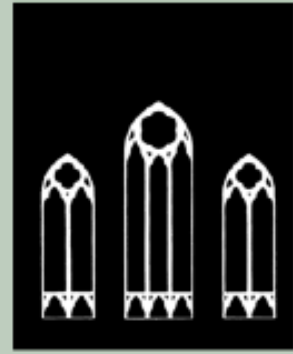


St. Andrew's Ev. Luth. Latvian
Sv. Andreja ev. lut. latviešu

Church newsletter Draudzes ziņas



#185



DRAUDZES PILNSAPULCE 2017. GADA 26. FEBRUĀRĪ

2017 AGM FEBRUARY 26

DARBA KĀRTĪBA:

1. Pilnsapulces atklāšana
2. Balsu skaitītāju vēlēšanas
3. Darba kārtības pieņemšana
4. 2016. gada pilnsapulces protokola pieņemšana
5. Rezolūcijas:
 - 1) Draudzes padomes locekļu skaits (pirmais lasījums)
6. Ziņojumi:
 - 1) Mācītāja
 - 2) Padomes priekšsēdis
 - 3) Kasieris
 - 4) Komitejas
 - 5) Revīzijas komisija
 - 6) Ziņojumu pieņemšana
7. 2017. 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 2016 AGM Minutes
5. Resolutions:
 - 1) Governing Council constituent number change (First reading)
6. Reports :
 - 1) Pastor
 - 2) Council Chair
 - 3) Treasurer
 - 4) Committees
 - 5) Supervisory Committee
 - 6) Approval of Reports
7. 2017 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 satvērsmē.

Please note that only congregation members in good standing are entitled to vote on the motions before the AGM.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
St. Andrew's Evangelical Lutheran
Latvian Congregation
St. John's Church
200 Balmoral Avenue
Sunday April 10th, 2016 at 1:00 pm

AGENDA

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Election of Vote Counters
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Approval of 2015 AGM Minutes
5. Reports:
 - 1) Pastor
 - 2) Council Chair
 - 3) Treasurer
 - 4) Committees
 - 5) Auditing Committee
 - 6) Approval of Reports
6. 2016 Budget
7. Election of new Council and Auditing Committee
8. Suggestions for future activities
9. Other business
10. Closing of the Meeting

1. OPENING OF MEETING by Council Chair **Voldemārs Innus** at 1:10 pm. Quorum is achieved with 63 members registered, as the minimum requirement is 50. **Voldemārs Innus** thanks members for attending and invites **Pastor Ilze Kuplēns-Ewart** to open the meeting. **Pastor Ilze Kuplēns-Ewart** leads the congregation in prayer, praying for God to lead, protect and unite us.

2. ELECTION OF VOTE COUNTERS: **Līga Miklašēvics** and **Jane Budrēvics** are elected as vote counters by unanimous acclamation.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Move to approve agenda as amended by **Ēriks Kleperis**, seconded by **Rita Āpše**. Members vote with a show of hands. **Carried.**

Anda Liberis notes that in the English version of the agenda circulated, in item 5. Reports and item 7. Elections, there is reference to the Supervisory

Committee. This should be accurately changed and referred to as Auditing Committee. With that also, in last year's meeting the agenda we approved also had Supervisory Committee instead of Auditing Committee, and this change was not noted for the 2016 agenda. Correct this year's agenda and note that from here on in this will be known as the Auditing Committee, but last year's minutes remain as they are. There are no objections to this clarification and amendment.

4. APPROVAL OF 2015 AGM MINUTES:

Arnīs Budrēvics reviewed some suggested corrections and clarifications to be made to the 2015 AGM Minutes – see Appendix A.

Rita Āpše indicates that amendment required on Agenda Item 5.4. Committee Reports (iv) Sidrabene, regarding planning events in Sidrabene and donations, and the correct people to contact for information. Also, in the minutes regarding the Sidrabene seasonal parking passes, the fee should be accurately noted as \$35, not \$30. See Appendix A for the entirety of this change.

Velta Zvīdris requests a clarification on Page 7, item 7. Supervisory Committee states **Velta Zvīdris** and **Valda Gustavs** have completed terms. In fact this is a completion of an additional year of **Velta Zvīdris** term, and we thank her for this additional year. This should be noted in the minutes.

Guntis Bērziņš requests that any reference to ACS accounting system in the 2015 minutes include the full spelling of the acronym. At the meeting **Arnīs Budrēvics** explains that ACS is the branded system for the church management system by ACS Technologies. After the meeting it is notified that ACS stands for Automated Church Services, although throughout their website they are branded as simply ACS. This clarification will be added to the minutes.

There are no objections to any of the suggested amendments. **Arnīs Budrēvics** moves to approve

minutes as amended, seconded by **Alfons Kalns**. Members vote with a show of hands. **Carried.**

5. REPORTS:

5.1) Pastor's report:

(submitted in writing, see Appendix B)

Pastor Ilze Kuplēns-Ewart begins by thanking **all** who played a role in the past year in advancing our goal of selling our Church, and transitioning to our new church home at St. John's Church. Her report was submitted to all in writing prior to the meeting. At this point she asks for any questions of clarification for what was in the report. Seeing none, all applaud her great job!

5.2) Council Chair's report:

Voldemārs Innus gives a brief overview of the Council work that went into the sale of the church and the relocation to the new church. It started with investigating the possible sale of our church, involving four congregations and the Synod. These discussions took a year and a half for all parties to agree on how to proceed. Then a lot of work took place to agree on an implementation plan. Another enormous task was to take an inventory of all the materials in our old church. Thank you to everyone who participated in that task. Then we all had to handle the psychological transition as we moved from St. Andrew's church to St. John's church. This was only accomplished with everyone's mutual support. As we move into our new home we were faced with a very big task of preparing the physical spaces for us to move into, for example, the new office for our administrative operations. Thank you to **Agris Robežnieks, Jānis Tannis, Sarma Gaide, Arnis Budrēvics** and **Skaidrīte Leja** who spent a lot of time designing a suitable space. Thank you to **Sarma Gaide** and **Skaidrīte Leja** for preparing all the communications and updates to the congregation members. Also thank you to **Skaidrīte Leja** for coordinating such a wonderful commemorative video project. Through it all, **Gundega Melli** kept all our meeting minutes and notes on track so a thank you is due to her as well. **Arnis Budrēvics** and the Audit Committee, **Elmārs Bērziņš, Pēteris Vilks** and **Pēteris Brīviņš**

are thanked for their financial tracking and guidance through the whole process. The finance and audit committee worked well hand in hand and we are well prepared for the future. With respect to our new home in St. John's church, the Chair of their Council, **Kārlis Jansons**, was very forthcoming and while there was some friction the two Council's worked openly and honestly to find ways to address the issues and find solutions. The meeting participants applaud when the Chair thanks our **Pastor Ilze Kuplēns-Ewart**, and **Voldemārs Innus** also thanks his wife **Rudīte** for all her support and understanding over the past three years.

The Council has also been planning for the future. They have reviewed and approved **Pastor Ilze Kuplēns-Ewart's** sabbatical.

We also have a strong team comprised of **Ivars Grimba, Arnis Budrēvics, Andris Stārasts, Auseklis Zaķis** and **Voldemārs Innus** researching the best way to use the resources secured from the sale of the church. As information is reviewed it will be shared with the congregation.

We are grateful for the relationship we have with ELCIC, and the extraordinarily positive **Bishop Michael Pryse**. Graciously the synod and its Council struck a certain requirement, so that we could retain all the proceeds from the sale of the church.

The video project is almost complete but still needs a bit more work.

Voldemārs Innus asked for questions. Seeing none, the members applaud the Council Chair at the end of his report.

5.3) Treasurer's Report: Arnis Budrēvics

begins by thanking **Sarma Gaide** and **Ingrīda Vairogs** for their hard work and support, as well as his wife **Jane**. The complete Treasurer's report shared with the members at the meeting can be found in Appendix C.

2015 Year in Review – Balance Sheet, is meant to be an overview. **Arnis Budrēvics** encourages questions from the membership during the presentation. The total on the 2015 Balance Sheet as of December 15, 2015 is \$3,635,724.

Balance sheet comparison 2014-2015: This slide shows changes in current assets, due to the sale of the church. The money is in investments – three separate GIC’s with TD Wealth (being managed by **Andris Stārasts** and the Investment Committee). St. Andrew’s also owns 31 urn spaces at York Cemetery. This is now properly recorded as other assets. These are available for purchase (\$1,500 a pair), which may be wise for all of us to incorporate in our final life planning. More information about the purchase of an urn space can be received from **Sarma Gaide** in the office. Program assets and fixed assets haven’t changed, but the total assets have changed because of the sale of the church.

Revenues and Expenses: Charts showing percentages are projected onto the screen to illustrate the following: Chart #1 - 2015 Summary of Revenue (84% of income of \$194,209.90 is from tax receipted gifts, 4% from non-tax receipt collections, 1% from bank interest, and 11% from rental income. Note that in the future we won’t have the same rental income as we had at the old church.

At the 2015 AGM our congregation approved a working expense budget of \$25,000 a month (\$300,000 per year), plus transitional costs of moving. **Arnis Budrēvics** outlines the details of the \$59,014.59 transition costs, including garbage removal, moving costs, moving piano costs, shipping costs, mail forwarding, new office design, ¾ of the 2015 year cost sharing with St. John’s, legal fees for sale of church. There is some income to offset these expenses which are proceeds from online auction and sale of furniture. The cost of the transition should go against the cost of the church and thus be reflected directly onto the balance sheet. Chart #2 - 2015 Summary of Expenses (\$298,033.02) – excluding transition costs – expenses did stay within the budget set last year. The majority, 53%, is spent towards worship, pastoral care, community outreach, education and faith development, evangelism and fellowship, and 16% is administrative costs. Other smaller percentages are also listed on the slides. **Arnis Budrēvics** calls for questions. **Ināra Ezers**

accurately points out that the graphic shown includes transition costs, when the title notes ‘excludes transition costs’. **Arnis Budrēvics** will fix this error on the final slides that will be appended to the minutes. **Auseklis Zaķis** asks about real estate costs in the transition costs. **Arnis Budrēvics** responds that in our situation we didn’t have real estate costs. **Anda Liberis** raises that there has been no mention of the webpage costs and where those are included. After the meeting **Arnis Budrēvics** clarifies that in 2015 \$4,118.85 was spent on creating the new website. These costs were included in two accounts - General Office Expenses + Telephone & Internet. No further costs are foreseen for this item but it will be tracked separately in the future if required. **Arnis Budrēvics** welcomes everyone’s input as with every year more detail is included in the budget. Members applaud the Treasurer at the end of his report.

5.4) Committee Reports (sent out in advance).

(i) **Ladies’ Auxiliary:** **Inta Briedis** thanks everyone who assists with their time and generous donations, it is much appreciated. However, they require assistance on a regular basis, especially Sundays at the coffee hour. Donations for altar flowers are also very appreciated, in celebration or commemoration of loved ones. Inta Briedis circulates a calendar to invite everyone to sign up, and reminds that gentlemen are also welcome! The calendar will also be on the news bulletin board.

(ii) **Music Committee:** **Dāvids Šmits** reports on the following: (a) Music is important to all of us and is an important part of who we are and our services. The following are thanked: **Vaira Gertners** has been a big help organizing music and musicians. **Skaņu Ritenis** has been very active helping with the Sidrabene services, which are growing and take a different format. **Maria Thorburn, Alistair Thorburn-Vitols** and **Alberts Vītols**, have been helpful over the last year and at the Christmas service, and will help at Sidrabene. (b) Regarding the Choir, several singers transitioned to St. John’s choir, and we acknowledge that there is a joint choir to some

degree, but this does not necessarily serve our vision and needs. We need to focus our vision for music in the direction we want to worship. Some have expressed desire to form a group and sing in St. Andrew's church. If you would be interested, reach out to **Dāvids Šmits** or **Vaira Gertners**. The ensemble they are considering would be ad-hoc, not a weekly commitment, but would contribute as much as all are able at various services throughout the year. (c) It is apparent that the sound system at St. John's is not the same as we had become accustomed to in our previous church, where we had received government funding to address the hard of hearing. We should look into options for offering some hearing assistive devices in this church, possibly a portable device, and also recording services. This new space doesn't allow for good recording of spoken word and music. (d) The upstairs hall and outdoor church in Sidrabene need something more permanent that requires minimal set up. This is being looked at right now. The old upright piano has been moved to Sidrabene. (e) Concerts of the past year included the old St. Andrew's church 100th Anniversary concert, we also hosted **Arturs Ozoliņš**. Arturs also expressed a desire to do a dual piano concert with **Ruta Vaivode** and **Pēteris Zariņš**. (f) Discussions about new visionary ideas, to provide space in Sidrabene to accommodate concerts and summer music festivals. It would be great to be able to host a summer music series. The piano that is currently in Sidrabene will be used this summer at the "Te nu mēs esam" show. (g) **Dāvids Šmits** asks for ideas, suggestions or music requests. **Pēteris Kusmanis** thanks Dāvids for all his work, and as it is recorded in the *Draudzes Ziņas* Newsletter, Dāvids has tuned the organ in the sanctuary to a standard we've been accustomed to. All applaud Dāvids and encourage him to keep up the great work and commitment. **Anita Bredovskis** asks if someone will be maintaining the piano in Sidrabene. Dāvids responds that it will be moved down to the main hall, and a cabinet will be made for it so it can be locked away and minimal heat provided in the winter.

(iii) **Aid to Latvia: Anete Ivsinš** provides a report. In January the committee organized a film screening at the Alliance Francais for the movie *Ručs un Norie*, alongside **Zīle Liepiņš**' photo exhibition. Anete shares a bit about the history of the committee that started in the late 1980's and the original committee members were **Astrīda Liepiņš, Valda Zobens, Balva Kūla-Bredovskis, Eduards Puķītis**. We have sister congregations in Durbe, Daudzeva, Zemīte and *Lutera draudze* (Luther congregation) in Liepāja; later also began aid to *Zvannieki* home and the Soup Kitchen in Rīga. Many years have passed and we continue to prepare the Christmas baskets. We know these are still valued as we received a lovely letter from Zemīte that reiterated that what were doing and providing is good and we need to continue. Activities of 2015 included: Providing walkers and wheelchairs from *Kristus Dārzs*, with a special thanks to **Lauma Stikuts**; Providing to the Soup Kitchen in Rīga, with a special thanks to **Mona and Ēriks Kleperis** who give \$1000 at Christmas to the Soup Kitchen; providing Christmas baskets to sister congregations in Latvia; sending children from Zemīte's and Durbe's congregations to summer church camp; and providing donations and support to the *Zvannieki* home, with special thanks to **Solveiga and Zigis Miežītis family** for their donations in memory of Solveiga. Anete explains that the committee receives donations, but also organizes fundraising events. Events are open to both congregations, for all ages. The most recent event, the film screening, had great attendance and raised over \$3,000. Thanks to the main organizers **Indra Liepiņš** and **Alise Rozinska**. Anete invites members to attend the *Family Day Brunch* on May 8th. The AGM participants enjoyed a song performance by **Ērika Yost** and **Andris Rubenis** that explains the work of *Palīdzība Latvijai* (Aid to Latvia) committee.

(iv) **Sidrabene: Valdis Kauliņš** (a) thanks all who donated books for the May 7th book fair. Everyone can donate more books to church office or to Sidrabene. The book fair has made a lot of money, and receives lots of drive by traffic on Appleby Line. May 7th will also be the Sidrabene Spring

clean up. **Laila Moore and Rudīte Innus** will organize the tasks and groups and Valdis invites all to come with tools. A warm breakfast and lunch will be served. (b) *Sidrabene's pārvalde* (Sidrabene's Management committee) was hoping this AGM meeting would take place at Sidrabene, and welcomes the opportunity in the future, so all can see what has changed and is new. (c) Grateful to **Dāvids Šmits** for mentioning Sidrabene in the music presentation, as this is an area of growing in importance. (d) It is also important that *Sidrabene's pārvalde* has a close working relationship with the Church Council. The two Boards hope to have a joint meeting in the spring in Sidrabene to discuss how Sidrabene can be better used for the congregation members. The *Sidrabene's pārvalde* encourages people to go and enjoy Sidrabene. (e) June 4th is Sidrabene's opening event. **Pēteris Zariņš** will help host a Spanish afternoon with musical performances and Spanish food. (f) June 25th Sidrabene's **Jāni**, **Lolita Ritmanis** offered to put on a presentation of a musical "*Te nu mēs esam*". Lolita Ritmanis leads a talented group of 13-15 people from California. The previous day the show will be performed at the Latvian Centre in Toronto. Tickets will be advertised through the Church newsletter. The group will also participate in the *Jāni* evening program. (g) July 1st Canada Day – two members from "*Lauku Muzikanti*" will be performing in Sidrabene on the Friday night. (h) **Valdis Kauliņš** thanks the congregation for their support, including support for the *sēnīte* (splash pad) and the pool. Now, the 30+ year buildings will be in need of repairs. It's great that there's support from the Council and congregation to invest in Sidrabene, which is worthwhile preserving.

5.5) Auditing Committee (members Elmārs Bērziņš (Chair), Pēteris Brīviņš, Pēteris Vilks). **Elmārs Bērziņš** reads the committee's report. For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2015, the Auditing Committee was comprised of: **Pēteris Brīviņš** (elected for a one-year term in March 2015); **Pēteris Vilks** (by invitation in April 2015); **Elmārs Bērziņš** (elected in February 2013 for a three-year term). Within their review of the general

ledger, the financial statements for the Church and the various committees, as well as their review of the minutes of the Church Council, to the best of their knowledge the information presented is accurate and complete. They provide the following observations and recommendations: (a) Council minutes are in excellent order. (b) Minutes of Committee meetings – should be tabled and recorded in the Council minutes, along with any points of discussion; this reporting requirement would apply to all committees. (c) Agency agreements with our sister congregations in Latvia should be approved by the Council; once approved, the terms of the agreements should be complied with by all parties; (d) Any correspondence from our sister congregations should be shared more openly with the Council, and congregation at large. (e) Investment policy to be completed and approved by the Council. (f) Mileage policy to be completed and approved by the Council; presently one person receives mileage which is donated back to the Church in return for a receipt. (g) Sidrabene's Management Committee: While the books and records are in good order, a depreciation expense and an Accumulated Depreciation total for each building should be disclosed. This would identify more accurately any forthcoming capital repairs. (h) Payable to the Church – as the Church financials indicate a \$22,581.67 receivable from Sidrabene, then Sidrabene should disclose an equal amount payable in return to the Church; the terms of this financing agreement to be approved and documented by both sides. (i) Sidrabene's insurance policy to include coverage for the bridge along the roadway from Appleby Line to the main gates, in the event of a possible collapse. (j) Recommend that any contract that a committee engages in, must first be tabled and approved by the Church Executive to ensure the agreement complies with the objectives of the Church. Any requests for funds must be in writing. They conclude by thanking Treasurer, **Arnīs Budrēvics**, Council Secretary, **Gundega Melli**, as well as Administrator, **Sarma Gaide**, for their excellent and prompt co-operation and assistance in completing this review.

Questions: **Anete Ivsiņš** reports that the agency agreements have been accepted, and are just awaiting Council direction. There was also another question if camp reports were received.

5.6) Approval of Reports: Moved by Arnis Budrēvics, seconded by Skaidrīte Leja that reports be approved. Motion carried.

6. 2016 BUDGET: Treasurer Arnis Budrēvics starts with a clarification to an earlier comment. All the numbers are for our church activity only. Sidrabene has roughly \$225,000 activity on their own outside of what the church budget shows. As we go forward we may include them, but it is proper to acknowledge that Sidrabene is running their own budget. For the church budget, 2016 Projected Revenues are \$191,000.00. 2016 Projected Expenses are \$296,000.00, which leaves a 2016 Projected Shortfall of -\$105,000.00. This shortfall will be funded from investments. Arnis stressed that this is not sustainable. There is a serious need to discuss the future of our church and how we fund the activities we offer. Arnis invites everyone with ideas to participate with strategic thinking and activities. Arnis asked for questions but there were none. Members applaud.

Moved by Arnis Budrēvics to approve the 2016 budget as presented; seconded by Guntis Bērziņš. 1 abstains. Motion carried.

7. ELECTION OF NEW COUNCIL AND AUDITING COMMITTEE: Presented by Auseklis Zaķis. The following members of Council have completed 3 year terms: Aija Mazsīlis, Gundega Melli, Kārlis Blūms and Uldis Zommers. Thanks to all of them. Voldemārs shares that **Uldis Zommers** has served the Council for 30 years, and many of those years as Chair. Uldis has always been an individual who looked for a balanced view on any issue. The congregation acknowledges Uldis' service for 30 years. Uldis comes forward to receive the greeting and is met with a standing applause from the congregation members present. Uldis thanks Voldemārs and expresses thanks to God for his long and strong life

to work 30 years for the congregation. Uldis wishes all the best to new Council.

The nominating committee consisted of **Pastor Ilze Kuplēns-Ewart, Līga Miklašēvics and Auseklis Zaķis.**

Two new candidates for this year are **Astrīda Kalniņš** and **Laila Moore.** **Voldemārs Innus** opens the floor to other candidates. There are none. The following members volunteer their candidacy for another 3 year term: **Agris Robežnieks, Auseklis Zaķis, Līga Miklašēvics** and **Voldemārs Innus.** **Imants Ķivlis** proposes that we accept these candidates. **Moved by Imants Ķivlis that we approve these candidates; seconded by Rita Āpše. Members elected by acclamation.**

Auditing Committee: Elmārs Bērziņš, Pēteris Brīviņš and Pēteris Vilks have completed their terms. All are willing to continue their work for another year. No other candidates are forthcoming. **Imants Ķivlis** proposes that we accept these candidates. **Moved by Imants Ķivlis that we approve these candidates; seconded by Guntis Bērziņš. Members elected by acclamation.**

Anda Liberis reminds the meeting that it is necessary to formally elect a meeting secretary. All acclaim **Aina Budrēvics** for the secretary of this meeting. The Statutes outline that the Chair of Council leads the meeting.

8. SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE ACTIVITIES include: Sound system, Ensemble, Bible Studies, Evening Service, Webcast Recordings, and Refugee Support. **Pastor Ilze Kuplēns-Ewart** speaks to the list of suggestions for future activities. **Dāvids Šmits** discussed the sound system and ensemble in his Music Committee report. Ilze explains that this first year in this new building has been a transition year to explore this location. (a) Bible Study: 2017 is the 500th anniversary of the reformation. We take this as an opportunity to reacquaint ourselves with the Bible. There are suggestions for this to begin midweek. **Inta Grāvlejs** asks if we can join St. John's Bible classes, and how many active

participants we have. **Pastor Ilze** responds that we will explore the options, see how it works, and maybe go to peoples' homes. (b) Evening service: In the past we have held TGIF (Thank God It's Friday) and vespers. These are unique meditative experiences that were held once per month. We would like to consider these again, as **Pastor Ilze** and others feel the absence of this. (c) Webcast recordings: This is a new opportunity we should explore, given today's realities. We need to be able to reach out and speak to people in ways other than just coming to church. Council to research how we might do this over the year to come. (d) Refugee support: Both St. Andrew's and St. John's Councils have taken it upon themselves to look into how we could support today's refugees; or how we can support groups who support refugees. On May 15th Jennifer Arden, Coordinator for Canadian Lutheran World Relief, will come to speak about how they support refugees, and how other congregations are doing this. It is common among our membership that we don't know a lot about Islam. There is a suggestion to invite an Islamic representative to learn a little more. Also to learn about the ancient Christian communities in the Middle East. These were some suggestions **Pastor Ilze** raised as potential directions for the future.

Any other questions or ideas are as follows: (a) **Auseklis Zaķis** would like to suggest adding some focus on youth engagement, and involvement. (b) **Vilis Kleperis** asks that next year's budget shows more detail in terms of salaries and insurance. Also to consider the Sidrabene children's camp where there is low income and the buildings are in need of maintenance. Council should think about supporting the camp and buildings, if they want it to continue. (c) **Silvija Shedden** shares that she will be organizing a survey in May to find out what the Latvian community thinks about the future of Sidrabene, and the various ideas for Sidrabene's future. Survey will be available to the broader Latvian community, all congregations and generations, in electronic and paper versions. Deadline to complete is end of August. Silvija outlines some of the topics of the survey. The survey was designed with **Imants Kivlis**, **Auseklis**

Zaķis and the Sidrabene Management Committee. (d) **Inta Briedis** comments about the Sidrabene children's camp and urges us to consider better accommodations for the campers. **Ināra Ezers** shares that the small kids want to go to the big kids' camp to sleep in the tents, and we could look into buying upgraded new tents. (e) **Rita Āpše** reminds members to purchase seasonal parking passes at a reduced rate of \$50. Full price is \$60. They are looking at options of the parking passes or other income for future consideration. (f) **Anda Liberis** comments about the archives she has been working on with **Edīte Sils** and **Rita Āpše**. There are boxes of materials that need to be sorted and organized. There is still a lot of missing material, and she invites people to contribute church related photos and documents to the archive project. Anda has also been in contact with **Ženija Vītols** who is organizing KLAM (Kanādas latviešu archīvs un muzejs) under LNAK, so our archive can be registered as an organizational archive; so far, we are the 10th of this type of registered archive. Information about our archives will be given to them, so the information is available to a wider audience. Council to consider the best way to share information to congregation members, including possibly the use of the new website. (g) New Website: **Maija Vītols** suggests considering adding web links to our information and events in the wider Latvian community, and links to video and resources in Latvia. **Skaidrīte Leja** suggests we could use our website to show music we create and share, being mindful of copyright issues. (h) **Andris Krūmiņš** points out that the budget shortfall of \$105K is covered from investment income, but the investment income shows as \$2,500. **Arnis Budrēvics** explains that one page shared is our balance sheet, and the other is income and expense sheet of ongoing costs. The money we show is from the working documents. The money that is sitting on another page on our balance sheet will generate the investment returns required to cover the shortfall. **Voldemārs Innus** responds that the Council will investigate different strategies to cover the shortfall. For now, the plan is that with a probable investment return over time at 4-5%, this

is enough to cover the deficit year to year. However, he poses another question to the AGM, if this is the best way to use our investment income. (i) **Anda Liberis** asks for more information about the synod, and what the Council is proposing to do to better our relationship with the synod. **Arnis Budrēvics** responds with some financial information. From a budget perspective, our annual membership to the eastern synod is \$4,000 per year. **Voldemārs Innus** adds that as we're going through our current church sale transition, much of Council's time and energy has been focused on that. Now that we're working through that, we can focus our discussions about the future. The survey **Silvija Shedden** introduced will help inform discussions about Sidrabene and also our relationship with ELCIC. We first formed our congregation with ELCIC's support for our first mortgage at the old church location. ELCIC has other opportunities, for example, to use them for investment options. ELCIC can help provide other information and options to our congregation. Council will review the various ways we can support ELCIC and how they support us. We need to explore what is important to all our demographics, and consider ways to do things that may be different than how it was in the past.

9. OTHER BUSINESS - Pastor's Sabbatical:

Pastor Ilze Kuplēns-Ewart shares the church service and pastor schedule for the upcoming summer months, while she is on sabbatical. **Pastor Ilze** shares how she plans to achieve the purpose and goals of her sabbatical. Sabbatical typically occurs every seven years, and she last took sabbatical ten years ago. Her sabbatical this year will be short, only three months long. She is looking forward to a writing course at the Kenyon Institute, and to visit Latvia to explore identity. One of the keys to the future is how we can be a congregation that honours our Lutheran roots but is also expressive of our Latvian identity.

10. CLOSING OF MEETING

Voldemārs Innus thanks the congregation for their support through the last few years. **Voldemārs** will

be ending his term as Council Chair. **Pastor Ilze Kuplēns-Ewart** says he deserves our deepest thanks because we couldn't have achieved all that we have over his term, without his dedication and service. All members applaud.

Moved by: Guntis Bērziņš; seconded by Ēriks Kleperis

Meeting adjourned: 3:52 pm

Recorder: Aina Budrēvics

APPENDIX*:

A- Amendments to the 2015 minutes

B- Pastor's Report

C- Treasurer's Report (presentation slides)

*The appendix attachments are a permanent part of the meeting minutes but are not included with this newsletter. For anyone wishing to review them, they will be available in print form at the 2017 AGM Feb. 26, 2017

REZOLŪCIJA 2017. gada draudzes pilnsapulcei

Cienījamie draudzes locekļi!

Draudzes padome cītīgi strādā draudzes labā, lai uzturētu mērķtiecīgu draudzes namturību un vadību. Draudzes locekļi tiek atkārtoti aicināti brīvprātīgi nākt palīgā un darboties padomē, vai kādā citā komitejā. Diemžēl, ir kļuvis arvien grūtāk piesaistīt pietiekamu skaitu draudzes locekļu, kas būtu ar mieru darboties padomē, lai panāktu statūtos paredzēto padomes locekļu skaitu. Tādēļ padome ir nolēmusi, ka labākais atrisinājums būtu samazināt noteikto padomes locekļu skaitu no esošajiem 12 locekļiem uz 9 locekļiem, lai padome varētu lietderīgāk darboties.

Padome publicē sekojošo rezolūciju, kā norādīts draudzes statūtos:

REZOLŪCIJA : Līdz tam laikam, kad nāk spēkā jauni Ontārio valdības likumi, kas noteiks bezpeļņas organizāciju vadības strukturu, padome sastāvētu no ne mazāk par 9 locekļiem, katrs ievēlēts uz triju gadu termiņu, no kuriem trešā daļa būtu jāatvieto katru gadu. Bijušos padomes locekļus var atkārtoti ievēlēt padomē.

Šīs rezolūcijas pirmais lasījums notiks šī gada draudzes pilnsapulcē 26. februārī. Otrais lasījums un balsošana notiks 2018. g. pilnsapulcē. Tad šo jautājumu nodos ELCIC apstiprināšanai pirms tas stāsies spēkā.

Vēlreiz paldies, ka jūs atbalstāt padomi un tās darbību, kas turpina rūpēties par draudzes dzīves veicināšanu un uzlabošanu.

2017 AGM RESOLUTION

Dear Congregation,

Council continues to diligently work on your behalf to maintain focused stewardship and governance of our Church. We continually appeal to our members to step up and volunteer for Council as well as work on other committees. However, it has become increasingly difficult to find additional Council members to comply with our regulations. Therefore, Council has determined it best to reduce the required minimum number of members to 9 from the current 12 so to increase the efficiency of Council in this matter.

This will be raised at the AGM for approval as a first reading. A second reading and approval will be required in 2018. Then this matter will be sent to ELCIC for ratification prior to enactment.

We publish the following Motion as required by our Bylaws:

RESOLUTION : 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 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.

Thank you again for your continued support of our Council and our actions for the continued improvement of our Church and Congregation.

**SV. ANDREJA EV. LUT. LATVIEŠU
DRAUDZE /
ST. ANDREW'S EV. LUT. LATVIAN
CONGREGATION**
**Dievkalpojumi un darbība notiek / Services and
activities take place at**
St. John's Ev. Lut. Latvian Church
200 Balmoral Ave
Toronto ON M4V 1J6
Tālrunis/Telephone: (416) 924-1563

Mācītāja / Pastor: Ilze Kuplēns-Ewart
Administratore / Office manager: Sarma Gaide
Ērģelnieks / Organist: Dāvids Šmits
Apkopējs / Custodian: Andris Zvirbulis
Sidrabenies Parvaldnieks /Property Manager:
Andrejs Grīnbergs

2016. GADA KOMITEJAS UN DALĪBNIEKI / 2016 COMMITTEES

Valde / Executive:

Indra Mertens, Arnis Budrēvics, Agris Robežnieks,
Auseklis Zaķis, Ingrīda Vairogs, Laila Moore
(izstājusies/resigned)

Padome / Council:

Indra Mertens, Arnis Budrēvics*, Voldemārs Innus,
Skaidrīte Leja*, Ingrīda Vairogs, Jānis Tannis, Līga
Miklašēvics, Astrīda Kalniņš, Auseklis Zaķis, Agris
Robežnieks / Gundega Melli ((pagaidām/acting))
(izstājušies) Imants Ķivlis (izstājies/resigned), Laila
Moore (izstājusies/resigned)
(* norāda kuŗiem termiņš padomē beidzas)

Revīzijas komisija / Audit Committee:

Elmārs Bērziņš, Pēteris Brīviņš, Pēteris Vilks

Pērminderi / Elders:

Guntis Bērziņš, Irēne Buls, Imants Ķivlis (Sidrabēnē),
Dzidra Krūmiņš, Linda Luck, Māra Zariņš

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, Edīte Zariņš
(Imants Ķivlis, Andris Krūmiņš)

Sv. Jāņu 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:

Arnīs Budrēvics, Ivars Grimba, Voldemārs Innus,
Andris Stārstas, Auseklis Zaķis, Andris Paukšēns

Sidrabenies pārvalde / Sidrabene Property Committee:

Valdis Kauliņš (priekšnieks / chair), Rita Āpše, Vilnis
Blūms, Voldemārs Innus, Krissy Pāvelsons, Ivars
Jēgeris, Imants Ķivlis (izstājies/resigned), Valdis Korbs,
Linda Lakats, Māra Ozols, Gail Ozoliņš, Valdis Pālēns,
Andris Paukšēns, Mudīte Schuler, Mārtiņš Skuja, Andris
Bergvalds
(kā Padomes pārstāvji: Voldemārs Innus, Rita Āpše,
Imants Ķivlis (izstājies/resigned)

Sidrabenies bērnu nometne / Camp Sidrabene:

Linda Lakats, Sandra Thiele, Debbie Grietiņš, Dina
Huska, Ivars Jēgeris, Sandra Kalniņš, Anita Thomas,
Lionel Zondo, Katrīna Vikše + Kurts Grietiņš, Pauls
Zobs

Padomes un Pārvaldes Sidrabenes Nama komiteja / Joint Sidrabene Facility Committee:

Linda Lakats,
Imants Ķivlis, Kārlis Blūms, Voldemārs Innus, Andrejs
Grīnbergs, John Roce, Jurate Muižnieks, Jānis Ozols,
Andris Bergvalds, Ivars Jansons

Sidrabenies dievkalpojumu veidošanas grupa / Sidrabene Worship Committee

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

Palīdzība Latvijai komiteja / Aid to Latvia committee:

Anete Ivsiņš, Aija Mazsīlis, Andris Rubenis, Auseklis
Zaķis, Indra Liepiņš

Out of the Cold: Imants & Maureen Ķivlis

Draudzes Zinas: Skaidrīte Leja, Anda Libere

2016. gada SV. ANDREJA DRAUDZES
STATISTIKA / STATISTICS

MIRUŠI/DECEASED (19)

Smaida Ašeniece, Ilga Blūmfelda, Teodors Briedis ,
Vismants Eglīte, Ilze Kalniņa, Uldis Kiršteins, Vera
Kronberga, Zenta Līduma, Maija Matckara, Ārija
Miesniece, Mirdza Miška, Kārlis Pavasars, Alma
Priedīte, Marga Reinholda, Emīlija Rudzīte, Ēvalds
Rudzītis, Valija Skuja, Ivars Timbers, Benita Tint

KRISTĪTI/BAPTIZED (2)

Jacob Dearing, Zelma Brīviņš

IESVĒTĪTI/CONFIRMED (1)

Emīls Lūsis-Zondo

IESTĀJUŠĪES/NEW MEMBERS (1)

Maureen Kivlis

SALAUĻĀTI / MARRIED (2)

Dāvids Šmits & Sabirah Yussuf
Magnus Mārsons & Daliah Hijazi
(Citi pāri, ārpus draudzes: 7)

DRAUDZES LOCEKĻI KOPUMĀ /2016

CHANGES

Kristīti: 2

Iesvētīti: 1

Salaulāti pāri: 2

Miruši: 19

Iestājušies: 1

Aktīvi draudzes locekļi uz 2016. g. decembri:
kopumā 627: pilntiesīgi 515

**2016 g. DIEVKALPOJUMI / NUMBER OF
SERVICES: 45**

Latviski: 15 / Abās valodās: 13

Sidrabenē (abās valodās): 13 /

Svētbrīži Sidrabenē: 4

Citi: Kristus Dārzā, Ecumenical Commemoration
(14. jūnijs), Valsts Svētki,

Kapu svētki

Dievlūdzēji kopumā (dievnamā) / total number of
worshippers: 1629

Pie dievgalda/total number of communicants: 804
Dievlūdzēji Sidrabenē / total number of
worshippers in Sidrabene: 603

Viesu mācītāji/Guest pastors: Bishop Michael
Pryse, diakone Inese Upmanis-MacDonald,
Ron Ewart, Ivars Gaide, Dāvis Kaņeps, Dr. F.T.
Kristbergs, Ģirts Grietiņš

Mācītājas ziņojums 2017.g. Sv Andreja draudzes pilnsapulcei

1. Dažas pārdomas.

Kad uzzināju par ilggadējās draudzes locekles, Rasma Kusmanes, aiziešanu mūžībā šī gada 26. janvārī, domās atgriezies divdesmit gadu atpakaļ. Toreiz, man pie jums esot uz tā saukto “proves sprediķi”, pienāca ziņa, ka pēkšņi miris Voldemārs Kusmanis. Rasma ar ģimeni lūdza man viņu izvadīt, ko tad arī darīju, pārsteidzoši aukstā sestdienā. Pie jums atgriezies Jānos, lai iesāktu kalpošanu jaunā vīna dārzā – Sv. Andreja draudzē. Pagājis divdesmit gadu, pa kuŗu laiku tik daudz kas ir noticis. Rasma Gaile, kuŗa toreiz nošausminājās par to, ka man bija teikts, ka nedrīkstot ģērbties biksēs, norāva savu silto lakatu un aptina ap mani. Arī Rasma Gaile, kopā ar daudziem citiem, kas bija klāt tajā dienā, tagad atdusas Jorkas kapos.

Ir tikai jāpamet skats ap zāli Latviešu Centrā valsts svētkos, uz saklātiem galdiem ceturtdienās latviešu penzionāru saietos, vai dievnamā ik svētdienas, lai konstatētu, ka ar Toronto pēckaŗa latviešu sabiedrības dibinātāju paaudzes sarukšanu, sabiedrības ainava ir ievērojami mainījusies. Vairāku iemeslu dēļ, pateicoties arī asimilācijai, ir samazinājies latviešu sabiedrības aktīvo locekļu skaits. Pie tam, vidējā un jaunākā paaudze skatās uz dzīvi citādi. Iespaidīgākie notikumi viņiem uzaugot ir bijuši pavisam atšķirīgi un tas ir ietekmējis viņu vērtību izpratni un skatu uz pasauli. Ir varbūt grūti aptvert, ka tie, kas 28 gadus veci, vispār nevar iedomāties pasauli bez datora mājās. Turklāt, Toronto dzīvojošajiem pāri trīsdesmit gadīgajiem acu priekšā ir pazuduši tie dzīves pamatnodrošinājumi, ko viņu vecāki uzskatīja par pašsaprotamiem – kā mājas iegādāšanās, vai nodrošināta penzija. Šai jaunākajai paaudzei ir būtiskas, pamatotas rūpes par savu nākotni. Kopumā, šīs maiņas ir iezīmējušas jauno penzionāru, vidējās un jaunāko paaudžu dzīves pieeju, kas atspoguļojas arī draudžu dzīvē. Iemesli, kāpēc cilvēki iesaistās labdarības organizācijās, tās vada, vai atbalsta, šodien ir atšķirīgi. Vecākai paaudzei pazīstamais pienākuma

princips vairs nav noteicošais. Tā, bīskaps Michael Pryse norādīja draudzes padomei savā vizītē 2016. gada rudenī – “kur agrāk regulārs dievlūdžējs bija tas, kas nāca baznīcā katru svētdienu, tagad ir tāds, kas nāk reizi mēnesī.”

Tas nozīmē, ka paraugs, pēc kā labdarības organizācijas, ieskaitot arī draudzes, ir vadījušas savu darbību, ir jāmaina. “Business as usual” turpmāk nedarbosies. Pie tā neviens nav vainojams, - tāda vienkārši ir realitāte, ar ko jāreķinās, arī Sv. Andreja draudzei. Ir jāattīsta pieejas, kas uzrunā dzīves izpratnes dažādību. Nekritīsim izmisumā! Pārrunās ar dažādu paaudžu ļaudīm arvien vairāk nojaušu, cik ļoti visu vecumu ļaudis meklē dzīves lielāko jēgu, cik tiem dvēseles prasās pēc garīguma, cik tie vēlas atstāt pozitīvu iespaidu pasaulē. Tie visi ir pierādījumi, ka Svētais Gars darbojas, kā Jēzus teica vecajam Nikodēmam: “Vējš pūš, kur grib, un tu dzirdi tā skaņu, bet tu nezini, no kurienes tas nāk un kurp iet. Tā ir ar katru, kas piedzimis no Gara.” (Jņ 3:8) Tas viss ir daļa no Dieva lielā plāna: “Jo Dievs tā pasauli mīlēja, ka deva savu vienpiedzimušo Dēlu, lai ikviens, kas viņam tic, nepazustu, bet tam būtu mūžīgā dzīvība. Jo Dievs sūtīja savu Dēlu pasaulē, nevis lai tas pasauli tiesātu, bet lai pasaule caur viņu tiktu glābta.” (Jņ 3:16,17)

Izskaidrot Gara vēsmu un būt atjautīgiem Kristus vīna dārza kopjiem mūsu draudzē ir liela atbildība draudzes vadībai. Paldies Dievam, kas stāv klāt un mūs vada mīlestībā un žēlastība.

Izsaku pateicību mūsu brīvprātīgajiem darbiniekiem: draudzes padomei ar priekšsēdi, Indru Mertenu, mūsu draudzes darba grupām un komitejām, alfabētiskā kārtībā: dāmu komitejai ar priekšnieci, Intu Briedi; pērminderiem ar vecāko, Gunti Bērziņu; “Palīdzība Latvijai” komitejai ar priekšsēdi, Aneti Ivsiņu; Sidrabenes nometnes komitejai ar priekšsēdi, Lindu Lakatu; Sidrabenes pārvaldei ar ilggadējo vadītāju, Valdi Kauliņu kopā ar sidrabeniešiem, kas atbalsta darbību vasaras mēnešos; Skaidrītei Lejai, kas veica milzum lielu darbu kā Draudzes Ziņu atbildīgā redaktore un Andai Liberei par viņas latviešu

valodas zināšanām. Šiem labajiem gariņiem pievienoju arī mūsu regulāro Sidrabenes dievkalpojumu darba rūķītšus: saimnieci Krissy Pāvelsoni, darbības veicinātāju Mudīti Schuler un visus, kas pieliek palīdzīgu roku. Pateicība arī draudzes administratorei, Sarmai Gaidei, mūzikas dzīves vadītājam un ērģelniekam, Dāvidam Šmitam, Vairai Gertneri par atbalstu ar dziesmām un Sidrabenes pārvaldniekam, Andrejam Grīnbergam.

Ar 2017. gada janvāri mācītājs Ģirts Grietiņš iesāka savu kalpošanu kā Sv. Jāņa draudzes mācītājs. Līdz ar to atvadījāties no mācītājas Anitas Gaides, kuŗa bija pildījusi "interim" mācītāja pienākumus ar lielu enerģiju un pašatdevi. Ar kolēģi māc. Anitu Gaidi tikos reizi nedēļā, lai pārrunātu būtiskus jautājumus – dievkalpojumus, pasākumus, arī teoloģiskus jautājumus. Esmu jau iesākusi tikties regulāri arī ar jauno kolēģi. Saredzu plašas sadarbības iespējas.

2016.g. pārskats

1. Dievkalpojumi.

Dievkalpojumu un dievlūdžēju skaits pievienots atsevišķi. Esam turpinājuši ikmēneša dievkalpojumus Sidrabenē pēc vasaras sezonas. Dievkalpojumi notiek "Sidrabkalna" ēdamzālē, kur pēc tam arī ēdam pusdienas. Šajos dievkalpojumos, kas notiek abās valodās, lietoju "powerpoint" kā palīg līdzekli, kas atļauj rādīt īsus video, lai papildinātu dievkalpojuma tēmu, kā arī rādīt mākslas un citus vizuālus piemērus. Dziedam gan modernas, gan klasiskas draudzes dziesmas. Tur galvenokārt piedalās dievlūdžēji, kas parādās 200 Balmoral tikai Ziemsvētkos.

Ar 2017. gada janvāri, sāku vadīt svētbrīžus ik mēnesi Latviešu Centrā, svētdienas pēcpusdienā. Kā ziņojuma lapiņā rakstīts: "Svētbrīži Centrā ir atbilde lūgumam padarīt Dievvārdu klausīšanos un uzņemšanu iespējamu arī tiem, kuŗiem braukšana uz dievnamu svētdienas rītos sagādā pārmērīgas grūtības." Tā kā šogad atzīmējam 500 gadus kopš Reformācijas sākuma, tad arī tur ir iespēja iepazīties dziļāk ar pamata tēmām, kas iezīmē

Reformāciju: 29. janvārī – Lutera 95 Tēzes, 19. februārī – ievads Mazā Katķismā.

Turpinu arī vadīt dievkalpojumus Kristus Dārzā.

Ļoti īsā laikā jūnijā sagatavoju meditātīvu svētbrīdi kopā ar Msgr. Ed. Putrimas Aizvesto piemiņas dienai visām Baltiešu draudzēm.

2. Mācīšana

- 9.-12. jūnijā LELBA Draudžu dienās Gaŗezerā vadīju Bībeles stundu: "Derība ar Dievu, ar līdzcilvēku, ar radību."
- 4.-6. novembrī "Miers ikdienas chaosā": "Retreat" – atelpa no ikdienas, kopā ar St. John's Rehabilitation Centre kapelāni māc. Jo Davies, šoreiz St. John's klosterī, Cummer Ave., Toronto
- Sidrabenes nometnē Bībeles stundas bērniem vadīja diakone Inese Upmane MacDonald.
- Draudzes demogrāfija ir tāda, ka šobrīd nav iesvētāmo, bet gaidu jaunu grupu 2017. g. rudenī

3. Liecināšana

- 20. februārī "Out of the Cold" pasākums, šoreiz no First Lutheran Church
- 12. martā piedalījies pārrunās par Kristus Dārza nākotni
- 9. aprīlī vadīju svētbrīdi LNAK sesijā
- 11. aprīlī vadīju svētbrīdi LNAK sesijā
- 30 aprīlī vadīju svētbrīdi DV Kanadas valdes pilnsapulcē
- 25. maijā piedalījies Kristus Dārza pilnsapulcē
- 28. maijā vadīju svētbrīdi TLB Sestdienas skolas izlaidumā
- 24. oktobrī Kristus Dārza 30 gadu jubilejā, apsveicu no draudzes un no Kanadas apgabala
- 28. decembrī tikšanās ar Latvijas valsts vēstnieku
- 2016. gada Ziemsvētkos ieskaņoju "sveicienu" – Tolstoja Ziemsvētku stāstu, ko uzliku uz YouTube. Nepieciešamība darīt kaut ko līdzīgu izrietēja no vasaras kursiem "Beyond Walls".

4. Kalpošana

- Kristību, laulību un bērņu skaits un tuvāka informācija nodota atsevišķi.

5. Cits

- 23-25. Jūnijā Eastern Synod assembly. Sagatavoju rezolūciju par atbalstu sievietēm teologēm Latvijā (LELB satversme tika mainīta jūnija sākumā ierobežojot kandidatūru mācītāja amatam tikai vīriešiem)
- regulāri tiekos ar saviem kolēģiem, kā tas tiek sagaidīts no garīdzniekiem: Toronto Central Ministry Area (Eastern Synod), kā arī “Churches on the Hill”. Ar pēdējiem esmu pacēlusi domu izcelt 2017.g. nozīmi kā Refomācijas 500 gadī. Veidosim kopīgu dievkalpojumu rudenī, kā arī pārrunu grupas starp draudzēm, kur iepazītos ar Kanadas katoļu bīskapu un ELCIC materiāliem pārrunām draudzēs.

6. Sabata pārskats

Pateicos draudzei par iespēju atslēgties no ikdienas pienākumiem, lai “atvilktu elpu” un arī iegūtu jaunas zināšanas. Kā daudziem zināms, paredzētie trīs mēneši, ko būtu noslēgusi ar 5 nedēļām Latvijā, vācot materiālus iecerētam rakstam par Latviju un luterismu, tika saīsināti uz diviem mēnešiem, manai mīļotai mammai aizejot mūžībā, Dieva žēlastības un godības pilnībā, 2. septembrī. Lielie birokrātiskie sarežģījumi Anglijā nozīmēja, ka viņas izvadīšanas izkārtošana ievilkās gandrīz četras nedēļas. Viņas pelnus apbēdīju blakus viņas tēvam, Saldū, viņas 98. dzimšanas dienā. Sirsnīgi pateicos ikvienam par līdzjūtības izteikšanu, kā arī par lūgšanām. Tās ļoti palīdzēja.

Sabata sadale:

10.-16. jūl. “*Continuing Education*” (rakstīšanas kurss “*Beyond Walls*” *Kenyon Institute, Gambier, Ohio*). Intensīvs mācīšanās kurss, ko vadīja izcili žurnālisti un autori.

21.-29. jūl. gadskārtējais “*retreat*” *Loretto Maryholme*.

30. jūl. – 2. sept. atpūta un atvaļinājums

3.-11. sept. atgriezies darbā Toronto (divas laulības, līdzdalība Kapu svētku dievkalpojumā)

12. sept. – 6. okt. (mātes izvadīšanas kārtošana u.t.t.)

2. okt. sprediķoju abos dievkalpojumos Rīgas Lutera draudzē. Tikšanās ar tās draudzes locekļiem un mācītājiem Linardu Rozentālu un Kasparu Simanoviču.

7.-8. okt. (“*Retreat*”: *Norwich, England*)

9.-14. okt. atpūta Anglijā

15. okt. atgriezies darbā Toronto

Iegūts:

1. Rakstīšanas kursā:

- Techniskas zināšanas par “blog” rakstīšanu
- Rakstu rediģēšana
- Moderno plašsaziņas līdzekļu lietošana (Twitter, Mailchimp, Facebook, Instagram)
- Sadarbība ar rabīniem, par rakstu interpretāciju, ar ko Jēzus darbojās
- Atklāju, ka rabīni zina daudz vairāk par kristietību nekā es par jūdaismu
- Apstiprinājums, ka spēju rakstīt!
- Iepazīšanās ar Norvičas Juliānas rakstiem.

2. “Retreat” *Loretto Maryholme*:

- Laiks ar Dievu
- Iedzilināšanās mātes Juliānas rakstos, kuros piedzīvoju Dieva žēlastību un mīlestību savas dvēseles dziļumos.

3. “Retreat” *Norwich, Anglijā*

- Sabata laika noslēgums

Noslēdzot pārskatu, aicinu jūs skatīties uz priekšu:

- 3. & 4. martā būs Klusā laika ievads ar LELBĀL archibīskapes, Laumas Zušēvicis, un LELBA pārvaldes priekšsēža, prāvesta Gunāra Lazdiņa referātiem.
- 4. martā, plkst. 16:00, jaunā Sv. Jāņa draudzes mācītāja, Ģirta Grietiņa, amatā ievēšanas dievkalpojums – visi ir mīļi gaidīti.
- Tālāk, katrā Klusā laika trešdienas vakarā būs svētbriādis, kur arī pievērsīsim galveno uzmanību Dieva atklāsmei Reformācijā.
- Tiem, kas jūtas uzrunāti, ar 21. februāri iesāksim adīšanas grupu “Siltie apkampieni”, kas veidos mīlestībā un lūgšanā ievītus lakatus, ko dāvināt tiem, kuŗiem palīdzētu sajūst mīļu glāstu ap pleciem.

Kristus mīlestībā,

jūsu mācītājallze Kuplēna-Ewart

2017. g. 15. janvārī Sv. Jāņa draudze laipni sagaidīja savu jauno mācītāju Ģirtu Grietiņu. Tā kā mēs sadarbojamies ar Sv. Jāņa draudzi un dalāmies ar telpām Sv. Jāņa baznīcā, sirsnīgi sveicam mācītāju Ģ. Grietiņu ar ģimeni Kanadā un ar prieku raugāmies uz labu nākotnes sadarbību.



Sv. Andreja padomes priekšsēde, Indra Mertens, un padomes loceklis, Auseklis Zaķis, apsveic Mac. Grietiņu



No kr.: Ilze Grietiņa, K. Jansons, Adrians un Beāte Grietiņi, L. Gifford

Sv. Andreja dāmu komitejas priekšniece, Inta Briede, nodod dāmu komitejas sveicienus



visi foto: Ojārs Sils

PADOMES PRIEKŠSĒDES ZIŅOJUMS

Man ir bijis diezgan aizņemts gads, darbojoties draudzes padomē. Vēlos pateikties pārējiem padomes locekļiem, kas uzticējās man priekšsēdes amatā. Esam turpinājuši veicināt un uzlabot draudzes darbību.

Mums vislielākās rūpes sagādā tas, ka ziedojumi draudzei ir stipri samazinājušies, toties pārceļoties un daloties ar telpām Sv. Jāņa baznīcā, mūsu izdevumi nav samazinājušies. Zināms, mums nav jārūpējas par baznīcas ēkas uzturēšanas izdevumiem un mums ir iegūtie līdzekļi no Sv. Andreja baznīcas pārdošanas, ko varam ieguldīt. Diemžēl pašreiz darbojamies apstākļos, kur draudzes tekošie izdevumi par 30% pārsniedz ienākumus un ko nespējam ilgstoši uzturēt. Ja lietosim no baznīcas pārdošanas iegūto kapitālu, lai segtu budžeta iztrūkumu, tad pēc pašreizējā aprēķina mūsu kapitāls izsīks 15 gadus.

Draudzes investīcijas komiteja drīzumā nāks ar priekšlikumu, kā palielināt ieguldījumu peļņu, kas varētu palīdzēt segt budžeta iztrūkumu. Pašreizējos ekonomiskajos apstākļos tas vēl arvien nebūtu pietiekoši.

Sv. Andreja draudzes komitejām tika lūgts iesniegt savus pārskatus par pagājušā gada darbību. Tās visas ir aktīvi darbojušās draudzes labā par ko tām pienākas pateicība. **LIELS PALDIES!** Diemžēl no gada uz gadu brīvprātīgo darbinieku skaits samazinās. Lai apskatītu šo realitāti, padome uzaicināja mācītāju *Dr. Christian Ceconi, ELCIC Central Toronto Ministry Area Dean*, uz pārrunām par viņa panākumiem brīvprātīgo darbinieku piesaistīšanā. Mēs vēlētos iespēju izmantot VISAS mūsu īpašās dāvanas mūsu draudzes un mūsu latviskā mantojuma labā. Lūdzu pārdomājiet iespēju ziedot savas spējas un laiku, lai darbotos mūsu visu labā.

2016. gadā mūs visus mudināja izpildīt aptauju par Sidrabeni, pašreiz Sv. Andreja draudzes vienīgo īpašumu. Saņēmām 211 izpildītu aptauju. Silvijai Shedden pienākas pateicība par lieliski veikto darbu, sakopojot iegūto informāciju un uzrakstot ziņojumu.

Sidrabenes pārvaldei un draudzes padomei ir paredzēts sīkāk izpētīt aptaujas rezultātus. Tas ir pamats no kā veidot plašākas iespējas, kā izmantot un uzlabot šo mūsu draudzes “mazo gabaliņu paradīzes virs zemes”.

Padome un komitejas darbojas visu mūsu Sv. Andreja draudzes locekļu labā. Šajā Reformācijas 500 gadu (2017. gada 31. okt.) atceres gadā atrodamies krustcelēs. Vai lai pieņemam un samierināties ar savu situāciju, vai lai pārvērtējam savas vajadzības, atdzīvinām savu domāšanu un dodamies virzienā, kas stiprinātu mūsu draudzi, līdztekus rūpējoties par savu bagāto vēsturi? Lūdzu dalieties ar saviem uzskatiem un idejām! Gaidīšu jūsu ieteikumus un līdzdalību Sv. Andreja draudzes pilnsapulcē 2017. gada 27. februārī.

Ar Dieva palīgu,

Indra Mertens

Padomes priekšsēde 2016

KLUSĀ LAIKA PĀRDOMAS

Piektdien, 3. martā

19:00, 1. Referāts: Prāv. Gunārs Lazdiņš:

Reformācijas mācības: Ko nozīmē “aicinājums” – kafija & uzkodas

Sestdien, 4. martā

10:00, 2. Referāts: prāv. emer. Dr. Fritz

Kristbergs: *Reformācija un teoloģija kontekstā*

12:00 Pusdienas

13:00 - 15:30 **LELBA KANĀDAS**

APGABALA KONFERENCE

16:00 **DIEVKALPOJUMS:** Sv. Jāņa draudzes mācītāja Ģ. Grietiņa ievēšana amatā

*(piedalās LELBĀL arch. Lauma
Zušēvica un LELBA pārvaldes priekšnieks
prāv. Gunārs Lazdiņš)*

Dāmu komitejas pārskats 2016. gadam

Gadi nāk un iet! Sākam jau trešo gadu Sv. Jāņa draudzes telpās un dievnamā. Esam jau pieradušas kā „savās mājās”!

Dāmu komitejā darbojas 9 aktīvas locekles un divi kungi – Imants Ķivlis un Andris Krūmiņš. Viņi mums ir bijuši neatsverami „darba rūķi”. Dāmu komiteju vada Inta Briede, kasiere ir draudzes darbvede Sarma Gaide un sekretāre Anita Bredovska. Ar prieku mēs uzņemam un gaidām jaunas locekles, kas nāktu mums talkā. Atsevišķās reizēs mums nāk palīdzes, rūpējoties par kafijas galdu svētdienās un sarīkojumiem saraudzības veicināšanai un līdzekļu vākšanai.

Notikušas 4 sēdes un Ziemsvētku eglītes vakars decembrī, kad mēs uzaicinājām Sv. Jāņa draudzes dāmu komiteju ciemos un mēs pavadījām jauku vakaru dziesmās, sirsnībā un draudzībā. Sēdes ar dziesmām un ar lūgšanu parasti ievadījusi māc. Ilze Kuplēna-Ewart.

Dāmu komitejas darbība:

- Pankūku brokastis pagājušajā gadā izpalika, jo tajā paredzētajā svētdienā notika padomes rīkotā video izrāde par mūsu draudzes dzīvi Sv. Andreja baznīcā.
- Aprīlī kopā ar padomes locekļiem klājām kafijas galdu draudzes pilnsapulcē.
- 24. aprīlī, kopā ar Sv. Jāņa draudzes dāmu komiteju, rīkojām pēcpusdienu par labu jaunām mammām Latvijā, ar kafijas galdu, priekšnesumiem un nodarbībām visai ģimenei.
- Lieldienu agrās brokastis notika kopā ar Sv. Jāņa draudzi. Abas dāmu komitejas darbojās kopā un viss ļoti labi izdevās.
- Vasaras mēneši ātri aizskrēja. Kafijas galdi pēc dievkalpojumiem tāpat turpinājās.
- Septembrī rīkojām savu „rudens svētki pilsētā” pēcpusdienu. Pasniedzām siltas pusdienas Anitas Bredovskas izkārtotumā. Notika arī rudens ražas loterija Kristas Amoliņas vadībā un “Bingo” spēles Veltas Zvīdres vadībā, kas visus iepriecināja.
- Sākām jau oktobrī cept piparkūkas un turpinājām novembrī un decembrī. Par

piparkūkām ieņēmām \$1,400. Paldies visām piparkūku cepējām un arī pircējiem.

- 18. decembrī pēc dievkalpojuma pasniedzām siltas pusdienas - buljonu ar gaļas pildītajām pankūkām, ievārījumu, salātiem, saldo ēdienu, kūciņām un kafiju, lai visiem būtu silti un mīļi svētki.

Altāra ziedu kārtošanu uz maiņām dalāties ar Sv. Jāņa draudzi.

Sirsniņgs paldies apkalpotājam Andrejam Zvirbulim par telpu sakārtošanu un galdu salikšanu sarīkojumiem un svētdienu kafijām.

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

Sirsniņa pateicība draudzes locekļiem un visiem par dāmu komitejas atbalstīšanu!

Ar cieņu,

Inta Briede

Dāmu komitejas priekšiece



Rudens svētku pēcpusdienā dāmu komiteja apsveica draudzes ērgelnieka Dāvida Šmita jaunlaulāto kundzi, Sabirah, kuŗa bija pie mums pirmo reizi kopš viņu laulībām jūlijā.

Sidrabenes pārvaldes 2016. g. darbība

Sidrabenē 2016. gadā bija “dziesmota vasara”. Sākot ar AMUZ (Anna Broka, Maria Thorburn un Pēteris Zariņš) programmu ar spāņu tēma sezonas atklāšanā, vasara turpinājās ar Lolitas Ritmanes un Kalifornijas ansambļa uzvedumu “Te nu mēs esam” pēcpusdienā Sidrabenes Jāņos – un vēlāk šī ansambļa, kopā ar vietējiem muziķiem un “Daugaviņas” deju kopas pirmklasīgo Jāņu vakara svinību ielīgošanu. Dažas dienas vēlāk Kanādas valstssvētkos Normunds Ķietis un Inita Āboliņa no “Lauku Muzikantiem” iepriecināja ap 70 klausītājus kafejnīcā, bet augustā Ron McEwan dziedāja īru dziesmas. Septembrī sezonas slēgšanas sarīkojumā ar latvisku tēmu Hamiltonas “Vīru ansamblis” un “Skaņu ritenis” izraisīja apmeklētājos lielu sajūsmu un daudzi atzina to par vislabāko sezonas slēgšanas vakaru. Bez tam, notika arī vairāki videofilmu vakari un “bocce” bumbas turnīrs. Paldies visiem, kas apmeklēja šos sarīkojumus!

Paldies Sidrabenes pārvaldes locekļiem: Ritai Āpšei, Vilnim Blūmam, Andrim Bergvaldam, Voldemāram Innusam, Ivaram Jēgerim, Imantam Ķivlim, Lindai Lakatai, Gail Ozoliņai, Valdim Korbam, Mārai Ozolai, Valdim Pālēnam, Andrim Paukšēnam, Krissy Pāvelsonei, Mudītei Schuler un Mārtiņam Skujam. Paldies kafejnīcas vadītājam, Ērikam Maldonim un palīdzēm, meitai Montai un Mārītei Tētiņai. Viņi visi daudz piestrādāja, lai Sidrabenē būtu veiksmīga vasara ar dažādiem pievilcīgiem sarīkojumiem draudzes locekļiem un draugiem.

Sidrabenes pārvaldei notika 7 sēdes, kā arī viena kopsēde 18. jūnijā ar draudzes padomi Sidrabenes kafejnīcā. Šajā sēdē pārrunāja, kā izmantot Sidrabeni, lai kalpotu draudzei un plašākai latviešu sabiedrībai. Vienojāmies, ka abām komitejām vajadzētu regulāri tikties, lai visefektīvāk izmantotu mūsu lauku īpašumu.

Skatoties uz priekšu, pārvalde paredz plānot pievilcīgus sarīkojumus, lai draudzes locekļi izbaudītu savu Sidrabeni. Arvien aicinām piedalīties dievkalpojumsos, kas notiek pirmajā

svētdienā mēnesī. Pēc tam izbaudām kopīgas pusdienas un sadraudzību.

Paldies visiem, kuŗi strādāja, lai uzturētu Sidrabeni – vai tas būtu talkās, dežūrējot pie vārtiem, vai palīdzot sarīkojumos. Esam ļoti pateicīgi.

Izsaku vislielāko pateicību mūsu pārvaldniekam, Andrejam Grīnbergam, kurš nenogurstoši strādāja, lai Sidrabene būtu viesmīlīga vieta.

Valdis Kauliņš

Sidrabenes pārvaldes priekšnieks.

Sidrabenes notikumu kalendārs 2017. g.

1. Sestd. 22. aprīlī – Pavasaŗa talka
 2. Sestd. 27. maijā – Sid “Bocce” bumbas turnīrs
 3. Sestd. 3. jūnijā – Sid sezonas atklāšana
 4. Sestd. 24. jūnijā – Jāņi
 5. Sept/okt (datums nav nosprausts) Sid sezonas slēgšana
 6. Sestd. 4. nov. – Rudens talka
- Informācija par citiem sarīkojumiem sekos, kad izlems datumus.

Papildus ziņas no kasieres

- 2016. g. piedzīvojām izmaiņas Sidrabenes saimē – 4 vasarnīcas tika pārdotas, atstājot pārdošanā tikai vienu kalnā un dažus zemes gabalus bez ēkām.
- Nākamajā (2017. g.) auto novietošanas maksas paliek tāpat kā 2016. gadā: sezonai \$60, bet vienai dienai \$10. Kā ierasts arī šogad draudzes un Sidrabenes pilnsapulcēs piedāvāsim sezonas lipekļus par pazeminātu cenu - \$50.
- Pārvalde ir nelaimīga, ka paredzētā Juŗa Eglīša piemiņas paviljona/pajumtes būve aizkavējas, gaidot būvatļauju no “Conservation Halton” un “Halton Building Committee”.
- Ir labākas izredzes uzbūvēt iecerēto Sidrabenes kafejnīcas pajumti, jo no vairākiem sarīkojumiem, individuāliem ziedojumiem un 2016. g. “lielās” loterijas ieņemts jau pāri par \$4,400. Vēl vajadzīgi ap \$2,000 - \$3,000, lai

- darbu sāktu. Tāpēc aicinām jūs apsvērt ziedot caur draudzi, lai var ieceri īstenot.
- Sidrabenes finanču komiteja uzmanīgi izseko izdevumiem, salīdzinot tos ar budžetu. 2016. gadam esam ēku un zemes uzturēšanai tērējuši mazāk, nekā budžetā paredzēts. Toties, par mašīnu remontiem tēriņi pārsniedza paredzēto, jo centāmies vēl veco zāles pļāvēju remontēt, bet galu galā tas bija jāatvieto ar jaunu “Kubota” firmas pļāvēju, ko varējām caur firmu financēt uz nomaksu bez procentiem uz vairākiem gadiem. Izrādījās, ka kafejnīcā nav vajadzīgs atsevišķs telefons, tāpēc to atcēlām, ietaupot ap \$945 gadā.
 - Īrēs 2016. gadā ieņēmām \$108,339, kas ir ap \$10,000 vairāk nekā budžetā paredzēts. Šajā summā ieskaitīts \$47,950 no “Bronte Creek Project”, \$37,042 no dažādām jauniešu un reliģiskām organizācijām un \$5,945 no privātām personām un saimnieciskām vienībām.
 - Īres maksas tika paaugstinātas, sekojot pārvaldes lēmumam 27. augusta sēdē. Līdz šim mūsu regulārie īrnieki nav iebilduši pret jaunām likmēm, tāpēc paredzam vēl labākus ienākumus no šiem avotiem 2017. gadā.
 - Lai papildinātu Sidrabenes rezerves, Sidrabenes gada sapulcē 2016.g. martā apstiprināja paaugstināt vasarnīcu zemes nomu par \$100 nākamajos dažus gadus (2017. g. tā būs \$900) un paredzēts to vēlreiz paaugstināt 2017.gadā.
 - No 2016. gada atlikuma pārskaitījām budžetā paredzētos \$16,500 uz rezerves kontu, lai segtu neparedzētus izdevumus un arī nākotnes projektus, kad tie būs izplānoti. Paredzam 2017. gadā pārskaitīt rezerves kontā līdz \$26,500, kā arī nomaksāt mūsu atlikušo parādu draudzes padomei par jauno grīdu Sidrabkalna lielajā zālē. Pārvalde jūtas apmierināta, ka esam spējuši turpināt segt visus izdevumus sakarā ar Sidrabenes apsaimniekošanu un varam ērtāk plānot nākotnes projektus kopā ar draudzes padomi.

Atskatoties uz SIDRABENES bērnu nometni 2016. g. (3.jūl.– 31.jūl.)

Vasara bija tik karsta, ka nedrīkstējām kurt ugunskurus un upes bija pārāk seklas. Bijām visi pateicīgi par peldbaseinu. Visi nometnes darbinieki brīnišķīgi sadarbojās, ieskaitot 3 no Latvijas un 2 no Flin Flon (MB): Kurtis Grietiņš (komandants), zēnu gala vadītājs Aleksandrs Brunišs, meiteņu gala vadītājas Natālija Vāgnere (ūdenssardze) un Kristin Lakata, Cāļu kalnā Ilze Vikse (MB) un Elza Alberiņa (LV). Virtuvē šefpavārs Martiņš Vikse (MB), Silvija Tauriņa, Jānis Alberiņš (LV), un Rēzija Apsīte (LV) gādāja nometņotājiem svaigu, veselīgu, interesantu un garšīgu ēdienu. Sirsnīgi pateicamies Krissy Pāvelsonei par saimniecības pamācībām jaunajiem virtuves strādniekiem. Papildus strādnieki: Amanda Leja (CK), Andrea Thiele un Alex Thiele. Kā parasti, Linda Lakata (administrātore, CIT vadītāja) un Sandra Thiele (veselība, rokdarbi) abas uzņēmās vairākus amatus nometnes laikā pēc vajadzības.

Par kristīgo audzināšanu rūpējās Prāv. Ilze Kuplēna-Ewart. Viņas probūtnē ikdienas programmu vadīja diakone Inese Upmane-MacDonald. Dievkalpojumi notika svētdienās un svētiņu svētbrīži trešdienas vakaros vairākās interesantās vietās Sidrabenē brīvā dabā. Bērni gatavoja materiālus un aktīvi piedalījās nometnes dievkalpojumos. Katru ceturtdienu bērni, sadalīti pa vecuma grupām, piedalījās mācītājas vadītās kristīgās nodarbībās, kur pārrunāja Bībeles stāstus un gatavoja nedēļas stāsta tēmai atbilstošus rokdarbus un priekšnesumus. Kā ierasts, ik rītu nometnē ievada dienu ar rīta lūgšanu un pirms un pēc maltītēm vienmēr visi skaita galda lūgšanu.

Nometnes komitejas locekļi visi ir brīvprātīgi darbinieki: Debbie Grietiņa, Dina Huska, Ivars Jēgeris, Sandra Kalniņa, Linda Lakata, Sandra Thiele, Anita Thomas, Katrīna Vikse, Lionel Zondo. Komiteja sanāca kopā 8 reizes pa skolas gadu, veicot visādus priekšdarbus, organizējot nometni. Imants Ūvīlis bija mūsu draudzes padomes pārstāvis, kā arī padomdevējs Sidrabenes pārvaldes lietās. Paldies Lionel Zondo

par 10+ darbības gadiem komitejā! Mēs ar prieku pieņemam jaunus komitejas locekļus!

Nometne ilga 4 nedēļas. Vispārējā latviešu sabiedrībā redzam, ka patreiz nometnes vecuma bērnu skaits samazinās. Nometnē piedalījās 38 bērni (starp tiem 9 pirmoreiz piedalījās nometnē) no 23 ģimenēm (no tām 5 pirmoreiz piedalījās nometnē). Kopskaitā bija 14 “cālīšu”, 19 “lielo” un 5 CIT līmenī (no kuņiem 3 sekmīgi nobeidza programmu 2016. g.) Meiteņu skaits gan pārspēja zēnus (26:12). 13 bērnu piedalījās visās 4 nedēļas. Vēl jāpieskaita dzīvnieki: 2 zaķi “Cālīšos” un 1 suns. Kā jau vienmēr iznāk, vispopulārākā nedēļa bija otrā nedēļa ar 32 bērniem.

Latviešu valodu nometnē lietojam kā galveno visās mūsu nodarbībās: dejojām tautas dejas, dziedām tautas dziesmas un Latvijas himnu, mācāmies par tradīcijām. Pa visu nometni tiek izliktas zīmītes ar latviešu nosaukumiem nometnes priekšmetiem. Izbraukumi (Burlington Air Field, Springridge Farms, CIT uz ‘Bērzaini’), balles, sirojumi, šķēršļu gājieni, peldēšana, kino vakari, spēles un draudzīgas sacīkstes piepilda nometnes dienas. Nometnei īpaši vajadzīgs un nozīmīgs ir Sidrabenes baseins, kur pulcējamies sadraudzībā kā arī lai atvēsinātos karstās dienās. Esam ļoti pateicīgi visiem mūsu sabiedrībā, kas saprot baseina svarīgo lomu un aizstāv nometnes bērnu baseina lietošanu.

Labi izdevās ‘SID SVĒTKU’ nedēļas nogale, kas sakombinēja bērnu svētkus un sporta svētkus kopā ar Sidrabeniešu saimes vadītu ‘Tobago’ vakaru kafejnīcā, pateicoties Dzintrai Eglītei. Pateicamies LSAK par gadskārtējo nometnes atbalstu un it īpaši šīs dienas LSAK biedru brīvprātīgiem palīgiem. Atsaucība no visām pusēm bija ļoti pozitīva un tāpēc rīkosim nākošos ‘SID SVĒTKUS’ šī gada 22. / 23. jūlija nedēļas nogalē. Visi mīļi aicināti!

Vairāki cilvēki ir darbojušies līdz nometnē, izpalīdzot, kur vajag. Vēlamies pateikties Andrejam Grīnbergam, Vilim Kleperim, Vilnim Blūmam, Vijai Skombai (nometnes arhivārei), Mudītei un Mike Schuler (lidošana), Krissy Pavelsoni, Ivaram Jēgerim (novus apmācīšana un zvejošana). Sirsnīgs paldies par lielo darbu nometnes labā!

Darbu nekad netrūkst un tos cenšamies paveikt talku laikā.

Šogad būs tikai viena talka – kopējā Sidrabenes talka pirms Jāņiem 2017. g. 3.jūnijā. Lūdzu sūtiet savus bērnus un mazbērnus uz nometni un atbalstiet nometnes notikumus! Piedalieties vasaras dievkalpojumos ar mums! Arī vecāki ir aicināti pieteikties izpalīdzēt nometnē un/vai dalīties ar saviem talantiem. Esam atsaucīgi uz visādām sadarbšanās iespējām. Sanāksim kopā, kalpot draudzei un uzturēt nometnes garu. Bērni ir mūsu nakotne!

Pateicamies par visāda veida palīdzību. It sevišķi pateicamies draudzei par finansiālo atbalstu 20 jaunām gultām! Ziedojumi vienmēr noder! Sūtot ziedojumu ‘Sidrabenes nometnei’ (\$20 vai vairāk) Sv. Andreja draudzes administrātoarei Sarmai Gaidei, saņemsiet nodokļu atlaides kvīti.

Sidrabenes bērnu nometnes mērķis ir gādāt, lai tagad, kā arī nākotnē, ģimenēm būtu pieejama droša vieta, kur vecāki var sūtīt savus bērnus pa vasaru, kur notiek latviska, kristīga audzināšana draugu vidē. Nometnes 2017. gada sezona atkal ilgs 4 nedēļas – no 9. jūlija līdz 6. augustam. Prieks pazziņot, ka atgriezīsies Kurtis Grietiņš, Ilze Vikse, Mārtiņš Vikse, Kristin Lakata, kā arī Linda un Sandra. Uz redzēšanos Sidrabenē!

CIT dalībnieces, Danas, domas par nometni :

‘Šovasar mēs bjiām kopā 5 CIT, no kuņiem mēs divi pirmgadnieki jutāmies pavisam ‘zaļi’, kaut gan nometnē esam gājuši kopš mazām dienām. Kā CIT mums ir izdevība palīdzēt visur, mācīties un būt atbildīgiem. Bez šaubām, būt atbildīgiem neatņem no priekiem. Mēs piedalāmies visās spēlēs un nodarbībās ar izdevību tās vadīt ar uzraudzību. CIT izbraukums bija uz ‘Bērzaini’, kur mēs viens otru atbalstījām, kopā sadarbojāmies un viens otram palīdzējām. Pēc tam viens otru labāk sapratām un kļuvām par labākajiem draugiem. Bija vienreizēja vasara, ko es nekad neaizmirsīšu! 2017. g. būšu ‘CIT2’ un es noteikti zinu, ka man ies forši!’

Sandra Kleperis Thiele



Visi foto: Dana Grietiņa

Nometnes ekskursija uz *Springridge Farm*/
Springridge Farm Outing



Meitenes pošas uz ballīti/
Primping for the dance!



‘Cālīši’ aizraujas ar krāsošanu/
Intensive colouring!

Mūzikas komitejas ziņojums

Mūzikas komiteja, kuŗā darbojas ērģelnieks Dāvids Šmits, Vaira Gertnere un māc. Ilze Kuplēna-Ewart, turpina rūpēties, lai bagātinātu dievkalpojumus ar garīgo mūziku, sadarbībā ar Sv. Jāņa draudzes vokālo ansambli, kur dzied arī vairāki mūsu draudzes locekļi. Atsevišķos gadījumos, piemēram Lieldienu rītā, iesvētības dievkalpojumā un Ziemsvētku vakarā, tika pieaicināti viesu mūziķi: Alastair Thorburn-Vītols, Maria Thorburn, Alberts Vītols, Laudomia Lo Greco un Vaira Gertnere.

Sidrabenēs dievkalpojumos 2016. gadā vairākkārtīgi piedalījusies muzikālā grupa *Skaņu Ritenis*, Vairas Gertneres izkārtojumā. Sieviešu balsu ansamblītis piedalījās 4. decembra otrā Adventa laika dievkalpojumā Sidrabenē. Ir cerēts šo ansamblīša darbību turpināt un paplašināt 2017. gadā.

Investīcijas komiteja

Investīcijas komiteja, kuŗā darbojas Arnis Budrēvics, Voldemārs Innus, Auseklis Zaķis, and Andris Paukšēns, tikās vairākas reizes 2016. gadā, lai apsvērtu, kā labāk sasniegt investīcijas mērķus, ko draudzes padome bija apstiprinājusi.

Komiteja lūdzu četrām investīcijas firmām, (EFLEC - Evangelical Lutheran Foundation of Eastern Canada; Wood Gundy, ar kuŗu draudze ir ieguldījusi savus līdzekļus jau daudzus gadus; TD Wealth, ar ko pašreiz ir ieguldīti baznīcas pārdošanas darījuma ienākumi; un Assante Wealth Management), iesniegt komitejai savus priekšlikumus draudzes kapitāla ieguldīšanai, sekojot padomes izteiktiem norādījumiem. Komiteja rūpīgi izvērtēja iesniegtos dokumentus un intervēja katru firmu. Rezultātā komiteja ir izvēlējusies Assante Wealth Management firmai tālāk uzticēt draudzes kapitāla ieguldīšanu. Šis lēmums tiek patlaban iedzīvināts.

Komitejas pieņemtais investīcijas plāns tiks iepazīstināts 2017. gada pilnsapulcē apstiprināšanai.

'Palīdzība Latvijai' komiteja

Komitejā darbojās Anete Ivsiņa, Aija Mazsīle, Andris Rubenis, Erika Yost, Auseklis Zaķis un Indra Liepiņa. Komitejā 2016. gada beigās bija izmaiņas:

A. Ivsiņa sava darba pienākumu dēļ atsacījās no komitejas vadības un Alise Rozinska un Carlo De Masi izstājās veselības dēļ.

Izsakām īpašu pateicību Anetei Ivsiņai par viņas ilggadējo komitejas vadību un rosīgumu.

Komiteja tikās reti, divas reizes gadā, un darbojās vairāk ar e-pastiem. Komiteja priecātos par jauniem palīgiem, kuŗus šīs komitejas darbs uzrunā.

Lielākie 2016. g. pasākumi:

Ģimenes dienas brokastis, maijā, kas bija labi apmeklētas, ar daudziem palīgiem, un Ziemsvētku vakara kolekte. Nosūtītie līdzekļi atļauj bērniem no mūsu māsu draudzēm apmeklēt Kristīgu vasaras nomenti, kā arī atbalsta zupas virtuvi Rīgā un ēdienu grozus pensionāriem un daudz bērnu ģimenēm. Komiteja arī nosūta 'walkers' un citas palīgierīces pensionāriem.

ATSKAITE par Toronto Sv. Andreja draudzes ziedojumu 2016.gada Ziemassvētkos: Nauda tika izlietota, iegādājoties pārtikas preces un tās sapakojot Ziemassvētku dāvanām mūsu trijām māsu draudzēm Latvijā – Durbes, Zemītes un Daudzevas draudzēm. Katras pārtikas pakas plānotā vērtība bija 34 euro, bet tā kā ziedojumu summa bija mazliet lielāka par plānoto, tad katras pakas vērtība tika paaugstināta par diviem euro uz 36 euro. Pakas tika dāvātas draudžu pensionāriem, daudz bērnu ģimenēm un invalīdiem, kā arī viena papildus paka Zemītes draudzei pēc viņu lūguma un saldumu paciņas svētdienas skolas bērniem.

1. Ziedojums Durbes draudzei – 1080 euro. Pakas saņēma 30 personas.
2. Ziedojums Zemītes draudzei – 756 euro. Pakas saņēma 21 persona + 6 saldumu paciņas (20 euro) svētdienas skolas bērniem.
3. Ziedojums Daudzevas draudzei – 324 euro. Pakas saņēma 9 personas + 8 saldumu paciņas (20 euro) svētdienas skolas bērniem.

4. Atlikums ir 142.22 euro, kas tiks izmantoti Durbes svētdienas skolas bērniem Lieldienu saldumu paciņām un vasaras nomentēm.

Komiteja pateicas visiem 'Palīdzība Latvijai' komitejas atbalstītājiem un cer uz Jūsu turpmāko atbalstu!

Auseklis Zaķis
'Palīdzība Latvijai' komitejas vārdā



Zemītes draudzes priekšnieces vietniece mums atļāva tikt pie z-svētku eglītes savā mežā. Šogad eglīte mums no Tukuma



Zemītes dr.prieksn.vietniece Maija Tūtiņa ar Zīlīti



Pensionāres no Zemītes



Pastor's report
2017 Annual General Meeting
St Andrew's Ev. Lutheran Latvian Church

Reflections

The sad news that our long-standing member, Rasma Kusmanis, had died on January 26 this year propelled my thoughts back twenty years when Ron and I had come to Toronto so I could be interviewed for the vacancy at St. Andrew's. Whilst here, Rasma and her family asked me to conduct the funeral for her husband, Voldemārs, who had died very suddenly; it was a very cold Saturday. A few months later, at Jāņi, I returned to begin my ministry serving you, the people of St. Andrew's. Twenty years during which so much has happened, so many changes have taken place.

It only needs a cursory glance around the Riga hall in the Latvian Centre on November 18, on the tables set on Thursdays at the Centre for the weekly Seniors' meeting or around the sanctuary on a regular Sunday to realize that there has been a marked reduction in numbers of those who immigrated to Canada as young people and laid the basis for the Latvian community here. The make-up of our community has changed. For many reasons, assimilation amongst them, the number of those taking an active part in Latvian community life is far fewer than before. Add to this the impact of different life experiences on the values priorities of the following generations and it is apparent a huge shift has taken place. Some examples of different world views: it might be difficult to imagine, but the average 28 year old has no conception of life without a computer at home. For those aged around thirty, living in Toronto, assumptions around financial security that their parents grew up with have eroded: the purchase of a house shortly after marriage, a secure pension to look forward to. Concerns about their future that this younger cohort shares are well founded. Taken together, these shifts in society have left their mark on younger retirees, as well as the middle and younger generations. This is also reflected in our congregation. The reasons people have for

engaging in not-for-profit organizations, volunteering or donating are different from before: the concept of "duty", well-known to the generation growing up before the Second World War, no longer works as an incentive for younger age groups. As bishop Michael Pryse pointed out to our church council during his pastoral visit in 2016, "where being a regular church-goer meant coming to church weekly, today it means coming once a month." People are stressed out, "busy" and have different priorities.

As a result, the assumptions by which any charitable organization, churches included, develops its strategy has had to change. "Business as usual" doesn't work anymore. No-one is to blame, rather, this is the reality with which we have to deal and to which we have to accommodate ourselves, St. Andrew's included. "One size fits all" doesn't work, we have to accept that the variety of worldviews means finding different ways of addressing them. Yet the fundamental message of our calling is just as valid today: the need to share the good news of God's love and healing work revealed in Jesus, Saviour of the world. Conversations with people of different generations all seem to reveal the same basic needs: to have their big questions about life addressed, to have their spiritual needs fed, and a desire to have a positive impact. These are all clear indicators that the Spirit continues to poke and prod us, albeit in different ways as Jesus tells the elderly Nicodemus: "*God's Spirit blows wherever it wishes. You hear its sound, but you don't know where it comes from or where it is going. It's the same with everyone who is born of the Spirit.*" (John 3:8) This movement is all part of God's great plan: "*God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him won't perish but will have eternal life. God didn't send his Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through him.*" (John 3:16,17)

The ability to interpret the movement of the Spirit and to be responsive workers in the Lord's vineyard is part of the role of congregational leadership. It is a great responsibility, yet we, your council and I, continue to thank God for the call to

do so, and for being alongside us, and guiding us in love and with grace.

I would like to thank our wonderful volunteers: our council, and chair Indra Mertens, our various teams and committees: the Ladies' Auxiliary, chair Inta Briedis; the church elders, led by Guntis Bērziņš; our "Aid to Latvia" group, chaired by Anete Ivsiņa; the Sidrabene's camp committee, chair, Linda Lakats; the Sidrabene's management committee still led by the redoubtable Valdis Kauliņš together with the leaseholders who play a big role in Sidrabene during the summer months; Skaidrīte Leja, who does a phenomenal job getting our newsletter together, Anda Liberis, for correcting our Latvian. Added to this long list are those who volunteer to help with monthly worship at Sidrabene during the fall, winter, and spring: Krissy Pavelsons, our resident chef, chief animator Mudīte Schuler, and the large number of additional helping hands. So, too, my thanks to our administrator, Sarma Gaide, our musicians Dāvids Šmits and Vaira Gertners, and our property manager at Sidrabene, Andy Grīnbergs.

From January 2017 Rev. Ģirts Grietiņš began his work as the pastor of St. John's Lutheran Latvian church. This also meant saying goodbye to Rev. Anita Gaide, who served as interim pastor with verve and energy. We both met, usually weekly, to talk over matters arising: worship, events, as well as matters of theology. I have also begun to meet regularly with my new colleague and am excited about what will emerge from our work together.

2016 Review

1. Worship

Numbers of worshippers is shown in the attached table. Regular, monthly worship in the "off" season in Sidrabene has continued with worshipping and sharing fellowship over lunch in the dining hall. These are bilingual services, using current teaching methods: powerpoint, including brief illustrative video clips, art and other visuals to enhance the message. Songs are both contemporary and classic. An indicator of the value of these services is that the great majority of those worshipping in Sidrabene only come to worship

there. Our approach goes at least part-way towards addressing their needs.

From January 2017, I have begun to lead devotions and conversations at the Latvian Centre, once a month on Sunday afternoons. As noted in the hand-out: "Devotions at the Centre are a response to the need to make God's Word and worship available to those for whom travelling to 200 Balmoral Ave. on a Sunday morning presents significant difficulties." As this is the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, these meetings have provided a wonderful opportunity to acquaint, and reacquaint ourselves with some of the basic themes of the Reformation. January 29: Luther's 95 Theses, February 19, an introduction to Luther's Small Catechism.

I have continued to lead worship on a regular basis at Kristus Dārzs.

At only very short notice, together with Msgr. Edmund Putrimas (Lithuanian) we were able to prepare a format for a meditative prayer service to mark Deportation Day (June 14).

2. Learning

- June 9-12, attended the LELBA Bible Camp at Gaŗezers where I led a Bible study on the the theme: "Covenanted with God, with one another, with creation."
- November 4-6, our second annual retreat, once again with Rev. Jo Davies (chaplain, St John's Rehab), this time with the Sisters of St. John the Divine on Cumber Ave.
- Bible study at the summer camp was led by Deacon Inese Upmanis-MacDonald
- Due to a demographic dip, we do not have a confirmands group this year, but I hope to have one beginning fall, 2017.

3. Witnessing

- February 20, our annual "Out of the Cold" experience, this time meeting at First Lutheran Church on Bond St.
- March 12: attended the first meeting to discuss a future strategy for Kristus Dārzs
- April 9: led devotions at the annual meeting of the Latvian Federation in Canada

- April 30: led devotions for the DV Latvian Relief Society (Canada branch) meeting
- May 28: led devotions for the end of the school year (Latvian Saturday School)
- May 25: Kristus Dārzs AGM
- October 24: Brought greetings at the 30th anniversary of Kristus Dārzs.
- Christmas 2016, recorded a Christmas greeting uploaded onto YouTube: a translation of a Christmas story by Nikolay Tolstoy. The need to try this arose from information gained at summer school (“Beyond Walls”)
- December 28: meeting with the ambassador of Latvia to Canada

4. Serving

Details of baptisms, weddings and funerals are noted separately

5. Other

- June 23-25 Eastern Synod Assembly. Prepared a motion, passed almost unanimously, expressing concern at latest developments in the Lutheran Church in Latvia (their constitution was changed in June 2016 restricting application for ordination to men)
- I meet regularly with my colleagues, as is mandated for clergy, both with the Toronto Central Ministry Area (Eastern Synod) and the Churches on the Hill group. With the latter group I suggested using 2017 as an opportunity to mark the Reformation. As a result, we hope to have a joint service in the autumn, and to provide an opportunity for members of the various congregations to meet and discuss the first-rate materials on grace produced by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops and the ELCIC.

6. Sabbatical report

My thanks go to the congregation for graciously agreeing to my having an extended absence for both physical and psychological refreshment and for new learnings. As many of you know, my plans to spend the last four weeks of my sabbatical in Latvia collecting materials for

research on the place of Lutheranism in Latvia had to be set aside, and the sabbatical reduced by one month, following the sudden death of my dearly loved mother on September 2. Bureaucratic challenges in the UK meant that almost four weeks passed until we were able to complete her funeral arrangements. We buried her ashes, as she had requested, alongside her father in Saldus, on her 98th birthday. Once again, I would like to thank everyone for the messages of support and condolence that I received, as well as your prayers. All of this helped greatly.

Sabbatical outline:

July 10-16 Continuing Education. Writing and social media course “Beyond Walls” (Kenyon Institute, Gambier, Ohio). An intensive writing and learning course led by highly experienced journalists and authors

July 21-29, my annual silent retreat at Loretto Maryholme.

July 30-September 2 rest and recreation, also practising writing.

September 3-11 return to duties in Toronto (two weddings, participating in the annual Latvian Memorial Service, York Cemetery)

September 12-October 6 in the UK, with six days in Latvia: organizing my mother’s affairs, coroner’s inquest, funeral arrangements in the UK and Latvia

October 2 preached at both services in the Luther congregation, Rīga. Meetings with congregation members and pastors Linards Rozentals and Kaspars Simanovics

October 7- 8 retreat on Julian of Norwich, Norwich, England

October 9-14 vacation in the UK, including helping my stepdaughter following the birth of her son on October 5

October 15 Return to duties in Toronto

Sabbatical learnings:

1. Writing course
 - Technical expertise on blog writing
 - The editing process

- Using mass media (Twitter, Mailchimp, Facebook, Instagram)
- Learning rabbinical scriptural interpretation thus gaining an insight into Jesus' foundations as a rabbi
- Discovering that rabbis know far more about Christianity than I know about Judaism
- Affirmation of my ability to write
- Discovering the writings of Julian of Norwich

2. Retreat at Maryholme

- Time with God
- Immersing self in writings of Julian of Norwich and experiencing new insights into God's grace and love.

3. Retreat, Norwich

- Conclusion to my sabbatical

In concluding my report I would invite you to look to events we have planned further ahead: March 3, 4 Lenten talks including a presentation by LELBA chair, Rev. Gunārs Lazdiņš and LELBĀL archbishop Lauma Zušēvica.

March 4 at 4pm, please come and be part of the congregation for the installation of Rev. Ģirts Grietiņš as pastor of St. John's. During Lent, there will be a weekly prayer service, again highlighting aspects of the learnings from the Reformation.

On February 21, you are invited to be part of the "warm hugs" prayer shawl knitting group meeting monthly to create prayer shawls to give to those who might appreciate knowing they are surrounded by love and with prayer.

As always, I welcome your input and suggestions for congregational activities and worship, and ask you to let me know if you would like a listening ear, or pastoral support. Please email me, or call my cell phone to arrange a meeting.

In Christ's love

Pastor Ilze Kuplēns-Ewart

Council Chair Report

It has been quite a year for me as a Council volunteer, and I wish to thank the rest of the Council for their trust in me as Chair. We have moved forward with new initiatives, as well as updating existing ones.

Our biggest area of concern is the dramatic drop in donations to the Church. We have moved into our shared building with St. John's, however this has not lessened our costs. True, we do not need to worry about capital expenditures for our church building and we do have money to invest due to the sale of the Jarvis street building. Unfortunately, we are currently operating at an operating cost level 30% above the monies that are coming in, which is not sustainable. Should we use the capital of our church sale to cover our budgetary shortfall, at the current rate, our capital will be gone in 15 years.

Our Investment Committee is very close to presenting proposals to increase our interest revenue, which could be used to assist the budgetary shortfall. Under current economic conditions, this will likely still not be enough.

St. Andrew's committees have been encouraged to submit their own summaries of the past year. They all work hard for our Church community and are to be congratulated and thanked for everything they do for all of us. THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH! Unfortunately, year-by-year the number of volunteers grows smaller. To address this reality, Council invited the ELCIC Central Toronto Ministry Area Dean, Reverend Dr. Christian Ceconi, to discuss his achievements in recruiting volunteers. We want to be able to use ALL of our unique gifts for the benefit of our Church community and our Latvian heritage. Please consider volunteering to make us all better.

In 2016 we were all encouraged to complete a questionnaire for Sidrabene, the only property that St. Andrew's currently owns. 211 people completed the survey. Sylvia Shedden deserves thanks for the superb job she did in putting the information together and providing a report. Sidrabene's Management Committee and Council

have plans to sift through the results more thoroughly. It is a foundation from which to expand ways to utilize and improve upon this “little piece of heaven on Earth” of our congregation.

Council and all of the committees work for the overall benefit of our St. Andrew’s congregation. In this Anniversary year of Reformation (October 31, 2017 being the 500th) we find ourselves at a crossroads. Do we accept our situation, or do we reevaluate our needs, refresh our thinking, and move in a direction that will build up our Church community while being mindful of our rich history?

PLEASE share with us what your ideas and opinions are! I look forward to your input at our AGM February 26, 2017.

Ar Dieva palīgu,
Indra Mertens
Council Chair 2016

Investment Committee

The committee, which now consists of Arnis Budrēvics, Voldemārs Innus, Auseklis Zaķis, and Andris Paukšēns, met several times in 2016 to consider the Investment Strategy that had been approved by the Council.

The committee contacted four investment firms (*EFLEC* - Evangelical Lutheran Foundation of Eastern Canada, *Wood Gundy* - with whom we have invested funds for many years, *TD Wealth* - with whom we have currently invested our funds from the sale of our church, and *Assante Wealth Management*) and asked them to prepare submissions for the investment of our funds based on our strategy. Following the committee's review of the submitted materials, interviews were scheduled with all four firms. These interviews, and the evaluation of all materials, has now been completed and the committee has chosen Assante Wealth Management for the investment of congregational funds. The Investment Committee is now in the process of implementing that decision.

The committee’s decision will be presented at the 2017 AGM for approval.

The Music Committee Report

The Music committee, consisting of organist Dāvids Šmits, Vaira Gertners and Pastor Ilze Kuplēns-Ewart continues to plan for enriching services with sacred music and collaborates with the St. John’s congregation’s vocal ensemble, in which a number of our congregation’s members also sing.

In addition, guest musicians Alastair Thorburn-Vītols, Maria Thorburn, Alberts Vītols, Laudomia Lo Greco and Vaira Gertners have contributed to special services Easter morning, the confirmation service May 29 and Christmas Eve.

The group *Skaņu Ritenis* participated in several of the monthly services at Sidrabene. Also a small women’s vocal group sang at the second Advent service at Sidrabene Dec. 4. It is hoped to expand this group’s participation in 2017.

Out of the Cold

On February 20, 2016, 18 congregation members, including confirmands, parents, volunteers and Pastor Ilze gathered at First Lutheran Church on Bond St. to prepare for our annual Out of the Cold initiative, preparing hygiene kits for distribution to about 150 people in the downtown area. Many younger participants expressed keen interest in continuing involvement with this initiative.

A 2017 event is planned for March.

Sidrabene's "Pārvalde" Management committee 2016

Sidrabene 2016 was the "summer of songs". Beginning with AMUZ (Anna Broks, Maria Thorburn and Pēteris Zariņš) who performed a Spanish themed show at Sidrabene's opening social – the music kept on coming. Lolita Ritmanis and the Latvian cast from California came to Sidrabene's "Jāņi" to perform the musical "Te nu mēs esam" and to also be part of the "Jāņi" celebration along with dance group "Daugaviņa" and local musicians. On Canada Day, Normunds Ķietis and Inita Āboliņa from the Latvian group "Lauku muzikanti" entertained a group of 70 people at the kafe and, in August, Ron McEwan sang Irish songs. Finally at the closing social, Hamilton's "Vīru ansamblis" and Toronto's "Skaņu ritenis" received rave reviews with many in the audience saying that it was the best closing social ever. We also had several videofilm evenings as well as bocce tournament. Thanks to all who attended these events and brought their friends as well.

Thanks to Sidrabene's "pārvalde's" members: Rita Āpše, Vilnis Blūms, Andris Bergvalds, Voldemārs Innus, Ivars Jēgeris, Imants Ķivlis, Linda Lakats, Gail Ozoliņš, Valdis Korbs, Māra Ozols, Valdis Pālēns, Andris Paukšēns, Krissy Pāvelsons, Mudīte Schuler and Mārtiņš Skuja who all worked hard to ensure that Sidrabene enjoyed a successful summer filled with a variety of events that attracted many congregation members and friends. Thanks also to Ēriks Maldonis for managing the Sid kafe with assistance from his daughter Monta and Mārīte Tētiņa.

Sidrabene's "pārvalde" held 7 meetings as well as a joint meeting on June 18 at Sidrabene's kafe with the church council. This meeting gave the "pārvalde" and church council a chance to discuss how to use Sidrabene to best serve the needs of our congregation and the wider Latvian society. The mutual feeling was that these two committees should meet on a regular basis in order to realize the full potential of our rural property.

Looking ahead to 2017, Sidrabene's "pārvalde" will continue to plan social events to attract church members to come and enjoy our property. In addition, all congregation members are invited to attend the regular church services that are held on the 1st Sunday of the month in Sidrabene. These church services are followed by a lunch and good fellowship.

Thanks to all those who worked hard to maintain Sidrabene – whether you showed up at the work bees ("talkas") or did gate duty or helped out at the socials – your efforts are greatly appreciated.

Finally, thanks to our property manager Andrejs Grīnbergs who works tirelessly to make Sidrabene a welcoming place.

Valdis Kauliņš,
Sidrabene's "Pārvalde" Chair

Sidrabene's social dates 2017.

- 1) Sat. April 22 – Spring Clean-up work bee
 - 2) Sat. May 27 – Sid bocce tournament
 - 3) Sat. June 3 – Sid opening social
 - 4) Sat. June 24 – "Jāņi"
 - 5) Sept./Oct. (date not set) Sid closing social
 - 6) Sat. Nov. 4 – Fall Clean-up work bee
- Information about other social events will follow when dates are set.

Additional news from the Treasurer

- 2016 saw changes in the Sid community – 4 cottages were sold, which at present leaves available only 1 cottage on the hill plus some lots without buildings.
- For 2017 parking rates will remain the same as 2016: Season \$60, daily \$10. As usual we will offer a discount of \$10 on season parking at both AGM's (Sidrabene's and Church).
- "Pārvalde" is frustrated that building the Pavillion (in memory of Juris Eglītis) is on hold due to the slow process of obtaining permits from Conservation Halton and also Halton Building Committee.
- A permanent Kafe awning is closer to being built. Funds received to date from several social events, individual donations, and the 2016 lottery profits total just over \$4,400. An

- additional \$2,000-\$3,000 are needed to proceed. Please consider making a donation through the church to help get this project moving.
- Sid Finance committee carefully reviews expenses against our budget. The 2016 Building and Land maintenance category showed we stayed well below budget. We tried to repair the old riding lawn mower, but finally had to replace it by a new “Kubota” that is being financed at 0% to spread the cost over time. We have also realized that there is no need to have a landline phone at the Kafē, so that has been cancelled, saving us about \$945 a year.
 - The 2016 rental income totalled \$108,339 – about \$10,000 higher than budgeted. This includes \$47,950 from Bronte Creek Project, \$37,042 from Youth & Social groups, \$5,945 from Private & Commercial entities.
 - Rental rates increased substantially following the “pārvalde” decision Aug 27, 2016. Since our regular renters have expressed no objections, we expect our “bottom line” to be even better in 2017.
 - To help build up Sidrabene’s reserves for future major projects, cottagers’ yearly land use fee was increased by \$100 (now \$900 for 2017) in line with Sidrabene’s AGM decision Mar 2016. At present, the plan is to increase 2018 fees by a further \$100.
 - From 2016 year’s profits, we did transfer the planned \$16,500 to our Reserve account to use in case of unexpected emergency repairs as well as for future projects still to be planned. We plan for 2017 to transfer up to \$26,500 to our Reserve account, as well as pay off the balance we owe to the church council for the Main Hall flooring. It is satisfying to realize that we continue to be able to cover all of the costs of maintaining Sidrabene and be able to plan future projects more confidently together with the church council.

Rita Āpše
Sidrabene’s “Pārvalde” Treasurer

Camp SIDRABENE summer 2016 (July 3 – July 31)

The summer was so hot, that we were forbidden to have campfires and the rivers were quite shallow. We were all grateful for the swimming pool.

Our camp staff worked together wonderfully, including 3 from Latvia and 2 from Flin Flon (MB): Kurtis Grietiņš (program director); boys’ end counsellor Aleksandrs Bruniņš, girls’ end counsellors Natālija Vāgners (lifeguard) and Kristin Lakats, childrens’s lodge counsellors Ilze Vikse (MB) and Elza Alberiņa (LV). In the kitchen head cook Mārtiņš Vikse (MB), Silvija Tauriņš, Janis Alberiņš (LV) and Rēzija Apsīte(LV) provided fresh, nutritious, interesting and tasty meals. We thank Krissy Pāvelsons for tutoring the newcomers to the kitchen. We had additional short-term help from Amanda Leja (CK), Andrea Thiele and Alex Thiele. As usual, Linda Lakats (administrator, CIT program co-ordinator) and Sandra Thiele (health, crafts) both wore many different hats according to need.

Spiritual Christian education was organized and lead by Rev. Ilze Kuplēns-Ewart. During her sabbatical the daily program was lead by Deacon Inese Upmane-MacDonald. During camp there were Sunday church services and Wednesday evening candle light services at different and interesting locations within Sidrabene’s natural setting. The youth prepared appropriate materials and actively participated during services. Each Thursday the campers, divided into age groups, engaged in active discussions about Bible stories as well as in theme-related activities, crafts and short theatrical productions. As always, camp recites the Lord’s Prayer each morning during the flag raising ceremony, as well as giving thanks before and after each meal.

Sidrabene Camp committee members are all volunteers (Debbie Grietiņš, Dina Huska, Ivars Jēgeris, Sandra Kalniņš, Linda Lakats, Sandra Thiele, Anita Thomas, Katrina Vikse, Lionel Zondo). They met on 8 occasions during the school year pre-planning the summer. Imants Ķivlis

was our church executive liaison, as well as our advisor for Sidrabene Cottagers' Association issues. Thank you Lionel Zondo for 10+ years of participation on the committee! We gladly welcome any interested new members.

Camp ran for 4 weeks. Overall attendance levels dropped very slightly, consistent with the age demographics in the local Latvian community as a whole. A total of 38 children participated (of which 9 were first time campers), from 23 families (of which 5 were new). In total there were 14 'cālīši', 19 big kids and 5 CIT's, of which 3 graduated. We had 13 campers participating the full 4 weeks. We must also include 2 rabbits in 'CK' and 1 dog as well.

Latvian language is the primary language used in all our activities: traditional dancing, singing of the Latvian anthem and songs, celebrating holidays. Throughout the camp both indoors and outdoors are posted signs in Latvian for common items. Day trips (Burlington Air Field, Springridge Farms, CITs to 'Bērzaine'), dances, excursions, hikes, swimming, movie nights, games and friendly competition are mainstays of daily camp life. A vital and cherished resource that is central to daily camp life is the pool. We are grateful to those in the community who understand and defend the pool's importance to camp and our children.

The weekend event 'SID SVETKI' was a success. This community event combined elements of our children's day and sports day integrated with a 'Tobago' themed evening event planned by the SID cottagers (thanks to Dzintra Eglītis). We would like to thank LSAK (Latvian Sports Assoc.) for their long-term and amazing support as well as their dedicated volunteer team.

Overall comments were positive and as a result, 'SID SVETKI' will be held this summer on the weekend of July 22 /23, 2017. Everyone is welcome!

There are people who have always and selflessly worked with camp. We would like to thank Andy Grīnbergs, Vilis Kleperis, Vilnis Blūms, Vija Skomba (camp archivist), Mudīte + Mike Schuler (airplane trips) and Krissy Pavelsons,

Ivars Jēgeris (teaching novus and fishing.) We truly appreciate your dedication to Camp Sidrabene! Thank you! There is always work to be done in Sidrabene and we try to complete this during work bees. This year there will only be a single Sidrabene joint work bee on Sat. June 3rd, 2017.

We are grateful and appreciative of any help offered. We are particularly grateful for the financial support of the church with which we were able to purchase an additional 20 beds. Donations are always welcome! As an added incentive, if monetary donations (\$20 or more) earmarked 'Camp Sidrabene' are sent to St. Andrew's church administrator Sarma Gaide, then a donation receipt for tax purposes will be issued.

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. In 2017 camp will again run for 4 weeks: July 3 – July 31. Register now! Come join us for a week or better still, for all 4! We still have openings for some staff positions – new applicants are encouraged. See you in Sidrabene!

CIT Dana's comments about camp:

'This summer there were 5 CITs all together. Two of us were completely new to the CIT role as it was our first year, even though we had been campers since we were little. As a CIT we have opportunities to help out, learn and take responsibility. There is no doubt that being more responsible at camp does not take away any fun! We continue to be involved in all games, activities and events with the chance of taking charge and helping out. The CIT team building day trip was to 'Berzaine'. This trip made us trust in each other, understand each other a bit more if someone else was nervous and help each other out. The group of us are now better friends. Summer 2016 was an awesome summer that I will never forget! As I go into camp this next summer as a CIT2, I definitely know I will enjoy myself!'

SIDRABENE

SIDRABKALNS Facility Improvements for Services and Programs

Background

Since the sale of our church at Carlton and Jarvis, the congregation has expanded the services and activities held in Sidrabene. That experience has provided an understanding of some of the issues and challenges that are faced.

This past fall we also started a process of assessing the state of the facilities in Sidrabene. The first facility to be assessed is SIDRABKALNS. That assessment is largely complete and its findings and recommendations have been shared with the Sidrabene Management Committee (Pārvalde) and Congregation Council (Padome) and they have approved a number of preliminary actions. More information is needed on some additional proposed modifications before they can be approved. As in the past, financing for these modifications will be provided by both the Sidrabene and congregation budgets.

Facility Analysis

Upper Hall (Dining Room # 118)

While the initial thought was that we would hold our services in the large lower hall, for a number of reasons the upper hall (Dining Room) has emerged as the primary space for our services and activities. The upper hall is more appropriate given the number of people that are attending our services and the hall is heated year round. For summer activities, the room is already air conditioned. There are a number of maintenance issues (flooring, painting, door replacements, lighting, etc.) that will be addressed.

Upper Hallway Offices (#106 and #107)

Currently there is no congregational office, or presence, in SIDRABKALNS. There is no place for the Pastor to change, meet with people, or store materials. A cabinet has been inappropriately placed in the hallway to hold minimally required service materials. The upper hallway offices would provide a congregation presence, a place for the Pastor to change, a place to meet people, and a place to store support materials.

Currently the upper hallway office is used by Bronte Creek during the academic year. This office needs to be vacated so that it can be assigned to the congregation as support and administrative office. This change will be discussed with Bronte Creek as part of the rental agreement for next year.

Middle Hall (Balcony Hall Room # 125)

There is currently no space available for congregation support activities. For example, as part of the Christmas service, the wreath preparation activity conducted for our youth had to be held in the upper

hallway. Properly outfitting the Middle Hall and making it available all year round would solve this problem.

Upper Level Handicapped Issues

Entranceway # 109

Currently, there is no handicapped access to the upper level. Need to develop a plan for making this entranceway handicapped accessible to the upper level.

Handicapped Accessible Lavatory (Room #102)

There is not a handicapped lavatory at this level. We need to develop a plan to address this issue.

Lower Level Handicapped Issues

Entranceway # 120

Currently, there is no handicapped access to the lower level. Need to develop a plan for making this entranceway handicapped accessible to the lower level.

Handicapped Access to Balcony Room #125

Currently there is no handicapped access to this room from either the first level or third level.

We will seek government funding to facilitate these needed handicapped modifications.

Kitchen (Rooms # 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117)

The kitchen is used extensively by the congregation, summer camp, and renters of SIDRABKALNS. The kitchen facility has operated for the last 40+ years without major changes or modification. The "wear and tear" is clearly evident and we need to ensure that we are in full compliance with all health requirements. A small group of chefs in our community are helping with the assessments of our kitchen.

Main Hall (Lower Level Room #118)

The main hall is used for congregational, summer camp, and Sidrabene community activities. It is also used extensively by outside groups (Bronte Creek Project, weddings, girl guides, scouts, community groups, etc.). The main hall generates significant resources for the support of SIDRABKALNS. To facilitate rentals, new tables were purchased last year and the floor of the main hall was replaced. However, a number of maintenance and program issues need to be addressed to better serve our congregation and increase our potential for additional income. Rental rates are being increased in anticipation of these improvements.

Moments of Joy, Seasons of Grace...

Lay Spiritual Retreat 2017

@ Mount Carmel Spiritual Centre, Niagara Falls

Host: Bishop Michael Pryse

Spiritual Director: Rev. Claudine Carlson

Worship Leaders: Rev. James Brown and Rev. André Lavergne

Retreat Director: Dorothy Frook
Telephone: 519-881-2798
Email: dbfrook@wightman.ca

Registrar: Prijna Gingrich
Telephone: 519-208-5652
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Having served for more than 23 years as a pastor in the Eastern Synod, Claudine Carlson retired in February 2016. Throughout her pastoral ministry, she served the wider church in various capacities, including teaching Spiritual Formation at WLS and serving on NCC. Prior to ordination, her careers included teaching grade 2 in California and management as a department head at the UW Library. She wants her retirement years to be both productive and creative, and has embarked on a busy year living as an "Alongsider" of the Anglican Sisters of St. John the Divine in Toronto. She hopes to return to Kitchener-Waterloo when the program concludes at the end of July 2017. Her theme, "Moments of Joy, Seasons of Grace", is the title of a book she'd like to write someday.

**Please join us for community, conversation,
contemplation, worship and renewal.**

**Please note that this is a fragrance free event!*

To register on-line, please visit www.easternsynod.org.
(Hard copies of the registration form can also be found at www.easternsynod.org)



Spiritual Retreat for Laypersons,
hosted by Bishop Pryse and Rev. Riitta Hepomaki,
which will be held at **Mount Carmel Spiritual Centre** from
March 31 - April 2.

Pilnīgāku ziņu var saņemt draudzes birojā/
More information is available from the church office