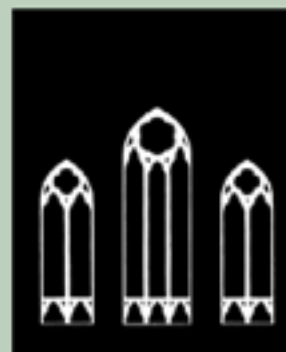


St. Andrew's Ev. Luth. Latvian
Sv. Andreja ev. lut. latviešu

Church *newsletter* Draudzes *ziņas*



#193



2019. g. FEBRUĀRĪ / FEB 2019

**SV. ANDREJA
DRAUDZES PILNSAPULCE
2019 g. 24. FEBRUĀRĪ**

**ST. ANDREW'S
AGM
FEBRUARY 24, 2019**

DARBA KĀRTĪBA:

1. Pilnsapulces atklāšana
2. Balsu skaitītāju vēlēšanas
3. Darba kārtības pieņemšana
4. 2018. gada pilnsapulces protokola pieņemšana
5. Ziņojumi: 1) Mācītāja
2) Padomes priekšsēdis
3) Kasieris
4) Komitejas
5) Revīzijas komisija
6. Ziņojumu pieņemšana
7. 2019. gada budžets
8. Padomes un revīzijas komisijas vēlēšanas
9. Ierosinājumi turpmākai darbībai
10. Dažādi jautājumi
11. Pilnsapulces slēgšana

AGENDA:

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Election of Vote Counters
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Approval of 2018 AGM Minutes
5. Reports : 1) Pastor
2) Council Chair
3) Treasurer
4) Committees
5) Audit Committee
6. Approval of Reports
7. 2019 Budget
8. Election of new Council and Supervisory Committee
9. Suggestions for future activities
10. Other business
11. Closing of the Meeting

LŪDZAM IEVĒROT, ka balsošanā par pilnsapulces rezolūcijām var piedalīties tikai balstiesīgi draudzes locekļi, kā norādīts draudzes satversmē. / PLEASE NOTE that only congregation members in good standing are entitled to vote on the motions before the AGM.

2018 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

St. Andrew's Evangelical Lutheran
Latvian Congregation
St. John's Latvian Lutheran Church
200 Balmoral Avenue
Toronto Ontario

Sunday April 8, 2018

AGENDA:

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Election of Vote Counters
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Approval of 2017 AGM Minutes
5. Resolutions: 1) Second reading of Governing Council constituent number change
6. Reports: 1) Pastor
 - 2) Council Chair
 - 3) Treasurer
 - 4) Committees
 - 5) Audit Committee
 - 6) Approval of Reports
7. 2018 Budget
8. Election of new Council and Supervisory Committee
9. Suggestions for future activities
10. Other business

1. Opening of Meeting by council chair **Indra Mertens** at 1:18 p.m. Quorum is achieved with 50 members registered, as the minimum requirement is 50. Indra thanks all the members for attending and for their trust.

In Pastor Ilze Kuplēns-Ewart's absence, Indra begins the meeting with passage from **1 Corinthians 12:12-27**, which Pastor Ilze has shared in many council meetings. Indra prays for God's guidance in achieving a successful AGM.

2. Election of Vote Counters: Auseklis Zaķis and Guntis Bērziņš are elected as vote counters by unanimous acclamation.

Recorders of Minutes: Līga Miklašēvics and Elmārs Bērziņš

3. Approval of Agenda: **Indra Mertens** moves that the amended agenda be accepted. **Voldemārs Innus** moves that the agenda be accepted as amended by Indra Mertens. **Jānis Tannis** seconds the motion Members vote with a show of hands. **Carried.**

Amendment that "Supervisory Committee" in section 6.5 reads as Auditing Committee (as per vote in 2017). Committees are Ministries (Auditing Committee being the exception). Item #9 reads as: Renovations at Sidrabene – Phase 1, with Suggestions for future activities and Other business following as #10.

4. Approval of 2017 AGM Minutes: Move to approve minutes as amended by Indra Mertens. **Voldemārs Innus** moves that the minutes be accepted. **Jānis Tannis** seconds the motion. Members vote with a show of hands. **Carried.** Amendment (6.4 Committee Reports – (VII) Camp Sidrabene) Pg. 8 that Sandra Kleperis-Thiele is not Camp Director – wording is changed to read: **Sandra Kleperis-Thiele has been active on the Camp Committee since 2002.**

5. Resolutions: 1) Indra Mertens reads the Second reading of Governing Council constituent number change: "Until such time as the latest **Not for Profit Corporations' Act Ontario** comes into force, the minimum number of members of the congregational council shall be 9, each officially is elected for a three year term, with no fewer than one third of the members retiring each year. Retiring members of the congregational council may be re-elected."
Voldemārs Innus motions to approve. Jānis Tannis seconds. Motion approved unanimously by a show of hands. Motion carried.

6. Reports:

1) Pastor's Report: Pastor Ilze Kuplēns-Ewart's report is on pages 13-16 (LV) and 22-26 (ENG) in the March 2018 *Draudzes Ziņas*/Newsletter.

2) Council Chair's Report: Council chair **Indra Mertens** begins with thanking all the tireless volunteers for all they do. Volunteers are the heart of our Congregation and set the beat for what is accomplished from year to year or project to project. Their contributions are invaluable. This year's focus has been on reconnecting and communication.

A Google Calendar has been set up between our Church and Sidrabene to avoid overlapping activities in both areas. There is an initiative in the works to establish a similar calendar within the Latvian community of the Golden Horseshoe. As with all large endeavors, this takes time and patience.

In order to be of better service the congregation, all of our Council members listed their roles and responsibilities in order to understand just what we are entreated to do. With each incoming Council we intend to repeat this process.

Council was faced with some challenges this year, which made us realize that we need to be connected better with all of our ministries. *Padome* (Church Council) and *Pārvalde* (Sidrabene' Management Committee) met on a couple of occasions this year and Indra as chair attended many more of *Pārvalde*'s meetings. It is

Council's intention to follow this up with at least one annual meeting with *Padome, Pārvalde* and *Nometne* (Sidrabene's Children's Camp), as Sidrabene continues to play an important role in the life of our Congregation.

Pastor Ilze has assumed the role of Supervising Director for the Camp, which has been met with all-round enthusiasm.

Council also looked at policies and procedures provided by ELCIC and accepted those, which provide lawful protection for our membership on many levels. Some of these policies, vulnerable persons and our affiliation with both ELCIC and LELBA as examples are being reworked to suit our unique circumstances.

Since communication was listed as one of our major challenges across our ministries, a Workshop to address positive and negative behaviours was organized for this past January. All of our volunteers were invited. The fact that our facilitator was taken ill, allowed us instead to focus on the first draft of a Value Statement among a small group of our Church volunteers. This initiative is continuing.

Our Church and its ministries exist only because of the generous donations of its membership. Indra invites all to donate on a monthly basis through PAR or on our website, through Canadahelps link. Another means of donation is through bequests. On behalf of the Church, Indra thanks those who donate regularly and implore those who don't to reconsider, either financially or through the gift of their time – both are a viable option. These gifts not only help our congregation, they also are invaluable in helping the greater Latvian community. Indra, in God's name, sincerely thanks families whose loved ones chose to bequest to the Church.

* In the Fall of 2017, Council hosted 2 Town Halls on Proposed Renovations to our aging *Sidrabkalns* building in Sidrabene. Agris Robežnieks will state more later in the meeting.

3) Treasurer's Report (attached): Andris Stārasts advises that this year marked a new beginning for St. Andrew's finances.

- In 2017 the Church successfully transitioned the proceeds from the sale of our place of worship at 383 Jarvis Street to a diversified investment portfolio;
- We have retained Astrid Lakats, Chartered Accountant, as our external accountant;
- The AGM is being presented with consolidated financial statements, as opposed to disclosing each Ministry on its own; this year **our total revenues**

exceeded total expenditures by about \$4,000.

To oversee the investments, an Investment Committee has been formed and the members are: Voldemārs Innus, Auseklis Zaķis, Arnis Budrēvics, Andris Paukšēns, and Andris Stārasts. Their responsibilities are to develop and monitor an investment strategy to best suit our primary objective of sustaining our current operations for as long as possible, to periodically review the performance of the portfolio, and to recommend any changes.

The Committee has also hired Assante Wealth Management to serve as our agent (Ivars Grimba) in implementing the investment strategy.

With respect to St. Andrew's current financial position, receipts unfortunately came in at \$443,588 which was lower than the previous year. To ensure we meet our goals of covering operating expenses via operating revenues, Andris Stārasts is confident the Church will work diligently this year **to increase fund-raising initiatives within all Ministries of the Church**, and that members will extend their generous support both on the personal and testamentary side.

Ivars Grimba, who is asked to say a few words, reinforces the Treasurer's message that the focus of the management of the Church's money was to ensure its longevity as long as possible. The program selected provides an extraordinary measure of diversification, there are a multiple of managers involved in the individual security selection, there are attributes to the program that provides automatic balancing, currency hedging and a number of things which ensures that the portfolio achieves the returns that it needs in the safest way possible.

Question by Velta Zvīdris: "I heard that the purpose of the investment committee is to make the funds last as long as possible, to maintain the current level of programming. However, when we were talking about selling the church I was under the impression that we were going to set aside funds that were going to be used for some unknown future purpose and not as general operating costs, subsidizing operating costs. It seems to me now, that the focus and the only focus of the investment committee is to see how to make the best use of the money to support the operating costs."

Voldemārs Innus (as previous chair) **answers:** "Actually that is not exactly right. What we agreed once we sold the church was that any expenditure

that we made for other purposes would be brought before this body. In fact that will happen later today. But in the meantime while no decisions for the expenditure of that money is being made for any other purpose it was essentially to look for a strategy that would keep the funds available for perpetuity, in other words what you would call the endowment portion. And whatever came off as income from investments would be used for operational purposes and that is exactly what we have put in place.

Velta responds: "I understand the thinking; I am just wondering what the backup plan is when we transition from using the interest portion and we start looking into the capital, because the stated purpose of the investment committee is to simply cover operational costs as was stated before."

Voldemārs responds: "No, not true! The question that was asked at the general meeting when we talked about selling the church was how will the proceeds from the church be used? In other words those dollars, that revenue that comes in from the sale of the church, essentially we were trying to hold harmless until such time as it was needed for other purposes. Capital investments, whatever and that we would invest the money so that we would be able to pay, not parts of the endowment but the income from the endowment, that would be used for operational purposes. So we are clearly working within the spirit of what was approved by AGM two years ago."

Velta responds: "Maybe I need to rephrase the question? I fully understand the explanation and the repeated explanation. My concern is that exactly when and where do we know that we're crossing that boundary?"

Ivars Grimba responds: "Not today!"

Voldemārs echoes: "Not today, it will be quite some time and I don't think anyone can project that."

4) Ministries Reports:

(I) **Dāmu Komiteja/Ladies' Auxiliary: Inta Briedis.** Report on pg. 16 of the 2018 March Newsletter.

(II) **Music Ministry: Dāvids Šmits** thanks Vaira Gertners for her collaboration, support and for arranging special musicians, who have been instrumental in enriching services. David has also instituted a new liturgy forum, such as singing new versions of "Lamb of God", "Holy, Holy" and "Alleluia". They have been modernized and made more contemporary.

Sidrabenes' services have taken on a regular forum with Alberts Vītols and Vaira Gertners augmenting the music with guitar and voice. In

Sidrabene, there are now audio visual capabilities with the installment of the sound system and projector. Thank-you to Ēriks Kleperis and Jānis Tannis for making this a possibility.

Looking into the future, the sound system here, in St John's hall and sanctuary needs to be updated. There are also plans for installing recording capabilities in the sanctuary for the purpose of recording the services.

All are invited to the April 29th Baptist Choir Concert organized by North American Latvian Baptists, (Amerikas latviešu baptistu draudžu koŗu apienības 69. Dziesmu diena) at St. John's church.

Question by Inta Briedis: "I have a question about the church services and the changes.

Perhaps you and the Pastor think these are great, but we the regular participants at the services don't think it is so great, especially all those pages in the bulletin. They are very difficult to follow, especially on Easter Sunday at the first service. I don't think I sang a song because they were all over the place. And you know, in the regular services, we have such lovely songs in our old song book. Why don't we just use those instead of coming up with these new ones? That is from my perspective and from others who are afraid to say anything."

Dāvids replies: "In regards to the format I can't answer that, but with regards to music, there are other voices who will say differently. We would like to accommodate everybody, all interests and all age groups. There is a large demographic mix in our congregation and we need to continue to adapt and be contemporary."

(III) Aid to Latvia Committee: Jānis Tannis reports –

Every year, our group has a Christmas collection as well as a Mother's Day breakfast as its major fundraisers, however the marathon is a problem in allowing people to get to the event.

A sincere thanks is extended to everyone who has donated and a special thanks to Ērik Kleperis' family for their generous donation to the Riga's Soup Kitchen.

Aid to Latvia has established "friendship ties" with "sister churches" and also some other charitable groups to whom donations are sent: Christmas baskets to the church in Durbe, Daugavpils parish and Zemīte parish for pensioners, disabled people and large families; support for the children of "Zvannieku Mājas"; funding for Riga's Soup Kitchen; sponsoring several children to go to summer camp; purchasing of wheelchairs and mattresses. All donations are paid in accordance with Canadian law, abiding by official agency agreements.

This year, on April 25th, together with the support of the Latvian Center and VFS films, there will be a showing of an award winning film “*Lidija*” (that won the Grand Prix of *Kristaps*). Alise Rozinska is thanked for her support and help in making this showing possible.

On May 13th there will be a Mother's Day breakfast under the direction of Anete Ivsiņa.

(IV) Sidrabene Property Management

Committee: Valdis Kauliņš –

Sidrabene's AGM took place on April 4, 2018 following worship. The worship services in Sidrabene on the first Sunday of the month are well attended. Valdis invites the congregation to come out to these services, especially with the weather becoming more pleasant.

41 members attended the AGM. Officials elected to the board: Ivars Jēgeris, Krissy Pavelson, Mārtiņš Mežulis, Norie Hasspieler, Mārtiņš Skuja, Rob Van Den Enden, Valdis Pālēns, Valdis Korbs, Valdis Kauliņš, Linda Lakats, Andris Paukšēns and two persons – Voldemārs Innus and Rita Āpše were elected from church council.

Sidrabene's opening season work bee will be May 5th. Breakfast and lunch included as advertised in the Latvian newspaper (*Latvija Amerikā*). They have also advertised for someone to run the café. The café will open Friday May 18th and will be open Saturdays, Sundays and on long weekend Mondays. The café is available to rent. Look out for community activities, concerts and lectures at the Café.

This is Sidrabene's 65th celebration and Valdis thanks all present who have supported Sidrabene with their time and muscle over these many years.

Upcoming activities at Sidrabene:

- May 5th work bee
- Friday May 18th opening of the Cafe
- Saturday May 26th, 2018, opening of the summer season:

- Commemoration of Latvija 100 with a planting of an oak tree, not far from the path to the church. Latvija's Ambassador in Canada, Kārlis Eihenbaums will be present for this event. He will also participate in creating the plaque for this commemoration.

- “Cobalt” (Maria Thorburn-Vītols, Alberts Vītols un Dāvids Šmits) concert at the café at 4:00 p.m.

- Saturday June 23rd Midsummer Night's Eve (*Jāņi*) Celebrations

- July 28 and 29 Celebration of Sidrabene's 65th

The *Sidrabkalns* building is over 40 years old and needs to be upgraded to meet present bylaws. It is a huge project. Valdis reminds us, that the rental

income incurred from renting out Sidrabene has allowed Sidrabene to be self-efficient. This is only possible because of *Sidrabkalns* and its rental potential. Valdis thanks Andris Grīnbergs, the property manager, for his collaboration with all of the groups who use Sidrabene and for the care he puts into the upkeep of Sidrabene.

Finally, Valdis looks forward to the continued collaboration with the church council and the Ladies Auxiliary.

Valdis reminds everyone that Sidrabene is our little oasis and invites everyone to come out to enjoy it and to continue to support it!

(V) Investment Ministry: Andris Stārasts and Ivars Grimba spoke during treasurer's report.

(VI) Camp Sidrabene: Linda Lakats (camp director) –

Camp ministry continues to be active throughout the year in preparation for the upcoming camp season. Camp is pleased to have the support and help from Elmars Bērziņš, who helps in a multitude of areas.

Two flyers have been left at the registration tables. One of the flyers comments on camp activities the other on the oak tree fundraiser. Many of the campers are participating in the Song Festival in Latvija and for this reason camp has been shortened to three weeks. Camp will take place from July 15th - August 5th. An important date to note is July 28th and 29th weekend when we will be celebrating Sidrabene's 65th Anniversary. All are invited and there will be activities for all ages.

With regards to camp itself, the hiring has been completed and many of the regular counsellors are returning. Camp is still looking for support staff in the kitchen and the Kindergarten age room.

Camp Sidrabene's work bee takes place June 9th Camp themes this summer are: Everything Latvian, Sports Camp, and Camp as a Box of “*Laimas*” Chocolates.

Google calendar will be integrated with Church, Camp dates and Sidrabene's Management.

On May 26th there will be a planting of an oak tree to commemorate Latvija 100. In conjunction with this, Camp Sidrabene has organized an “Oak tree fundraiser”. The trees cost \$20 and all proceeds will go to support Camp Sidrabene. All are invited to participate.

(VII) Worship Ministry: Guntis Bērziņš (deacon)

–
Guntis thanks all the worshippers who attend on a regular basis and the deacons for their collaboration.

(VIII) Warm Hugs Knitting Ministry: Skaidrīte Leja –

This ministry grew out of Pastor Ilze's experience in England when she was there arranging for her mother's burial. She was all alone when she was given a "warm hug shawl" from the local "Warm Hugs Group" to remind her that she was not alone. Upon her return she suggested that we could do something comparable. The knitting group meets at various homes and knits shawls. A few shawls have been distributed to people experiencing some challenge or sorrow in life. A second group has started in the East end of Toronto. Nothing is required to join the group. Everything needed, will be provided. Let Sarma in the office and Pastor Ilze know if you are aware of anyone who would appreciate such a gesture and if you are interested in joining the group. All are invited to participate and enjoy the company of like-minded souls.

(IX) Out of the Cold: Imants Kivlis –

Imants reflected on a sermon by Pastor Ilze about why Latvians put such a high importance on education. We need to remember our history. Until 1918, Latvians were slaves and serfs. We are now well educated with decent jobs and are all quite affluent. It is easy to get lost in our affluence and forget about our roots. We forget that our parents came to this country as immigrants and refugees. We have a world today that is full of refugees. There are a lot of people in this world and city, who just don't have and end up on the street. One of the things that we encounter in the "Out of the Cold Program" is that when you start feeding people and you find a few homeless people, you begin to encounter people who come out of the shadows. These are the people you don't see – the people in the shadows. Imants thanks everyone for their generosity, donations and those who volunteered and helped with this event. "Out of the Cold" had generous donations and were able to reach 140-150 homeless people. They were able to give not only something to eat and drink, but also hygiene packages (a goody bag with items needed to survive on the street). Another part to this, is inviting our Confirmands to help in the process. It opens their eyes to the reality of the street!

5) Audit Committee Report: (report attached) Pēteris Brīviņš –

The audit committee thanks the church's administration, council and ministries for their cooperation and support and the auditor is satisfied with the work done. In the areas of financial recording and investment guidelines, more work needs to be done. The full time staff at St Andrew's is great, however they require support

from congregation volunteers to fulfill all the requirements of the job.

Recommendations:

1. Tracking of Audit Committee recommendations – council needs to be tracking recommendations.
2. Investment Management and guidelines – more than one investment manager to be used to undertake investment management on behalf of the congregation.
3. Financial Reporting and Cost Discipline – Council should be reviewing and discussing up-to-date financials at every meeting. A financial report to be prepared from all ministries mid-year (June 30) in addition to the current end-of-year (December 31st) report. In addition, report preparation and distributions should be done as timely as possible. Each request for funds should outline how it aligns with the current priorities and budget (Is it in the plans or is it a variance?). A single process of handling cash needs to be developed. For transparency purposes, when dual handling of cash (donations) is not possible it needs to be recorded why this was not possible.
4. Roles' Responsibilities and governance is rated satisfactory. Council chair Indra Mertens is commended for her approach and efforts throughout the year on engaging individuals, clarifying responsibilities and taking steps to resolve differences which have caused distractions.

Pēteris Brīviņš has been on the audit committee for three years and his term is now up, however he has agreed to stay on for a fourth transition year. Peteris also has invited Viktors Korbs to participate. Viktors works in the audit department for the Bank of Nova Scotia.

Question in response to report:

Anita Bredovskis asks: "Does one have to work in a bank or be an auditor to be on the audit committee. Also how come we only have one person on the audit committee?"

Indra answers that the council was unsuccessful in finding people to be on the audit committee and welcomes Anita if she chooses to be a candidate. She adds that anyone on the audit committee needs to understand auditing procedures, and needs to understand debits, credits and financial statements to be of value.

6) Approval of Reports:

Velta Zvīdris questions if there is quorum to approve? **Indra answers** that quorum was established at the beginning of the meeting.

Imants Purvs informs that the traditional rule of order is that quorum is maintained unless someone requests for a recount. **Velta requests a**

recount. Imants Ķivlis informs the meeting that he and Elmārs Bērziņš did do a recount and that there are 50 people in the room. Meeting continues.

Indra Mertens moves that the reports be approved, seconded by Voldemārs Innus. One abstention and no abstentions. Carried

7. 2018 Budget: (Report attached) Treasurer **Andris Stārasts:**

This year's budget was taken from last year's template and has been inflation adjusted. Last year there were some salary compensations and renegotiations. It was also estimated that there would be an annual operating short fall of over \$100,000. No questions were asked about the budget.

Agris Robežnieks moves that the budget be accepted. Motion seconded by Voldemārs Innus. Motion unanimously carried.

8. Election of new Council and Audit Committee: Indra Mertens

- Astrīda Kalniņš resigned January 24, 2018 for personal reasons
- Arnis Budrēvics' term is completed
- Jānis Tannis' term on council is completed and he has accepted a 2 year extension
- Arnis Kalniņš has accepted to be a new member on council for a 3 year term.
- Audit Committee: Pēteris Brīviņš has agreed to stay on one more year with the aid of Viktor Korbs. This past year Council attempted to find 2 other committee members for the Audit Committee and was unsuccessful. Anyone willing to volunteer is invited to contact Council, Sarma Gaide or Pēteris Brīviņš himself.

Question: "Are we not short one person for council?" **Indra answers,** "Yes, technically we need 12 however starting in 2019 after our AGM we will only need 9 members. Every year, Līga Miklašēvics makes numerous calls and has conversations with many persons to invite them onto council, however this year she was unsuccessful in finding anyone to accept the invitation to join council."

Indra extends and invitation to all present to volunteer for council. No volunteers come forward.

Guntis Bērziņš moves that candidates nominated on council be approved. Laila Mārsons seconds the motion. Unanimously carried.

9. Renovations at Sidrabene – Phase 1: Agris Robežnieks –

This process began several years ago with suggestions and recommendations for

improvements which needed to be made in *Sidrabkalns* (main building in Sidrabene). Numerous people became involved (Voldemārs Innus, myself and others). Arrangements were made for professional drawings for the purpose of costing out, planning and budgeting for the needed renovations. Difficulties arose around timeframes of when the renovation work could be accomplished. *Sidrabkalns* is rented out most of the year and it is very difficult to find a time frame for renovations. Secondly, the income from the rentals is not high enough to pay for the renovations. Finally this year, a 3 week window was identified to begin the work – June 25th to July 13th. The work scheduled at this time would be modifications to the dining hall, upstairs office area and building a new janitor's closet on the main floor. This plan has been reviewed with a potential contractor who has updated the costs. In previous town halls it was mentioned that the project would cost ~ \$61, 000. However the cost of the job has gone up. We are presently guaranteed the work to start on June 25th for a price of \$72,365 plus HST. In order for this work to proceed it is required that the AGM approves this expenditure, because this will come out of 2018 capital expenditure Budget. Agris asks for a resolution from the AGM so as to be able to proceed on this work or not.

Questions: – Karina Mieriņš asks: "How many people will be part of the construction crew working on the renovation?" **Agris answers:** "It would be a very limited amount of people working on this project. Probably no more than five people working on it at the same time."

– **Imants Ķivlis asks:** "Does this also take care of our handicap issues or not?" **Agris answers:** "No it does not include the accessibility issues!" **Imants states:** "So, then it becomes a problem of 2020?" **Agris says** that accessibility involves support from government grants which were not available this year.

– **Imants asks:** "How much will it cost to get accessibility to code?" **Agris answers:** "It could be over \$100,000."

– **Agris** reminds the congregation, that the first phase was chosen for two reasons. Firstly, this space allows for better rental possibilities and income and secondly the monthly worship services take place in this space and it needs to be made more conducive for this purpose.

Agris moves that the AGM resolves to approve the expenditure of \$72, 365 plus HST on renovation of *Sidrabkalns* this summer. Auseklis Zakis seconds. 1 dissention. Carried.

Voldemārs Innus addresses the handicap/ accessibility concern:

The accessibility issue is important and the planning team had intended accomplishing both; the accessibility issues and the Phase 1 of *Sidrabkalns* renovations. We believed that there would be accessibility grants available; however it turned out there were no grants available. It seemed prudent to begin with Phase 1 of the renovations and keep monitoring for grant availability. We know that \$75,000 could come from the Federal Government and \$25,000 from the Provincial because we've seen other congregations receive them. This is a significant amount of money and we have every intention of pursuing them.

10. Suggestions for future activities:

- May 26th – tree planting to commemorate Latvia's 100th Anniversary and also the beginning of Sidrabene's 65th year celebrations
- July 28th & 29th congregation picnic
- September 15th Sidrabene closing social
- September 30th Oktoberfest

Other business:

On behalf of Council and the Congregation we thank Arnis Budrēvics for his role as treasurer for 3 years and his additional year as Vice Treasurer. Arnis helped get our accounting practices on one platform and was invaluable in helping Sarma Gaide (Administrator) and Council during his tenure.

It is a work in progress as we move forward with his and the audit committees recommendations. On behalf of the congregation and council, Līga Miklašēvics thanks Indra Mertens for taking on the role of Council chair. She has done an incredible job under the most difficult circumstances and she has done it with humility, grace and patience.

Adjournment of the Meeting: Indra Mertens moves for the AGM to be adjourned. Seconded by Imants Ķivlis. Meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Recorders: Līga Miklašēvics, Elmārs Bērziņš

SV. ANDREJA EV. LUT. LATVIEŠU DRAUDZE / ST. ANDREW'S EV. LUT. LATVIAN CONGREGATION

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Administrātorē / Office Manager: Sarma Gaide
Ērģelnieks/ Organist: Dāvids Šmits
Apkopējs / Custodian: Andris Zvirbulis / no sept.
Dāvis Maksiņš
Sidrabenes Pārvaldnieks /Property Manager:
Andrejs Grīnbergs

2018. GADA KOMITEJAS UN DALĪBNIEKI **2018 COMMITTEES**

Valde / Executive:

Indra Mertens (Priekšniece / Chair), Agris Robežnieks, Auseklis Zaķis, Andris Stārasts, Līga Miklašēvics, Māra Zalčmanis

Padome / Council:

Indra Mertens* (Priekšsēde / Chair), Elmārs Bērziņš, Voldemārs Innus*, Arnis Kalniņš, Andris Krūmiņš, Līga Miklašēvics*, Agris Robežnieks*, Andris Stārasts, Jānis Tannis, Auseklis Zaķis*, Māra Zalčmanis
(*norāda kuŗiem termiņš padomē beidzas)

Revīzijas komisija / Audit Committee:

Pēteris Brīviņš, Viktors Korbs

Pērminderi / Elders:

Guntis Bērziņš, Irēne Buls, Imants un Maureen Ķivlis (Sidrabēnē), Dzidra Krūmiņš, Linda Luck, Zane Niedre

Mūzikas komiteja / Music Committee:

Dāvids Šmits, Vaira Gertners

Dāmu komiteja / Ladies' Committee:

Inta Briedis (Priekšniece / Chair), Milija Budrēvics, Anita Bredovskis, Erna Ķivlis, Maureen Ķivlis, Astrīda Pērkons, Velta Zvīdris, Krista Amoliņš

Sv. Jāņa draudzes sadarbības komiteja / St. John's Joint-Cooperation Committee:

Voldemārs Innus, Agris Robežnieks (no Sv. Jāņa draudzes: Kārlis Jansons, Lilita Strīpnieks)

Investīcijas komiteja / Investment Committee:

Ivars Grimba, Voldemārs Innus, Andris Stārasts, Auseklis Zaķis, Andris Paukšēns

Sidrabenes pārvalde /

Sidrabene Management Committee:

Valdis Kauliņš (Priekšnieks / Chair), Rita Āpše, Norrie Hasspieler, Voldemārs Innus, Ivars Jēgeris, Valdis Korbs, Linda Lakats, Mārtiņš Mežulis, Valdis Pālēns, Krissy Pāvelson, Andris Paukšēns, Mārtiņš Skuja, Rob van den Enden, Andrejs Grīnbergs (Padomes pārstāvji: Voldemārs Innus, Rita Āpše)

Sidrabenes bērnu nometne / Camp Sidrabene:

Linda Lakats (Priekšniece / Chair), Elmārs Bērziņš, Devin Dzelme, Debbie Grietiņš, Kurtis Grietiņš, Ivars Jēgeris, Sandra Kalniņš, Sandra Thiele, Anita Thomas, Inga Untiks, Robert & Linda Van den Enden, Katrīna Vikse, (youth forum – Dana Grietiņš, Ēriks Kalniņš, Kristīn Lakats)

Sidrabenes dievkalpojumu veidošanas grupa / Sidrabene Worship Committee

Imants Ķivlis, Mudīte Schuler, Vaira Gertners, Dāvids Šmits, Skaidrīte Leja, Krissy Pāvelson

Palīdzība Latvijai komiteja / Aid to Latvia committee:

Jānis Tannis (Priekšnieks / Chair), Aija Mazstīlis, Andris Rubenis, Ēriks Yost, Auseklis Zaķis

Out of the Cold: Imants & Maureen Ķivlis

Greeting cards to congregants: Līga Gaide

Draudzes Zinas: Anda Libere, Sarma Gaide, (Rita Āpše, Līga Gaide)

2018. gada STATISTIKA

MIRUŠI / DECEASED (14)

Rasma Bendiņš, Ilze Brūniņš, Kārlis Deklavs, Austra Dreifelds, Zigrīda Kalns, Alfons Kalns, Emīlija Kristapsons, Māra Kūlnieks, Ausma Palma, Arvīds Raps, Marianna Šteinmanis, Ojārs Turķis, Lilita Vaļuks, Ingeborga Veinbergs

KRISTĪTI / BAPTIZED (3)

Jade Brush-Bergvalds, Lukas Foulis, Willamina McCaughey-Walsh

ĪESTĀJUŠĪES / NEW MEMBERS (2)

Ivars Jēgeris, Ivars Zālītis

IZSTĀJUŠĪES / TRANSFERRED MEMBERSHIP

(2) Arisa Arro, Vija Skomba

SALAUĻĀTI / MARRIED (1)

Sabrina Piltzmaker & Tobiass Kuplēns-Ewart

DRAUDZES LOCEKĻI KOPUMĀ/

2018 CHANGES

Kristīti: 3

Salaulāti pāri: 1

Miruši: 14

Iestājušie: 2

Izstājušie: 2

Aktīvi draudzes locekļi / Active members

31.12.2018: kopumā 611 / pilntiesīgi 506

2018. g. DIEVKALPOJUMI / NUMBER OF SERVICES: 46

Pilsētā: Latviski: 18 / Abās valodās (both languages): 12 (kopā: 30)

Sidrabenē(both languages): 13 / Svecīšu

dievkalpojumi Sidrabenē: 3

Citi: Kristus Dārzā, Ecumenical Commemoration

(14. jūnijs), Valsts Svētki, Kapu svētki

Dievlūdzejī kopumā (dievnamā) / total number of worshippers: 1,617

Pie dievgalda / total number of communicants: 712

Dievlūdzejī Sidrabenē / total number of

worshippers in Sidrabene: 600

Dievlūdzejī pilsētā un Sidrabenē / Total

worshippers combined: 2,217

Viesu mācītāji / Guest pastors: Ron Ewart, Ivars

Gaide, Dāvis Kaņeps, Ģirts Grietiņš, Doug Reble

DRAUDZES MĀCĪTĀJAS GADA PĀRSKATS 2019. GADA PILNSAPULCEI

“Tāpat kā ķermenis ir viens vienīgs, bet tajā ir daudz locekļu un visi daudzie ķermeņa locekļi kopā ir viens ķermenis – tā arī Kristus. Arī mēs esam vienā Garā kristīti, lai visi būtu viens ķermenis – vai jūdi, vai grieķi, vai vergi, vai brīvie, – un ar vienu Garu mēs visi esam dzirdināti. Jo arī ķermenis nesastāv no viena locekļa, bet gan no daudziem.” (1Kor 12:12-14)

Aizvadītajā gadā apritēja trīsdesmit piektais gads kopš mani ordinēja kā mācītāju mūsu Latviešu evanģeliski luteriskā baznīcā ārpus Latvijas. Pateicos no visas sirds par laipniem apsveikumiem, kuŗus saņēmu no draudzes vadības, kā arī no daudziem no jums personīgi. Šo kalpošanas gadu lielāko daļu esmu pavadījis kā jūsu mācītāja. Pārdomājot šo lielo svētību, ienāca prātā apustuļa Pāvila vārdi pirmajā vēstulē korintiešiem: “... no Dieva žēlastības esmu tas,

kas esmu...” (1Kor 15:10). Ne es, bet Dievs izlaužas visam cauri savā žēlastībā. Pāvils raksta šos vārdus, apzinoties savu nepilnību, savas kļūdas. Viņa gadījumā tās bija galvenokārt aktīvā Kristus sekotāju vajāšana. Manā gadījumā, atkal citējot Pāvilu: *“Es zinu, ka manī, tas ir, manā miesā, nemājo labais; es gan varu gribēt labu, bet piepildīt nevaru. Nevis to labo, ko gribu, es daru, bet rīkojos ļauni, kā pats negribu.”* (Rm 7:18.,19). Tādi esam katrs, cilvēciskas, nepilnīgas būtnes, rauti uz visām pusēm, un kā Luters atgādina, “ak, mūsu spēcīgš ļoti vājš, kas pastāvēt gan spējis?”... Tā, cerībā uz jūsu laipnību un lielām sirdīm, lūdzu jūsu piedošanu, mīlie draugi, par to, kas nav bijis darīts, vai ir bijis darīts nesaskaņā ar Dieva laipno Garu pa šiem gadiem. Tomēr no sirds pazemībā pateicos un slavēju Dievu, kas ir ļāvis savai svētībai klāties pāri mūsu kopīgai kalpošanai. Šķiet piemēroti noslēgt šo ievadu ar sekojošiem vārdiem, atkal no apustuļa Pāvila, ar domu, kas mani spēcīgi uzrunājusi: *“Ne jau sevi mēs sludinām, bet Kungu Jēzu Kristu, un mēs esam jūsu kalpi Jēzus dēļ...Šis dārgums mūsos ir kā trauslos māla traukos, lai būtu redzams, ka spēka pārpilnība pieder Dievam, nevis nāk no mums pašiem”.* (2 Kor 4:5,7) Pieminot “trauslos māla traukus”, man atgādina, ka mana ceļa locītavas atvietošana, kas šķiet gandrīz vai parasta lieta manam gada gājumam, nozīmēja, ka principā divus mēnešus nevarēju strādāt ar pilnu slodzi, bet pateicoties labestīgiem kollēģām un draudzes darbiniekiem – dievkalpojumi notika un ļaudis tika aprūpēti. Ir tik tiešām ko brīnīties par tādām Dieva žēlastības dāvanām!

PĀRSKATS PAR 2018. GADA DARBĪBU

Amata darbi un dievkalpojumu skaits ir ievietots atsevišķi pie draudzes statistikas.

PATEICĪBAS: Aiz šiem skaitļiem stāv vesela rinda citu pastorālu darbu, kā arī ļaudis, kas palīdzējuši tos īstenot un kuŗiem vēlos pateikties. Tie ir: Sarma Gaide, mūsu sirds un balsts un viņas uzticamie palīgi Anda Libere un Rita Āpše; draudzes padome ar priekšsēdi Indru Mertenu; dāmu komiteja ar Intu Briedi priekšgalā, kas pilda mūsu miesiskās

vajadzības, bet arī atbalsta garīgās; mūsu mūziķi, kuŗi nav skopojušies dalīties ar savām dāvanām, izsakot sevišķi lielu paldies ērgelniekam un mūzikas dzīves vadītājam Dāvidam Šmitam; komiteja “Palīdzība Latvijai”, kas atgādina mums skatīties ne tikai uz savām vajadzībām, bet arī dalīties ar prieku ar to, kas mums ir, citiem par svētību; mūsu draudzes pērminderi, kuŗi nodrošina, ka dievkalpojumos gan Toronto, gan Sidrabenē viss var ritēt gludi, un arī dežuranti un lasītāji; atbalstītāji, kas gādājuši par mūsu labklājību dievkalpojumos Sidrabenē. Ir vēl citi, kuŗus pieminēšu vēlāk.

SIDRABENE: Mācītāja darbs Sv. Andreja draudzē atšķiras no parastās kalpošanas draudzē ar to, ka mums ir divi aktīvi darbības centri draudzē – pilsētā un arī Sidrabenē.

Sidrabene ir mums Dieva dota maza “paradīze”. Katrs, tur iebraucot, sajūt, ka var atkal “elpot”, un nožēlo katru reizi, kad jādodas prom. Par Sidrabenes īpašo nozīmi draudzei liecina ievadvārdi 1953. g. 14. jūnijā pieņemtajos “izmantošanas noteikumos”: *“Pirmās latviešu ev. lut. draudze Toronto pērk lauku īpašumu, kurš atrodas Halton contij pie Brontes upes, platībā 40 akru, nolūkā apgādāt vasaras atpūtas vietu saviem draudzes locekļiem un viņu bērniem.”*

Jau otro gadu, bez vasaras dievkalpojumiem brīvdabas baznīcā, turpinām sapulcēties arī rudenī un ziemā reizi mēnesī kā Kristus sekotāju saime. Remonti, kas veikti augšējā zālē, kā arī rudenī uzbūvētais piebraucamais celiņš cilvēkiem ar kustības traucējumiem, mums ir ievērojams uzlabojums un atbalsts. Paldies Agrim Robežniekam un pārvaldniekam Andrejam Grīnbergam par lielo darbu! Dievkalpojumi ar mūsu lielisko mūziķu atbalstu (paldies Dāvidam Šmitam, Vairai Gertneri, Albertam Vītolam) notiek abās valodās, atraisītākā garā nekā parastajos dievkalpojumos un savienojas ar kopīgām pusdienām. Ar to, tuvināmies pirmo kristiešu garam, kur ļaudis – *“Visi ticīgie turējās kopā, un viss viņiem bija kopīgs... Dienu no dienas tie vienprātībā pulcējās templī; bet mājās tie lauza maizi un kopīgi ēda līksmībā un sirds vienkāršībā.”* (Ap darbi 2:44-46) Tas ir tikai viens veids, kā lūkojam veidot un attīstīt kopības sajūtu

ar pašu Kungu centrā. Aicinām visus, arī ģimenes ar maziem bērniem atnākt un pie reizes baudīt dienu Sidrabenē svaigā gaisā!

Ļoti ceru, ka priekšā stāvošajā gadā varēsim plašāk attīstīt šo apziņu par Sidrabeni kā vietu, kur mīt Kristus dzīvā miesa, kā centrā pukst Dieva mīlestības un žēlastības Gars un kur visi ļaudis, no mūsu un citām draudzēm, var pildīt dibinātāju vēlmi, "līksmībā un sirds vienkāršībā" Dievam par godu un slavu.

BĒRNU NOMETNE: 2018. gada vasarā man bija īpašs prieks būt iesaistītai, pilnu laiku, nometnes apritē. Pateicos draudzes padomei, kas atbalstīja šo priekšlikumu un saprata nepieciešamību fokusēt uz nometni, jo tur Sv. Andreja draudze pilda savu aicinājumu sludināt evaņģēliju bērniem. Priecājos par tuvību ar bērniem, par audzinātāju un darbinieku sajūsmu, kā arī par savstarpējo uzticību. Un lielākais paldies pienākas nenogurstošajiem darba rūķiem nometnes komitejā, bez kuriem mums nevarētu būt šāds piedāvājums bērniem!

KALPOŠANA CITOS VEIDOS:

Mācīšana: Prieks par jauniešiem, kas nolēmuši iet gaŗo ceļu, lai draudzes priekšā apliecinātu savu ticību Dievam. Izsaku paldies arī Līgai Miklašēvicai, kuŗa iesākusi darboties ar jauno iesvētamo grupu kopā ar māc. Ķirtu Grietiņu. Tāpat priecājos par mūsu pulciņu, kas tikās Sidrabenē vasaras sestdienās iedzīlināties pravieša Ļjaba dziļnozīmīgajos vārdos.

Adītāju pulciņš: "Siltais apkampiens" ir tagad paplašinājies uz mūsu draudzes locekļu austrumu galu. Paldies visām, kas veltījušas savu brīvo laiku "lūgšanu lakatu" veidošanai. Tādi ir vēl joprojām pieejami tiem, kuriem noderētu tāds "silts apkampiens".

ĀRPUS DRAUDZES: Mani apgabala prāvestes pienākumi galvenokārt risinājušies ap LELBĀL sadarbību ar LELB, tas ir mūsu baznīcas darbību ārpus Latvijas ar Latvijas ev. lut. baznīcu. Baznīcas plenārsēde Rīgā pirms dziesmu svētkiem, kur arī piedalījies, deva spilgtu ieskatu mūsu baznīcas vispārējā darbībā citur pasaulē. Turklāt, tiek sagaidīts no garīdzniekiem, ka tie piedalās

mācītāju sapulcēs, un tā piedalījos gandrīz katrā ikmēneša "*Toronto Central Ministry Area*" garīdznieku sapulcē. Šī ir svētīga sadarbība. Cik iespējams, esmu arī piedalījiesies "*Churches on the Hill*" mācītāju sapulcēs, kuŗas notiek retāk.

Atvaļinājuma dienas, ko pavadīju Latvijā gada beigās, deva lielisku iespēju atjaunot sakarus ar kollēgām un domu biedriem Latvijā. No viņiem saņēmu atbalstu iespējamam draudzes projektam "Roku rokā", kas dotu mūsu nesen kā pensionētiem draudzes locekļiem iespēju piedalīties kādā īslaika projektā Latvijā. Šo var vislabāk aprakstīt kā "*mini Habitat for Humanity*". Šobrīd tiek veidots projekta rīkotāju pulciņš. Sirsnīgi pateicos mūsu "Palīdzība Latvijai" komitejai, kuŗa ir piekritusi šo uzņemt savā paspārnē kā jaunu projektu. Tuvāka informācija sekos!

TUVĀKĀ NĀKOTNĒ: Esam visi sirsnīgi aicināti uz dievnamu 31. martā, lai atzīmētu draudzes 70 gadu jubileju! Skat. tuvāku informāciju šajās Draudzes Ziņās. Klusā laikā: "Pārdomas un pusdienas" trešdienās ar māc. Ķirtu Grietiņu dos iespēju atslēgties no ikdienišķā un iedzīlināties Jēzus "Es Esmu..." vārdos, kas atrodami Jāņa evaņģelijā.

Man zināmu vecumu sasniedzot, draudzē paceļas jautājumi – kas un kā būs tālāk ar mūsu mācītāju? Ar jūsu svētību turpināšu kalpot jums līdz kamēr Dievs pateiks, vai nu tieši man, vai caur jums, ka laiks ir pienācis noslēgt šo kalpošanas posmu.

Dziļā pateicībā jums, ikvienam mūsu draudzes loceklim, par uzticību un atbalstu man un draudzei aizvadītajā gadā.

Jūsu

Mācītāja Ilze

DĀMU KOMITEJAS 2018. GADA PĀRSKATS

Dāmu komitejas sastāvs ir stabils! Paldies mūsu „kungiem” – Imantam Kīvlim un Andrim Krūmiņam. Viņi mums ir lieli palīgi. Vienmēr pieņemam jaunus palīgus!!!

Piparkūku talkā mums bija daudzi palīgi un palīdzes, sirsnīgs paldies visiem!!

DĀMU KOMITEJAS DARBĪBA:

- * Pankūku brokastis janvārī labi izdevās, bija laba atsauksme
- * Aprīlī rīkojām Lieldienu brokastis kopā ar Sv. Jāņa draudzi – atsaucība bija laba un visi labi jutās.
- * Kopā ar draudzes padomi gādājām par kafijas galdu draudzes pilnsapulcē.
- * 28./29. aprīļa nogalē notika Amerikas Latviešu baptistu draudžu koŗu apvienības 69. Dziesmu Diena Sv. Jāņa baznīcā, kur dāmu komiteja klāja galdus koristu un mūziķu ēdienreizēm mēģinājumu laikā un arī banketa galdu 90 dalībniekiem pēc koncerta. Viss ļoti labi izdevās. Sirnīgs paldies visiem palīgiem!
- * Maijā dāmas palīdzēja Mātes dienas brokastīs, kas bija par labu palīdzībai Latvijā.
- * Jūlijā dāmu komiteja atbalstīja Sidrabenes 65. jubilejas svētkus ar kafijas kūkām.
- * Septembrī rīkojām Pļaujas svētkus ar rudens ražas loteriju. Priekšnesumus mums sniedza Alberts Vītols ar ģimeni un Dāvids Šmits – ļoti labi izdevās.
- * 18. novembra dievkalpojums bija ļoti skaists un liels notikums abu draudžu dzīvē. Kafijas galdu abu draudžu dāmu komitejas klāja kopīgi, par to neprasot ziedojumus.
- * Bērnu eglītes ziemassvētku paciņas bērniem gatavoja Gundega Hladun, sirsnīgs paldies viņai par to.
- * Pēc vecgada vakara dievkalpojuma, visi bija aicināti uz lejas zāli baudīt glāzi šampanieša un viens otram vēlēt Laimīgu Jauno Gadu!
- * Uz maiņām ar Sv. Jāņa draudzi svētdienās pēc dievkalpojuma gādājam par kafijas galdu – sadraudzībai. Draudzes locekļi ir priecīgi pasēdēt un parunāties.

Dāmu komiteja ar ziedojumiem ir atbalstījusi: Toronto latviešu skolas bibliotēku (\$300), Kristus Dārzu (\$500), Daily Bread Food Bank (\$200), Scott Mission (\$200), Star Santa Claus Fund (\$200) un Churches on the Hill (\$200).

Altāra ziedu kārtošanu uz maiņām dalāmies ar Sv. Jāņa draudzi. Aicinu draudzes locekļus likt ziedus uz altāra, tā atzīmējot savus ģimenes godus.

Vasarā atvadījāmies no ilggadējā baznīcas apkopēja Andŗa Zvirbuļa, kurš aizbrauca atpakaļ uz Latviju. Sirsnīgs paldies par viņa palīdzību. Apsveicam jauno apkopēju Dāvi Maksīņu!

Sirsnīga pateicība draudzes locekļiem un visiem labvēļiem par dāmu komitejas atbalstīšanu!

Ar cieņu,
Inta Briede
Dāmu komitejas priekšiece

SIDRABENES PĀRVALDES ZIŅOJUMS PAR 2018. GADU

Sidrabenes 65. jubilejas gada svinēšanu ievadīja sezonas atklāšanas sarīkojums 26. maijā ar piemiņas ozola stādīšanu, atzīmējot Latvijas simtgadi. Latvijas vēstnieks Kanādā, Kārlis Eihenbaums, kopā ar mācītāju Ilzi Kuplēnu-Ewart un Valdi Kauliņu piedalījās ozola stādīšanā un piemiņas plāksnes atklāšanā. Skaidrīte Leja un Andrejs Grīnbergs bija sagatavojuši vietu ozola stādīšanai blakus Paula Plīša piemiņas solam.

Jāņu svinēšanā 23. jūnijā bija mazāk dalībnieku nekā parasti gan lietainā laika dēļ, gan arī tādēļ, ka apmēram 20% sidrabeniešu jau bija aizbraukuši uz Latvijas dziesmu svētkiem. Jauku un bagātīgu līgo programmu Sidrabkalna lielajā zālē novadīja Sandra Maia Ūuze un Helena Gintere ar vietējo dziedātāju un mūziķu piedalīšanos. Vakars turpinājās pie deju mūzikas turpat līdz pl. 1:00 rītā.

Vasarā notika dažādi sarīkojumi: “bocce” bumbas turnīri; nometnes aktivitātes un Sid svētki 28. jūlijā ar kopīgu 65 gadu jubilejas svinību ugunsgrū ar nometņotāju priekšnesumiem un iemīļotu latviešu dziesmu dziedāšanu no īpaši sagatavotas dziesmu burtnīcas gitaristu Alberta Vītola un Andŗa Rubeņa vadībā; Īru vakars 11. augustā ar *Ronnie McEwan*. Sezonas slēgšanas sarīkojumā 15. septembrī notika J. Eglīša piemiņas paviljona atklāšana un 65 gadu jubilejas svinēšana ar mielastu, Jāņa Beloglāzova vadītā folkloras ansambļa “Skanda” mūzikālo priekšnesumu un “*Maximum 60*” deju mūziku. 30. septembrī vācu pūtēju orķestris “*Tourchester*” no Minchenes ar *Oktoberfest* programmu noslēdza vasaras sezonu.

Gadskārtējā Sidrabenes loterija 2018. g. piedāvāja 3 naudas laimestus, paredzot pirmajam laimestam 20% no atlikuma, otrajam laimestam 10% no atlikuma un trešajam laimestam 5% no atlikuma. Par 442 pārdotajām biļetēm ienemts \$2,235. Par trīs laimestiem izmaksāts \$631. Sidrabenes atlikums no loterijas bija \$1,172.81. No pārvaldes organizētajiem sarīkojumiem kopsummā atlikums bija \$6,230.39, ieskaitot – Jāņos (\$5,471.71), sezonas atklāšanā (\$257.38), sezonas slēgšanā (\$425.07).

Paldies pārvaldniekam Andrejam Grīnbergam par palīdzību gādājot, lai visi sarīkojumi labi izdotos. Paldies visiem talciniekiem, kas piedalījās Sidrabenes apkopšanas talkās pavasarī (5. maijā) un rudenī (10. novembrī). Paldies Imantam un Maureen Kivijiem par palīdzēšanu Sidrabenes dievkalpojumos vasarā un kārtējos dievkalpojumos Sidrabē vienreiz mēnesī.

Paldies Ingridai Grantai par Sidrabenes kafējnīcas vadīšanu pagājušajā vasarā. Diemžēl Ingrida nevarēs uzņemties kafējnīcas vadīšanu šovasar. Līdz šim vēl neviens nav atsaucies uz sludinājumu un nav pieteicies vadīt kafējnīcu. Cerams, ka kāds draudzes loceklis, vai ģimenes draugs būtu ieinteresēts izmantot iespēju dalīties ar savām pavārmākslas spējām un uzņemtos vadīt kafējnīcu, īpaši šogad, kad Jāņu svinēšana Sidrabē paredzēta 29. jūnijā, lai Toronto dziesmu svētku (4. – 7. jūl.) dalībnieki un viesi arī varētu piedalīties Sidrabenes Jāņos.

Sidrabenes pārvalde izsaka pateicību draudzes padomei par veiktajiem remontiem un uzlabojumiem Sidrabkalna ēkā ēdamzālē un cilvēkiem ar ierobežotu kustību piemērotas piekļuves izbūvi pie Sidrabkalna ēkas augšstāva ieejas.

Sidrabenes gada sapulce notika 4. martā un pārvalde sanāca uz 6 sēdēm un uz vienu sēdi kopā ar draudzes padomi. Paldies visiem pārvaldes locekļiem – Andrim Paukšēnam, Ivaram Jēgerim, Lindai Lakatai, Mārtiņam Skujam, Valdim Korbam, Bob Van Den Enden, Norrie Hasspieler, Mārtiņam Mežulim, Krissy Pāvelsonei, Valdim Kauliņam, Ritai Āpšei un Voldemāram Innusam.

Valdis Kauliņš

Sidrabenes pārvaldes priekšnieks

SIDRABENES KASIERES ZIŅOJUMS:

1. 2018. GADĀ PABEIGTIE PROJEKTI:

- Sidkafe pajumtes paplašināšanas izbūve (\$8,045.76) (Pilnā izmaksa bija \$13,811.99 un no agrākiem ziedojumiem šim nolūkam jau bija ienemts \$5,766.23.)
- Sidkafe atvietots ledusskapis (\$2,711.99)
- Iegādāti jauni virtuves skapīši pārvaldnieka mājai (\$6,304.09)

2. NEPAREDZĒTI PROJEKTI:

- Vasaras beigās uzzinājām, ka pārvaldnieka mājas akas ūdens nav tīrs lietošanai un ka vispār ir problēmas ar ūdeni no akām plašākā Sidrabenes apkārtnē. Apskatot dažādus risinājumus, pārvalde nolēma pieņemt to pašu firmu, ko jau lietojam Sidrabenes ūdens sistēmas uzturēšanai, lai ierīkotu ūdens attīrīšanas sistēmu un veiktu ūdens pārbaudes arī pārvaldnieka mājā. Tas izmaksāja \$8,699.83, bet tagad ūdens kvalitāte arī pārvaldnieka mājā ir nodrošināta.
- Ap \$1,500 ieguldīts Sidkafe inventāra iegādei un noliktavas iespēju uzlabošanai.

3. PĀRSKATS PAR SIDRABENES ĪRĒM:

2018. gadā Sidrabene par īrēm ieņēma \$115,216 (ieskaitot \$12,000, no draudzes):

- *Halton Region School Board* (“*Bronte Creek Project*”) lieto Sidrabeni no septembra līdz jūnijam (ienemts \$54,500)
- Sidkafe īre (kopā ienemts \$5,021)*
- Jauniešu un sabiedriskās grupas (kopā ienemts \$36,530) – ieskaitot vairākas “*Kids4Kids*” nometnes un aktivitātes (\$18,260) *
- Privāti un āra sarīkojumi/notikumi (kopā ienemts \$5,780) *
- Latviešu organizācijas (kopā ienemts \$3,240, ieskaitot 3 nedēļu Sidrabenes Bērnu nometni, bet dažas ieskaitītas citās kategorijās)
- Par teltošanu un pārnakšņošanu (kopā ienemts \$1,145).
* (*Sīkāka informācija angļu valodas ziņojumā 20 l.p.*)

Rita Āpše, Sidrabenes pārvaldes kasiere

KAS PAREDZĒTS SIDRABENĒ 2019. GADĀ:

Sidrabene gatavojas no 27. jūnija līdz 10. jūlijam uzņemt Latvijas kori “Lōja” no Salaspils, izmītinot ap 34 koristus “Kēmeros” un “Cāļu kalnā”. Būs nepieciešami palīgi ar automašīnām, lai atvestu koristus no Hamiltonas lidlauka uz Sidrabeni 27. jūnijā.

Koris „Lōja” dibināts 2007. gadā Salaspilī, par savu misiju izvēloties būt (pagaidām) vienīgais lībiešu koris pasaulē. Koris aktīvi prezentē sevi kā Salaspils lībiešu kultūrvēstures izzinātājus un popularizētājus. Ar LR Kultūras ministrijas atbalstu ir izveidojuši un uztur lībiešu koŗmūzikas interneta vietni: **livodkuor.lv**, kur katrs interesents var iepazīties ar lībiešu koŗmūzikas piemēriem. Koŗa mākslinieciskais vadītājs kopš dibināšanas brīža ir Ģirts Gailītis. 2018. gadā korim pievienojusies koŗmeistare un vokālā pedagoģe Anna Rudzīte.

Jāņu svinēšana paredzēta vēlāk – 29. jūnijā, tuvāk XV Latviešu Dziesmu Svētkiem (no 4. – 7. jūlija), lai vairāki viesu kori un deju kopas varētu piedalīties Jāņu programmā.

SIDRABENES SARĪKOJUMI 2019. GADĀ:

Kalendārā uzrādīti sarīkojumi un citi notikumi, kam datumi jau zināmi. Citus izziņos vēlāk.

- 3. martā – 13:00 Sidrabenes gada sapulce
- 4. maijā – 9:00 -16:00 Pavasaŗa talka
- 25. maijā – “Bocce” bumbas turnīrs
- 1. jūnijā – Sidrabenes sezonas atklāšanas sarīkojums un loterijas izloze
- 15. jūnijā – 9:00 -16:00 Kopīga Sidrabenes bērnu nometnes un Jāņu priekšdarbu talka
- 29. jūnijā – Jāņu svinēšana
- No 14. jūlija līdz 4. augustam Sidrabenes bērnu nometne
- 28. jūlijā – Sid Svētki
- 9. novembrī – 9:00 -16:00 Rudens talka

2019. gadam auto novietošanas dienas maksa paliek \$10 un sezonas karte \$60, bet draudzes pilnsapulcē un Sidrabenes gada sapulcē to piedāvās ar parasto atlaidi par \$50.

**Sidrabenē pārdodamas vasarnīcas:
#10 Karina Mieriņš / #70 (kalnā) Valija Ūdris /
#62 Linda & Ed Lakats**

AR ŠĪM DRAUDZES ZIŅĀM sūtām Jums 2019. gada **SIDRABENES LOTERIJAS** biļetes agrāk nekā parasti, jo šoreiz **vienīgais laimests ir 6 sarīkojumu biļetes** XV Dziesmu svētkiem Toronto (no 4. līdz 7. jūlijam):
2 biļetes uz kopkoŗa koncertu, 2 uz svētku balli un 2 uz tautas deju lieluzvedumu.

Šoreiz cena par 1 loterijas biļeti ir \$20, bet par 3 biļetēm \$50.

Sūtām jums 3 biļetes kopā ar adresētu aploksnī. Papildus biļetes var saņemt no Ritas Āpšes – tālr.: 905-271-9875, e-pasts: ritaapse@gmail.com.

LOTERIJAS IZLOZE notiks Sidrabenes sezonas atklāšanas sarīkojumā – 1. jūnijā.

Diemžēl šī informācija vēl nebija pieejama pirms loterijas biļešu drukāšanas.

Loterijas atlikumu paredzēts lietot, lai segtu Sidrabenes izdevumus sakarā ar “Lōjas” koŗa uzņemšanu Sidrabenē (no 27. jūnija līdz 10. jūlijam) un arī lai paēdinātu koŗus un deju kopas, kas uzstāsies Sidrabenes Jāņu svinībās 29. jūnijā. Ceram šīm kopām arī piešķirt mazus honorārus. Sirsnīgi pateicamies par atbalstu!
Sidrabenes pārvalde

SIDRABENES PĀRVALDE MEKLĒ SIDRABENES KAFEJNĪCAS VADĪTĀJU/ PAVĀRU

2019. gada vasaras nedēļas nogalēm no 17. maija līdz 2. septembrim no piektdienas vakara līdz svētdienas pēcpusdienai vai līdz pirmdienai gaŗajās nogalēs (Piedāvājam apmešanās/pārgulēšanas iespējas.)

Aicinām pieteikties pie Valŗa Kauliņa:
905-472-2919 vai kaulins2919@rogers.com

SIDRABENES BĒRNU NOMETNE (15. JUL. – 5. AUG. 2018)

Sidrabenē mums labi klāŗas!

Sidrabenes bērnu nometne 2018. g. vasarā paliek atmiņā kā īpaši laba. Šogad mēs svinējam ne tikai Sidrabenes nometnes 65. jubileju, bet arī Latvija 100. Vasara bija pilna ar prieku, nodarbībām, draudzībām un ilgstošām atmiņām. Priecīgie nometnotāji, daŗi pavisam jauni, citi atgriezuŗies, kopā ar sajūsmas pilnu darbinieku grupu sanāca, lai baudītu trīs nedēļas Sidrabenē. Cāļu Kalns bija ītsevišķi pilns, kas nodrošina nometnes nākotni un nākošo paaudzi, kam veidosies jaukas atmiņas.

Bērnu skaits katru nedēļu bija līdzīgs iepriekšējam gadam, bet 'Cāļu kalna' vecuma skaits arvien aug. Kopskaitā, nometnē piedalījās 34 bērni – vairumam pavadot visas 3 nedēļas nometnē. Pienāca klāt 3 jaunas ģimenes ar 6 pirmās reizes nometņotājiem. Mūsu vienīgā CITa, Breanna Jēgeris, teicami nobeidza vadītāju apmacības programmu. Ar prieku gaidīsim viņu vadītāju pulkā šovasar!

Vadītāji cītīgi izplānoja interesantu programmu, kur bija garš nodarbību saraksts. Daži piemēri:

- Dienas brauciens uz *Binbrook Conservation Area*, kur bērni peldējās un priecājās ūdenī;
- Meža Diena, kur bija zvejošana, kompasa lietošanas apmācības un vakarā ugunskurs;
- Sid Kid Sacīkstes – nedēļa pilna ar spēlēm, kur bērni nopelna punktus;
- Sid Svētki –
 - Sestdien: nometnes jubilēja, peldbaseina partija, kūka un ugunskurs;
 - Svētdien: dievkalpojums, priekšnesumi, BBQ pusdienas, sporta spēles un pīļu peldināšana upē;
- Pēdējā diena: kopējas brokastis ar vecākiem, dievkalpojums un nometnes slēgšana.

2018. g. nometnes darbinieki bija: Kurtis Grietiņš (komandants); Mārtiņš Vikse un Misa Faryova, Zlata Huska, Emīls Zāmurs, Anna Tauriņš, Andrew Russel (virtuves strādnieki); Jessica Lakats, Kristin Lakats un Natālija Vāgners (ūdenssardze) meiteņu galā; Ēriks Kalniņš un Evan Thomas zēnu galā; Ilze Vikse un Elza Alberiņa, Dana Grietiņš Cāļu kalnā.

Nometnes komiteja arī it sevišķi pateicas visiem strādniekiem, Mācītājai Ilzei, Sidrabenes pārvaldei, Pēterim Zariņam un LSAK, kā arī visiem vecākiem, vecvecākiem un brīvprātīgiem darbiniekiem, kuŗiem visiem bija liels nopelns, lai vasarā nometnē tik labi viss veiktos.

Nometnes komitejā darbojas brīvprātīgi dalībnieki, kuŗi galvenokārt ir bērnu vecāki, kuŗi strādā nometnes labā. Mēs priecātos pieņemt jaunus, ieinteresētus locekļus. Aicinām ģimenes ar maziem bērniem jau tagad sākt sadarboties ar nometni, lai kopā varam veidot nometnes nākotni. Pagājušajā gadā sanācām 7 sēdēs. Esošais nometnes komitejas sastāvs: Devin Dzelme, Zlata Huska, Ivars Jēgeris, Sandra Kalniņš, Linda

Lakats, Ieva & Pēteris Puķītis, Anita Thomas, Inga Untiks, Linda & Rob Van Den Enden, Lara Zentiņš, un Imants Kivlis kā padomdevējs un Elmārs Bērziņš kā kasieris un baznīcas padomes pārstāvs. Jauniešu foruma locekļi ir Dana Grietiņš, Ēriks Kalniņš, Jessica Lakats, Kristin Lakats un Natālija Vāgners.

'Daudzas rokas atvieglina darbu' (kā V.Kauliņš vienmēr saka) –

Mūsu mērķis ir gādāt, lai, gan tagad, gan nākotnē, ģimenēm būtu pieejama droša vieta, kur vecāki var sūtīt savus bērnus pa vasaru, kur ir latviska, kristīga audzināšana draudzīgā vidē. Visi zinām, ka ir jāstrādā Sidrabenes labā. Ar sadraudzību un sadarbību varam daudz panākt. Sadarbosimies un atbalstīsim viens otru, jo galu galā, mēs visi esam Sidrabenieši – nometņotāji, draudzes locekļi un latvieši, un mūsu bērni un mazbērni ir mūsu nākotne.

NOMETNES DATUMI 2019. g.

Sakarā ar Dziesmu svētkiem Toronto, Sidrabenes bērnu nometne šogad būs trīs nedēļu garumā.

- **Nometne sāksies svētdien 14. jūlijā. Ievākšanās, sākot ar pl.12:00, BBQ pusdienas ģimenēm no 12:30 – 13:30, dievkalpojums pl. 14:00, kam sekos nometnes atklāšana karogu laukumā.**
- **Nometne beigsies svētdien 4. augustā, ar ģimeņu brokastīm no 9:45 līdz 10:45, dievkalpojums pl. 11:00, kam tūlīt sekos nometnes slēgšana karogu laukumā.**

NOMETNES TALKA būs sestdien 15. jūnijā. Darbinieki ļoti vajadzīgi!

Visi mīļi aicināti piedieboties **'SID SVĒTKOS' 2019. g. svētdien 28. jūlijā.**

Ir pienācis laiks darbiniekiem pieteikties uz 2019. g. vasaru. Īpaši meklējam strādniekus virtuvē, pie rokdarbiem, pie ātrās palīdzības un vadītājas pie mazajiem 'Cāļu kalnā'. Vecāki un pieaugušie ir aicināti pieteikties izpalīdzēt nometnē un/vai dalīties ar saviem talantiem. Esam atsaucīgi visādām sadarbības iespējām. Atstājiet ziņu vai nododiet pieteikšanās lapas, rakstot uz nometnes jauno e-pastu : **sidrabenesnometne@gmail.com**

Uz redzēšanos Sidrabenē!

NEAIZMIRSTIET, KA NOMETNE SĀKAS 14. JŪLIJĀ!

“PALĪDZĪBA LATVIJAI “ KOMITEJA

Mūsu draudzei jau gadiem ilgi ir trīs māsu draudzes Latvijā, kuŗas ir tālu prom no lielpilsētām, un kuŗām ir vispārējs līdzekļu trūkums. Katru gadu mēs sūtām Daudzevas, Durbes un Zemītes draudzēm Ziemassvētku groziņus un šogad pensionari un daudz bērnu ģimenes saņēma 67 groziņus @\$60. Mēs arī trīs reizes decembrī sūtījām atbalstu Rīgas zupas virtuvei.

Viņi visi dziļi pateicas un apliecina, ka šī rīcība ir ne tikai augsti cienīta un ļoti vērtīga, bet pat nepieciešama – **it sevišķi svētku laikā.**

Mēs šim darbam vācam līdzekļus Ziemassvētku dievkalpojuma kolektē, kā arī rīkojot Mātes dienas “Burvīgās brokastis” maija mēnesī. 2019. gadā būs arī **divi** mūzikas koncerti ar ansambli “Klaritas” kopā ar Hamiltonas vīru kori 4. & 5. maijā, un cerams arī filmu izrāde Latviešu Centrā. Jūsu ziedojumi ir vienmēr laipni gaidīti kuŗā katrā laikā!

Viss mūsu pabalsts Latvijai tiek kārtots, ievērojot Kanādas attiecīgos likumus ar visām oficiālām atskaitēm un aģentūras līgumiem.

Jānis Tannis

ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE

Each of us is uniquely different: physically, socially, emotionally...either ready to help, or need encouragement to get involved ... either easy-going, or more opinionated. Through these differences, we approach life from different perspectives. Unfortunately, actions or thoughts are sometimes misjudged / misinterpreted and an air of negativity builds, which benefits no one. Negative energy can reach deep into any community to fester and cause division.

Bless all our experiences! Forgive yourself and others for mistakes. A positive attitude is always more constructive than a negative one. Be grateful for ALL human experience. If you venture into darkness, explore, let it go and move on. Come into the light with much more positive energy, and continue to be a contributing member of our wonderful community.

Council has a role to ensure the “whole” works to the benefit of all. At last year’s AGM I read the passage from 1 Corinthians 12:12-27 (One Body but Many Parts) and I am reminded of it yet again.

It expresses the importance of each and every part of the body...of OUR community, its ministries and of each soul.

1 Corinthians 12:27: *You are the body of Christ. Each one of you is a part of it.*

Where would we be without the Pastoral leadership of Māc. Ilze Kuplēns-Ewart, who celebrated 35 years of ordination in December? We thank her for guiding us forward. Our administrator Sarma Gaide keeps us organized, and is very appreciated for all her behind-the-scenes efforts!

Volunteerism is a HUGE part of the St. Andrew’s Church community. Our volunteers direct their unique talents to benefit every one of us. Thank-you for your unwavering commitment to the greater good.

The current model of ‘Church’ is in transformation. Congregations are half the size that they were 30 years ago. A ‘Church’ is not a building; it is the people who choose to be part of a Christian community. It will be exciting to see how our current Church model transforms over the next decades.

We will celebrate 70 years of St. Andrew’s Lutheran Latvian on March 31, 2019. Let us remember and be thankful for our wonderful history, and at the same time embrace change. Cherish our foundations; take our experiences forward to forge a positive path that continues to make our Church welcoming and alive.

Ar Dieva palīgu,

Indra Mertens
Council Chair

PASTOR’S REPORT FOR THE 2019 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

“For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body — Jews or Greeks, slaves or free — and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many.” (1. Cor. 12:12-14)

Last year marked 35 years since my ordination as a pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of

Latvia Abroad, most of which I have served as your pastor. The kind words expressed by our congregation's leadership and many of you individually moved me deeply. Thank you. This anniversary gave an opportunity to reflect and Paul's words in the first letter to the Corinthians came to mind: "*by the grace of God I am what I am.*" (I Cor 15:10). It is God's grace that is at work, despite everything we put in its way.

In making this assertion, Paul recognizes his own failures and sinfulness. In his case much of that was in his past when he was active amongst those who persecuted the early Christian community. For me, again quoting Paul, in a passage titled in my Bible: "The Inner Conflict", it is: "*For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do.*" (Romans 7:18,19). This is the stuff we are all made of, pulled in every direction and not infrequently not picking the direction we should be following. "*We are all beggars, that is true*", are Luther's final words. Beggars indeed, wholly dependent on God's grace and forgiveness. Paul provides an image that reminds me of these realities: "*But we have this treasure [the treasure of ministry in Jesus' name] in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us.*" (2 Cor 4:5,7) I hope and trust in your kindness and generosity of spirit to forgive those things that over these years I haven't been able to do, or I have done, that haven't reflected God's gracious Spirit. I thank and praise God from the depths of my heart for the grace that has enlivened our ministry together.

Fragile clay jars come to mind as I remember joining what seems to be the majority of my age band who have had joint replacement surgery. A new knee has given me a new lease on life, but did take out two months of my being able to participate fully in parish life. However, thanks to the kindness of colleagues and support of our team in the congregation, nothing stopped during that time. There is much to be in awe of at God's loving kindness as it comes to life through us.

2018 REVIEW

Statistics of parish life have been included separately.

EXPRESSIONS OF THANKS:

Much lies hidden behind these statistics: pastoral care of all kinds for all age groups in our congregation, and the generosity of many in

sharing their time and gifts in supporting our work of caring and service. Sarma Gaide is our key figure in ensuring our congregation's life and work is taken care of on a daily, ongoing basis. I suspect not many realize how much we rely on Sarma to do extra tasks that now fall to us in a new age of church life. I know too, how much she appreciates the support unfailingly and unstintingly provided by Anda Liberis and Rita Āpše. Anda is our history-keeper and our Latvian language master along with many other things. A huge thank you, too, to our church council and chair, Indra Mertens, who has stick-handled many challenging matters over the last year with grace. Let me mention, too, our redoubtable team at the "ladies" auxiliary, with chair, Inta Briedis (or should we rename them the "hospitality team" as a number of gentlemen make a regular appearance in support roles); our musicians, a particular gift to our congregation not only supporting regular worship (thank you, Dāvids), but also enriching worship in Sidrabene and our occasional services; our "Aid to Latvia" group who remind us that we need to look at the needs of others, not just ourselves and our congregation; our communion assistants who ensure that worship at both sites is smooth, as well as our greeters and readers. Thank you to all of you.

SIDRABENE:

The pastor's role and duties in our congregation differ from those in a regular church through our having two operational centres: Toronto, and Sidrabene, each with their own needs. Sidrabene is our God-given paradise on earth. The moment people drive in through the gates they feel they can breathe again, and no-one wants to drive home afterwards. Sidrabene's special place in our congregation's life was clear from the start: "*The First Latvian Lutheran Church in Toronto is purchasing the 40 acre country property located in Halton county by the Bronte Creek in order to provide a place for summer recreation for its congregation members and their children.*" (June 14, 1953)

In addition to our summer worship in the outdoor church, for over two years we have been meeting monthly in the off-season to worship in the dining hall. Renovations that were completed there last summer have helped greatly, as has the accessibility ramp to the upstairs entrance. Many thanks to Agris Robežnieks and our property manager, Andy Grīnbergs, for their work in making this happen. In Sidrabene we always worship bilingually, backed by our wonderful musicians

(Dāvids Šmits, Vaira Gertners, Alberts Vītols) and, with their help, and those who work behind the scenes, are able to create an open, family friendly approach to worship. There are many others who make this happen: Mudīte Schuler, Maureen and Imants Kivlis, Krissy Pavelsons. The family-style lunch we share afterwards brings us back to the experience of the early Church when *“All who believed were together and had all things in common; ...Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts.”* (Acts 2:44-46) Eating together is only one way in which we seek to create and shape a sense of being a community with the Lord at its heart. We warmly welcome everyone, all families with little ones, to come and, at the same time, delight in a day spent in the open air at Sidrabene! It is my hope that in the coming year we will be able to develop this understanding of Sidrabene as a place where we are the living presence of Christ, where God’s loving and gracious Spirit flows, and all people, from our congregations and elsewhere can fulfil the hopes of Sidrabene’s founders, “with glad and generous hearts” to God’s glory and praise. Thank you to the Sidrabene management committee, chair Valdis Kauliņš, and, of course Andy Grīnbergs, for all their work last year. I look forward to working with you in the coming year.

CAMP: This last summer I was delighted to be able to engage, full time, in camp. Many thanks to our congregation council who supported this suggestion and understood the necessity for me to be able to focus all my energies here where our children’s ministry takes place. It was a joy to spend this time with our children, to experience the enthusiasm of our counsellors and other staff, and for the trust that we shared. A particular vote of thanks needs to go to our tireless camp committee without whose work year round we would not be able to offer a camp programme to our children.

OTHER MINISTRY

Teaching: As ever, it has been a delight to work with our youth who undertook to walk this long road to being able to affirm their faith in God at their confirmation in May 2019. Līga Miklašēvics has begun working with the new first-year group alongside my colleague, Rev. Ģirts Grietiņš. Many thanks, Līga!

Similarly it was a joy to work with the small group at Sidrabene who met on Saturday mornings to delve into the deeply significant words in the book of Job.

‘Warm Hugs’, our prayer shawl group, has now extended to those members living in the GTA East. Thank you to all who have happily shared their free time by knitting, and crocheting, prayer shawls. We still have a number of these available to gift. Please let Sarma know if you have anyone in mind.

BEYOND THE CONGREGATION:

My responsibilities as Area dean (“Apgabala prāveste”) have focused largely on issues around the relationship of our wider church outside Latvia to the Lutheran church in Latvia. The meeting of the council of our church held in Riga last summer before the Song festival, helped put the work of our church worldwide in context.

Clergy are also expected to take part in meetings with their colleagues. I was able to attend almost all meetings of the Toronto Central Ministry Area clergy group over the last year. This is a rich meeting place. As far as possible, I also attended meetings of the “Churches on the Hill” clergy group.

My vacation time in Latvia at the end of last year provided a wonderful opportunity to renew friendships with colleagues and others in Latvia. They were unanimous in the support for a possible future initiative for our congregation in Latvia “Hand in Hand”. This would be a way of providing our recent retirees an opportunity to engage in a short-term, mini “Habitat for Humanity” type project in Latvia. Work is in progress on creating a working group to make this happen. Sincere thanks to our “Aid to Latvia” group for their agreement to add this to their list of commitments. More information to follow!

COMING UP:

Everyone is warmly invited to help celebrate our congregation’s 70th anniversary on March 31. More information is in this newsletter.

Mid-day reflections in Lent will be led jointly with Rev. Ģ. Grietiņš. These are being designed to provide an opportunity to “switch off” from everyday concerns and pressures and hear what Jesus means when he says: “I am...”.

Reaching a certain age means that questions start being raised: what are our pastor’s future plans? My answer: with your blessing I will continue to serve you until God lets me understand, either directly, or through you, that the time has come to conclude this time of ministry.

With deepest thanks to every one of you, for your trust and support for me and the congregation in this past year.

Mācītāja Ilze

SIDRABENE'S MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE **"PĀRVALDE" 2018**

The celebration of Sidrabene's 65th anniversary year began with the opening social on May 26th. The highlight of the day was the planting of an oak tree in Sidrabene to commemorate Latvia's 100 years of nationhood. Latvia's ambassador to Canada, Kārlis Eihenbaums, was invited to participate in this special event and assisted Pastor Ilze Kuplēns-Ewart and Valdis Kauliņš in the planting and the dedication of the plaque explaining the significance of the oak tree. Skaidrīte Leja and Andrejs Grīnbergs had prepared the planting site, which is next to the memorial bench for Pauls Plīsis. It was a fitting start to Sidrabene's 65th season.

The crowds were smaller during the "Jāņi" celebrations June 23rd because of the rainy weather and the fact that about 20% of Sidrabeners had already gone to Latvia to celebrate the Song Festival. The "Līgo" programme led by Sandra Maia Ūze and Helena Gintere with local singers and musicians was very festive and entertaining in the "Sidrabkalns" large hall where dancing continued until 1:00 am.

During the summer the well attended social activities at Sidrabene included: bocce ball tournaments; camp activities and "Sid svētki" July 28th with a joint 65th anniversary campfire including performances from campers and singing of well loved latvian songs from a booklet compiled especially for the occasion and led by guitarists Alberts Vītols and Andris Rubenis; Irish night August 11th with Ronnie McEwan. Sidrabene's season closing social September 15th concluded the 65th anniversary celebrations with the official opening of the J. Eglītis memorial pavilion, dinner, the folklore ensemble "Skanda" performing and "Maximum 60" band playing dance music. Two weeks later the German orchestra "Tourchester" from Munich presented an Oktoberfest program. It was a great way to end the summer season.

The yearly lottery in 2018 offered three prizes – 20% , 10% and 5% of the proceeds. 442 tickets were sold for an income of \$2,235. After paying

out a total of \$631 for the three prizes plus other expenses Sidrabene earned a profit of \$1,172.81 from the lottery. The total profit from social events was \$6,230.39, including – "Jāņi" (\$5,471.71), Season Opening (\$257.38) and Season Closing (\$425.07).

Thanks to property manager Andrejs Grīnbergs who was always present to help out and make these events a success. Many thanks to all those who participated at the spring (May 5th) and fall (Nov. 10th) work bees. Thanks to Imants and Maureen Kivlis for helping with all the Sidrabene summer and monthly Sunday church services.

Thanks to Ingrida Grants for managing the Sidkafe last summer. Unfortunately, Ingrida will be unable to manage the kafe again this summer. As of this writing, there is no one yet to run Sidkafe. Hopefully a congregation member may want to step up and manage Sidkafe or perhaps they know a family member or a friend who would like to share their culinary skills and enjoy the experience, especially as Sidrabene will hold "Jāņi" on June 29th in order to allow the performers who are coming to the Latvian Song Festival in Toronto (July 4 -7) to be part of the festivities.

Sidrabene's "pārvalde" would like to thank the church council for the repairs that have been done to improve Sidrabkalns. The upgrades to the floors and new paint in the dining hall and also the handicap ramp have made a huge positive difference.

Sidrabene's AGM was held on March 4th and "pārvalde" held 6 meetings last year and one combined meeting with the church council. Thanks to the "pārvalde" members – Andris Paukšēns, Ivars Jēgeris, Linda Lakats, Marty Skuja, Valdis Korbs, Bob Van Den Enden, Norrie Hasspieler, Mārtiņš Mežulis, Krissy Pavelson, Valdis Kauliņš, Rita Āpše and Voldemārs Innus.

Valdis Kauliņš, Sidrabene's "pārvalde" chair

ADDITIONAL NEWS FROM SIDRABENE'S TREASURER:

1. MAJOR PLANNED PROJECTS COMPLETED in 2018:

- Sidkafe awning (full cost \$13,811.99 but \$5,766.23 covered from past donations), so total cost to Sidrabene \$8,045.76)
- Sidkafe fridge replaced (\$2,711.99)
- Purchased kitchen cabinets for Manager's house (\$6,304.09)

2. UNEXPECTED PROJECTS:

- In late summer it became clear that the Manager's house water supply was tainted because it came from a well. We learned that the whole area around Sidrabene has well water problems. After investigating several options, "Pārvalde" decided to use the same water treatment company to install and monitor the Manager's house water treatment. The cost totaled \$8,699.83 but we are now assured of a safe water supply there as well.
- Around \$1,500 was invested in Sidkafe to improve storage, catering supplies and dishes.

3. SIDRABENE'S RENTAL INCOME total was \$115,216 (including \$12,000 from church):

- Halton Region School Board (Bronte Creek Project) – September to June – (income \$54,500)
- Sidkafe rentals (\$5,021) included 3 weeks "health & wellness" camp for teenage girls, Kristus Dārzs planning day, local church planning day, several family parties, etc.
- Youth & Social Organizations (total \$36,530) – includes 7 guides, 5 scouts groups, army cadets retreat, Halton Youth Orchestra weekend retreat, German Lutheran Church picnic, Spanish church retreat, Redeemer Bible Church sleepover camp, girls' weekend retreat, and several Kids4Kids camps and activities (\$18,260).
- Private & Outdoor Rentals (total \$5,780): includes 4 weddings, several family, birthday and holiday celebrations, men's night campfires, and outdoor photoshoot.
- Latvian Organizations (\$3,240 including 3-week Camp Sidrabene), although some recorded in other categories.
- Tents & Overnights stays (\$1,145) including some wedding guests.

Rita Āpše

SIDRABENE 2019

Sidrabene is billeting a Latvian choir "Lōja" from Salaspils from June 27 to July 10. The choir has about 34 members who will be staying in "Ķemeri" and "Cāļu kalns". Volunteers will be needed to help transfer the choir on June 27 from Hamilton airport to Sidrabene. In the past Sidrabeners have been very hospitable and welcoming to visiting groups and are proud and grateful that a place like Sidrabene exists allowing us to share it and welcome guests.

We will be celebrating "Jāņi" on June 29th to dovetail with XV Latvian Song Festival (July 4 – 7) allowing us to enjoy the participation of several choirs and dance ensembles as part of the program.

SIDRABENE'S SOCIAL DATES 2019

Only social activities with set dates are listed below. Others will be announced when dates are known.

- March 3 – Sidrabene AGM
- May 4 – 9:00 am - 4:00 pm Sidrabene's spring work bee
- May 25 – Bocce tournament
- June 1 – Sidrabene's Season Opening social including lottery draw
- June 15 – 9:00 am - 4:00 pm Joint Sid Camp and "Jāņi" preparation work bee
- June 29 – "Jāņi" celebration
- July 14 – August 4 Latvian camp
- July 28 – "Sid Svētki"
- Nov. 9 – 9:00 am - 4:00 pm Sidrabene's fall work bee

Daily Parking pass cost for 2019 remains \$10, and season pass \$60, but a discount will be offered at the Church AGM and Sidrabene AGM where they will sell for \$50.

**SIDRABENE COTTAGES FOR SALE:
Lot #10 – Karina Mieriņš / Lot #70 (on the hill) –
Valija Ūdris / Lot #62 Linda & Ed Lakats**

SIDRABENE LOTTERY TICKETS

are included with the mailing of this newsletter. The 2019 Sidrabene Lottery tickets are being sent to you earlier because

the only prize is 6 tickets to events of the XV Latvian Song Festival (July 4 – 7, 2019):
2 tickets each for the Mass Choir Concert, the Festival Ball and the Folk Dance Spectacle.
The lottery ticket price this year is:

1 ticket for \$20, or 3 tickets for \$50.

We are enclosing 3 tickets with an addressed return mailing envelope.

Additional tickets are available from Rita Āpše
phone: 905-271-9875, e-mail:
ritaapse@gmail.com.

The prize draw will take place at Sidrabene's Season Opening social – June 1st, 2019.

Unfortunately these details were unavailable before the tickets had to be printed.

The proceeds will go towards Sidrabene's costs of hosting the choir "Lōja" from Salaspils, Latvia (from June 27th until July 10th) as well as feeding choirs and dance groups from Latvia who will perform

at Sidrabene's "Jāņi" celebration on June 29th, and possibly giving them some honorarium.

Thank you for supporting Sidrabene again this year!

Sidrabene's "pārvalde"

**SIDRABENE'S "PĀRVALDE"
IS INVITING APPLICATIONS FOR
SIDRABENE'S KAFE MANAGER/CHEF**

for summer weekends of 2019
from May17 to Sept. 2

from Friday evening until Sunday afternoon or
Monday long weekends

Operating times and days may be extended /
changed

(Overnight accomodation available)

Please contact Valdis Kauliņš: 905-472-2919 or
kaulins2919@rogers.com

CAMP SIDRABENE 2018
(JULY 15 – AUGUST 5, 2018)

"Sidrabenē mums labi klājas!"

Camp during the summer of 2018 was especially busy and memorable. This year we celebrated both Sid 65, marking 65 years of Camp Sidrabene and Latvija100. The summer was full of fun, festivities, friendships and lifelong memories. An excited group of campers both old and new joined our enthusiastic staff team to enjoy 3 glorious weeks. This year it is especially exceptional that we had a full house in "Cāļu Kalns" ensuring a new generation of campers starting to make memories.

Weekly attendance levels in 2018 were consistent with the previous year, with continued growth in the under 8 yrs old category. A total of 34 campers attended this summer, with over half spending all 3 weeks with us. This year we welcomed 3 new families with 6 first-time campers. Our lone CIT, Breanna Jēgeris, completed the program with distinction. We look forward to welcoming her to the staffing ranks next summer.

The staff worked diligently to provide an exciting and interesting program with a long list of fun, time-honoured and innovative activities for the kids. Here are some highlights:

- An exciting trip to Binbrook Conservation Area for a day of swimming and water park activities at the beautiful site. After lunch on the beach, the more adventurous were able to show off their skills wakeboarding before returning to camp exhausted and happy;
- "Meža diena" that included fishing, compass skills and an evening bonfire;
- Sid Kid "Sacīkstes": a week of activities, competitions, challenges and games where teams of campers collected points to see which team came out on top!
- "Sid Svētki": two days of activities, celebrations, friendship and yummy food!
 - On Saturday, Camp Sidrabene's 65th birthday with a pool party, birthday cake, and ending with a bonfire with campers, friends, congregation members and guests who sang late into the night enjoying the beautiful evening.
 - On Sunday, everyone joined in a morning church service, then a spectacular performance by the campers, followed by a BBQ lunch on the basketball court. With full stomachs, the fun continued with sports activities with the help of LSAK, and an exciting race of miniature ducks in the river!
- Last day: campers and staff invited family and friends for a final brunch together before church and the closing ceremony. The summer ended with the annual 'group hug' to keep campers, counsellors and staff warm until next summer.

Our 2018 staff were: Kurtis Grietiņš (program director); Mārtiņš Vikse with Misa Faryova, Zlata Huska, Emīls Zāmurs, Anna Tauriņš and Andrew Russel in the kitchen; Jessica Lakats, Kristin Lakats and Natālija Vāgners (lifeguard) in the girls' end; Ēriks Kalniņš and Evan Thomas in the boys' end; and Ilze Vikse with Elza Alberiņa and Dana Grietiņš with the littlest campers. Mācītāja Ilze provided oversight and spiritual guidance, while the administrative and supervisory team of Linda Lakats, Rob Van Den Eenden, Sandra Thiele and Elmārs Bērziņš worked alongside to ensure everything ran smoothly.

The camp committee would also like to extend a special thanks to all staff, Mācītāja Ilze, Sidrabene's "Pārvalde", Pēteris Zariņš and LSAK, parents, grandparents and volunteers for their help in making the summer so memorable.

Sidrabene Camp committee members are volunteers, the majority of whom are parents of campers, who work for the betterment of our beloved camp. New participants are always welcome. We invite families with young children to begin working with camp already this season to enable us to shape our beloved camp's future together. There were 7 camp committee meetings held in 2018.

Current members are: Devin Dzelme, Zlata Huska, Ivars Jēgeris, Sandra Kalniņš, Linda Lakats, Ieva & Pēteris Puķītis, Anita Thomas, Inga Untiks, Linda & Rob Van Den Eenden, and Lara Zentiņš, with Imants Kivlis as advisor and Elmārs Bērziņš as the treasurer and church executive liaison. Youth forum members are Dana Grietiņš, Ēriks Kalniņš, Jessica Lakats, Kristin Lakats and Natālija Vāgners.

Now and in the future, our goal is to ensure that families have access to a safe haven where parents can send their children during the summer to enjoy camp in a Latvian Christian environment and be amongst friends. We are all aware that we need to work together for SIDRABENE. With caring and co operation we can achieve much. Let us support one another in this effort, as in the end we are all 'Sidrabenesi', campers, church members and Latvians and our children are the future.

CAMP DATES 2019:

Due to the song festival in Toronto in July 2019, camp will operate for only 3 weeks this summer.

- **Camp starts Sunday July 14th. Campers move in starting at 12 noon with a family BBQ from 12:30 until 1:30pm, followed by a church service at 2pm and camp opening at the flagpole immediately afterwards.**
- **Camp ends Sunday August 4th with a family brunch from 9:45 until 10:45am, church service at 11am, followed by camp closing at the flagpole immediately afterwards.**

The **CAMP WORK BEE** will be **Sat. June 15th**, please come!

We extend a warm invitation to all to come join us for **'SID SVĒTKI' – Sunday July 28th, 2019.**

Recruitment for 2019 camp staff has begun. Help is especially needed in the kitchen, First Aid and in the Children's Lodge. Parents and adults are invited to share their special gift or talent – offers of service are welcome. We are open to any cooperative suggestion. Inquiries and applications can be sent to our new camp email address: **sidrabenesnometne@gmail.com**

We're looking forward to seeing you!

DON'T FORGET, CAMP SIDRABENE 2019 STARTS JULY 14TH!

Let the countdown begin!

AID TO LATVIA COMMITTEE

For many years, the "Aid to Latvia Committee" has been sending much-needed assistance to our three impoverished rural "sister congregations" in Latvia. This Christmas these congregations have already received 67 baskets (@\$60 each) for pensioners and families in need. The soup kitchen in Riga has also received support donations (\$2400 – 3 x \$800 for the month of December) and will receive more this coming January.

Our main fundraising is at the Christmas eve service and the Mother's day "Beautiful Breakfast" that we organize each year. We will be announcing our other upcoming fundraising events in the new year – two concerts with the vocal ensemble "Klaritas" and the Hamilton's men's choir on May 4th & 5th weekend and a tentative film evening at the Latvian Cultural Centre. We look forward to seeing you at our events and appreciate your generous support. **On that note, be as generous as you can.**

Jānis Tannis

“OUT OF THE COLD” 2018

On January 20th 2018 we had the privilege to look after the most needy portion of our community in Toronto. It took many hands to accomplish this with the help of our congregation's first home, the old First Lutheran German church on Bond St. Many thanks to the confirmation group and their parents in assisting. The coffee table they organized one Sunday after worship raised over \$400 dollars for "Out of the Cold". That money was used to cover the cost of hats and a few other items. So thank you to everyone who donated either time, money or goods. Hopefully we were able to at least touch the 140 to 150 people to whom we were able to provide some food, toiletries and goodies. This opportunity to give back to our larger community is important to us not only as a Christian church but also as good stewards of this world we live in. I think everyone participating felt their sincere thanks and the presence of the Lord in them. Thank you to everyone who helped in their own way.

Imants Kivlis

NOVĒLĒJUMI / ZIEDOJUMI

2018. gadā draudze ir saņēmusi testamentārus novēlējumus no mūžībā aizgājušiem draudzes locekļiem:

VISVALŽA BRUMEĻA, APOLONIJAS VETERES, MIRDZAS PĒTERSONES un ģipi nozīmīgu summu no MIRDZAS ZEMĪTES.

Saņemts ziedojums no Astrīdas Rapas viņas vīra ARVĪDA RAPAS piemiņai, kā arī saņemti ģimenes locekļu un draugu ziedojumi draudzei vai Sidrabenei:

Ilzes BRUNIŅAS, Zigrīdas un Alfona KALNU, Māras KŪLNIECES, Laimdotas PAUKŠĒNAS, Jāņa SKUJAS, Mariannas ŠTEINMANES, un Lilitas VAĻUKAS piemiņai bērū gadījumā.

LIELS PALDIES VISIEM DEVĪGAJIEM ZIEDOTĀJIEM, KAS ŠĀDĀ VEIDĀ IR ATBALSTĪJUŠI DRAUDZI!



VELTĪJUMS GAVĒŅA LAIKAM: PĀRDOMAS, PĀRRUNAS, PUSDIENAS – TREŠDIENĀS

Gavēņa laikā ļausim, lai Jēzus uz mums runā ar vārdiem, ko viņš Jāņa evaņģelijā saka par sevi: **ES ESMU: “Pasaules gaisma”, “Dzīvības Maize”, “Vīna koks”, “Labais Gans”, “Ceļš, patiesība, dzīvība”**. Atsauksimies šiem ietilpīgajiem tēliem ar savām izjūtām, lūgšanām, jautājumiem un piedzīvosim Jēzus klātieni mūsu sadraudzībā un kopīgā maltītē (pateicoties Sv. Jāņa un Sv. Andreja draudžu dāmu komitejām).

11:30 Kontemplatīva meditācija.

(vada prāv. Ilze Kuplēna-Ewart)

12:00 Pārdomas, jautājumi, dalīšanās pieredzē.

(vada māc. Ģirts Grietiņš un prāv. Ilze Kuplēna-Ewart)

13:00 Sadraudzība pie zupas pusdienām

KO NOZĪMĒ “KONTEMPLATĪVĀ MEDITĀCIJA”, KO TAJĀ DARĪSIM?

Ikdienā mēdzam apkraut sevi ar pienākumiem, darbiņiem, domām, blakus trokšņiem. Ar to it kā ietinam savu dvēseli vatē.

Kā lai paspējam sadzirdēt Dievu ar šādu dzīves ieradumu?

Nesam nekāds izņēmums. Praviētis Ēlija, bēgot no milzīgām nepatīkšanām, gaidīja uz kādu zīmi no Dieva, lai zinātu, kā tālāk rīkoties. Sanācā, ka Dievs nebija ne lielā, stiprā vējā, ne zemestrīcē, ne uguns liesmās, bet “klusā, čukstošā balsī”.

(1. Kēniņu 19:9-12)

Lai labāk spētu dziļi ieklausīties šajā “klusajā, čukstošajā balsī”, tas ir, ar dvēseli, ne tikai ar smadzenēm, - būs iespēja pirms pārdomām 30 minūtes mierīgi sagatavoties.

¥ Iesāksim ar pāris vienkāršām kustībām, lai atslābinātu stīvās locītavas.
¥ Pavadīsim kādas minūtes klusējot, fokusējot uz elpu kā Dieva elpas dāvanu, no kā nāk mūsu dzīvība.
¥ Klusībā iedziļināsimies fragmentā no tās dienas teksta.
¥ Noslēgsim ar īsu pateicības lūgšanu.
Pēc tam, turpināsim ar kopīgām pārdomām un pārrunām.

*Draudžu mācītāji:
Ilze Kuplēna-Ewart un Ģirts Grietiņš*

KALENDĀRS:

13. martā – “Pasaules gaismā”:

Kādēļ “ES ESMU”?
Kā Dieva gaismā mūs sasniedz? Ko nozīmē ieraudzīt Dieva gaismu mūsdienu pasaulē?
Kā Jēzus gaismu nest tālāk?

20. martā – “Dzīvības maize”:

Kas uztur mūsu dvēseli?
Kādas ir mūsu dziļākās slāpes un izsalkums?
Kā varam pabarot sevi un citus?
Kāda būtu garīgās barības diēta?

27. martā – “Vīna koks”:

Jēzus vīns kā jauns piepildījums.
Koki Bībelē. Kādā veidā esam zari pie Jēzus koka?
Kādus augļus sagaidām?

3. aprīlī – “Labais gans”: (“Durvis pie avīm”)

Kā Dievs mani gana, rāda ceļu, vada?
Ko dara Dievs un kas jādara man?
Kā Jēzus mani atrod, atgriež, sargā, glābj?

10. aprīlī – “Ceļš, patiesība un dzīvība”:

(“Augšāmcelšanās un dzīvība”) Kādi ir garīgie ceļi, tradīcijas un reliģijas mūsdienu pasaulē?
Kā pretoties meliem un atklāt patiesību?
Kā piedzīvot un uzturēt īstu dzīvību?

SV. ANDREJA EV. LUT. LATVIEŠU DRAUDZES 70 GADU JUBILEJAS SVINĪBAS

Svētdien, 2019. gada 31. martā
Sv. Jāņa baznīcā
200 Balmoral Avenue

11:00 MŪZIKĀLS PATEICĪBAS
DIEVKALPOJUMS

**Sekos saviesīga pēcpusdiena
lejas zālē ar mielastu**

Lūdzam pieteikties uz mielastu līdz
25. martam draudzes birojā, zvanot:
416-924-1563 vai pa e-pastu:
admin@standrewslatvian.org

**VISI LAIPNI AICINĀTI PIEDALĪTIES
SVINĪBĀS!**

ST. ANDREW'S LUTHERAN LATVIAN CONGREGATION'S 70TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

Sunday, March 31, 2019
St. John's Latvian Lutheran Church
200 Balmoral Avenue

11:00 am SERVICE of THANKSGIVING
in BOTH LANGUAGES

Followed by FESTIVITIES in the church hall
with LUNCH

Please RSVP by March 25th
Church office: 416-924-1563 / e-mail:
admin@standrewslatvian.org

**EVERYONE IS KINDLY INVITED TO JOIN IN
THE CELEBRATIONS!**