



PASTOR DENNIS BECKER

10:30 AM WORSHIP SERVICE

October 2026

www.peacelutheranchurch.ca
E: peacelutheran.plc@gmail.com
Facebook: Peace Lutheran Church
(Pickering, ON)

Peace Lutheran Church of Bay Ridges

928 Liverpool Road, Pickering, ON L1W 1S6 ♦ Tel: (905) 839-3521

Food For Thought

I really enjoy the spring and fall seasons the best – from the new growth after a dormant winter sleep to the bounteous harvest in the fall. This year, I will miss going for walks, seeing the trees explode in vibrant color before the leaves are shed. This year, my family is harvesting my produce for me from my small garden – just enough for us and some to share.

I feel so blessed with my family and my church family, for ALL they do to help me, call me, message me, care for me and volunteer their time and efforts during my recovery process.

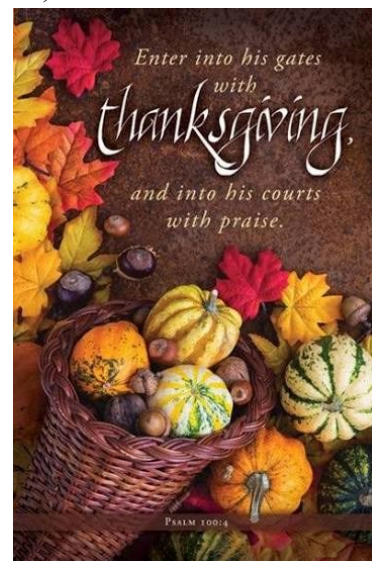
Bless you and thank you!

This leads me to reflect on how we show our gratitude and appreciation to God and to each other – not just at Thanksgiving, but every day!

The Bible often features the concepts of harvest and gratitude. In Scripture, these two themes – harvest and gratitude – intersect to teach us powerful lessons about faith and stewardship in our relationships with God. Both physical and spiritual harvests require careful cultivation, trust in God's timing, and thankful hearts.

Gratitude in Lutheran theology is not just a polite response, but a living fruit of the Gospel received through faith in Christ. We need to refocus on the gratitude found in Scripture this season. Let us learn the key lessons on harvest and gratitude from Scripture. These lessons teach us how to reap the benefits of faithful living and how to remain thankful through all seasons of life. In the process, they can help us keep growing closer to God.

- **James 1:17** – Reminds us that all good blessings originate from God, "Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows"
- **Psalm 100:4**, "Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name"
- **Psalm 136:1**, "Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever." and
- One of the strongest and most direct Bible verses for thanksgiving is **1 Thessalonians 5:18**: "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."



Inside this issue:

Food For Thought (cont)	2
Hymn of Praise & PLC Events	3
Fall Clean Up & TOBFC	4
Thanksgiving Food Drive	5
Worship Services—Sept. Bible Fun Time	6-7
PLC Congregational Lunch	8
International Potluck Lunch Att: Need Help	9
Outreach—Sept.	10
PLC Volunteers, Blood Donor Clinic Info & Workshop	11
WA Oct. list & Veggie Update	12
God's Creation	13
Congrats Shari—Dragon boat	14
Jokes & Inspirational	15
Children's Message - Sept	16
Coffee Hour & Next Month	16

MISSION STATEMENT:

Celebrating and Sharing
God's Love for All

VISION STATEMENT:

Peace Lutheran Church is a
welcoming, worshipping and
witnessing community in
Jesus Christ through whom
healing, wellness, love and
peace are offered uncondi-
tionally to all.

Welcome to Peace Lutheran Church!

As a community in Christ, we gather together in service and fellowship to discern the call of our Christian faith. Strengthened by Word and Sacrament, we are always seeking creative ways to enrich our community, both locally and globally.

Our congregation is defined largely by its warm and friendly people, a vibrant intergenerational mix of young families, youth and adults. Come as you are!

We invite you to be part of our community. We hope that you will find your time here nourishing and energizing. We look forward to learning from you as well. We listen! We care!

Our church is open! We are offering in-person worship services, livestream worship services at 10:30 a.m. or you can watch the services anytime through YouTube. Please join us! Coffee Hour is available after our worship services.

May the love of God and the Peace of Christ find you here and wherever you are! May the fire of the Holy Spirit burn in your heart always!

Office Hours:

Someone will answer the phone on a part time basis through the week (Mon - Wed and Fri, 9 to noon) to assist with calls and drop-in's. Please leave a message or email and someone will respond:

Office Tel: (905) 839-3521, or:
peacelutheran.plc@gmail.com

There is a Care Team visiting shut-in's on Wednesdays and Fridays, please contact the office if you would like to receive a visit from the team.

Our Interim Pastor Dennis Becker will be doing 2 Communion Services on the first and 3rd Sunday each month. He will be available for emergency situations only.

Food for Thought (cont)

Our thankfulness should not just be a litany of the day to day blessings we receive from God. It is important, yes, but our main focus should be on God's grace before gratitude. In Lutheran teaching, justification (God's free grace and forgiveness given to us in Jesus) always comes first. Thanksgiving does not earn God's favor; it flows naturally from it.

Luther writes that God has created and preserves us, and "for all of this I owe it to God to thank and praise, serve and obey him". We should daily thank God for his LOVE in sending Jesus to save us, for God's creation of the sun, moon and stars and everything under the heavens. We should give thanks in all of our circumstances as stated in 1 Thessalonians above. This verse emphasizes that we are called to give thanks *in* our trials—loss, hardship, or sickness—rather than necessarily feeling thankful *for* the tragedy itself. When being truly thankful feels impossible in deep pain, we look to Jesus, who bore our ingratitude and showed perfect trust in the Father.

Like the Ten Lepers, it highlights the importance of returning to give praise to God, moving from mere survival to a posture of active, daily acknowledgment of His gifts. True gratitude shifts our focus from what we lack to the abundance of Christ's cross, turning our private thankfulness into active love and service ("thanksgiving") toward our neighbors. By sharing the abundance, we pass on blessings to those in need.

As we celebrate Thanksgiving and as we gather with friends, family, and loved ones to enjoy a delicious feast (complete with all the pies!). Amid the flurry of activity surrounding all that eating, let us not lose sight of the true heart of the holiday. Let us joyfully approach God with a thankful heart and praise. Giving thanks for an abundant harvest is a powerful expression of gratitude for God's provision, hard work, and the earth's generosity. We should acknowledge the sunshine, rain and the labor that brings food to the table.

Thanksgiving is the Fruit of Faith that flows from God's unearned grace and Christ's sacrifice for us. True thanksgiving cannot be forced by simply telling an anxious or empty heart to "calm down" or "be thankful". Instead, gratitude arises naturally as a response to God's forgiveness and daily provision.

Thank you God, for your unending grace, the gift of sacrifice and salvation through Jesus. Help us to live the Christian life as an offering of praise, time and love to our neighbors, anchored by the promise of the cross and Holy Communion. May we continually express gratitude in every season of our life with you at our Helm. Amen

Peace and blessings, Rosie

Hymn of Praise & Thanksgiving

You may have heard the story behind a familiar hymn we sing in this service, "Now Thank We All Our God." It was written in 1607 by a German named Martin Rinkert. He wrote the hymn in one of the most difficult circumstances you could possibly imagine. Over 6,000 people in and around his town had died of the plague. He was performing dozens of funerals a day. The funerals included that of his wife and children. In the middle of this catastrophic loss for him and his people, Rinkert penned this hymn of praise:

*Now thank we all our God
with hearts and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done,
in whom his world rejoices;
who from our mothers' arms
has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love
and still is ours today.*

Jesus knows your circumstance too. He cares deeply, so deeply that he took all your sin and pain and suffering and he promises you the hope of life with him forever no matter what the circumstance. Trust that he has the final word when it comes to your final victory. Counting your blessings starts there ... and it never ends. So give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. Amen.

1 Thessalonians 5:18: *"Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."*

Galatians 6:9 *"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."*



Upcoming Events

Sun., Oct. 4, 2026, 10:30 am	-	Shari-leader & Arnold-sermon Name Tag Sunday
Sun., Oct. 11, 2026, 10:30 am	-	Thanksgiving Sunday—Pastor Rasma (Communion)
Sun., Oct. 18, 2026, 10:30 am	-	Pastor Lowell (Communion)
Sun., Oct. 25, 2026, 10:30 am	-	Reformation Sunday—Pastor Lowell
Wed., Oct. 28, 2026, 12 noon	-	Congregational Lunch
Sun., Nov. 1st, 2026, 10:30 am	-	All Saints Sunday—Pastor Rasma? Name Tag Sunday
Sun., Nov. 8th, 2026, 10:30 am	-	1st Sunday service with Pastor Nic

Fall Clean Up!



PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS FALL CEAN-UP IS ON SATURDAY

**DATE: OCTOBER 24TH
9:00 AM TO NOON**

RAIN-DATE: SAT., OCT. 31ST

PLEASE SIGN UP AND BRING CLEANING SUPPLIES IF YOU CAN!

TOBFC Update

It is now October and time is running out to fulfill our obligation to Laudia and TOBFC! So far, we have raised **\$3,072.85 which is about \$2,000 short of our commitment of \$5,000!** This year's fundraising theme is "Life is like a puzzle: Each piece has a reason, a place and a purpose". In the next few weeks, I will present the finished puzzle linking the scattered pieces together with your description on the back about what you have learned or know about Mlombwa, Laudia, Deborah & TOBFC!



We continue to support Mlombwa with our loving thoughts and prayers. She is married and is being groomed by Deborah to eventually take over TOBFC. Laudia is still going to school, so our money still supports her until she is finished. Last year, the Olive Branch Committee decided that the additional monies raised would go towards the many important programs that TOBFC does for the vulnerable. Next year, we could be specific as to where the funds should be allocated, like buying books for the KICKIT Mobile Libraries or let Deborah decide where it's needed most. Currently, their mobile libraries provide books to over 1,000 children in 11 remote communities. TOBFC programs help over 200,000 individuals in over 52 communities in medical, community care, educational & environmental needs, and so much more!

Unlike any other charity, 100% of the monies raised goes directly to TOBFC. You can make a donation until the end of December in whichever option you choose – through e-Transfer, Tithe.ly, PAR, Canada Helps, or through your offering envelope. Please clearly mark your envelope or any donation option with "Olive Branch" and the amount designated in addition to your regular offering. You will be given a tax receipt for your contribution.

Thank you for being there and supporting our girls and the TOBFC for over 21 years! With your generosity, love, commitment and support, they can dare to dream, they can be rooted in love and they can grow in hope.

Peace and blessings to all of you, Rosie and the Olive Branch team

PLC Thanksgiving Clothing/Food/Hygiene Drive!

On behalf of the PLC Outreach team, we thank you for your generosity and time that you have given to those in need this past year.

We are holding a Thanksgiving clothing, food and hygiene drive to help the vulnerable through the long cold winter. If you are able to contribute, please bring your donations to Peace this **Sunday, October 4th**. Lena and Sirkka would need to receive all donated items by October 4th so that they have these items available to display when they decorate the altar during the week. If anyone would like to drop off items at the church during the week, you are welcome to call the church office or email ahead of time, and Lena will let you know the best time to come by. If you wish to help with setting up the display, please contact Lena to arrange timing. Of course, you are welcome to bring your donations to Peace on Thanksgiving Sunday morning (Oct. 11th) and place them in front of the altar. We really appreciate all you do to help those in need.

When you are donating for our Outreach Pantry, please imagine being hungry, but without a heat source, pots and containers. The items that are quick and nutritious are exactly what they need. High energy finger foods that contain nutrients are greatly appreciated. Our Outreach friends usually do not worry about calories – on the contrary, if they can consume more calories than they burn shivering, we are helping them. Also, a jar of peanut butter with a spoon is a treasure!

Our friends who are sheltered, may not have sophisticated kitchens, so something that is quick to boil, microwave or put together is welcomed, especially for those sharing the kitchen with others. Some suggestions could be canned or dried goods.

Please don't forget that dry socks and gloves can make the difference between comfort and misery when on the streets. Any warm clothing and footwear, such as boots and shoes are greatly appreciated. Currently we have an abundance of toques.

Hygiene is also extremely important for those who are vulnerable. If you could supply toothpaste, toothbrushes, bar soap, shampoo and conditioner, toilet paper, deodorant, feminine hygiene products – all is greatly appreciated!

Please contact Lena or Sirkka, if you need more information on how you can help.

Thank you for caring for God's "little children"!





Worship Services—Sept. 2026





Worship Services—Sept. (cont)



Bible Fun Time



PLC Congregational Lunch—Sept 23rd



What a wonderful start to our Fall Congregational Lunch! A big thank you to Sirkka and Lena for organizing the BBQ Lunch! Thank you Phil for cooking the hamburgers and hot dogs and for everyone who contributed with making the salads and desserts, setting up and cleaning up. Sirkka talked about Truth and Reconciliation while we colored (above). We had a wonderful time in fellowship with one another.

International Potluck Lunch

What a wonderful turnout! Approximately 35 to 40 attended our annual International Potluck lunch on **Sunday, Sept. 27th**. A big thank you to Congregational Life for organizing it and to everyone who contributed. It was delicious. Thank you to those who helped with set up and clean up.



Attention: We need your help!

Next month, Elizabeth and I would like to include in the November newsletter, a picture and a short update of long standing former members and friends who have moved away. Are YOU in contact with anyone that we can highlight with their permission? We have some current pictures of Glenn & Isabelle, Jean & Henry Fischer, but there are others that moved away and unfortunately we lost touch with them. If you are able to provide me their current contact information, either Elizabeth or myself can reach out to them to find out how they are doing. They are a vital part of our church family. We would love to stay connected!

Outreach Lunch BBQ Sept 5th



Thanks Rainer

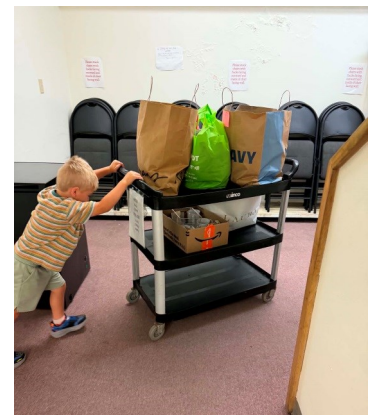


It was a huge success — there were 21 guests and 7 volunteers, kicking off the start of the Fall Outreach lunch with a delicious BBQ on Saturday, Sept. 5th! Thanks Rainer for grilling the hot dogs and to all volunteers who helped with bringing food, food preparation, set up and cleanup!

Please let Lena or Sirkka know if you are able to help on Saturdays — even if it's once a month or whenever you can with food contribution, set up or clean up, mingle with our guests, enjoy a delicious meal and the fellowship with one another!

All are welcome!

Outreach Lunches in Sept.



PLC Volunteers

WE ARE BLESSED! Peace has many members that “don’t have to be asked”! We collectively are “stepping up to the plate” and volunteer time and talents in our worship services and in maintaining and fixing up our church home. We have shared common values and purpose and we have people willing to be involved. Thanks to all volunteers who take pride in the church’s upkeep and do things on their own or in consultation with others. Bless you, thank you!



Thanks Rainer for preventing and protecting the storage units from serious water damage after the major rainstorm on Sept. 2nd.



Thank you, Archer — one of our youngest helpers



Thank you Tapio & Jeremy, who together with Rainer do SO MUCH “behind the scenes” work on our property that many of us don’t know & take for granted. Thank you for all you do!

Blood Donation



BLOOD
PLASMA
STEM CELLS
ORGANS
& TISSUES

Your donation matters

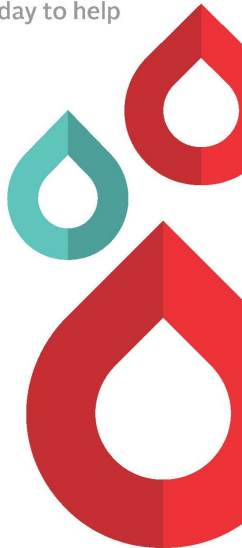
It matters to every patient across Canada. Because it’s something we can do today to help others wake up healthier tomorrow.

Upcoming blood donation events

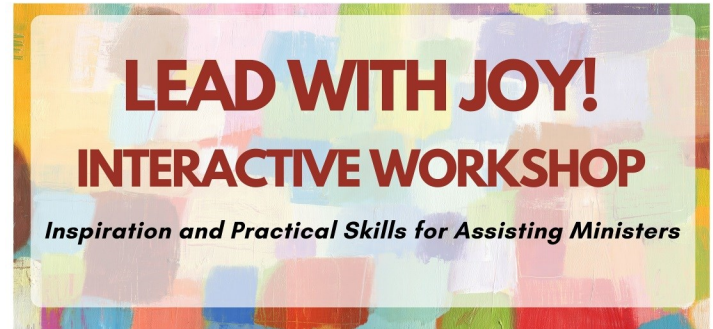
**Forest Brook
Community Church**
60 Kearney Dr. Ajax

Monday, October 26
1:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Join **Canada's Lifeline**
Book now at blood.ca or call **1 888 2 DONATE**



Workshop



**Saturday
October 17th**

If you love worship leadership, this is your invitation to be supported.

No experience necessary!

- Assisting ministers- Leading Worship
- Cantors - Chanting
- Lectors - Reading
- Intercessors - Writing/Leading Prayers
- Communion Assistants - Distribution

This is a free event.

Sponsored by Redeemer Lutheran Church

Facilitators: Pastors Susan Climo, Emily Graff, Michael Mills, Peter Stadnyk and Ralph Carl Wushke

9AM- 12PM
Light refreshments

Redeemer Lutheran
1691 Bloor St. W
(100m west of
Keele Subway)



Register here



Worship Assistants for Oct. 2026

OCT 2026	AM	READER	GREETERS	ALTAR GUILD	COUNTERS	SERVERS	SERMON/ SERVICE	COFFEE HOUR
4	Giselle	Shari N	Gene	--	--	--	Shari & Arnold sermon	Shakura
11 T'Giving	Karen	Paige P	Wayne	Joan & Claire	Sirkka & Rosie	Karen & Shakura	Pastor Rasma	Sirkka.
18	Phil	Cameron	Tapio	Janet/Carol	--	Phil & Carol	Pastor Lowell	Tabatha
25 Reformation	Liz	Ruth H	Janet	Fiona/Lynne	Rainer/Janet	Liz & Fiona	Pastor Lowell	Cong. Life

Veggie & Butterfly Garden Update



A big thank you to all the volunteers who planted, watered and weeded the veggie garden, Memorial and Butterfly gardens!

What a bounteous crop and beautiful cared for gardens!



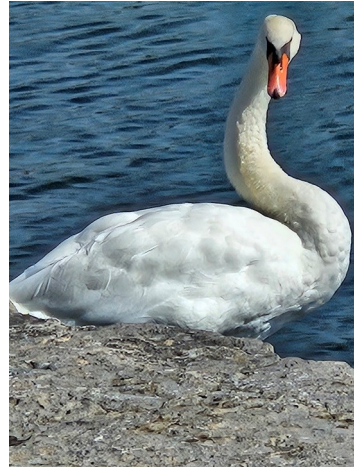
God's Creation



By: Liz J—Italy



By: Janet V



By: Janet V



By: FB friend of Rosie



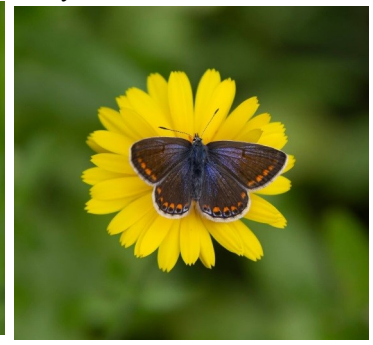
By: Liz J.—Italy



By: Tapio H



By Pastor Dennis



By Pastor Dennis



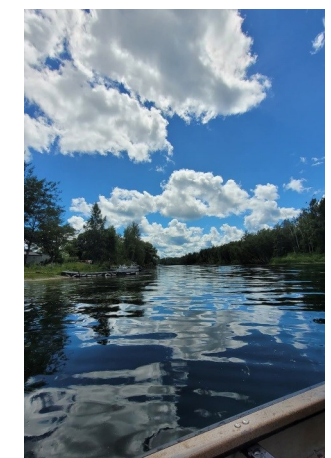
By: Sunny W



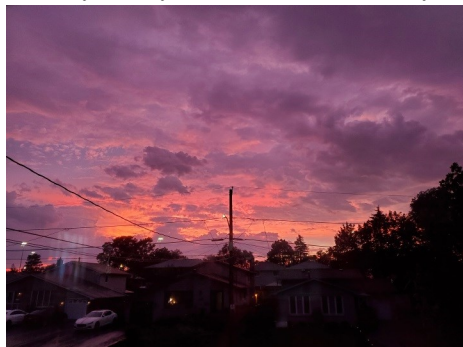
By Hilde W



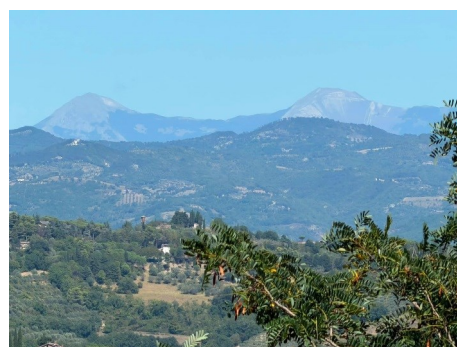
By: Rosie L



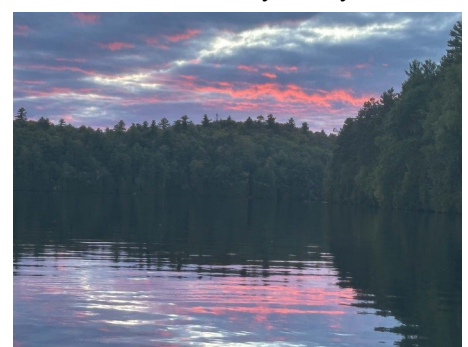
By: Sunny W



By: Rosie L—after the storm



By: Liz J. in Italy



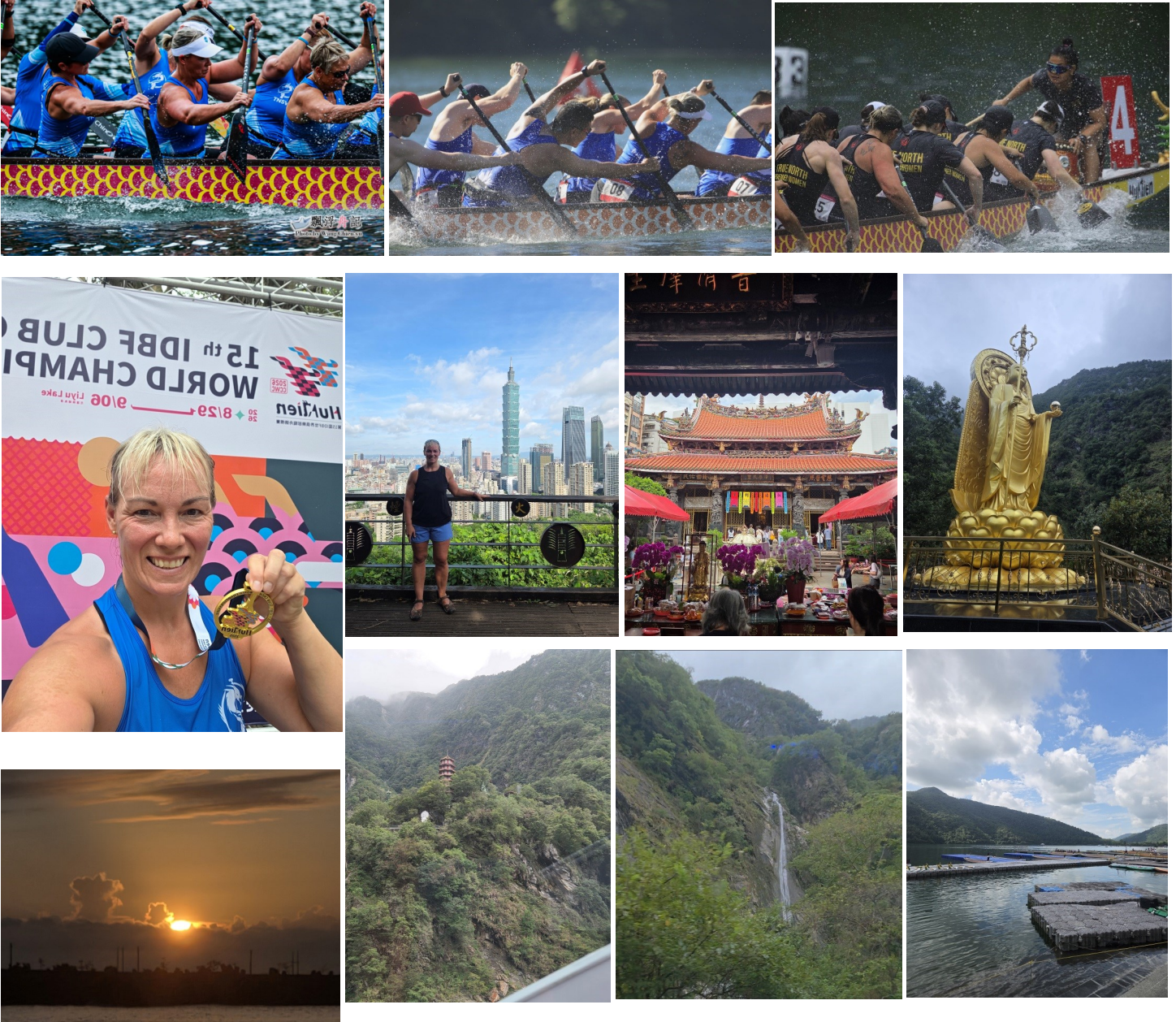
By: Tapio H

Congratulations Shari

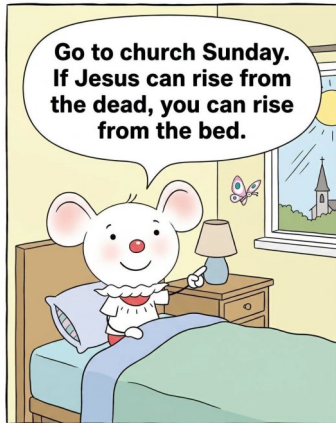
Attached are some pictures from Shari Valja's trip to Taiwan. She was there for the Club Crew Dragonboat Championships in Hualien, Taiwan, which is a city 2.5 hours southeast of Taipei. The races were held on Liyu Lake, a beautiful small lake surrounded by lush green mountains. I am with True North Paddling Club based in Toronto, and I raced with True North Premier Women, True North Senior Women (in the Senior A Category, over 40 years of age), and the True North Senior A Mixed Small Boat (meaning 10 paddlers). Premier Women won 2 gold, 1 silver, Senior Women won 3 gold, and SA mixed won 1 gold and 2 silver.

Congratulations, Shari and her teams – what a tremendous achievement for all of you!

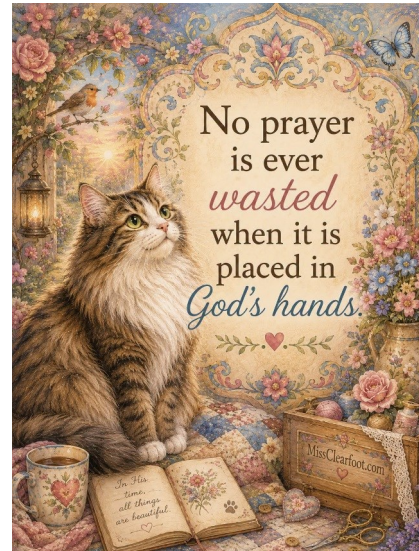
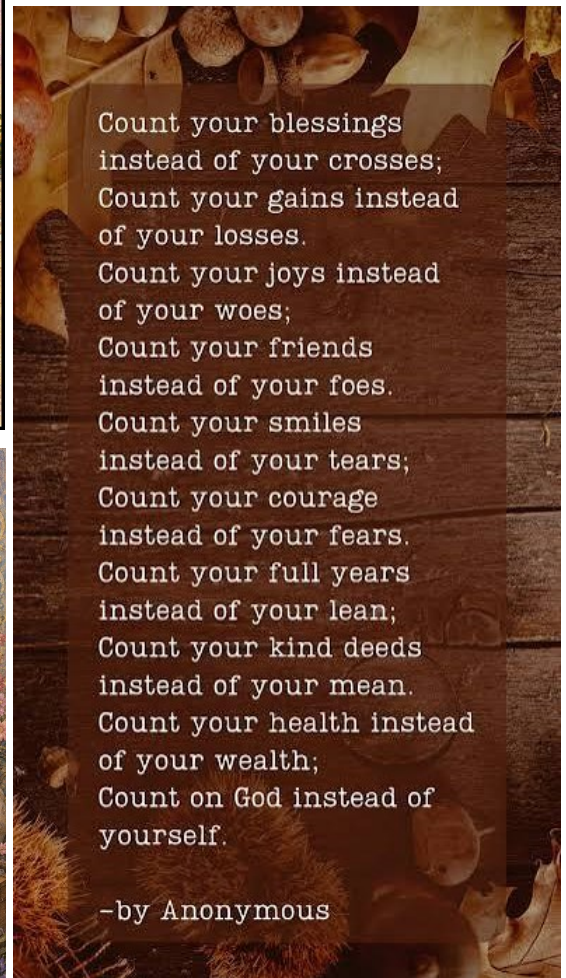
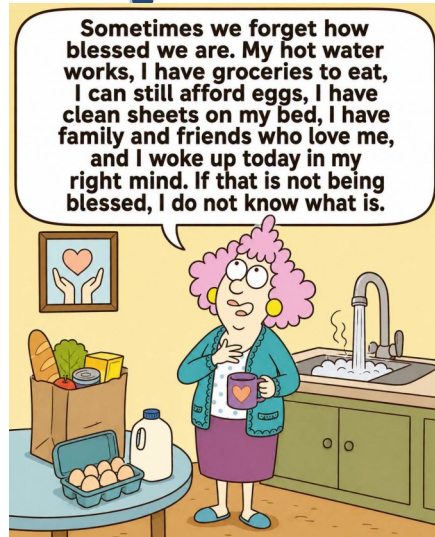
Included below are pictures from Taipei, Taroko Gorge, and from some temples we visited.



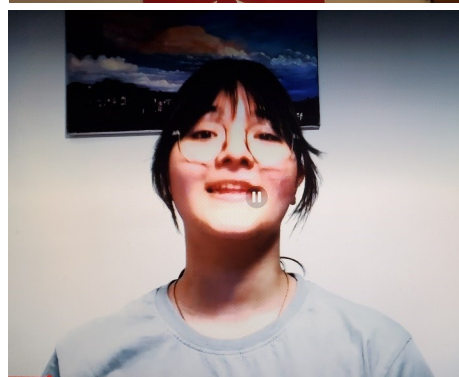
COMEDY CORNER



Inspirational Quotes



Children's Message—Sept. 27th



The Children's Messages are back after a summer break!

Thank you so much, Lena and Tina for the uplifting messages, songs and prayers that you do with so much love and effort!

If you are not able to attend services in person, please watch the services online!

Coffee Hour

Thank you to all who volunteer to make coffee after service on Sundays. Just a reminder, please come at 10 am to set up, make the coffee and set out your "treats". Remember to bring the cream and milk.

Again, thank you for your faithful service!

Lena, Sirkka and Colleen



Next Month:

If you have any articles, upcoming church events, pictures, jokes, poems, inspirational messages, Peace History, special events or a personal celebration that you would like included in our PLC newsletter for the month of **November, 2026**, please submit them to Rosie (rosielanch@hotmail.com) by **Oct. 25th**.

Peace and Thanksgiving blessings, Rosie

