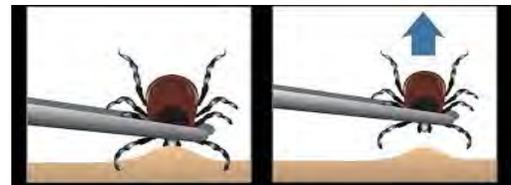
#### Prevention:

- ◆ Avoid tick bites and stay clear of grassy or wooded areas especially May to July
- ◆ Cover the body from head to toe when entering tick-infested areas
- ◆ Apply insect repellent containing DEET to clothing – NEVER to skin
- ◆ Inspect the body for ticks when you come in from outdoors; wash skin and scalp to knock off any ticks that are loosely attached



#### Removal of Tick:

- ◆ It is important to remove a tick properly
- ◆ Use fine-tipped tweezers, grasp the part of the tick that is closest to the skin – grab the head not the belly. Slowly pull the tick straight out without twisting it.
- ◆ Wash the bite site with soap and warm water
- ◆ Throw the dead tick in the trash
- ◆ Do not use a lit match, nail polish, petroleum jelly, or other topical agents to remove the tick!



**Have a safe and happy summer!**

**Submitted by Bonnie Hofer, Parish Nurse**

References: Public Health Ontario, Public Health Agency of Canada, Greenleaf Pest Control, Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

## Tree Planting –part of the 500th Anniversary Reformation Challenge

On Saturday April 22<sup>nd</sup> 2017 – Earth Day – some 70 youth and adults from The Bay Area Lutheran Churches turned out at Bow Park Farm, just outside of Brantford ON, to plant 2000



trees. Bow Park Farm is almost completely surrounded by the Grand River. This project was sanctioned by the Grand River Conservation Authority (GRCA) and the trees were purchased from them with funds donated by members of the churches involved.



The trees were planted in a valley and along the banks of the Grand River on the farm, as prevention against erosion and to help stabilize the river bank.

After some of the planting was finished, participants enjoyed a pot luck lunch and some fun and fellowship, then went back out to plant some more. Planting didn't quite get finished that day but over the next week the last of the trees did get planted.

This planting was part of the ELCIC Reformation Challenge to plant 500,000 trees world-wide.



### The M & M's At Faith

#### Day Trip Wed. June 21<sup>st</sup>.

All are invited ( men & ladies) for a day trip to the Drayton Festival Theatre is being planned. Cost is \$135./person which includes: transportation, guided tour of Castle Kilbride; High Tea Lunch; Centre Orchestra Seating for the Matinee; All taxes, HST & Driver's tip. Please indicate on the signup sheet in the Narthex if you are interested in going. Contact Gail, 905 573-1258 or gabennie @ bell.net for further information.

#### Mother's Day Vendor and Bake Sale—May 13th

Thank you to all who helped bake, set up, sell and clean up for the Vendor Sale May 13th. We made a respectable amount, just over \$700.00 to help with our outreach this year.

#### Bible Study

Pastor Daniela will be conducting a bible study on Luther and the Reformation beginning in the Fall—a four part session. Starting in September, one Sunday per month after service, the bible study will be held. Bring a bag lunch and participate. Both Men and Women are welcome to attend. Stay tuned for dates and times to be announced.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

### *Celebrating in June...*

June 3 Bryan Beerbaum  
 June 7 Hanna Fast  
 June 7 Enesia Malpela  
 June 9 Ramrattie Sawh  
 June 11 Gertrud Taunton  
 June 12 Michael Grant  
 June 17 Cathy Calvin  
 June 18 Armin Paul  
 June 20 Pastor Charles Dechert  
 June 24 Ann Zwick  
 June 29 Jack Anweiler  
 June 30 Errin Dawson

### *Celebrating in July...*

July 2 Jan Malapela  
 July 6 Kirsten Paul  
 July 7 Lindsay Spencer  
 July 7 Pastor Harold Brill  
 July 9 Elsie Zwick  
 July 16 Bonnie Hofer  
 July 19 Eleanor Beerbaum  
 July 21 Lebuwang Malapela  
 July 22 Lauren Ahlang  
 July 28 Marilyn Josefsson

### *Celebrating in August...*

Aug 3 Aileen Stevenson  
 Aug 3 David Weegar  
 Aug 8 Don Bennie Sr.  
 Aug 8 Joan Brill  
 Aug 20 Pastor Daniela Mertz  
 Aug 22 Janice Malapela  
 Aug 31 Ed Hofer

We wish all of the above a VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY and God's Blessings for many, many more!

A Birthday BBQ will be held June 25th for all birthdays (plus September) named above.



## 500 Anniversary – An Afternoon with Bishop Dr. Michael Pryse

April 29, 2017

Over 130 attendees from all over the Bay Area joined Bishop Pryse for an afternoon of music, singing, dancing and reflection. We were privileged to hear from a group of young women with their singing talents; a mass choir from around the ministry area; as well as a male Latvian singing group. We watched a group of Latvian dancers and a small orchestra of Kokles, a stringed instrument much like a Lyre, playing Latvian folk songs. The Bishop's message to us was well presented and timely given the situations in some of the congregations of the Bay Ministry Area. Below is a collage of pictures which depict the day.



## Remember in your prayers these members of Faith:

Alice Bauman	Ray Bekiaris	Betty Fallis
Harold Farwell	Mabel Gregory	Mary Lemp
Elaine Lymburner	Herta Turnevicius	Orell Setterlund
Stephen Scheidt	Katie Kildau-Bock	Vic & Norma Braybrook
Evy Ahlang	Stan Frost	Elsie Zwick

*"Bless our sick today so that they may bear their illness and restore them quickly to health. Bless those who have grown old in your service and give them courage and strength in their faith. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives, and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen"*

*We also remember our refugee families, Zahra (mother), Amal, Jihan, Juhianah (daughters) Akram (son), Mohamed (oldest son) and Miriam and Nadia and Sarah (daughters) and pray that they are safe where they are now and God grant them safe passage to Canada, and to Hamilton soon.*

## Upcoming Events –at Faith and in the Community

### Calendar Dates of upcoming events related to our Church and Community

June 4th	Congregational meeting – very important
June 6	Good Food Box
June 13	Council mtg. 7:30 pm Miller-Pearson Rm
June 21	Day Trip Drayton Theatre
June 25	<b>Birthday Sunday BBQ</b> – May/June/July & August after service
July 15	9:30 am—Prep for Crafts for Advent Bazaar
July 30	Joint Service @ St. John’s 10:00 am
Sept 5	Good Food Box
Sept 9	Bay Area Picnic—Germania Park
Sept. 24	Sunday Stewart Memorial Choir
Sept 30	9:30 am—Prep for Crafts for Advent Bazaar
Oct 20	Chili Cook off in support of C.L.A.Y. 2018
Oct 29	Lutherfest Brantford ON
Nov 10	(Friday) Lutheran/Roman Catholic Service
Dec 2	Advent Bazaar
Dec 10	Advent Dinner

Participate in your Church Life



### STRENGTHENING CONNECTIONS FOR OLDER ADULTS THROUGH FAITH COMMUNITIES

Thursday June 8, 2017

2:00 – 4:00pm

First Unitarian Church,

170 Dundurn Street South, Hamilton



An Aging in Community Event  
Proudly Sponsored by the Hamilton Council on Aging  
Educating . . . Advocating . . . Improving Life for Older Adults

Presented by  
Aging Together &  
Grace Lutheran  
Church  
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Free Community  
Event  
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All are Welcome!

For More Information,  
Contact HCoA:  
905-777-3837  
ext. 12238

[kielys@hhsc.ca](mailto:kielys@hhsc.ca)

[www.coahamilton.ca](http://www.coahamilton.ca)

### German Afternoon – Saturday, June 17, 2017 – Ludwig Thoma

All lovers of the German language are invited to join us for our “German Afternoon” at St. John’s on Saturday, June, 17, 2017 at 02:00 pm. You don’t need to be a native speaker yourself, but should be comfortable enough to follow the conversation. In case of doubt, just give it a try. The company and the treats are always great and we have tons of fun together.

We will open the afternoon with devotion, followed by fellowship and “Kaffee and Kuchen”. Pastor Thomas Mertz will give a multi-media presentation on Ludwig Thoma, author of the “Lausbubengeschichten,” a collection of funny anecdotes of a somewhat mischievous teenager growing up in late 19. Century Bavaria.

## “What does That Mean?” – Holy Communion

A number of years ago I received a gift of art. It is a copy of the “Last Supper” by the late Sieger Koeder, a contemporary German painter.

He painted the Last Supper as a feast of love and community: People gather around a well-laid table. They come from all parts of the world, Africa, Asia, America and Europe. Young and old, rich and poor take part in Christ’s Holy Communion. They bring their joys and burdens, their wounds and hopes to this table, where their hunger and thirst is satisfied and they experience healing through Christ Jesus.

Jesus is sitting at the top end of the table. One can only see his hands breaking a loaf of bread. His face is reflected in the cup of wine. Mr. Köder painted the Last Supper in the form of an open circle, leaving empty seats for those, who want to join the feast and gather around Christ.



Holy Communion is one of the two sacraments – along with baptism - recognized by the Lutheran Church. We believe that a sacrament has to be commanded by Christ, has to give a promise of grace and salvation, and be accompanied by an earthly element, such as bread and wine in Holy Communion. Martin Luther said that Jesus is present “in, with, and under” the bread and wine. In the eating and drinking of bread and wine, we experience love, forgiveness and healing of our lives in Christ.

### Invitation from St. John’s to join them at these events:

#### Bibles and Bagels

The women of our two congregations are invited to come together at St. John’s Saturday, June 10, 2017 for their monthly “Bibles and Bagels” at 09:00 am: For more information please contact Janet Weingartner through the St. John’s church office (905-527-6611).

#### Mens’ Breakfast

Please join us for the Mens’ Breakfast at St. John’s Saturday, June 10, 2017; 08:30 am.



### BIRTHDAY SUNDAY

June 25, 2017

Join the Birthday Committee and Chef Doug for a delicious BBQ Lunch to celebrate June, July, August and September Birthdays. Free will offering is suggested. Money will go towards Faith outreach.

Mark your Calendars!



## Refugee Families



Our two refugee families in Syria send their warmest greetings. Zahra, Mohamed and their loved ones are grateful for our continued prayers and ongoing support of their application for refugee status in Canada. Jennifer Arden of CLWR in Kitchener has been a tremendous help in filling out all necessary forms and keeps contact with the immigration authorities.

Processing of the applications currently faces certain challenges, as the Husseins are unable to leave Syria and travel to Amman, Jordan for the necessary immigration interview. Thankfully the Danish UN office in

Damascus has offered to set up a skype interview with the Canadian immigration authorities and provide the required Somali interpreters as well.

The living situation of people in war torn Syria is getting more desperate by the day and of course we hope and pray that the assistance of the Danish UN will help to move the process forward.

In addition the joint Faith/St. John's Refugee Committee strongly encourages each member of our two churches to appeal to their local MP on behalf of the Husseins. It is a great way to show your personal support for the two families. Marilyn Josefsson has prepared a letter which could be sent out to Bob Bratina by email or regular mail. Copies are available in the narthex of the church or upon request will be forwarded to you as an email attachment.

## National Convention

Gail Bennie and Pastor Thomas Mertz look forward to attending the National Convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC). They will join 150 other delegates from across the country at the assembly in Winnipeg, MB from July 6-8, 2017.



16th Biennial  
ELCIC National Convention

July 6-8, 2017  
Winnipeg, Manitoba

University of Manitoba

"Liberated by God's Grace" is the chosen motto for this year's convention, guiding delegates as they work through a full business agenda, listen to the keynote address by Bishop Munib Younan, President of the Lutheran World Federation and a gather for a joint service with St. Gianna Roman Catholic Church in commemoration of the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation.

With this assembly changes passed at the last national convention in Edmonton, AB two years ago will take effect. From now on national conventions will be held only tri-annually and synods will carry the costs of the delegates. Their number has been considerably reduced by 50% to the before mentioned 150. As the largest synod within the ELCIC the Eastern Synod is entitled to send 54 representatives. In Winnipeg 5 of those will be from Bay Area congregations: Judy Lindemann (Transfiguration), Gail Bennie (Faith, Hamilton), Dorothy Emmerson (Faith, Brantford), Ben Cameron (Holy Cross), and Rev. Thomas Mertz (Faith/St. John's).

## The Last Word

Pastor Thomas and  
Pastor Daniela Mertz

Honorary Pastor:  
The Rev. Charles Dechert

### OUR VISION

*Faith Lutheran Church is the heart of a spiritual, healthy, and vibrant community. All are welcome*

### OUR MISSION

*The mission of Faith Lutheran Church is to provide an inclusive Christ-centered home serving the needs of our environment, the spiritual growth, physical health, and well-being of our neighbour and ourselves.*

Focus on FAITH is published under the auspices of the Church Council. The Pastors, editor and Chair of Council serve as the editorial board. Submissions will be edited for clarity, positivism, adherence to our mission statement, constitution and the love of Christ as revealed in the Holy Scriptures. Please make all submissions to [calvin1980@bell.net](mailto:calvin1980@bell.net).

Deadline for the Fall Edition is August 27, 2017

### A Spring/Summer Poem by Hazelmarie Elliott

On top of the earth  
where green touches the hills ~  
in spring, in summer, with daffodils,  
with dandelions scattered through untilled fields,  
with waterfalls and ferny fronds  
companioning winding creeks; and  
grassy knolls surrounding sunlit ponds...

That is where my heart thrives ~  
among dahlias, lilacs, and rosy thorns  
scenting life with fragrant morns,  
and gentle nights of rounded moons,  
inhaling reminiscent blooms  
of many lost, yet, joyful Junes...

Warming seasons created to  
make lips smile, hearts leap,  
feet dance to earthy song;  
and earth's turning, ever-moving  
old winter right along...

'Til spring emerges, and summer follows  
into every nook, into every hollow,  
with greening leaf and budding flower  
bestowed by Mother Nature's power...

An overwhelming gift of rarest beauty,  
a rejuvenation, a resurrection of life ~  
when earth renews, when earth revives...

Yes, that is when  
my heart truly thrives.



**Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**1907 King St. E.**  
**HAMILTON, Ontario**  
**L8K1V9**  
**905.549.5550**