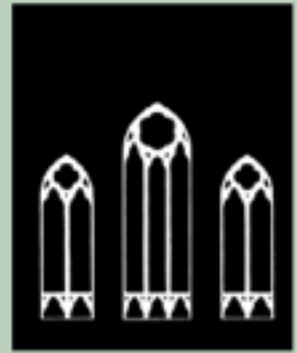


*St. Andrew's Ev. Luth. Latvian*  
*Sv. Andreja ev. lut. latviešu*

# Church *newsletter* Draudzes *ziņas*



#189



*Priecīgas Lieldienas!*  
*Happy Easter!*

**DRAUDZES PILNSAPULCE**  
**2018 g. 8. APRĪLĪ**  
**AGM**  
**APRIL 8, 2018**

## **DARBA KĀRTĪBA:**

1. Pilnsapulces atklāšana
2. Balsu skaitītāju vēlēšanas
3. Darba kārtības pieņemšana
4. 2017. gada pilnsapulces protokola pieņemšana
5. Rezolūcijas: 1) Draudzes padomes locekļu skaits (otrais lasījums)
6. Ziņojumi: 1) Mācītāja  
2) Padomes priekšsēdis  
3) Kasieris  
4) Komitejas  
5) Revīzijas komisija  
6) Ziņojumu pieņemšana
7. 2018. gada budžets
8. Padomes un revīzijas komisijas vēlēšanas
9. Ierosinājumi turpmākai darbībai
10. Dažādi jautājumi

## **AGENDA:**

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

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



## Kristus augšāmcēlšanās un dziedinošas zāles, smaržas, bēru mielasti. . .

Mācītājs noskatījās, kā sanāca mīļie draudzes locekļi. Vēl vienas bēres, vēl viens ceļojums uz kapsētu. Gandrīz vai katram mašīnā bija kaut kas, ar ko dalīties, jo pusdienas bija paredzētas sērotāju ģimenes mājā. Iepriekšējā dienā viss bija jāsapatavo. Mācītājs rakstīja: "Domāju, cik līdzīgi viņi sievietēm, kas pirmā Lieldienu agrā rītā devās uz mirušā Jēzus kapa vietu, nesdamas smaržīgās zāles, ko bija sagatavojušas. (Lk. 24:1) Ne jau starp ēdieniem, kas tika gatavoti bēru mielastam būtu bijušas smaržīgās zāles, un tomēr," mācītājs sev prasīja: "Vai arī klājot galdu ar saceptiem labumiem, viņi necentās 'izdzēst' nāves brutālās īstenības smaržas?"

Nāve ir ienaidnieks, kas savās pēdās atstāj daudz sāpju, posta, vientulības, un tomēr. Tie, kas sanāk bēres un pēc tam gādā, lai, kopā ēdot, cits citu varētu stiprināt? Viņi saprot, varbūt vēl tikai cer, ka tas arī pašiem palīdzēs. Mēs ticam, ka nāve ir aprīta uzvarā, jo Kristus ir augšāmcēlies, un jau šīs dzīves ceļā varam piedalīties nāves uzvarēšanā, sagatavojot "smaržīgas zāles", ne jau vairs lai mirušo apkoptu, bet cits citu, un tā arī sevi pašu.

Pāvila spēcīgie vārdi bieži atskan Lieldienu rītā, liecinot: "Pēdējais ienaidnieks, kas tiks iznīcināts, būs nāve...Kad iznīcīgais ietērpsies neiznīcīgajā un mirstīgais ietērpsies nemirstīgajā, tad piepildīsies rakstītais vārds: nāve ir aprīta uzvarā. Kur, nāve, tava uzvara? Kur, nāve, tavs

dzelonis?" Nāves dzelonis ir grēks un grēka spēks ir bauslība, bet, paldies Dievam, kas mums dod uzvaru caur mūsu Kungu Jēzu Kristu." (I Kor. 15:26 un 54-57)

Šie Pāvila vārdi bija rakstīti ļoti agri, pirms pat rakstiski parādījās evaņģēliji. Pāvils citē Vecās Derības tekstus, lai atklātu, ka ar Kristus augšāmcēlšanos piepildījās senie Dieva apsolījumi. Pāvils labi pazina pravieša Jesajas grāmatas vārdus: "Uz mūžu mūžiem viņš izpostīs nāvi, Kungs Dievs noslaucīs asaras no visu vaigiem." (25:8), kā arī Hozeja rakstītos: "No šeola es atgūšu viņu, no nāves es viņu izpirkšu – kur gan tavs spēks, nāve? Kur gan tava sērga, šeol?" (13:14) Gan pravietis Jesaja, gan Hozeja, darbojās apmēram gados no 734. - 722. pirms Kristus. Ilgi gaidīja pasaule saņemt to, ko mums dāvina Kristus augšāmcēlšanās.

Bet, ja kādi pat skaistā Lieldienu rītā dodas uz dievkalpojumu vēl dziļās sērās un lūgšanās un atklāj, ka jūtas, kā "miruši", jo tik grūti tālāk dzīvot? Kad jūt, ka nāve patiesi ir uzvarētāja, jo nozagusi to, kas mūžam piešķīra dzīvot jēgu! Ko tad? Padomāsim, cik reizes jūs paši no māšīnas neesat aiznesuši skaisti sagatavotas maizītes, salātus, pīrāgus, varbūt sagrieztus Aleksandra kūkas gabaliņus kopējiem draudzes sadraudzības brīžiem? Telpas, draudzes 'māja' pildās smaržām, kas dalītā mīlestībā pārtop par dziedinošām zālēm. Arī tā mēs esam mācījušies no Kristus, kas mums klāj galdu, jo zina, cik vajadzīgs mums šis kopējais žēlastībā dāvinātais mielasts un arī tas, ko baudām pēc dievkalpojumiem. Vai varbūt arī tādos brīžos slēpjas atbilde sērās nonākušajam? Kad kristīgās mīlestības spēks top par pretspēku nāvei?

Apustulis Jānis savās vēstulēs daudz rakstīja par Dieva mīlestību un mūsējo. Vienā pantā viņš pat vēsta: "Mēs zinām, ka esam no nāves pārgājuši dzīvībā, jo mēs milam brāļus un māsas (sic), kas nemīl, paliek nāvē." (I Jņ. 3:14) Mēs zinām. Tik pārlicināts šis apustulis, varbūt jo ir redzējis, kā tas notiek? Kad mīlot citam citu 'nāve ir aprīta uzvarā'? Viņš ir pārlicināts, ka, mīlot cits citu, mēs jau šīs dzīves laikā atņemam nāvei tās milzīgo spēku mūs turēt savā varā! Un Jāņa evaņģelijā lasām Kristus apsolījumu, kas to

apstiprina: "Patiesi, patiesi, es jums saku: Kas tic, tam ir mūžīga dzīvība. Es esmu dzīvības maize." (Jņ. 6:47-48). Ne – tam reiz būs, bet – tam ir. Tas maina visu, vai nē? Mēs zinām, ne jau uzreiz izgaisīs sēras, varbūt būs vēl cīņas ar nāves bailēm, bet mums ir pretspēks tām, kad cits citam atgādinām Jēzus vārdus: "Jūsu sirdis lai neizbīstas! Ticiet Dievam un ticiet man!" (Jņ. 14:1)

Kristietības pašos pirmajos gados kristieši bieži sanāca cits cita mājās uz dievkalpojumiem. Mājas kārtībā atskanēja lūgšanas, dziesmas, Dieva Vārdi. Varbūt, ka tika nolasīta kāda apustuļu vēstule, varbūt ka dalījās pārrunās un mācībās. Sekoja mielasts, ko ievadīja Svētais Vakarēdiens. To viņi darīja, Viņu pieminēdami. Pie Viņa galda paēdināti, tie tālāk dalīja saņemto svētību – kopā paēdot, cits citā ieklausoties, vai vienkārši kādam paspiežot roku, vai savējo uz tā pleca uzliekot. Un arī tā nāve top uzvarēta, jo atņemts tās spēks atstāt cilvēku tukšu, bez cerības vai mīlestības, bez ticības, kas dzīvu dara! Kā apustulis Jānis teica: "Mēs zinām, ka esam pārgājuši no nāves dzīvībā, jo mēs mīlam..."

Tik bieži esam piedzīvojuši brīžus, kad pēc sēru mielastiem vai draudzes sadraudzības brīžiem pamazām prom dodas draugi, piederīgie, draudzes locekļi, gandrīz vai katrs iznesot kādu tukšu paplāti. Vai esam paši manījuši, ka sirdis nav tukšas? No tukšā kapa pirmā Lieldienu rītā sievietas devās prom, atbrīvotas no sērām, ar jaunu dzīves uzdevumu: "Steidzieties un sakiet viņa mācekļiem, ka viņš ir augšāmcēlies no mirušajiem ...tad tās steigšus devās prom no kapa, baiļu un liela prieka pārņemtas, tās skrēja pasludināt šo vēsti viņa mācekļiem." (Mt. 28:7a un 8) Tukšajā kapā palika smaržīgās svaidamās zāles.

Tukšajā kapā lai paliek tas, kas aizkavētu mūsu prieku pasludināt Kristus augšāmcelšanās vēsti! Caur vissarežģītākajiem laikiem un cīņām, tuvumā un tālumā, turpināsim lūgt un Viņam un cits citam kalpot mīlestības spēkā, jo kas nemīl, paliek nāvē. Mēs paliekam Viņā, kam ir mūžīgās dzīvības vārdi un spēks!

No sirds novēlu jums katram, tuvumā un tālumā skaistus, dziedinošus, priecīgus Kristus Augšāmcelšanās svētkus!

**Māc. + Lauma**

Arturs Voitkus

## **TU – DIEVA DĒLS**

*Tu – Dieva Dēls. Tu – svētā gaisma.*

*Tu – ceļš, pa kuŗu visiem iet.*

*Tu tas, kas uzvar nāves baismu,*

*Tu tas, kas taisnu tiesu spried.*

*Tu – vīna koks. Tu – maize svētā,*

*Mums Debestēva novēlētā.*

*Tu – labais gans, kas drošā vietā  
Ved avis, kad tām briesmas draud.*

*Tu stāvi klāt mums mūža rietā,*

*Tu glāsti to, kas as'ras raud.*

*Tu tikai mīlu sirdī nesi,*

*Tu – viņas kalps un valdnieks esi.*

*Tu biji jau kopš pirmām dienām,*

*Tu būsi, viss kad pīšļos grūs.*

*Tev pils ir celta zvaigžņu sienām,*

*Tavs tronis – krusta kalnā būs...*

*Tu – Dievs un cilvēks, brīnums svētais,*

*Tu – Dieva sūtnis izredzētais.*

\* \* \* \* \*

*Ak diena, gaišā, lielā,*

*Lai zeme gavilē!*

*Kungs Kristus*

*augšāmcēlies,*

*Jauns rīts aust pasaulē!*

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

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

Sunday February 26, 2017 at 1:00 pm

### 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) Auditing Committee
    - 6) Approval of Reports
  7. 2017 Budget
  8. Election of new Council and Auditing Committee
  9. Suggestions for future activities
  10. Other business
  11. Closing of the Meeting
1. **OPENING OF MEETING** by Council Chair **Indra Mertens** at 1:00 pm. Quorum is achieved with 61 members registered, as the minimum requirement is 50. **Indra Mertens** thanks members for attending and for their trust. **Indra Mertens** invites **Pastor Ilze Kuplēns-Ewart** to open the meeting. **Pastor Ilze Kuplēns-Ewart** leads the members in prayer, praying for God's guidance.
2. **ELECTION OF VOTE COUNTERS:** **Auseklis Zakis** and **Imants Purvs** are elected as vote counters by unanimous acclamation.
- RECORDERS OF MINUTES:** Gundega Melli and Līga Miklašēvics
3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Move to approve agenda as amended by **Pastor Ilze Kuplēns-Ewart**, seconded by **Arnis Budrēvics**. **Indra Mertens** moves that the Agenda be approved. Members vote with a show of hands **Carried**. Amendment that "Supervisory Committee" in sections 6.5 and 8 are changed from "Supervisory Committee" to "Auditing Committee".
4. **APPROVAL OF 2016 AGM MINUTES:** **Indra Mertens** thanks **Aina Budrēvics** for the superb 2016 Minutes and requests that **Arnis Budrēvics** extends our thanks to Aina .

**Arnis Budrēvics** moves that the 2016 AGM Minutes be approved, seconded by **Auseklis Zakis**. Members vote with a show hands. **Carried**.

5. **RESOLUTIONS:** **Indra Mertens** reads the 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 official is elected for a three-year term, with no fewer than one third of the members retiring each year. Retiring members of the congregational council may be re-elected."*

**Arnis Budrēvics** explains that 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. Two readings are required. The seconding reading will take place at the 2018 AGM with the approval of the Eastern Synod Council.

**Motion approved unanimously by a show of hands. Motion carried.**

### 6. REPORTS

**6.1 PASTOR'S REPORT:** **Pastor Ilze Kuplēns-Ewart** points out that her full report is on pages 13 to 15 in the Draudzes Ziņas/Newsletter.

Additional comments:

- ¥ Thank you to all for participation in the life of the congregation
- ¥ Appreciation to Council Chair **Indra Mertens** for the diversity of her approach and her ability to get people involved.
- ¥ Thanks and appreciation is extended to **Sarma Gaide**, our administrator.

**Pastor Ilze Kuplēns-Ewart** asks for questions.

Questions by **Meta Blūms**: "Is it not time for the amalgamation for the St. Andrew's and St. John's congregations? When are we returning to separate services for Latvian and English speaking members?"

**Pastor Ilze Kuplēns-Ewart** answers, "Yes, we are moving in the direction of amalgamation. With regard to separate services, it may be confusing switching from one language to another, but the main goal is to be invitational to all who are present at the services. We are no longer a uni-lingual congregation".

**Anda Liberis** notes that **Pastor Ilze Kuplēns-Ewart** continues to fulfill her duties as Dean of the Latvian Lutheran Church Abroad. **Pastor Ilze Kuplens clarifies:**

- ¥ We can no longer call ourselves the *Latvian Lutheran Church Abroad* as there are other Latvian congregations abroad such as in Ireland. There is legal

status and diplomatic work to be done around this question.

¥ **Archbishop Lauma Zušēvics** and LELBA chair **Dean Gunārs Lazdiņš** will be attending the LELB conference the weekend of March 3<sup>rd</sup>.

¥ **Pastor Ilze Kuplēns-Ewart** recused herself from the search process for a new pastor for St. John's Church as she will be working with the chosen candidate. **Pastor Dāvis Kaņeps** took over responsibility for overseeing the search process.

**6.2 COUNCIL CHAIR'S REPORT: Council chair Indra Mertens** begins with a quote from Pastor Ron Ewart's sermon given prior to the meeting: "We have been kinder, gentler, more giving than ever before. And this coming year we will be even better."

¥ **Indra Mertens** thanks **Pastor Ilze Kuplēns-Ewart**, administrator **Sarma Gaide** and members of Council. She continues that speaking in Latvian is a challenge but a priority.

¥ **Indra Mertens** gives an overview of the themes at Council meetings:

¥ **Finances:** donations are down, expenses continue to increase

¥ **Volunteerism:** with help of ELCIC and central area Dean Rev. Christian Ciccone, Council is working on an initiative to make volunteer positions understandable to everyone.

¥ Indra thanks all Volunteer groups for their hard work, however reiterates that we need more people to come forward and be involved; for instance, the **Canada 150 Celebration in Sidrabene Committee** is looking for more volunteers.

¥ The scope of what we can accomplish, depends on member participation, finances and imagination.

¥ Descriptions of Volunteer positions to be posted on our Church website and on the bulletin board.

¥ **Sidrabene** now plays an important role; services are held on the 1st Sunday of every month.

¥ Results of Silvija Shedden's survey on the role of Sidrabene has been available since September 2016.

¥ Council and the Sidrabene Management Committee met in June to get reacquainted with the property and assess the needs; Council, Sidrabene Management committee and the congregation will work together to determine the best use of the Sidrabene property for the Latvian community and beyond.

¥ This is the 3rd AGM at St. John's, which has now become our church home.

¥ St. John's new Pastor Ģirts Grietiņš began his church calling Jan. 15, 2017. His investiture will take place on March 4, 2017.

¥ Council's intent is to be available to all committees and the congregation regarding concerns and questions.

¥ **500th anniversary of Reformation:** Beginning October 31, 2015, Lutheran Church Worldwide and Catholic Church celebrating 500th anniversary of Reformation.

¥ Ongoing initiatives: selling of 200 Playmobil Luthers to provide a scholarship to a young Jordanian for Christian studies.

¥ Other ideas are percolating with the involvement of Churches on the Hill.

**6.3 TREASURER'S REPORT** (attached): **Arnis Budrēvics** thanks **Council and Staff** for their hard work and support, as well as his wife **Jane**. Arnis Budrēvics also thanks the families and spouses of all Council members and the volunteers who have dedicated their time to the life of the congregation. The complete Treasurer's Report shared with the members at the meeting can be found in Appendix A.

**2016 Year in Review - Balance Sheet**, is meant to be an overview. **Arnis Budrēvics** encourages questions from the membership during the presentation.

¥ Total on the 2016 Balance Sheet is \$3,502,180.09 consisting of:

¥ 75% current assets (cash, investments, ect.)

¥ 21% fixed assets (Sidrabene land and buildings)

¥ 4% other forms of assets (programs, inventory, pianos, furniture)

¥ Current assets include write downs (telephone adjustment with Bronte Creek, cost-sharing for floor repair in Sidrabene).

¥ Money from sale of church is at TD Wealth, in GIC's which are cashable and accessible, but not yet invested for the long term.

¥ Investment Committee has been formed to develop process for long term investment.

¥ We are in good financial shape ONLY because we sold our Church.

¥ On the other hand - we are not in good shape because we are not supporting our on-going activities; we must continue to support these financially as well as volunteer our time.

¥ Arnis reminds us of the offering prayer: "Merciful God, receive the gifts we bring, ourselves, our time and our possessions".

¥ A balance sheet comparison illustrates that our financial position has diminished from last year as

the AGM approved to spend \$105,000 more than we brought in.

### Revenues and Expenses

¥ 2016 total revenues = \$251,874.61

¥ 63% of church income comes from members' tax-receipted donations, collection plate and testaments.

¥ Sidrabene continues to support their staff directly and contributes about \$60,000 towards our income to cover their payroll. This is now reported correctly as income rather than as an offsetting expense as was done in previous years.

¥ As a side note, Arnis confirms that tax receipts have been mailed out and should be received by February 28, 2017.

¥ Arnis encourages members to set up a regular monthly Church donation.

¥ Please donate before Dec. 31st, as it is an onerous job for administrator, **Sarma Gaide** to do a reconciliation of last minute donations on New Year's Eve.

¥ Arnis itemizes \$76,627 of specific items spent beyond the approved \$105,000 deficit as directed by Council's such as:

¥ Archbishop's Fund: the church paid down its full obligation to the fund; but we have a liability to pay \$50 per person towards the fund over the long term; this is a separate item on the donation sheet. Full payment of the The Archbishop's fund was made possible from the proceeds gained from the sale of Latvian House.

¥ Sidrabene infrastructure investment; Council looks forward to working with Valdis Kauliņš, chair of Sidrabene Management Committee for managed improvements of our major asset.

¥ Transition costs and supplies.

¥ Music program: enhanced program with special guest performers.

¥ Special events: "Te nu mēs esam" musical show (as per agreement with Sidrabene);

¥ Completion of video project and payment for a lengthier program made possible by our extended stay at St. Andrew's church.

¥ Most of the money was put into worship, pastoral care, community outreach, education and faith development, evangelism, fellowship.

**Arnis Budrēvics** asks for questions. No questions forthcoming.

**Auseklis Zaķis** requests that the charts be put on the church website. **Arnis Budrēvics** answers that this is a good idea, and with Councils' approval, he will make

this possible.

### 6.4 COMMITTEE REPORTS

(I) **Ladies' Auxiliary: Inta Briedis'** full report is in the Draudzes Ziņas/Newsletter. Inta Briedis draws attention to the fact that there are over 500 members in the congregation, but there are only 9 ladies and 2 gentlemen in the Ladies' Auxiliary. Four of the ladies are 90 years of age and more. It is becoming increasingly difficult to prepare for coffee hour and for various events. Inta Briedis also adds that our events such as the pancake breakfast are open to members of both congregations. She urges that members become more active, especially on Sundays to provide and serve refreshments 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 for coffee hour and altar flowers and reminds members that gentlemen are also welcome.

**Guntis Berziņš** recommends that the sign-up sheet be posted on the church website.

**Pastor Ilze Kuplēns-Ewart** encourages members to donate altar flowers. Pastor Ilze Kuplēns-Ewart gives a vote of thanks to **Inta Briedis** and the **Ladies' Auxiliary**.

(II) **Music Committee: Dāvids Šmits** begins with a quotation from scripture which reflects the purpose of the music program: "For in Him we live, and move, and have our being (Acts 17:28). This applies to each individual as well.

¥ Two main areas of work: regular Sunday services at St. John's, and involvement in Sidrabene's services. Work at Sidrabene is taking considerably more effort. **Vaira Gertners** has been extremely helpful in organizing guest musicians such as "Skaņu Ritenis".

¥ Future goals is a formation of a band for Sidrabene.

¥ Dāvids invites members to come forward and sing in the ensemble. If interested, contact **Vaira Gertners** or **Dāvids Šmits**.

¥ Sound system/sound issues: **Ēriks Kleperis** and **Jānis Tannis** have been instrumental in setting up the new sound system in Sidrabene in the outdoor Church as well as in Sidrabkalns - the main building. **Jānis Tannis** was able to purchase excellent equipment from Ontario Place at very low prices. The sound system at St. John's also requires improvements. There is a plan to record and stream services. Some installs will take place this year.

¥ **Dāvids Šmits** thanks Council for allocating funds for the music ministry.



¥ There are further plans to integrate activities with St. John's music group.

**(iii) Aid to Latvia Committee: Auseklis Zaķis** reports, since **Anete Ivsiņš** has resigned as chair. The committee has been very active. Their full report is in the Draudzes Ziņas/ Newsletter. The full time members of the committee are: Andris Rubenis, Erika Yost, Aija Mazsīlis and Auseklis Zaķis. The committee is looking for new leadership and **Auseklis Zaķis** invites members to consider this position.

**(iv) Sidrabene Management Committee (Pārvalde): Valdis Kauliņš** expresses appreciation for the support of Council and stresses the importance of working together.

¥ A joint meeting of Sidrabene's Pārvalde and the Church Council was held last June 2016; this included a tour of Sidrabene's property and buildings as well as discussions of the present uses of Sidrabene.

¥ Sidrabkalns, the main building plays an important role in Sidrabene, however it is 40 years old and requires extensive renovations; expenses can't be met by Sidrabene alone; Valdis extends appreciation for financial support from Council.

¥ Sidrabene's property is becoming more and more valuable as the Milton population expands.

¥ High demand for camp rentals, eg. Kids for Kids is vying for more rental time at Sidrabene; presently Sidrabene is rented by the Halton School Board for outdoor education programs during the school year.

¥ There are innumerable possibilities for various programs at Sidrabene.

¥ Valdis draws attention to Silvija Shedden's survey, to which 211 people responded, regarding future directions for Sidrabene; Sidrabene's cottagers will receive a hard copy of the survey results.

¥ Valdis invites Church Council to consider another joint Council/Pārvalde meeting this spring to continue discussing future directions for Sidrabene.

¥ Valdis reiterates that there are many possibilities of affiliation with groups from Latvia.

¥ Sidrabene is of great importance to the Latvian community.

¥ All are invited to **Sidrabene's AGM** on April 2, 2017 after Sunday worship and the following joint meal, and **Sidrabene's Opening Social** on June 3rd with Italian theme musical performances by Maria Thorburn, Anna Broks and Pēteris Zariņš.

¥ Valdis thanks people who supported Sidrabene last year and those who volunteered their time for various endeavors.

¥ In closing, Valdis recounts the experience of a Latvian Junior hockey player, who when asked what was his favourite place in Canada, replied "Sidrabene!"

¥ **Rita Āpše** adds that Sidrabene seasonal parking passes for AGM participants are on sale for \$50 (instead of the regular price of \$60); hard copies of Sidrabene's survey results are available.

**(v) Investment Committee** (note agenda change) **Arnīs Budrēvics** reports on behalf of committee chair **Voldemārs Innus** (report submitted at meeting).

¥ The investment report explains that since we have come into significant funds from the sale of St. Andrew's Church building, we needed to:

- a) establish an investment committee,
- b) create an investment policy,
- c) outline an investment strategy.

¥ The report also gives an overview of the history of the investment committee's work from October 28, 2015 to the present day, explaining what the committee had to do in order to develop a strategy for the funds from the sale of our Church and the amalgamation of past investments, testament and church funds.

¥ Members of the investment committee are: **Arnīs Budrēvics, Voldemārs Innus, Auseklis Zaķis** and **Andris Paukšēns**.

¥ The committee has been very active this past year to prepare an Investment Strategy to be considered and approved by Council.

¥ Four firms prepared submissions for the investment of our funds based on our strategy: **Evangelical Lutheran Foundation of Eastern Canada (ELFEC), Wood Gundy, TD Wealth,** and **Assante Wealth Management**; all firms were interviewed.

¥ As a result of the evaluation of all materials and the interviews, **Assante Wealth Management** was chosen to take over and monitor our investment strategy.

¥ **Ivars Grimba** of **Assante Wealth Management** will be managing our funds.

¥ **Ivars Grimba** is a member of our congregation.

¥ **Arnīs Budrēvics** thanks **Ivars Grimba** for attending meeting and looks forward to working with him; **Arnīs Budrēvics** introduces **Ivars Grimba** to members.

**(vi) Pērminderi (Elders) Committee: Indra Mertens** explains that there is an initiative to include the Perminderi(Elders) group under the umbrella of the Worship Ministry. **Guntis Bērziņš** agrees wholeheartedly. **Guntis Bērziņš** thanks members of the committee, and ask the members to stand up: **Irēne Buls, Linda Luck, Māra Zariņš, Dzidra Krūmiņš, Ēriks Dzintars**. They are so generous of their time and always willing to do more. **Guntis Bērziņš** acknowledges the enthusiasm of organist **Dāvids Šmits** and recommends that he be part of the Worship Committee.

(vii) **Camp Sidrabene: Sandra Kleperis-Thiele** appreciates the acknowledgement that **Camp Sidrabene** is important to the Church and Sidrabene. She notes that unfortunately the campers will not be able to participate in the celebration of First Nations people on July 8, as camp starts on July 9. Applications are now available for camp. Camp was a great success last year. **Sandra Kleperis-Thiele** has been the Camp Sidrabene director since 2002. Concern is expressed about time conflicts with other camps. **Indra Mertens** extends an apology for the oversight of not having Camp Sidrabene on the agenda.

**6.5 Auditing Committee:** Chair **Elmars Bērziņš** gives the reports for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016, giving the following conclusions: **Pēteris Brīviņš**, who was elected for a one-year term in March 2015, has accepted the nomination for a further one-year term on the auditing committee; **Pēteris Vilks** – accepted an invitation to be on the auditing committee in April 2015 and an extension of duties for the 2016 term; **Elmārs Bērziņš**, who was elected in Feb 2013 for a three-year term, in 2016 agreed to extend his term for an extra year (2016-2017), but is now leaving the auditing committee and joining the church council. **Elmārs** reads: within our review of the general ledger, the financial statements for the Church and for the various committees are complete and accurate, *with the exception that the Church has over-accrued towards the ELCIC pension plan. The good news is that this is a favourable variance for approximately \$51,000.*

We further provide an update on the recommendations of previous years, as follows:

**Council minutes** have been properly signed;

**Minutes of Committee meetings** – as advised in our previous report, *in order to keep the Council properly informed*, these minutes should be tabled and recorded in the Council minutes, along with any points of discussion. This reporting requirement applies to all committees, including Sidrabene's Management Committee, the Church Camp, the Ladies' Auxiliary, and the Aid to Latvia Committee.

**Agency agreements** with our sister congregations in Latvia should be approved by the Council; once approved (*not yet approved however*), the terms of the agreements should be complied with by all parties.

**Investment policy** to be completed and approved by the Council (*in process*).

**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 (*not yet completed*).

**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 (*not yet completed*).

**Elmārs Bērziņš** thanks Treasurer, **Arnis Budrēvics**; our Church Administrator, **Sarma Gaide**; and **Rita Āpše** (Sidrabene's Treasurer), for their excellent and prompt co-operation and assistance in completing this review.

**Questions in response to reports:**

**Anda Liberis** asks if members need to approve the Investment Committee report as well as Council's choice of the investment strategy. **Arnis Budrēvics** replies that we only need to approve the report because members are directing Council to invest on behalf of the congregation. Policy and strategy will be included in the approval of the report. The only report that is approved separately is the Budget Report. **Imants Ķivilis** asks what the investment committee is doing to ensure that we are investing with ethical companies. **Arnis Budrēvics** replies that the Investment Committee did review these concerns and presented this to all four investment companies which were under consideration.

**Arnis Budrēvics** also adds that Sidrabene represents 30% of our activity. We are looking to amalgamate Sidrabene within our finances. Reports to the CRA must include Sidrabene. The investment committee has identified that Sidrabene needs a master plan for reinvestment within our budget. Sidrabene has been asked to prepare a plan for investment for infrastructure upgrades. **Voldemārs Innus** is on the Sidrabene improvement committee and will be addressing this issue with Sidrabene's Management Committee. Money from operating funds and allowances for Sidrabene's investment will be made available. **Pastor Ilze Kuplēns-Ewart** asks about future investments in Sidrabene and draws members' attention to the Grace Church Building Project (church which purchased St. Andrew's) website which describes their \$2M renovation plan and the heartfelt invitation by **Rev. Dan MacDonald** to contribute. Why not do something similar for Sidrabene – invitations of contributions to support wonderful projects at Sidrabene?

**Rita Āpše** states that the money in the Sidrabene reserve fund is not the same as investing.

**Valdis Kauliņš** adds that Camp Sidrabene is the most important activity in Sidrabene and needs to be supported.

**Meta Blūms** comments that we are talking about money being the most important thing, and asks "What



about support for Sunday School, a children's' choir, the maintaining of the Latvian language in Camp Sidrabene and the hiring of more camp counselors from Latvia?"

**Arnīs Budrēvics** thanks **Meta Blūms** for this reminder.

**Daina Leja** highlights the importance of accessibility issues. **Arnīs Budrēvics** replies, that this issue is part of the planning process.

**Imants Kivlis** says that it is good to see that there is more cooperation between Council and Sidrabene Management Committee and asks what is being done to delineate the responsibilities of both groups. **Indra Mertens** answers that this issue will be addressed and that it will take time.

**Krissy Pāvelsons** adds that it would be a positive step forward to propose that the Council and Sidrabene Management Committee meet twice a year to continue building positive relations. **Indra Mertens** agrees that this is a good idea.

**Inta Briedis** asks, "Why copies of the Church video project have not yet been made available?" **Skaidrīte Leja** answers that copies have been available on the church website ever since February 2016. DVD's to purchase at this time are not yet available, but will be available in the near future. **Anita Bredovskis** recommends that announcements of what is available be posted on the website.

**6.6 Approval of Reports: Indra Mertens moves that the reports be approved, seconded by Guntis Bērziņš. Motion carried unanimously.**

**7. 2017 Budget: Treasurer Arnīs Budrēvics :** In the Treasurer's Report, with the detail provided of the Revenues and Expenses Budget, the last column is the 2017 Proposed Budget, which shows the same \$105,000 budget deficit for 2017. Line items are expanded to show how we are proposing to move forward. The shortfall will be funded from our investments.

**Pastor Ilze Kuplēns-Ewart** asks if the shortfall is to be funded from investments or the capital. **Arnīs Budrēvics** replies that some of the shortfall will be funded from investments.

**Pastor Ilze Kuplēns-Ewart** states that we must encourage members, especially those who are not contributing, to support the congregation financially so that we can expand our ministry.

**Agris Robežnieks moves to approve the 2017 Budget with a deficit of \$105,000. Motion seconded by Alfons Kalns. Motion unanimously carried.**

**8. ELECTION OF NEW COUNCIL AND AUDITING COMMITTEE: Presented by Indra Mertens.**

- This year, for personal reasons, **Imants Kivlis** and **Laila Moore** resigned from Council. **Gundega Melli** returned to council to fill one of the vacated seats

to keep council at 12 members. **Līga Miklašēvics** took over as secretary for Laila Moore.

- **Skaidrīte Leja, Ingrīda Vairogs** and **Arnīs Budrēvics** have completed their terms.
- **Candidates nominated for Council: Arnīs Budrēvics** to be working with **Sarma Gaide** as liaison to the CRA and reconciling accounts;
- **Māra Zalcmanis-Lai** (co-secretary)
- **Andris Stārasts** (treasurer);
- **Andris Krūmiņš, Elmārs Bērziņš** (council members).

**Indra Mertens moves that candidates nominated be approved; seconded by Guntis Bērziņš. 1 abstention. Motion carried.**

- **Auditing Committee: Pēteris Brīviņš** has agreed to a one-year term. Two more members are required for the Auditing committee. Seeking volunteers!

**Pēteris Brīviņš** is affirmed as a member of the Auditing Committee.

**Agris Robežnieks moves that Council be given the permission to find additional members for the Auditing Committee. Seconded by Eriks Kleperis. Motion carried.**

## **9. SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE ACTIVITIES**

**Anda Liberis:** Where is our congregation? Only 10% of the congregation is participating in activities. Camp Sidrabene and cultural activities are most important. Our main effort should be to reactivate the people who are not participating. There are various opportunities coming up to involve more members: Reformation 500, Latvia's 100 years and the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our congregation in 2019. Council has not addressed refugee support and information sessions about Islam. Youth engagement needs to be addressed.

**Pastor Ilze Kuplēns-Ewarts** agrees that decline in membership activity is common across the major denominations, but we need to work harder on defining *who it is we are*. The young people that we have worked with over the years do come back and have a connection to our congregation. Is Sidrabene for crafts and cultural activities? Sidrabene is not just another Latvian institution. We are here with a specific role to be missionaries. **Pastor Ilze Kuplēns-Ewart** adds that the word "committees" should be replaced by "ministries", which embodies "Christ like values" of support and joy. Luther refused to come up with an overarching form of worship, because it needed to be appropriate to wherever people were worshipping. Sidrabene is a different demographic. We are where the people are. We have also started devotions at the Latvian Centre on Wednesdays. Those attending are very pleased. The newly formed prayer shawl group is another form of worship, because what is being created

supports people. A men's handyman group to assist those in need is something to keep in mind.

**Inta Briedis** asks what is happening during Lent. **Anda Liberis** notes that she was passing out the information flyer about the devotions, prayers and discussions during Lent.

**Indra Mertens** suggests that new ideas be posted on the church website.

**Anda Liberis** adds that anyone who does something related to our congregation inform the administrator so that it can be posted on the website, and that the website needs to be kept up to date.

**Indra Mertens** reports that she met with **Pastor Ilze Kuplēns-Ewart** and **Skaidrīte Leja** to discuss plans for a Communications Ministry. There is a need for younger volunteers, and Ophelie Zalcmanis-Lai has agreed to be part of this ministry which includes the Draudzes Ziņas/ Newsletter and social media.

**Indra Mertens** thanks members for their tenacious efforts.

**Pastor Ilze Kuplēns-Ewart** announces that on Wednesdays during Lent, there will be evenings of devotions and reflections at 7:00 p.m. at St. John's Church.

**Pastor Ilze Kuplēns-Ewart** adds that there have been two weekday services at the Latvian Centre, which were very much appreciated by those who attended.

**Māra Ozols** points out that there is a need to clarify regulations as to the membership in Sidrabene's Management Committee and Council, and who has voting privileges. **Rita Āpše** concurs, stating rules and regulations need to be sorted out.

**Indra Mertens** states that this is on the Council's to-do list as well as other initiatives such as the Reformation 500 celebration and the Not-for-Profit Act.

#### **10. OTHER BUSINESS AND NEW BUSINESS**

**Indra Mertens**, on behalf of Council, and the congregation thanks the following members for their enormous contribution to further our ministries:

**Ingrīda Vairogs, Skaidrīte Leja, Anete Ivsiņš, Elmārs Bērziņš and Pēteris Vilks.** **Indra Mertens** thanks all volunteers who have contributed so much to our ministry.

**Valdis Kauliņš** gives a vote of thanks to **Indra Mertens** for her excellent chairing of the meeting.

**Līga Miklašēvics** thanks **Indra Mertens**, who in spite of many challenges during the year did such a wonderful job as Council Chair.

**Indra Mertens** thanks **Arnis Budrēvics** for his tremendous efforts as Treasurer, **Sarma Gaide** our Administrator for her great efforts, and **Inta Briedis**, chair of the Ladies' Auxiliary for their wonderful work.

#### **11. CLOSING OF MEETING:**

**Ilze Kuplēns-Ewart** moves for the AGM to be adjourned. Seconded by **Imants Ķivlis**.

Meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

**RECORDERS:** Līga Miklašēvics / Gundega Melli

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### **RESOLUTION - OTRAIS LASĪJUMS /** **2nd READING**

Padome publicē sekojošo rezolūciju kā norādīts draudzes nolikumos:

**REZOLŪCIJA latviešu teksts:**  
**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. Bijušie padomes locekļi var atkārtoti kandidēt padomei.**

Otrais lasījums un balsošana notiks 2018. g. pilnsapulcē. Pēc tam, šo jautājumu nodos ELCIC apstiprinājumam.

\* \* \* \* \*

We publish the following Motion as required by our Bylaws:

**RESOLUTION English text:**  
**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.**

This will be raised at the AGM for approval as a 2nd reading. Then this matter will be sent to ELCIC for ratification prior to enactment.

**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

e-pasts / email: admin@standrewslatvian.org

tīmekļa lapa / web page:

www.standrewslatvian.org

**Sidrabene**

5100 Appleby Line, Burlington, ON L7M 0P5

Tālrunis/Telephone: (905) 335-3849

e-pasts / email: camp\_sidrabene@yahoo.ca

**Mācītāja / Pastor:** Ilze Kuplēns-Ewart

57 Clansman Blvd., Toronto, ON M2H 1X7

Tālrunis/Telephone: mob. (416) 994-2136 / mājās

(416) 497-0303

Ē-pasts / email: pastor-ilze@standrewslatvian.org

**Administrātorē / Office manager:** Sarma Gaide

**Ērģelnieks/ Organist:** Dāvids Šmits

**Apkopējs / Custodian:** Andris Zvirbulis

**Sidrabenes Pārvaldnieks /Property Manager:**

Andrejs Grīnbergs

**2017. GADA KOMITEJAS UN DALĪBNIEKI**  
**2017 COMMITTEES**

**Valde / Executive:**

Indra Mertens (Priekšniece / Chair), Agris Robežnieks, Auseklis Zaķis, Andris Stārasts, Arnis Budrēvics, Māra Zalcmanis

**Padome / Council:**

Indra Mertens (Priekšniece / Chair), Elmārs Bērziņš, Arnis Budrēvics\*, Voldemārs Innus, Andris Krūmiņš, Līga Miklašēvics, Agris Robežnieks, Andris Stārasts, Jānis Tannis\*, Auseklis Zaķis, Māra Zalcmanis. / Izstājusies – Astrīda Kalniņš (\*norāda kuŗiem termiņš padomē beidzas)

**Revīzijas komisija / Audit Committee:**

Pēteris Brīviņš

**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

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

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

**Investīcijas komiteja / Investment Committee:**

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

**Sidrabenes pārvalde / Sidrabene Management Committee:**

Valdis Kauliņš (Priekšnieks / Chair), Rita Āpše, Vilnis Blūms, Voldemārs Innus, Krissy Pāvelson, Ivars Jēgeris, Valdis Korbs, Linda Lakats, Māra Ozols, Gail Ozoliņš, Valdis Pālēns, Andris Paukšēns, Mudīte Schuler, Gints Zichmanis, Andrejs Grīnbergs (Padomes pārstāvji: Voldemārs Innus, Rita Āpše)

**Sidrabenes bērnu nometne / Camp Sidrabene:**

Linda Lakats (Priekšniece / Chair), Devin Dzelme, Debbie Grietiņš, Ivars Jēgeris, Sandra Kalniņš, Sandra Thiele, Anita Thomas, Inga Untiks, Robert Van den Enden, Kurtis Grietiņš, Pauls Zobs

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

Valdis Kauliņš, Mārtiņš Mežulis, Jurate Muižnieks, Linda Lakats, Agris Robežnieks, Voldemārs Innus, Andrejs Grīnbergs

**Sidrabenes dievkalpojumu veidošanas grupa / Sidrabene Worship Committee:**

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

**Palīdzība Latvijai komiteja / Aid to Latvia committee:**

Jānis Tannis (Priekšnieks/Chair), Aija Mazsīlis, Andris Rubenis, Ērika Yost, Auseklis Zaķis

**Out of the Cold:** Imants & Maureen Ķivlis

**Draudzes Zinas:** Anda Libere, Sarma Gaide

**2017. gada STATISTIKA**

**MIRUŠI / DECEASED (16)**

Mirdza Bērziņš, Jānis Brežinskis, Visvaldis Brumelis, Ilga Graudiņš, Silvija Hofmanis, Tāivaldis Jurenovskis, Tāivaldis Kronbergs, Rasma Kusmanis, Aina Macernieks, Laimdota Paukšēns, Mirdza Pētersons, Tanita Sveķis, Ausma Tauriņš, Valdis Vāgners, Apolonija Veters, Mirdza Zemīts

**KRISTĪTI / BAPTIZED (9)**

Cameron Chase Bērziņš, Beau Uldis Cowman, Rebeka Puķīte, Henrijs Puķītis, Troy Seržāns, Emma Kayla Sikсна, Evija Katrīna Sikсна, Austrā Laima Valdmanis, Lily Madison Winter

**ĪESTĀJUŠIES / NEW MEMBERS (2)**

Jane Budrēvics, Zane Niedre

**SALAUĻĀTI / MARRIED (3)**

Emily Funnell & Robert Markovic  
Valerie Grimba & Mark Traveller  
Anita Riņģis & Joshua Lee

**DRAUDZES LOCEKĻI KOPUMĀ / 2017 CHANGES**

Kristīti: 9  
Salaulāti pāri: 3  
Mirusi: 16  
Iestājušie: 2  
Aktīvi draudzes locekļi / Active members  
31.12.2017: kopumā 622 / pilntiesīgi 501

**2017. g. DIEVKALPOJUMI / NR. OF SERVICES: 45**

Pilsētā: Latviski: 15 / Abās valodās (both languages): 13  
Sidrabenē (both languages): 13 / Svecīšu dievkalpojumi Sidrabenē: 4

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

**DIEVLŪDZĒJI** kopumā (dievnamā) / total number of worshippers: 1,620

Pie dievgalda / total number of communicants: 646

**DIEVLŪDZĒJI SIDRABENĒ** / total number of worshippers in Sidrabene: 770

Dievlūdzejī pilsētā un Sidrabenē / Total worshippers combined: 2,390

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

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**MESSAGE FROM OUR COUNCIL CHAIR:**

*“Being a community of hospitality, compassion and love humbly walking in the name of Jesus is the most compelling communications strategy a church can develop.” Rev. Ron Ewart*

This wonderful quote from a sermon given by Rev. Ron Ewart at our Church in February 2017 has resonated with Council, and is a major theme in the reworking of our Mission/Vision Statement.

Much has happened in the past few years, to divert our Church’s attention. The sale of 383 Jarvis, moving into a new space, and reworking our accounting practices, have all been physical, emotional and mental necessities. Underlying all of this is our faith, and how we reach out to our community.

A BIG thank you goes out to māc. Ilze, and the employees of our Church, for all they do to keep us moving forward. Another HUGE measure of recognition goes out to our volunteers, who make congregational life and outreach into the community (Latvian or otherwise) so much better. Our Church is rich in its depth of volunteers, and we continue to welcome the ‘younger generation’ who are the future. ALL ARE WELCOME!

Some challenging issues still exist. The message of reconciliation in these matters leads us to come together and COMMUNICATE. An invitation was sent to employees and volunteers to participate in a Workshop on January 21, 2018. Nine attended to draft a Value Statement, which defines our values and how we interact. Please check our Monday messages for community happenings, and send submissions to our Executive Administrator.

2018 marks not only the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Latvia, but also the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Sidrabene and 'Nometne'. Sidrabene events will begin with a tree-planting on the opening weekend Saturday May 26, 2018 with Latvia's Ambassador to Canada, Kārlis Eihenbaums!

We need to upgrade some aging facilities at Sidrabene. In 2017, the scope of renovations was presented to members at both Sidrabene and Balmoral. With Sidrabkaļns being rented most of the year, a multi-phase upgrade is deemed best. At our AGM, Council will be asking you to support the first phase. Come join us.

Ar Dieva palīgu,

**Indra Mertens**  
Council Chair

## **MĀCĪTĀJAS ZĪNOJUMS 2018. G.** **PILNSAPULCEI**

### Dažas pārdomas

2017. gadam galvenais pieturas punkts bija Reformācijas piecsimtgade. Draudzē lūkojām iepazīties tuvāk ar Reformācijas mantojumu un nozīmi mums – vēsturiski un šodien – ar pārrunām, filmām un īpašiem sprediķiem. Augustā pati varēju piedalīties vienreizējā iespējā būt Vitenbergā, Reformācijas piedzimšanas vietā. Pateicoties vācu baznīcas laipnībai, pavadīju tur veselu nedēļu kopā ar četriem kollēgām no Toronto, iepazīstinot ciemiņus ar luterāņu baznīcu

Kanādā. Tas bija vienreizējs, savīļņojošs piedzīvojums. Ceru, ka tie, kas bija klāt no abām draudzēm, kad par to stāstīju, to tā arī izjuta. Turklāt *Grace Church on the Hill*, anglikāņu draudzē, biju aicināta sprediķot draudzes dievkalpojumā septembrī un arī stāstīt par Lutera nozīmi šodien.

Viena no pamatdomām, kas nāk mums mantojumā kā luterāņu draudzei, ir sauklis: "ecclesia semper reformanda" – baznīca pastāvīgi atjaunojas. Caurskatīt un revidēt savu darbību un darbības veidu ir svarīgi, lai baznīca spētu sludināt prieka vēsti veidā, kas uzrunā ļaudis esošajā laikmetā un apstākļos. To darīt ir laba, sena Sv. Andreja draudzes liecība. Pa reizei tas arī pieprasīja lielu drosmi, kā piem. iesākot dievkalpojumus angļu valodā jau 1970-os gados. Strīdi un domstarpības sasniedza tādu pakāpi, ka mācītājs A. Čops bija spiests izteikt savu atbalstu šim jauninājumam gan draudzes ziņās, gan arī latviešu trimdas presē.

Kamēr kalpoju kā jūsu draudzes mācītāja jau gandrīz divdesmit vienu gadu, esmu vairākkārt norādījusi uz maiņām mūsu latviešu sabiedrībā Toronto, it īpaši uz paaudžu maiņu. Vadību ir pārņēmuši to sabiedrības locekļu bērni, daļēji arī mazbērni, kas savā laikā cēla Toronto trimdas latviešu saimi. Un tas ir arī labi un veselīgi, jo apliecina, ka sabiedrībai vēl joprojām ir nozīme.

Šī maiņa attiecas arī uz baznīcu un baznīcas tēlu. Pieņēmumi par to, ko nozīmē būt draudzei, mainās visur. Mācītāji un draudžu darbinieki vairs nevar pieņemt, ka cilvēki nāks pie viņiem. Baznīcai ir jābūt tur, kur ir cilvēki, vai tur, kur ļaudis meklē atspaidu savai ikdienai, vai arī vadlīnijas savai dzīvei šajos sarežģītajos laikos.

Viens šķietami mazs, bet tomēr nozīmīgs veids kā šī pārtapšana īstenojās mūsu draudzē bija novērojams pagājušā gada pilnsapulcē. Tajā tika ierosināts mūsu atsevišķās darbības nozares nesaukt vairs par "komitejām" bet par kalpošanas grupām. Angliski sakot "ministries" to ir varbūt vieglāk saprast. Esam atkārtoti atsaukušies uz šo apzīmējumu un liekas, ka pēdējā gadā tas ir sācis "ieiet" mūsu vārdu krājumā un aicina pārdomāt – kā mūsu rosība to atspoguļo. Manuprāt šai

apzīmējuma maiņai ir ļoti liela nozīme. Tā pievērš skatījumu divām lietām: pirmkārt – saprast, ka vienalga kur, vai kā darbojamies, vai dāmu komitejā, Sidrabenes pārvaldē, Sidrabenes nometnē, komitejā “Palīdzība Latvijai” vai citur, esam viena saime. Esam patiesi viena saime ar dažādiem izpausmes veidiem. Ar to pastiprinājas apziņa, ka neesam “mēs” un “viņi”, kur katram jāšargā savas lauciņš, bet esam daļa no “mēs”. Tas, ko katra grupa veic ir daļa no visa. Kopīgi pūlamies celt visu “mēs”. Pāvila pirmajā vēstulē korintiešiem tas ļoti skaidri aprakstīts: *“Arī mēs esam vienā Garā kristīti, lai visi būtu viens ķermenis – vai jūdi, vai grieķi, vai vergi, vai brīvie, – un ar vienu Garu mēs visi esam dzirdināti. Jo arī ķermenis nesastāv no viena locekļa, bet gan no daudziem.”* (1 Kor. 12: 13)

Otrkārt atklājas, kāda nozīme ir tam, ko darām draudzē. Būtībā viss ir daļa no Kristus lielā misijas aicinājuma, ko viņš atstāja saviem sekotājiem un ar ko noslēdzas Mateja evaņģēlijs. *“Man ir dota visa vara debesīs un virs zemes, tādēļ ejiet un dariet par mācekļiem visas tautas, tās kristīdami Tēva, Dēla un Svētā Gara vārdā, tās mācīdami turēt visu, ko es jums esmu pavēlējis; un, redzi, es esmu ar jums ik dienas līdz laiku beigām.”* (Mt 28:18-20). Šie vārdi nenožīmē, ka katram ir jāklūst par stereotipisku sludinātāju, vai pat jākristī ikviens. Toties, mēs kā draudzes saime izpaužam ar saviem vārdiem, bet pāri visam ar saviem darbiem galvenās divas lietas, ko Jēzus māca, respektīvi, ir pavēlējis saviem sekotājiem: mīlēt Dievu ar visu savu sirdi, ar visu savu prātu un ar visu savu spēku, un – mīlēt savu tuvāko kā sevi pašu.

Mums visiem ir vēl ko mācīties tālāk, tomēr no draudzes vadības puses, un atsevišķām nozarēm ir redzams, ka cenšamies ieaukt apziņā, ka viss mūsu darbs ir kalpošana Jēzus vārdā. Protams, ir vietas un reizes, kur tas klibo, tomēr piestrādājam konsekventi darīt šo apziņu par pamatu visai draudzes darbībai.

Apziņai, ka piedalāmies lielā darbā, ko Jēzus ir pavēlējis saviem sekotājiem – sludināt Viņu vārdos un darbos, ir tālejošs, pozitīvs iespaids. Kaut arī parasti rādītāji liktu saprast citādi, tomēr klūstam stiprāki – jo Jēzus spēks mūs

vieno. Pie tam, mūsu darbi klūst par svētības nesējiem citiem. Ir neskaitāmi piemēri, kur tas notiek no draudzes dāmu “komitejas” (jāizmeklē cits apzīmējums, ņemot vērā kungu līdzdalību!), tad Sidrabenes pārvaldē. Vēl viens piemērs tam ir “Siltais apkampiens” adīšanas grupa, no kuŗas tagad izaugusi otra, kas tiekas *GTA* austrumos, lai būtu parocīgāk tur dzīvojošiem dalībniekiem. Ir tik tiešām brīnums novērot, kā šie pasākumi uzrunā ļaudis, kas varbūt citādi nepiedalītos. Sidrabenē darbojas visas paaudzes, no mūsu draudzes kā arī no Hamiltonas. “Siltā apkampiena” grupā piedalās gan no Sv. Jāņa draudzes, gan arī dalībnieki, kas nav nevienā draudzē. Tomēr katrs izjūt, ka te ir vieta un iespēja, kur var pielikt savu roku un dalīties ar labu ar citiem.

## **2017. g. DARBĪBAS PĀRSKATS**

### **1. DIEVKALPOJUMI:**

Aizvadītajā gadā esmu vadījusi dievkalpojumus Sv. Jāņa dievnamā, mūsu lauku īpašumā, Sidrabenē, ik mēneša dievkalpojumā, kā arī nometnes ietvaros, Latviešu Centrā un Kristus Dārzā. Pēc vasaras pārtraukuma diemžēl nav atsākušies svētbrīži Latviešu Centrā, tomēr ceru, ka tas nebūs uz visiem laikiem. Tiešus skaitļus atradīsiet statistikas informācijā.

Viena rūpe paliek ar to, ka acīmredzami draudzes locekļi no abām draudzēm uzskata, ka tas dievkalpojums, ko vada “viņu” mācītājs/a ir vienīgais, kur piedalīties – nav jāiet citās svētdienās. Ar to pazaudējam lielisku iespēju saaukt arvien ciešāk un pie reizes piedzīvot otras draudzes viesmīlību. Ir izņēmumi. Šogad Zaļās Ceturtdienas dievkalpojumā bija gandrīz vienāds skaits dievlūdzēju cik Lielajā Piektdienā un katrā dievkalpojumā bija no abām draudzēm. To pašu novēroju Ziemsvētku vakarā.

Zīmīga iespēja parādījās Rīgas katoļu archibīskapa Zbigņeva Stankeviča ciemošanās laikā šeit ap ģimenes dienu. Tas deva viņam iespēju Latvijas republikas vēstnieka paspārnē būt starp ciemiņiem komitejas “Palīdzība Latvijai” rīkotajās “burvīgajās brokastīs”, kā arī mums piedalīties kopīgā ekumēniskā dievkalpojumā lietuviešu Augšāmcelšanās dievnamā. Neizdevīgais laika



izkārtojums nozīmēja, ka dievlūdzeju skaits nebija tāds, ko citādi paredzētu. Apsveicam vēstnieka centienus veicināt ekumēni latviešu starpā, kaut arī neesmu pārliecināta cik tālu tas varēs veidoties.

Pateicos saviem kollēgām, kas mani atvietoja vajadzības gadījumos. Liels paldies arī diakonei Inesei Upmanei-MacDonald par lielu atbalstu nometnes laikā. Arī vēlos pateikties Hamiltonas Kristus draudzes saimei. Mums bija divi kopīgi dievkalpojumi vasarā Sidrabenes brīvdabas baznīcā, par ko varējām visi jūsmot! Citādi Sidrabenes nometnes laikā svētdienās brīvdabas baznīca bija pilnāka, nekā kopš daudziem gadiem. Likās, ka nepārtraukti pienesa krēslus, jo trūka, kur sēdēt...

## **2. MĀCĪŠANA**

- Kopā ar māc. Ģ. Grietiņu vadījām pārrunas Ciešanu laikā Reformācijas piecsimtgades zīmē – par Mazo Katķismu.
- Sidrabenē vasaras laikā, sestdienas rītos vadīju pārrunas par tēmu “*Sacred Pathway*”, kur iepazīnāties ar dažādiem veidiem, kādos cilvēki piedzīvo savu ticību. Ļoti vērtīgi un daudz iemācījāties.
- 2018. g. no Zvaigznes dienas līdz Ciešanu laikam biju iecerējusi pārrunas balstītas uz grāmatu “*The Good and Beautiful God*”. Diemžēl, trakie ziemas apstākļi, kā arī slimības epidēmija nozīmēja, ka tikšanās reizes būtībā izputēja.
- Rudenī iesākās iesvētes mācības. Šobrīd piedalās deviņi jaunieši.

## **3. LIECINĀŠANA**

- Lūkoju piedalīties latviešu sabiedrības notikumos, kur vien tas bija iespējams – piem Latvijas simtgades karoga svētkos Centrā, LNAK sesijā un tagad arī piedalos Juŗa Ņeniŗa korī “Ziemelis”, kas gatavojas uz Latvijas Dziesmu un Deju svētkiem.
- Kopīgā baltieŗu Aizvesto piemiŗas dienas pasākumā *Nathan Phillips Square* vadīju lūŗšanu kopā ar saviem baltieŗu amatbrāŗiem (neskatoties uz kārtējo chaosu attiecībā uz aicināŗanu piedalīties).

- Piedalījos kopīgā Toronto luterāņu draudžu un Romas katoļu baznīcas dievkalpojumā Reformācijas svētkos.
- Ceļā no Valŗa Vāŗnera bērēm ieskaņoju nelielu video kā mudinājumu/aicinājumu atnākt uz Ziemsvētku vakara dievkalpojumu. To uzliku uz *FaceBook*. Vareni pozitīva atsauksme! Te arī jāsaka, ka katrs dievlūdzejs mūsu Svētvakara dievkalpojumā kļuva par “gaismas nesēju” ar *LED* gaismiņām, ko katrs varēja paņemt sev līdz uz svētkiem mājās.
- Palīdzēju ar “*Out of the Cold*” gadskārtējo pasākumu. Bet lielākais paldies pienākas Imantam un Maureen Ņivŗiem par nenogurstoŗo enerģiju, iesvētamo vecākiem, kas ļoti palīdzēja sarūpēt nepiecieŗamo un sagādāja mums skaistu cienastu pēc dievkalpojuma, kā arī First Lutheran saimei.

## **4. KALPOŠANA**

- Kristību, laulību un bērŗu skaits un tuvāka informācija norādīta atseviŗķi. Pateicamies Dievam par lielo Ņelastību, ko visi varējuŗi piedzīvot, vai nu priekos, vai arī bēdās. Turpinu pieminēt aizgājuŗos draudzes locekļus dievkalpojumā pēc viņu aizieŗanas mūŗībā.
- Kopā ar iesvētamiem noorganizējām Ziemsvētku apsveikumu izsūtīŗanu mūsu vecākā gada gājuma draudzes locekļiem. Paldies viņiem un seviŗķs paldies mūsu klusai darba rūŗķei, Līgai Gaidei, kuŗa gādā par dzimŗanas dienas apsveikumu nosūtīŗanu draudzes locekļiem apaļās jubilejās.

## **5. CITS**

- Diemŗēl, sarīkot dienu, kur varētu iepazīties ar vietējām iezemieŗu tautām, nav bijis iespējams. Neskatoties uz lielām pūlēm, ko veltīja neliela interesentu grupa, sanāca tā, ka vietējā iezemieŗu tautību grupa nebija ar mieru veidot pasākumu Sidrabenē.
- Pricējājos par iespēju, ko deva LELBA sinode tepat Niagārā, it īpaŗi, jo bija atbraukuŗi vairāki mācītāji no tām

draudzēm Latvijā, kas tagad pieder pie baznīcas ārpus Latvijas. Ar māc. Vari Bitenieku biju jau tikusies vasarā, kad bijām starp dievlūdžējiem viņa Aizputes draudzē. Sinodē piedalījās arī mana bijušā studente, tagad māc. Dr. Aiva Rozenberga-Drummond. Viņas specialitāte ir diakonija, tas ir – kalpošana. Ļoti ceru, ka viņa varēs būt pie mums rudenī ar lekcijām un pārrunām mūsu LELBA Kanādas apgabala ietvaros.

- Biju sarunājusi apciemojumus *Temple Sinai* sinagogā un *Islamic Institute of Toronto* mūsu iesvētāmiem jauniešiem šī gada aprīlī, bet tie bija jāatceļ līdz rudenim, lai arī es varētu piedalīties. Šī ir brīnišķīga iespēja mūsu jauniešiem iepazīt abas ticības, kaut arī tikai īsi un āši.
- 2018. g. sākumā uzzinājām, ka baznīcas pārstāvji Latvijā bija paspējuši pārliecināt dažus Saeimas deputātus neapstiprināt tā saucamo Stambulas konvenciju. Šis ir salīgums, ko veidojis Eiropas Koncils (Council of Europe), lai palīdzētu izbeigt vardarbību pret sievietēm un bērniem. Padome iepazīnās ar dokumentu angļu valodā, un tajā nevarēja atrast nekā, kas saskanētu ar viedokli, ko izpauda Latvijas baznīcas galvas. Tā, kopā ar padomes locekli, Ausekli Zaķi, sagatavojām vēstuli, ko aicinājām mūsu draudzes locekļiem parakstīt nosūtīšanai Latvijas Saeimai, norādot, ka uzskatām konvencijas saturu kā pilnīgi saskaņotu ar kristīgiem principiem. Padome arī nolēma to pārsūtīt tālāk citām latviešu draudzēm Kanādā. Aizstāvēt apdraudētu ļaužu tiesības ir sens princips, kas atrodams ne tik vien Jaunā derībā, bet tiek skaidri izteikts arī praviešos.

Vēlos arī norādīt uz trim īpaši svarīgiem notikumiem, kas paredzēti vasarā, Sidrabenē. Sanāk tā, ka Sidrabenes 65 gadu jubileja iekrīt gadā, kuŗā svinam Latvijas valsts simtgadi. Lai atstātu paliekošu simbolu mūsu saistībai ar Latviju, sestdien, 26. maijā Sidrabenē iestādīs ozolu. Tā ir

mūsu līdzdalība akcijā “Apskauj Latviju”, kas notika 2017. gadā, kad ap Latviju sastādīja simts ozolu. Ir tik skaisti, ka mūsu projektu ir atbalstījis Latvijas vēstnieks Kārlis Eihenbaums, kuŗš ir solījis būt klāt un palīdzēt ar iestādīšanu.

Vēstniecība ir arī pasūtījusi attiecīgu plāksni ar paskaidrojumu, ko pieliks pie ozola. Ozols tiks stādīts laukumā pie Plīša kunga sola pie brīvdabas baznīcas ieejas. Pateicamies Silvijai Shedden par devīgo ziedojumu, kas palīdzēs īstenot šo projektu. Visi ir aicināti būt klāt šajā reizē! Ar to iesāksies Sidrabenes 65. darbības gads un turpināsim ar svētkiem.

Vasarā 28. un 29. jūlijā ir paredzēti īpaši Sidrabenes svētki ar sevišķu programmu, draudzes “pikniku” un nometnes nodarbībām. Par to tiks vēlāk ziņots.

Visu beidzot, mudinu jūs visus pieminēt, ka Latvijas valsts simtgades svētkos piederas izteikt īpašu pateicību Dievam. Tas, ka valsts svētku dievkalpojumā piedalās tik maz ļaužu ir mani vienmēr satraucis, jo tas ir pilnīgā pretstatā tam, ko piedzīvojām latviešu sabiedrībā Eiropā. Būsim atsaucīgi – nāksim un slavēsim Dievu, aizlūdzot arī par tiem, kuŗi tik daudz zaudēja.

Ikvienam novēlot Kristus mieru,

Jūsu Mācītāja *Ilze Kuplēna-Ewart*

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## **DĀMU KOMITEJAS** **2017. GADA PĀRSKATS**

Dāmu komitejas sastāvs ir stabils! Paldies mūsu „darba rūķiem” – Imantam Ķivlim un Andrim Krūmiņam. Viņi mums ir lieli palīgi.

Dāmu komitejas darbība:

- Pankūku brokastis janvārī labi izdevās, bija laba atsauksme.
- Iegādājāmie jaunu automātisko kafijas vārītāju.
- Kopā ar draudzes padomi gādājām par kafijas galdu draudzes pilnsapulcē.
- Aprīlī rīkojām Lieldienu brokastis kopā ar Sv. Jāņa draudzi – atsaucība bija laba.

- Maijā dāmas palīdzēja Mātes dienas brokastīs, kas bija par labu palīdzībai Latvijā.
- Rīkojām draudzes „pikniku” Sidrabenē jūlija mēnesī – varēja būt vairāk apmeklētāju, bet nebija labvēlīgi laika apstākļi – lietus lija.
- Septembrī rīkojām Pļaujas svētkus ar rudens ražas loteriju.
- Piparkūku talkās novembrī mums bija daudzi palīgi un palīdzes, sirsnīgs paldies visiem!!
- Uz maiņām ar Sv. Jāņa draudzi gādājam par kafijas galdu sadraudzībai pēc dievkalpojumiem. Draudzes locekļi ir priecīgi pasēdēt un parunāties.
- Atbalstījām divas draudzes jaunietes, kas piedalījās „Sveika Latvija” ceļojumā – Amalie Kanne un Karlīne Zubāne (katra saņēma \$1,000.). Rudenī viņas pastāstīja par savu ceļojumu, papildinot to ar bilžu izrādi.

Dāmu komiteja ar ziedojumiem ir atbalstījusi: Toronto latviešu skolu bibliotēku (\$250), *Daily Bread Food Bank* (\$200), *Scott Mission* (\$200), *Star Santa Claus Fund* (\$200), un *Churches on the Hill* (\$200).

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

Sirsnīgs paldies apkalpotājam Andrim Zvirbulim par telpu sakārtošanu un galdu salikšanu sarīkojumiem un svētdienu kafijām.

Sirsnīga pateicība draudzes locekļiem un visiem par dāmu komitejas atbalstīšanu!

*Inta Briede*, Dāmu komitejas priekšniece

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## **SIDRABENES PĀRVALDES ZIŅOJUMS PAR 2017. GADU**

Sidrabenes pārvalde 2017. gadā darbojās sekmīgi, sarīkojot pavasaļa un rudens talkas, sezonas

atklāšanas un slēgšanas sarīkojumus, Jāņu svinēšanu un zaļumballi, Talsu vakariņas, īru mūzikas vakaru ar Ron McEwan, “bocce” bumbas turnīru, video filmu vakarus un izkārtot gadskārtējo lielo loteriju. Sarīkojumos ar priekšnesumiem piedalījās – *Dzirksts; Dižais dancis; Penzionāri; AMUZ* (Anna Broka, Maria Thorburn, Pēteris Zariņš) ar Albertu Vītolu un Alastair Thorburn-Vītolu; Anna Broka ar *Pandaband*. Šajā gadā Sidrabenē notika 10 ik mēneša dievkalpojumi, kā arī ierastie dievkalpojumi pa nometnes laiku un Jāņos. Divi dievkalpojumi bija kopīgi ar Hamiltonas Kristus draudzi. Paldies Imantam un Maureen Ķivļiem par palīdzību Sidrabenes dievkalpojumos. Paldies draudzes dāmu komitejai par “Sid svētkos” 22. jūlijā sarīkoto draudzes “pikniku”.

**Gadskārtējā Sidrabenes loterija** 2017. g. piedāvāja 5 laimestus, paredzot katram laimestam 10% no atlikuma. Viens laimētājs savu vinnestu atziedoja Sidrabenei, tāpēc atlikums bija \$1,602.80. Visi pārvaldes organizētie sarīkojumi finansiāli labi izdevās. Kopsummā ieņemts \$14,651, iekaitot – Jāņos (\$10,568.50), sezonas atklāšanā (\$863.89) un sezonas slēgšanā (\$2,264.61).

Projekti, ko pārvalde paveica 2017. gadā:

- legādāti 2 “defibrillatori” aparāti.
- legādāts jauns videolenšu projektors kafejnīcai.
- Uzbūvēts jauns balkons Cāļu kalnam.
- Ieliktas jaunas metāla ārdurvis ēdamzālei Sidrabkalnā.
- Beidzot iekārtota gaisa vēsināšana pārvaldnieka mājā.
- legādāta jauna skaņu sistēma brīvdabas baznīcai un projektors dievkalpojumiem ēdamzālē Sidrabkalnā (pateicoties Ērikam Kleperim un draudzes padomei).

Sidrabenes pārvaldei notika 9 atsevišķas sēdes un 2 kopā ar draudzes padomi. Sidrabenes pārvaldē darbojās: Valdis Kauliņš, Andris Paukšēns, Ģints Zichmanis, Māra Ozola, Rita Āpše, Gail Ozoliņa, Linda Lakata, Ivars Jēgeris, Krissy Pavelsona, Mudīte Schuler, Vilnis Blūms, Mārtiņš Mežulis, Valdis Pālēns and Voldemārs Innus. Paldies viņiem visiem kā arī Sidrabenes pārvaldniekam, Andrejam Grīnbergam, par lielo darbu!

Paldies visiem sidrabeniešiem un citiem, kuŗi palīdzējuši talkās, deŗūrējot pie vārtiem, vai sarīkojumos!

Paldies arī visiem draudzes locekļiem un labvēļiem, par sarīkojumu apmeklēšanu, atbalstu un ziedojumiem!

### **PĀRSKATS PAR SIDRABENES ĪRĒM**

2017. gadā Sidrabene par īrēm ieņēma \$118,505 (ieskaitot \$12,000, ko saņēms no draudzes).

Seko pārskats par īrētājiem un ieņēmumiem:

- *Halton Region School Board "Bronte Creek Project"* lieto Sidrabeni no septembra līdz jūnijam (ieņemts \$51,950)

Jauniešu un sabiedriskās grupas (kopā ieņemts \$40,770):

- 3 dažādas armijas kadetu grupas noturēja nedēļas nogaļu sanāksmes.
- *Halton/Mississauga* jaunatnes orķestrim bija nedēļas nogales saiets.
- "*27th Orchard*" skautu vienība satiekas katru ceturtdienu no septembra līdz jūnijam.
- Bērnu televīzijas programma "*Dino Dana*" vienu nedēļu uzturējās Sidrabenē.
- Skautu un gaidu grupas no *Toronto, Acton, Milton, Burlington* un *Oakville* bieži lieto lielo zāli nedēļas nogalēs no septembra līdz jūnijam.
- "*Redeemer*" draudze no Niagaras rīkoja nedēļu gaŗu nometni.
- Trīs dažādas draudzes rīkoja savus "piknikus".
- "Kids4Kids" organizācija rīkoja 2 nedēļu gaŗu pārnakŗņošanas nometni, lietojot lielo zāli un guļamtelpas, kā arī 7 nedēļu gaŗu dienas nometni pie sporta laukumu pārupes rajonā, un vairākas darbinieku apmācības dienas (kopā apm. \$19,300).

Privātas personas un saimnieciskas vienības (kopā ieņemts \$8,710):

- 4 kāzas (divas latvieŗu)
- "*Burlington Body Camp*" vingrošanas stundas notika otrdienās un ceturtdienās uz dejas grīdas.
- Latvieŗu un kanadieŗu ģimenes rīkojuŗas savas viesības Sidrabkalna lielajā zālē un kafejnīcā.
- Jogas grupa regulāri satikās kafejnīcā.

Latvieŗu organizācijas (kopā ieņemts \$5,080, ieskaitot bērnu nometni)

- Latvieŗu bērnu nometne ilga 4 nedēļas (\$4,000)
- Kristus Dārzis noturēja plānošanas sēdi kafejnīcā
- DV Kanada noturēja 3 sanāksmes
- Latvieŗu skauti no Toronto nometņoja vienu nedēļas nogali

No īres ieņēmumu kopsummas, \$2,350 ieņemts par kafejnīcas īri.

Par teltošanu un pārnakŗņošanu ieņemts \$1,645.

### **KAS PAREDZĒTS SIDRABENĒ 2018. GADĀ**

Kamēr Latvija svin savu simtgadi, Sidrabene atzīmēs 65 gadus kopŗ tā kalpojusi kā draudzes bērnu nometnes un vasaras atpūtas vieta draudzes locekļiem.

Simtgades svinību ietvaros pa visu Latviju tika stādīti ozoli. Ozoli un liepas ir simboliski svarīgi koki latvieŗu kultūrā. Mēs Sidrabenē atzīmēsīm Latvijas simtgadi savā sezonas atklāšanā 26. maijā arī iestādot ozolu ar vēstnieka Kārli Eihenbaumu piedalīšanos šajā ceremonijā. Vēstnieks izkārtos bronzas piemiņas plāksni (angliski un latviski), ko novietos ozola tuvumā. Pēcpusdienu turpināsies ar mūzikālu programmu, ko sniegs Maria Thorburn, Alberts Vītols un Dāvids Šmits.

Paŗreiz trūkst Sidrabenes kafejnīcas vadītāja/pavāra. Tāpēc lūdzam arī draudzes locekļiem palīdzēt, apvaicājoties draugiem un paziņām, vai kādam interesētu uzņemties atbildību par kafejnīcu. Lūzdu lasiet sludinājumus.

2017. g. rudenī Agris Robeŗnieks ziņoja sidrabenieŗiem par paredzētiem uzlabojumiem Sidrabkalnā – Sidrabenes lielai ēkai, kuŗa jau ir 40 gadu veca. Ir iecerēts pirmo posmu ar remontiem veikt jau ŗovasar – ieskaitot ēdamzālē, birojā un noliktavu telpās otrajā stāvā. Draudzes 8. aprīļa pilnsapulcē draudzes locekļiem tiks lūgts apstiprināt ŗos izdevumus segt no draudzes kases.

**Valdis Kauliņŗ**, Sidrabenes pārvaldes priekŗnieks

### **PAPILDUS ZIŅAS PAR SIDRABENI 2018. GADĀ:**

- Sidrabenes pilnsapulcē 4. martā, kur piedalījās 41 dalībnieks, ievēlētā jaunā

pārvalde: Valdis Korbs, Norrie Hasspieler, Mārtiņš Skuja, Ivars Jēgeris, Valdis Kauliņš, Krissy Pavelšone, Mārtiņš Mežulis, Andris Paukšēns, Rob Van Den Enden, Valdis Pālēns, Linda Lakata un cerams, ka draudzes padome šim gadam arī apstiprinās savus pārstāvjus – Voldemāru Innus un Ritu Āpši.

- Lielie projekti, kas paredzēti šajā gadā: uzbūvēt kafejnīcas pajumti, iegādāties jaunu ledusskapi kafejnīcai, nomainīt virtuves skapīšus Sidrabenes pārvaldnieka mājā.
- Beidzot varēs arī uzbūvēt paviljonu, kam izdevumi tiks segti no Juŗa Eglīŗa piemiņas ziedojumiem un no DV un Eglīŗa ģimenes dāsnēm pabalstiem.
- Tāpēc, ka līdzekļi to atļautu, pārvalde ierosināja uzlikt asfalta segumu ceļam, kas ved uz vasarnīcām kalnā. Par šo ierosinājumu notika ļoti plaŗas pārrunas pilnsapulcē, kā rezultātā tas tika atsaukts. Pārvalde turpinās ievākt informāciju un pārrunās daudzus jautājumus, kas saistīti ar ceļu uzturēŗanu, uzlaboŗanu un droŗību, ieskaitot braukŗanas ātruma ierobeŗojumu, drenāŗu pie visiem ceļiem un tml.
- Paredzēts veidot divas rīcības komitejas – Jāņu un Sidrabenes 65. jubilejas sarīkojumu rīkoŗanai.
- Auto novietoŗanas dienas maksa paliek \$10 un sezonas karte \$60, bet draudzes pilnsapulcē to piedāvās ar parasto atlaidi par \$50.

**Rita Āpŗe**, Sidrabenes pārvaldes kasiere

### **SIDRABENES SARĪKOJUMI 2018. GADĀ:**

- 5. maijā – 9:00 -16:00 Pavasāŗa talka
- 26. maijā – Sidrabenes 65 gadu jubilejas sezonas atklāŗanas sarīkojums: Latvijas simtgades ozola stādīŗana un mūzikāli priekŗnesumi (uzstāŗies Maria Thorburn-Vītols, Alberts Vītols un Dāvids Œmits)
- 23. jūnijā – Jāņu svinēŗana
- 9. jūlijā – Sidrabenes bērnu nometnes talka
- No 15. jūlija līdz 5. augustam Sidrabenes bērnu nometne

- 28./29. jūlijā – Sidrabenes 65 gadu jubilejas svinēŗana / Sid svētki
- 30. septembrī – “*Tourchester*” 40 mūzikantu orķestris no Minchenes sniegs “*Oktoberfest*” stila koncertu.
- 10. novembrī – 9:00 -16:00 Rudens talka - Vēlāk tiks izziņoti sarīkojumi, kam datumi nav vēl nosprausti.

\*\* Saraksts ar sidrabenieŗiem, kas ir apmācīti sniegt pirmo palīdzību, atrodams aiz Sidrabenes ziņojuma angļu valodā 28. lŗ.

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### **SIDRABENE MEKLĒ KAFEJNĪCAS VADĪTĀJU /PAVĀRU**

**2018. g. vasaras nedēļas nogalēm,  
no 18. maija līdz 3. septembrim**

**Darba laiks no piektdienas vakara līdz  
svētdienas pēcpusdienai vai līdz  
pirmdienai garajās nogalēs.**

Piedāvājam apmeŗanās/pārgulēŗanas iespējas.

Aicinām pieteikties pie Valŗa Kauliņa:  
905-472-2919 vai [kaulins2919@rogers.com](mailto:kaulins2919@rogers.com)

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### **SIDRABENES BĒRNU NOMETNE 2018 2018. g.15. JŪL. – 5. AUG.**

Apraksts par 2017. gada (9. jūl. – 4. aug.) bērnu nometnes darbību, notikumiem un sarīkojumiem atrodams iepriekŗējās – 2017. g. decembra Draudzes Ziņās #188.

Sidrabenes bērnu nometne 2017. g. vasarā paliek atmiņā kā īpaŗi laba. Daudzi palīgi gan no nometnes puses, gan no plaŗākās latvieŗu sabiedrības ziedoja laiku, lai nometni īstenotu. Esam ļoti pateicīgi par ilggadējo atbalstu, ko sniedz mums Sv. Andreja draudze (“pikniks”), LSAK (sporta nodarbības SID svētkos), kā arī paŗi Sidrabenieŗi.

Nometnes komitejā darbojās brīvprātīgi dalībnieki – vairums būdami arī bērnu vecāki, kurī strādā nometnes labā. Mēs priecātos pieņemt jaunus locekļus. Aicinām

ģimenes ar maziem bērniem jau tagad sākt sadarboties ar nometni, lai kopā varam veidot nometnes nākotni. Pagājušajā gadā notika 5 sēdes. Nometnes komitejā darbojās: Devin Dzelme, Debbie Grietiņa, Kurtis Grietiņš, Ivars Jēgeris, Sandra Kalniņa, Linda Lakata, Sandra Thiele, Anita Thomas, Inga Untika, Linda & Rob Van Den Enden, Katrīna Vikse un Imants Ķivlis kā padomdevējs. Mums ir piebiedrojies Elmārs Bērziņš kā kasieris un baznīcas padomes pārstāvis. Jauniešu pārstāvji ir Dana Grietiņa, Ēriks Kalniņš, Jessica Lakata un Kristin Lakata.

Salīdzinot ar iepriekšējiem gadiem, caurmērā nometnotāju skaits aug, it sevišķi 'Cāļu kalna' vecumā. Pienāca klāt 8 jaunas ģimenes, bet 11 nometnotāji, kuriem bija pirmais gads nometnē. Mums bija 4 CIT dalībnieki. Divi no tiem (Dana Grietiņa un Evan Thomas) sekmīgi beidza vadītāju treniņu programmu. Vēlamies paziņot, ka šovasar atgriezīsies Kurtis Grietiņš (komandants) un Ilze Vikse (galvenā vadītāja 'Cāļu kalnā'). Vēl pieņemam pieteikumus strādāt nometnē – īpaši virtuvē, rokdarbos, veselības nodrošināšanā un ar mazajiem 'Cāļu kalnā'. Tāpat, vecāki un pieaugušie ir aicināti pieteikties izpalīdzēt nometnē un/vai dalīties ar saviem talantiem. Esam atsaucīgi visādām sadarbošanās iespējām.

Sakarā ar Dziesmu svētkiem Latvijā, Sidrabenes bērnu nometne šogad būs trīs nedēļu garumā.  
**2018. g. nometnes datumi: JAUNS!!! Nometne sāksies ar iespēju ievākties, sākot ar pl.12:00 svētdien, 15. jūlijā. Būs ģimenēm BBQ pudienas no 12:30 – 13:30, dievkalpojums pl. 14:00; sekos nometnes atklāšana karoga laukumā. Nometne beigsies svētdien 5. augustā, ar ģimenes brokastīm no pl. 9:45 līdz 10:45, dievkalpojums pl. 11:00. Pēc tam tūlīt sekos nometnes slēgšana karoga laukumā.**

Cenšamies vienmēr atrast jaunas līdzekļu vākšanas iespējas, lai atbalstītu nometnes nodarbības un piegādātu nometnes darbībai vajadzīgās lietas. Pagājušajā vasarā, mūsu jauniešu vadībā, 'Sidrabenes kapuču' līdzekļu vākšanas programmai bija ļoti laba atsauksme.

Sakarā ar Latvijas simtgadi un plānotā ozola koka stādīšanu Sidrabenē sezonas atklāšanā 26. maijā, nometne piedāvā ozola kociņus (1m+ garumā) stādīšanai, cena \$20, atlikums Sidrabenes nometnei.

'Daudzas rokas atvieglo darbu' (kā V. Kauliņš vienmēr saka) – nometnes talka būs sestdien 9. jūnijā. Darbinieki ļoti vajadzīgi un mīļi gaidīti!

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



Visi mīļi aicināti piedalīties 'SID SVĒTKOS' 2018. g. svētdien 29. jūlijā. Uz redzēšanos Sidrabenē!



Informācija pieejama draudzes tīmekļa lapā:  
<http://www.standrewslatvian.org/sidrabene/camp>





## GARĪGIE SAJETI LATVIEŠU CENTRĀ

Pagājušajā, 2017. gadā, pateicoties Sv. Andreja draudzes mācītājam Ilzei Kuplēnai-Ewart, Latviešu Centrā notika **garīgi saietī**, svētdienas pēcpusdienā pl. 15:00 Centra galerijā vai mazajā sēžu zālē.

Pirmais svētbrīdis un pārrunas notika 29. janvārī, piedalījās 13 personas un māc. Ilze Kuplēna-Ewart un Sv. Jāņa draudzes māc. Ģirts Grietiņš. Pēc katra saietā, klātesošie pārrunāja, kad tiksies nākamo reizi. Nākamie saietī notika: 19. februārī, 26. martā, 30. aprīlī, 28. maijā un 11. jūnijā. Pēc tam norunājām pārtraukt, jo sākās vasaras brīvdienas. Sākot ar septembra mēnesi, es nevarēju piedalīties un nevaru atbildēt, kāpēc saietī rudenī neturpinājās.

Kāpēc šādi saietī? Lielākai daļai dalībnieku, kas piedalījās, ir kustības grūtības. Lai varētu droši pārvietoties, tie lietoja staiguljus vai atradās riteņkrēslā. Ierosinājums šiem saietiem sākās no Pensionāru apvienības biedriem, kuŗi satiekas katru ceturtdienu Latviešu Centrā. Izvēlējamies laiku svētdien pl. 15:00, jo tad Latviešu Centrā ir visklusākais laiks un visi draudžu dievkalpojumi ir beigušies.

Kāpēc neiet uz draudžu dievkalpojumiem? Kā jau minēju, ar riteņkrēsliem un staiguljiem nav tik viegli tikt līdz baznīcām, jo baznīcas netika būvētas ar domu, lai invalīdiem būtu vieglāka piekļūšana. Latviešu Centrs ir pārbūvēts un ļoti piemērots invalīdiem. Vietējiem taksīšu šoferiem un 'Wheel Trans' šoferiem Latviešu Centrs ir labi pazīstams.

Pateicoties Latviešu Centra valdei, kas piedāvāja telpas par brīvu, Pensionāru apvienības valdei par atbalstu un sludināšanu savos saietos un māc. Ilzei Kuplēnai-Ewart, esam varējuši noturēt garīgos saietus.

Pēc maniem uzskatiem tos vajadzētu turpināt, jo tie kalpo tiem, kuŗi nav spējīgi tikt uz baznīcām, vai ir invalīdi.

**Atis Bredovskis**, Garīgo saietu apmeklētājs

## SILTAIS APKAMPIENS

Kas ir 'siltais apkampiens'? Mēs esam grupiņa draudzes locekles, kam patīk adīt vai tamborēt, (vai kam ir interese apgūt šīs mākas – labprāt apmācām iesācējus!). Tiekamies ik mēnesi vienas vai otras mājās, lai draudzīgā vidē adītu šalles, ko ar mīlestību dāvinām mūsu draudzes locekļiem un arī citiem, kuŗi pārdzīvo kādu smagu dzīves pārbaudījumu, vai sēras, tā izsakot mūsu līdzjūtību un atbalstu.

Pasākumu ierosināja māc. Ilze, sekojot savam piedzīvojumam Anglijā, kur viņa uzturējās 2016. g. vasarā, kārtojot mātes izvadīšanu. Šinī skumjā brīdī, kas ievilkās vairākas nedēļas un ko viņa pavadīja viena, tālu no mājām, viņu ļoti iepriecināja un aizkustināja dāvinājums no baznīcas mācītājas – vietējās 'siltā apkampiena' grupas adītā šalle. Mājās pārbraukusi, 2016. g. rudenī māc. Ilze aicināja mūsu draudzes adītājas uzsākt līdzīgu grupiņu. Atsaucība ir bijusi tik liela, ka tagad satiekas divas grupas, viena pilsētas centrā, otra ārpus Toronto uz austrumiem.

2017. g. ģimenes dienas dievkalpojumā iesvētījām pirmās 12 šalles, no kuŗām vairākas jau ir izdalītas. Mūsu darbība turpinās, un katrā laikā labprāt sagaidām jaunus rokdarbniekus! Sagādājam arī dziju un adatas. Nākošā tikšanās ir paredzēta trešdien, 11. aprīlī pie Dailas Dzintaras, 278 Airdrie Rd. Toronto. Aicinām piedalīties, vai arī sazināties ar māc. Ilzi vai draudzes biroju ar ieteikumiem, kam noderētu šāds dāvinājums – 'siltais apkampiens'.

**Skaidrīte Leja**

## PASTOR'S REPORT FOR THE 2018 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The main focus for Lutherans worldwide in 2017 was the five hundredth anniversary of the Reformation. In our congregational activities, talks, discussions, and sermons, we tried to discover more about our Reformation heritage and what its historical significance might be for us today. I was particularly blessed in having the opportunity to spend a week in August in Wittenberg, cradle of the Lutheran Reformation, as a guest of the Evangelical Church of Germany. Together with four of my colleagues from the Toronto Central Ministry Area our task was to introduce visitors to the Lutheran church in Canada. It was a once in a lifetime, and inspiring experience. I hope that I was able to convey that during my presentation to the congregation in the fall. As part of the quincentenary celebration I was honoured to have been invited to preach at Grace Anglican Church on the Hill and share some of the significance of Luther's teachings for today as well as give a presentation during their teaching hour.

One of the foundational concepts that we receive as a Lutheran congregation is "ecclesia semper reformanda est"-the church is in a continuous process of reformation. Reviewing and assessing our work and ministry is a critical piece in trying to ensure that the church is able to share the good news of Jesus Christ in a way that addresses people in their current circumstances. Doing this is a long established part of St Andrew's witness. At times this has demanded considerable courage, for example, when worship in English first began in the 1970s. Dissent over this reached such a pitch that retired pastor Cops felt compelled to give his public support to this new venture, both in the congregational newsletter and in the Latvian press.

In my ministry with you over the last almost twenty one years, I have often referred to the changes that have taken place in the Latvian community in Toronto, particularly to the impact of transition from one generation to the next. Leadership has now been assumed by the children, in places the grandchildren, of those who created the emigre Latvian community in Toronto. This is a

healthy indicator of the continued positive role of the community for successive generations. These changes are reflected in our congregation as new generations are beginning to take on leadership roles.

At the same time, assumptions about the role of congregations are shifting everywhere. Congregational leaders, lay and ordained, can no longer assume that people will come to them. The church today needs to be present where people are, both physically, and spiritually, or indeed psychologically. How can we provide support to our community members to help them address life's challenges; how can we help them create guidelines for negotiating a way through the complexities of everyday life? This is where we come in.

One small, yet significant way in which a reformation change was signalled for our congregation came in last year's Annual General Meeting. The suggestion was made to no longer call our separate activity groups 'committees' but rather 'ministries'. Over this last year we have used this term to describe our work and it seems to have entered our 'vocabulary'.

I sense this change is very significant. It draws our attention to two possibilities: the first: to understand that wherever we live out this calling to ministry, be it in the Ladies' auxiliary, the Sidrabene Management Committee, Camp Sidrabene, Aid to Latvia and so on, we do so as one, united, body. We are one body with many parts and characteristics. In using this framework, we begin to find a true way of looking at ourselves as no longer "us" and "them" each feeling we have to struggle to maintain our place in the whole, but simply as "us". What every group does is part of the whole. Together, we work at building up the whole body, the "us". That is an understanding clearly outlined in Paul's first letter to the Corinthians: *Christ is just like the human body—a body is a unit and has many parts; and all the parts of the body are one body, even though there are many. We were all baptized by one Spirit into one body, whether Jew or Greek, or slave or free, and*

*we all were given one Spirit to drink.* (1 Cor 12:12,13)

The second possibility that emerges from the shift to understanding our work as “ministry” is beginning to understand what it is that we are engaged in as a congregation. It is all part of fulfilling Christ’s Great Commission which he leaves his followers as his parting words in Matthew’s Gospel: Jesus came near and spoke to them, *“I’ve received all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything that I’ve commanded you. Look, I myself will be with you every day until the end of this present age.”* (Matthew 28:18-20). This isn’t as scary as it might sound! Jesus’ call simply means that as a Christian community, we are called to embody in our words, but most of all in our actions, the two key teachings, that is, commandments, Jesus leaves us with: to love God with all our heart, mind and strength and, to love our neighbour as ourselves.

We all have something still to learn in this, but from even a glance at how our congregational leadership and many of our ministry groups are working it is clear that we are trying to grow into an understanding of our activities as service in Jesus’ name. Of course, there are occasions and times where that is not the case, but we are working at it.

Being aware that we are all taking part in the great work that Jesus commands his followers to do has a far-reaching, positive impact. Even though some indicators might suggest the opposite, we nonetheless become stronger because Jesus’ Spirit unites us. In addition, others are blessed through what we do, and who we are. There are countless examples of this, from our Ladies’ Auxiliary (we have to find a new name, given the number of male members!), to the hospitality ministry exercised by the Sidrabene Management Committee (Sidrabenes Parvalde). Another example is the “Warm Hugs” prayer shawl knitting group that has now a second branch for those living to the east of Toronto. It is truly a wonder to

see how these ministries speak to people who otherwise might not become connected to us. Sidrabene is a hive of activity for all generations not just from our congregation, but also from Hamilton. The “Warm Hugs” group embraces members from St John’s as well as those who aren’t formally active in any of our congregations. Yet everyone feels these are places where they can make a contribution.

### **REVIEW OF ACTIVITY IN 2017**

#### **WORSHIP**

Over the past year I have led worship at 300 Balmoral, St John’s Church; our country home at Sidrabene (monthly from October -June, weekly during camp); at the Latvian Centre; and at Kristus Darzs. Monthly devotions at the Latvian Centre sadly did not recommence after the summer break, however, I hope this will be a temporary lull. Numbers are given in the statistics.

One concern I have is that a significant number of our respective congregation members feel they are only to come to those services conducted by “their” pastor. Sadly, this means we lose a wonderful opportunity to grow together and, at the same time, experience one another’s hospitality. There were some exceptions. In 2017, for the first time we had an almost identical number of worshippers at the Maundy Thursday service as at the Good Friday service, with members of both congregations in equal measure at each. The same was the case at the Christmas Eve service. Please remember: every Sunday is joint worship.

A significant event was the visit of the Roman Catholic archbishop of Riga, Zbignevs Stankevics over the Mothers’ Day/Church Family Sunday weekend. He was among the guests at our annual, Aid to Latvia “Beautiful Breakfast” accompanied by the Ambassador to Latvia, Karlis Eihenbaums. In addition he helped lead worship at the ecumenical service hosted by the Lithuanian Franciscan brothers at the Church of the Resurrection. Sadly, timing is everything, and the conjunction of the visit with Mothers’ Day had a negative impact on numbers of worshippers at the service. I congratulate our ambassador at his valiant efforts to further ecumenism among Latvians, however I remain somewhat sceptical as to how far this will

develop given some of the positions taken by the archbishop.

I would like to express my thanks to my colleagues for their support in leading worship and providing pastoral support as needed during my absence.

Thank you in particular to Deacon Inese MacDonald-Upmanis for her great support during camp. I would also like to thank the community of Christ's Latvian in Hamilton. We had two joint services during the summer in our outdoor church (on one occasion moving inside at very short notice because of rain). This year we had a bumper attendance at camp services to the extent that it seemed there were never enough chairs.

### **LEARNING**

I led reflections with pastor Girts Grietins during Lent on Luther's Small Catechism (as part of marking the 500th anniversary of the Reformation) and during camp led Bible Study in Sidrabene based on the book "Sacred Pathways", where we discovered the riches of different experiences of the presence of God in our lives.

From Epiphany to the beginning of Lent I had prepared a series of sessions on the book "The Good and Beautiful God: Falling in love with the God Jesus knows". Unfortunately the hard winter and the variety of viruses sweeping through Toronto meant this couldn't take place.

Confirmation class began in the autumn. We currently have nine confirmands participating.

### **WITNESSING**

I continue to try to attend wider community events where possible, for example, the Latvian centenary flag celebration, and the annual meeting of the Latvian National Council. I also sing with the choir "Ziemelis" as we prepare to participate in the Song Festival in Riga this summer.

I helped organize the Baltic Deportation Day commemoration at Nathan Phillips Square where Baltic clergy joined in prayer. I thank our Baltic church partners for their support as this had to be organized in a very short time frame as there was almost no advance notice from the Baltic Federation about the event.

I participated in the joint Roman Catholic/Lutheran commemoration of the Reformation organized by

the Central Toronto (Lutheran) Ministry Area and the Archdiocese of Toronto.

A new venture was a recorded short video, in both our languages, inviting people to come to worship on Christmas Eve including a greeting appropriate to the season. I posted this on FaceBook, with a positive response. In terms of witnessing, each worshipper at our Christmas Eve service became a witness to the Light coming into the world as they left with an LED light.

I helped with our regular, winter "Out of the Cold" event. Particular thanks to Imants and Maureen Kivlis for their endless energy, and to our confirmands parents who helped enormously in sourcing what we needed for the day. Thanks too to the community at First Lutheran who provided us with meeting space.

### **SERVICE**

Details of baptisms, weddings and funerals are provided separately. God be praised for the great goodness and kindness we have experienced at joyful and at sad times. I have continued my practice of including the families of those who have died in the prayers at the service following either their death, or the funeral.

Together with our confirmands, we sent out Christmas greetings to our older congregation members. Thank you to our confirmands and a particular thanks to our trusted support, **Līga Gaide**, who ensures that birthday greetings are sent out on significant birthdays.

### **OTHER**

Sadly, our hoped-for First Nations learning day failed to materialize, not for want of trying. Unfortunately, the local First Nations group we had been working with had scheduling conflicts.

It was a joy to have the LELBA synod meet at Niagara Falls last October, especially as there were a number of colleagues who had come from Latvia to attend. With the exception of keynote speaker, Rev Indulis Paics, the other clergy from Latvia are now members of the Latvian Ev. Lutheran Church Abroad. I had had the opportunity to meet with one of them, Rev Varis Bitenieks from Aizpute, when we attended worship at his church in the summer. Another participant at the synod was a former student of mine, Dr, now Rev, Aiva

Rozenberga-Drummond, pastor to the Latvian community in Florida. Her particular specialism is diaconical, or service ministry. I hope she will be able to come to Toronto to lead a weekend training programme in the autumn. That would be part of the LELBA Canada section's work.

I had made arrangements for our confirmands to visit and get to know their counterparts at Temple Sinai synagogue and the Islamic Institute of Toronto in April, but have had to set a new time for this in the autumn, when I, too, will be able to participate. This will be a wonderful opportunity for our youth to learn more about the two other "Abrahamic" faiths.

At the beginning of 2018 we became aware that the three main church leaders in Latvia, chiefly archbishop Stankevics, had successfully lobbied members of the Saeima not to ratify the Istanbul Convention, a document of the European Council created to help end violence towards women and children. Your council became acquainted with the document, in English, one of the official languages in which it had been prepared, and were unable to find in it anything that reflected the interpretation put on the text by the church leaders in Latvia. A letter was prepared which we have invited our congregation members to sign and which will be forwarded to Saeima deputies in Riga encouraging them to ratify the Istanbul Convention along with almost every other European nation. This letter outlines our position that we consider the Istanbul Convention to reflect fundamental Christian principles. Council also decided to share this letter with other Latvian congregations and invite them to share their views with the deputies. Supporting the rights of those who are downtrodden and abused is an ancient Biblical principle to be found in both New and Old Testaments.

I would also like to draw your attention to three particularly significant events that are being planned for the summer in Sidrabene. It is a delightful coincidence that Sidrabene's 65th anniversary coincides with the centenary of Latvian independence. To leave a permanent reminder of our ties to Latvia, an oak will be planted in Sidrabene on Saturday, May 26. In this way we will be participating in the "Embrace Latvia" event that took place in Latvia in 2017 with

the planting of 100 oak trees around the border of the country. It is a joy and a privilege that the ambassador of Latvia to Canada, Karlis Eihenbaums, has promised to be present and help with planting the tree. The embassy has also provided help to arrange for a sign like the ones put next to the oak trees planted in Latvia to be made for us. The oak will be planted near to the entrance to the outdoor church, close by the bench placed in memory of Pauls Plisis. Thank you to Silvija Shedden for her generous donation to make this project come to fruition.

You are all very, very welcome to come to Sidrabene and help us with the planting, and the festivity. It will also mark the formal beginning of Sidrabene's 65th year.

On July 28, 29 we will be celebrating Sidrabene all weekend long, with a programme of events, a picnic for congregation members and Sidrabene supporters, and activities for campers. More information to follow.

And to conclude, I would encourage each one of you to remember that marking our nation's one hundred years since the declaration of independence is the time to offer particular thanks to God. Seeing so few people at our annual thanksgiving service of independence has always troubled me, as it is the opposite to what I had know before in Latvian communities in Europe. So, please respond to this call, let's all gather and praise God in prayer; we will join in prayer for those who lost so much yet whose contribution to our heritage will never be forgotten.

I would like to thank all who played a role in the past year in advancing our congregation's operations and programmes. Special recognition to Chair **Indra Mertens** for her council leadership and mediation; to departing council member **Arnis Budrēvics**, who for three years as Treasurer, and this past year as Asst. Treasurer, has contributed countless hours of financial and leadership expertise to the congregation, council and to **Sarma Gaide** in Administration; to **Agris Robežnieks** and **Voldemārs Innus**, for their dedication to advancing the badly-needed upgrades to the Sidrabkalns building; to **Anda**

**Liberis** for the many labour-intensive hours spent on the Draudzes Ziņas newsletter; and to **Inta Briedis** for her continued support of the congregation and leadership of the Ladies' Auxiliary. To **Jānis Tannis**, for continuing not only in his role on council, taking on the task of steering the Aid to Latvia (Palīdzība Latvijai) committee and for sourcing sound equipment for Sidrabene, including the outdoor church, at wonderful discounts. And to **Ēriks Kleperis** for working with Jānis on this project, and for his many hours of diligent effort in making this new equipment work. We were thrilled with the end result in our services in the outdoor church last summer.

Many thanks, too, to **Andy Grīnbergs** for all he does to keep Sidrabene as well as he does to ensure it is our piece of paradise in the country. It would only be right to extend a particular thank you to **Vilis Kleperis** for his countless hours of volunteer work assisting Andy, and property managers before him. Vilis is no longer able to help for health reasons, but we admire his exemplary dedication and energy

Any vote of thanks would be sorely inadequate without a special mention being made to our administrator, **Sarma Gaide**. Sarma does more than many of you can know to ensure that everything works as smoothly as it can and that we present a professional, caring voice to those who reach out to us. Paldies, Sarma!

In Christ's peace

**Macītāja Ilze Kuplēna-Ewart**

### **SIDRABENE'S MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE / "PĀRVALDE" 2017**

Sidrabene's management committee has had a successful year organizing the spring and fall work bees, social events, the bocce tournament, videofilm nights and the yearly lottery. There were 10 monthly church services plus the traditional services at "Jāņi" and during Latvian camp. Two services were held jointly with Christ's Latvian congregation from Hamilton. Special thanks to Imants & Maureen Kivlis for helping with the services. On July 22<sup>nd</sup>, our church ladies auxiliary held a congregation picnic.

The yearly lottery in 2017 offered 10% of proceeds to 5 winners. Since one winner donated his portion back, Sidrabene earned a profit of \$1,602.80. Social events were financially successful, totalling \$14,651, including – "Jāņi" (\$10,568.50), Season Opening (\$863.89) and Season Closing (\$2,264.61). Major projects completed in 2017, some with church council's help:

- Bought 2 defibrillators.
- Replaced the deck of the Children's lodge "Cāļu kalns".
- Installed steel doors in the dining hall of the main building "Sidrabkalns".
- Finally installed air conditioning at the property manager's house.
- Bought a video projector for the Kafe.
- Acquired a new sound system for the outdoor church and a projector & screen for worship services in the dining hall (with Ēriks Kleperis' help).

Sidrabene's management committee – "pārvalde" held 9 regular meetings and 2 joint meetings with the church council. Thank-you to Sidrabene's "pārvalde" members: Valdis Kauliņš, Andris Paukšēns, Ģints Zichmanis, Māra Ozols, Rita Āpše, Gail Ozoliņš, Linda Lakats, Ivars Jēgeris, Krissy Pavelson, Mudīte Schuler, Vilnis Blūms, Mārtiņš Mežulis, Valdis Pālēns and Voldemārs Innus as well as Sidrabene's property manager Andrejs Grīnbergs for their hard work. Thank-you to all the cottagers – "Sidrabenieši", who helped out with the work bees, gate duty and social events. Thank-you to congregation members for supporting Sidrabene with donations and for attending the social events.

### **SUMMARY OF SIDRABENE'S RENTAL INCOME 2017**

Sidrabene's total rental income was \$118,505 (including \$12,000 from church):

- Halton Region school board used our facilities from September to June for the Bronte Creek Project (income \$51,950)
- Youth & Social (total \$40,770):
- 3 different Army cadet groups held weekend retreats
  - Halton/Mississauga youth symphony orchestra held a weekend retreat



- 27th Orchard scouts meet every Thursday September to June
- Kids TV show Dino Dana was here for a week
- Scout and Guide groups from Toronto, Acton, Milton, Burlington and Oakville are regularly using the main hall on weekends from September to June
- Redeemer church in Niagara Falls hosted a week long camp
- 3 different churches had picnics on the property
- Kids4Kids had 2 week-long sleepover camps at the hall and dorms, 7 weeks of day camps by the soccer field as well as several PD day camps (approx total rental \$19,300)

Private & Commercial (total \$8,710):

- Hosted 4 weddings (2 Latvian, 2 non)
- Burlington body camp (fitness class) met here Tuesday and Thursday nights on the outdoor dance floor
- Latvian and non-Latvian families have had picnics and other gatherings at the main hall and at the Kafe
- Yoga group regularly met at the Kafe

Latvian Organizations (total \$5,080 including Latvian camp):

- Latvian camp for 4 weeks (\$4,000)
- "Kristus Dārzs" planning day at the Kafe
- DV Canada held 3 meetings
- Toronto Latvian scouts weekend camp

Of the total rental income \$2,350 was brought in by Kafe rentals.

Camping & Overnight stays brought in \$1,645.

### **SIDRABENE 2018**

As Latvia celebrates its centenary this year, Sidrabene will celebrate its 65<sup>th</sup> year of serving our congregation as a children's summer camp and as a rural retreat for our congregation members.

In Latvia last year, as part of the centenary celebration, 100 oak trees were planted throughout the country. In Latvian culture the oak tree is a symbol of strength and durability. To celebrate Latvia's centenary, at the season opening on May 26 an oak tree will be planted in Sidrabene. Latvia's ambassador to Canada, Kārlis Eihenbaums will be present for this ceremony. A

bronze plaque from the Latvian government will be placed by the tree to mark the occasion. The afternoon program will continue with a musical presentation featuring Maria Thorburn, Alberts Vītols and Dāvids Šmits.

At the time of writing this, there is no one to manage the Sidrabene Kafe this summer. Sidrabene's "pārvalde" is asking congregation members to help out by asking family and friends if they would be interested in running the Kafe (see advertisement).

Last fall, Agris Robežnieks did a presentation at Sidrabene that showed the proposed changes to the main building, "Sidrabkalns" which is 40 years old and needs repairs and improvements. The first phase of these improvements are slated for this summer. The dining hall, office and storage area on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor are slated to undergo renovations. At the church AGM on April 8, the congregation will be asked to approve the funds needed in order to make these improvements.

**Valdis Kauliņš**, Sidrabene's "Pārvalde" Chair

### **ADDITIONAL NEWS RE: SIDRABENE 2018**

Sidrabene held its AGM on Mar 4<sup>th</sup> and elected: Valdis Korbs, Norrie Hasspieler, Mārtiņš Skuja, Ivars Jēgeris, Valdis Kauliņš, Krissy Pavelson, Mārtiņš Mežulis, Andris Paukšēns, Rob Van Den Eenden, Valdis Pālēns, Linda Lakats. It is also expected that church council will again assign their representatives Voldemārs Innus and Rita Āpše to "pārvalde".

- Major projects planned for 2018 – building the Kafe awning, buying a new commercial fridge for the Kafe, replacing kitchen cupboards in the property manager's house.
- The Pavillion will finally be completed – costs covered from initial donations in memory of Juris Eglītis plus very generous contributions from DV Canada and Eglītis family.
- Since we had a healthy reserve available, "pārvalde" proposed resurfacing the road leading to the cottages on the hill. Extensive discussions arose at the AGM about this and, as a result, the proposal was withdrawn and "pārvalde" will

continue to review and gather information on all related issues: maintenance of all roads in Sidrabene, safety concerns including speed control, drainage around roads, etc.

- Two committees will be formed to plan “Jāņi” programme and Sidrabene’s 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration events.
- Daily Parking pass cost remains \$10, and season pass \$60, but a discount will be offered at the church AGM where they will sell for \$50.

*Rita Āpše*, Sidrabene’s “Pārvalde” Treasurer

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## RESOURCES IN SIDRABENE’S COMMUNITY:

**Sidrabene has purchased two defibrillators which are located:**

- outside west door of Sidrabene’s Kafe, and
- by the 2nd floor main entrance of the Main Hall (Sidrabkalns)

**The following cottagers have received training in using this equipment:**

- Andy Grīnbergs – property manager
- Lauma Stikuts – cottage #40
- Mārtiņš Mežulis – cottage #75
- Norrie Hasspieler – #53
- Maureen Ķivlis – #20
- Karina Mieriņš – #10
- Krissy Pavelson – #28
- Māra Ozols – #27

**We also have several Certified First Aiders in our community:**

- Sandra Thiele - #57
- Michael Thiele - #57
- Patricia Harris - #16
- Caitlyn Ireland - #34
- Rob VanDenEnden - #42
- Māra Ozols - #27

## SOCIAL DATES 2018

Only social activities with set dates are listed below. Other activities will be announced when dates are known. All congregation members and friends are invited to come to Sidrabene to enjoy the amenities and events.

- May 5 – 9:00 am - 4:00 pm Sidrabene’s spring work bee
- May 26 – Sidrabene’s season opening social with oak tree planting & musical presentation
- June 23 – “Jāņi” celebration
- July 9 – Latvian camp work bee
- July 15 – August 5 Latvian camp
- July 28/29 – Sidrabene’s 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations / “Sid svētki”
- Sept 30 – “Tourchester” (40-piece orchestra from Munich) Oktoberfest-style concert
- Nov. 10 – 9:00 am - 4:00 pm Sidrabene’s fall work bee

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## SIDRABENE IS INVITING APPLICATIONS FOR KAFE MANAGER/CHEF

**For the summer weekends 2018 from May 18 to Sept. 3, from Friday evening until Sunday afternoon or Monday afternoon on long weekends.**

**Kafe operating times and days may be extended/changed.**

Overnight accomodation available in an air-conditioned trailer.

If interested in applying, please contact  
Valdis Kauliņš: 905-472-2919 or  
[kaulins2919@rogers.com](mailto:kaulins2919@rogers.com)



**CAMP SIDRABENE 2018**  
**JULY 15 – AUGUST 5**

Information about Camp Sidrabene 2017 activities and events (July 9 – Aug. 4) can be found in our previous Newsletter – Draudzes Ziņas #188, December 2017.

Camp during the summer of 2017 was especially memorable. Many volunteers within the camp and wider community stepped up to make this possible. We truly appreciate the longstanding support of St. Andrew's congregation (picnic), LSAK (track + field day) and of course our 'Sidrabenieši' – cottage owners.

Sidrabene Camp committee members are volunteers, the majority of whom are parents of campers, who work for the betterment of our beloved camp. New participants are always welcome. We invite families with young children to begin working with camp already this season to enable us to shape our camp's future together. There were 5 camp committee meetings held in 2017.

Current members are: Devin Dzelme, Debbie Grietiņš, Kurtis Grietiņš, Ivars Jēgeris, Sandra Kalniņš, Linda Lakats, Sandra Thiele, Anita Thomas, Inga Untiks, Linda & Rob Van Den Enden, Katrina Vikse, with Imants Ķivlis as advisor. We welcome Elmārs Berziņš as the treasurer and Church council liaison.

Youth members are Dana Grietiņš, Ēriks Kalniņš, Jessica Lakats and Kristin Lakats.

In comparison to previous years, weekly attendance levels have increased, particularly in the under age 8 category. This year we welcomed 8 new families with 11 first-time campers. We had 4 full-time participants in the CIT program and 2 graduated – Dana Grietiņš and Evan Thomas.

We are pleased to announce that Kurtis Grietiņš (program director), Ilze Vikse (head of Children's Lodge) will be returning for this summer. However, we are looking for 2018 camp staff. Help is especially needed in the kitchen, for crafts, First Aid and in the Children's Lodge.

Parents and adults are invited to share their special gift or talent – offers of service are welcome. We are open to any cooperative suggestion.

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

**CAMP DATES 2018: NEW!!! Camp begins by campers moving in from 12 noon on Sun. July 15<sup>th</sup> with a family BBQ from 12:30 until 1:30 pm, church service at 2:00 pm, followed by camp opening at the flagpole. Camp ends Sunday August 5<sup>th</sup> with a family brunch from 9:45 until 10:45 am, church service at 11 am, with camp closing at the flagpole immediately afterwards.**

We have consistently endeavoured to find new ways to fundraise to support camp activities and purchase necessary items for the children. Last summer's 'SID hoodie' fundraiser, initiated & run by our youth, was very successful.

Our 1<sup>st</sup> fundraiser will be held in conjunction with Latvia's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration and the 65<sup>th</sup>

Sidrabene's **season opening May 26<sup>th</sup>**. **At the planned oak tree planting**, red oak potted saplings (4 ft tall) will be available for purchase for \$20 with all proceeds going to camp Sidrabene. 'Many hands make light work' (as per V. Kauliņš) – the **camp work bee will be Sat. June 9<sup>th</sup>**, please come!

Now and in the future, our goal is to ensure that families have access to a safe haven where parents can send their children during the summer to enjoy camp in a Latvian Christian environment and be amongst friends. We are all aware that we need to work together for SIDRABENE. With caring and cooperation we can achieve much. Let us support one another in this effort, as in the end we are all 'Sidrabenieši', campers, church members and Latvians and our children are the future. We extend a warm invitation to all to come join us on Sunday July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2018 for 'SID SVĒTKI'. See you in SID!

For more information go to the church's website:  
<http://www.standrewslatvian.org/sidrabene/camp>

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## **WARM HUGS**

'Warm Hugs' is a group of knitters, from our congregation and from elsewhere, who gather regularly to knit (and crochet) shawls that are gifted to anyone that we know is undergoing heavy life challenges or bereavement, as an expression of our sympathy and comfort in a time of pain or sorrow.

This project was initiated by māc. Ilze, following her own experience in England, where she found herself alone and far from friends and family for several weeks while making her mother's funeral arrangements. The gift of a hand-knitted shawl, made by a local 'Warm Hugs' group and presented to māc. Ilze by the minister who was assisting with the arrangements, was deeply appreciated, as a token of their sympathy and love in this sad and lonely time.

Once home, māc. Ilze invited our congregation's knitters to form our own group. We have been gathering monthly in the homes of group members for more than a year. In fact, the response has



**WARM HUGS knitters: Ilze Lapsa, Valda Bērziņš, māc. Ilze, Māra Goba, and below, far left, Skaidrīte Leja**

been so enthusiastic that we now have two groups meeting regularly, one in downtown Toronto, the other to the east of the city. The next meeting of the Toronto group is scheduled for Wednesday, April 11 at the home of Daila Dzintars at 278 Airdrie Rd, Toronto. New members are always welcome! We are more than happy to teach basic knitting and crocheting skills to anyone interested, and a supply of needles and yarn is also available.

We blessed the first 12 shawls at the Mother's Day service last year, and a number of those have been distributed since. Anyone who would like to suggest a recipient for a 'Warm Hugs' shawl is invited to contact the church office or māc. Ilze.

## ***Skaidrīte Leja***





## OUT OF THE COLD

This past January 20th we had the privilege to look after the most needy portion of our community in Toronto. It took many hands to accomplish this with the help of our congregation's first home, the old German Lutheran church on Bond St. Many thanks to the confirmation group and their parents in assisting. The coffee table they organized one Sunday after worship raised over \$400 dollars for "Out of the Cold". That money was used to cover the cost of hats and a few other items. So thank you to everyone who donated either time, money or goods.

This opportunity to give back to our larger community is important to us not only as a Christian church but also as good stewards of this world we live in. Our younger generations had an opportunity to experience contact with those that are in hardship and truly are dependent on others. This experience opened their eyes and not only did they witness and participate in interaction with people but hopefully changed their beliefs or view of the less fortunate.

Our Latvian community evolved in Canada from being new immigrants struggling to make ends meet and build a new life in a new land. The Latvian community would not have thrived and embedded itself into what we now know it as if it had not had some help from others as well.

This world truly becomes a better place when we reduce the number of people struggling and those in need. Hopefully we were able to at least touch the 140 to 150 people to whom we were able to provide some food, toiletries and goodies. I think everyone participating felt their sincere thanks and the presence of the Lord in them. Thank you to everyone who helped in their own way.

*Imants Kivlis*

ĢIMENES DIENAS  
**Burvīgās Brokastis**

St. John's Latvian Lutheran Church  
200 Balmoral Avenue

**Sunday, May 13**  
**9:00 - 11:00**

\$15 per person,  
children 6 - 12 \$5, under 6 free

All proceeds to  
families in need in Latvia

Aid to Latvia Committee, St. Andrew's  
Latvian Lutheran Congregation

Svētā Jāņa Baznīca  
200 Balmoral Avenue

**Svētdien, 13. maijs**  
**9:00 - 11:00**

\$15, bērniem no 6 g.v.-12 g.v \$5,  
bērniem līdz 6 g.v. par brīvu

Visi ienākumi par labu trūcīgām  
ģimenēm Latvijā

Palīdzība Latvijai komiteja,  
Sv. Andreja draudze

MOTHER'S DAY  
**Beautiful Breakfast**

## 13. MAIJĀ – ĢIMENES DIENA

09:00 "BURVĪGĀS BROKASTIS" par labu  
"Palīdzība Latvijai" projektiem  
11:00 DIEVKALPOJUMS ABĀS VALODĀS ar  
dievgaldu (Sv. Andreja)

## MAY 13 – MOTHER'S DAY

09:00 - 11:00 The Aid to Latvia committee  
presents: *Mother's Day Beautiful Breakfast*  
(\$15 per person / children 6-12 \$5 / under 6 free)  
*All proceeds go to families in need in Latvia.*  
11:00 WORSHIP IN BOTH LANGUAGES with  
Communion (St. Andrew's)

Amerikas latviešu baptistu draudžu koru apvienības

# 69. DZIESMU DIENA



## GARĪGAIS KONCERTS

Svētdien, 2018. g. 29. aprīlī

pl. 12:00, Sv. Jāņa baznīcā

200 Balmoral Avenue, Toronto

IEEJA BRĪVA—kolekte

Kopkorī piedalās dziedātāji no  
Amerikas Latviešu baptistu draudžu koriem,  
Toronto draudzēm un apkārtnes

Programmā:

Ē. Ešenvalda, P. Vaska, J. Lūsēna, V. Baštika, A. Purva  
un citu latviešu komponista skaņdarbi  
Dziesmu izvēle par godu Latvijas simtgadei.

*Instrumentālisti, stīgu ansamblis un solisti*

Dirigenti:

Gunta Plostniece, Sarma Aļģe, Ralfs Augstroze, Vaira Gertnere

