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September/October 2014

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## Bringing summer into everyday life...

Dear members and friends of Martin Luther Church,

The summer holidays are coming to an end and while I'm away at camp around Golden Lake along with about 50 church members, this month's newsletter is being sent out.

School starts again soon and even for those who don't have children, everyday life starts to become more routine again; perhaps even more exhausting, because the calendar is full again. Too bad, some will think, that summer is almost over.

But have they already thought about which part of summer they want to take into everyday life?

For me, it is the time for leisure. It means to have time in my life that is not dedicated to a specific purpose from the outset, which leaves room for new thoughts and mental breaks.

Such purpose-free time is what, in the best sense, Sunday service means to me. It does not follow the everyday logic "What will this get me?", but instead the attitude of "What will happen? How does God come into play?" In worship, I leave the circle of questions, which surround me in everyday life, and am open to whatever happens. This is so that God's spirit flows into my life because this is in the best source of inspiration.

This is what unfolds as described in the old Psalms, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." (Psalm 119:105)

Inspired by God's thoughts, I see my everyday life in a new light. Inspired by God's thoughts, I can see much more calmly. Inspired by God's thoughts, I find strength to go new ways.

In this way, Sunday becomes my summer in everyday life. Fortified by light and strength, I turn safely back to the work week.

I wish you a refreshed start back into everyday life.

Your,

*In this issue you will,  
among other things, find:*

- Info Night for new Canadians on September 12
- Info on new Confirmation classes
- New from the ELCIC and EKD
- New congregational seminar based on the theme of worship
- Youth Retreat at Camp Edgewood
- Church Camp: Dates for 2015 to note



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## **New Congregational Seminar in October: Understanding and Creating Worship Services**

Our way of celebrating worship services has a long history. Even the languages of early Christianity come up: We sing "Kyrie eleison - Lord, have mercy!" in Greek; and in Hebrew "Hallelujah - Praise the Lord!". With the Reformation, attention has been drawn to the fact that worship should be understood: in the local language, with songs that everyone can sing along to, with a sermon that establishes a connection to everyday life. In addition, the worship service is for many, simply put, a "spiritual gas station" and a good place to experience spiritual community.

All who are curious to learn more about the topic of worship are invited to the congregational seminar "Understanding and Creating Worship Services". With information, group work and some short practical exercises, we will explore the backgrounds of our worship service. You can be sure it will be an exciting journey of discovery. No experience is necessary.

The classes will take place Tuesday evenings on October 7, 21, and 28, as well as November 4 at 7:30 pm (till 9 pm) at the our church.

## **Service with blessing at the start of the new school year on September 7**

It's "back to school" after the summer holidays and for many back to church, too. This year we will combine the two and invite all children and youth to the service. Children who are going to school for the first time (and all other children who'd like) will be blessed in the course of the service and get a surprise as well.

Therefore, definitely mark your calendars: September 7, 9:45 am in English and 11:00 am in German.

## **New Confirmation Classes**

After the summer holidays our new confirmation classes begin. The course takes one year and ends with Confirmation on Pentecost 2015. It is aimed at young people who will be in grade 7 after the summer holidays or who are 12 to 14 years old (exceptions are possible in consultation). The Confirmands meet once a month at Martin Luther Church from Saturday afternoon to Sunday at noon. At the beginning and end of the Confirmation instruction, there will be a three-day weekend retreat. This year's course begins with a Confirmation retreat September 26-28 at Camp Edgewood. For questions and registration, please contact Pastor Christian Ceconi, pastor@martinluther.ca, Cell (416) 567 - 2487.

## **Kindergarten and Construction at 5 Superior**

Work to the roof area is now underway with delays resulting from inclement weather. Additionally interior prep work is also well under way. We are working closely with Day Care Management to ensure requirements for day care license renewal is completed prior to completing interior finishing work. The initial target date for completion in September is at risk. A revised target date for completion will be communicated as soon as possible.

## **Welcoming new church members September 21**

We want to revive the tradition of officially welcoming new members during our worship. We will do so for the first time again on September 21 and will invite everyone who has declared their membership in our church in recent months.

## **New to Canada-Info Night**

September 12 at 7 pm, we invite all those who are interested to a New to Canada Info Night. In five minute presentations, there will be information about everything from weekend get-

aways to tax returns, church and shopping. We've invited a diverse group of experts who are available to answer questions for all new residents. We also offer plenty of opportunity for discussion.

*Contact: Martin Häfele, mhaefe@rogers.com.*

## **Visit from Bishop Michael Pryse on September 14**

Martin Luther Church gets a visit from the Bishop. Bishop Pryse will preach at the joint service on September 14. Following the service, there will be an opportunity to talk over coffee and tea. Bishop Pryse has led the Eastern Synod of ELCIC since 1998. He is one of the most important agents in dialogue with the Anglican Church of Canada. The ELCIC is in full communion with the Anglicans. Bishop Pryse lives and works in Kitchener.

## **Choir practices are starting again...**

... on Tuesday, August 26, 6-7:30 pm. As of September 9 weekly practices take place on Tuesday at the same time. Various songs for German Thanksgiving on October 5 will be rehearsed.

*Contact: Linda Marcinkus, Tel. (416) 255-2612*

## **Youth Retreat September 26-28**

You already belong to the group or you're interested in meeting youth from our congregation? Then come to the Youth Retreat at Camp Edgewood.

Register right away through the office.  
*Direct your questions to Sonja Schweiger Tel. (905) 625-9174) or Pastor Christian Ceconi.*

## **Potluck on October 19**

Following the church service on October 19 we will host a potluck in support of Loaves and Fishes.

## **Date set for Summer camp 2015!**

Next year's summer camp will take place August 15-21 2015.. Please take special note! If you already have interest to help plan or would like to pre-register, please contact Anna Lisa.

*Contact: Anna Lisa Wienecke, Tel. (905) 939-7494*

## **Ride Program**

You might not want to drive in the cooler seasons. Others might not have the opportunity to come to church.

For this reason we organize rides.

If you want to be picked up for services, then please call our church office by Thursday of each week. We will then coordinate to organize a ride for you.

*Contact: Church Office, Anita Ratz, Tel. (416) 251-8293*



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## News from ELCIC, EKD and DELKINA

Our Congregation is a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC) and the Eastern Synod. We are affiliated with the Evangelical Church in Germany (EKD) and member of the Deutsche Evangelisch-lutherische Konferenz in Nordamerika (DELKINA).

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### Worldwide Conferences for Pastors Abroad in Berlin-Spandau

The successful German soccer team landed in Berlin at almost exactly same time on July 15 as eighty-six pastors from German-speaking communities worldwide (including our Pastor Christian Ceconi). There they met for the Conference for Pastors Abroad in Johannesstift in Berlin-Spandau. After the celebratory opening worship service with Bishop Bosse-Huber, there were four days for listening to lectures, engaging discussions, work in workshops, for dialogue with colleagues and celebration of prayer, in which the different realities of the pastors abroad were brought to life. The conference participants were mentally guided through the various zones of occupied Hebron. Upon reflection, they came to think about why truth in Asia can be understood quite differently than the way it is by European "intellectuals". They heard what the earthquake of Lisbon in the 18th century had to do with the founding of the German-speaking Protestant community there.

The celebratory conclusion of the conference was a discussion evening with the Chairman of the Council of the EKD, Dr. Hc Nikolaus Schneider, as well as a televised church service in the Berlin Cathedral to commemorate the seventh anniversary of the assassination attempt on Hitler on July 20, 1944.



### Nikolaus Schneider announces his withdrawal from office as EKD Council chair

Nikolaus Schneider will lay down his office as chair of the Council of the Evangelical Church in Germany (EKD) as of 10 November 2014 and



leave the EKD Council. Schneider, since 2010 the top representative of 23.4 million Protestant Christians in Germany, justified his step to the EKD Council as follows: "Accompanying my wife, who has cancer, makes this step imperative. I want to devote all my time to our journey together. This wish cannot be combined with my continuing to hold this office." Anne and Nikolaus Schneider have been married since 1970. (EKD-press release, June 30th, 2014)

### Eastern Synod Re-Elects Bishop



Delegates to the ELCIC's Eastern Synod Assembly re-elected Rev. Michael Pryse as Synod Bishop to a fifth term. The election came on

the first ballot for Bishop.

"It means a lot to me to receive this affirmation", said Bishop Pryse. "Every four years we get to re-evaluate this relationship. I receive your affirmation with great gratitude. I am in covenant with you to do my best."

Bishop Pryse was first elected as Eastern Synod Bishop in 1998.

The Eastern Synod met in Assembly from June 26-29 in Toronto, ON.

Minutes and reports of the assembly are available on the synods website:  
[www.easternsynod.org](http://www.easternsynod.org)

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## Remarks and Reports

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### Women's Group at Wienecke Farm

On a beautiful June day, many members of the Women's Group came together for a day of sunshine, laughter and companionship on the peaceful Wienecke Farm. Much appreciation is shown for the drivers who got everyone there and back safely.



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### We congratulate...

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*Fotograf: Eike Schamurek*

On Sunday August 10, **Erica Giselle Wiegers** and **Dexter Kenneth Cooper Wilmer** were baptized at our church. We offer our heartfelt wishes for God's blessing to our newest members and their families.



**Nadine Vogt and Christian Stevens** married at our church on August 30. We wish the couple all the best and God's blessing on their shared path.



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## We mourn ...

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At the age of 83 years on July 29, **Leokadia „Lotti“ Spreen**, geb. Buchholz passed away. We said goodbye to her at a memorial service on August 1.

**So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.  
God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God,  
and God abides in them.  
(1 John 4:16)**



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## Regular Groups and Contacts

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### **Choir**

Every Tuesday at 6 pm (restarts September 9).

Choir Director: Linda Marcinkus, Tel. (416) 255-2612

### **Women's Group**

Once a month, Wednesday at 11am at church.  
Next meetings: Sept 10. und Oct. 8  
Contact: Daina Wienecke, Tel. (905) 939-2601

### **Confirmation Classes**

Once a month Saturday/Sunday. Registration and appointments through the church office.  
Contact: Pastor Christian Ceconi, Tel. (416) 567-2487, pastor@martinluther.ca

### **Youth Group**

Next Meeting: Retreat at Camp Edgewood September 26-28; Sleepover at church and help with Community Lunch October 31 - November 1.  
Contact: Amy und Sonja Schweiger, Tel. (905) 625-9174

### **Worship Seminar**

Tuesday on October 7, 21, 28 and on November 4, 7:30-9 pm.. All meetings at Martin Luther

Kirche.

Contact: Pastor Christian Ceconi, Tel. (416) 567-2487, pastor@martinluther.ca

### **Summer Camp Planning Team**

After Camp is before camp... The next camp will take place August 15-21 2015. Meeting upon request.

Contact: Anna Lisa Wienecke, Tel. (905) 939-7494.

### **Sunday School Team**

Sunday School every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month. Meeting of the team by request.

Contact: Tanya Zielke, Tel. (416) 622-7032, tanya.a.zielke@gmail.com

### **Working Group "Welcome"**

Contact: Iris Schweiger, Tel. (905) 625-9174

### **Working Group „Worship Services“**

Contact: Pastor Christian Ceconi, Tel. (416) 567-2487, pastor@martinluther.ca

### **Church Council**

Iris Schweiger, President, Tel. (905) 625-9174  
Keith Rabey, Vice President, Tel. (905) 625-9174

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We're here for you:

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## **Church Office**

Anita Ratz and Marlena Muller  
Tel. (416) 251-8293, mlchurch@bellnet.ca

### *Office Hours:*

Tuesday, 9:30-12  
Wednesday, 9:30-12  
Friday, 9:30-12

## **Pastor**

Pastor Christian Ceconi  
Cell. (416) 567-2487  
e-Mail: pastor@martinluther.ca

Office Hours and visits by appointment. Please give us a call or send a short e-mail.

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Martin Luther Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCIC & EKD)  
2379 Lake Shore Blvd. West, Toronto, ON M8V 1B7, Phone: (416) 251-8293, Fax: (416) 259-2889  
Pastor Christian Ceconi, Email: pastor@martinluther.ca  
Cell Phone (416) 567-2487

German Radio Devotion, Sundays 9:30 am on AM 530

*Church Newsletter Publisher: Martin Luther Church, Pastor Christian Ceconi  
Website and Email Distribution: Mona Frantzke; Mailing: Anita Ratz*

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# Service Plan

September 7, 2014	Lectionary 23		9:45 am English Service 11 am German Service With Blessing for Students	Pastor Ceconi
September 14, 2014	Lectionary 24		11 am Joint Service With Holy Communion Visit from Bishop Pryse	Bishop Pryse Pastor Ceconi
September 21, 2014	Lectionary 25		11 am Joint Service Welcome New Members Sunday School	Pastor Ceconi
September 28, 2014	Lectionary 26		9:45 am English Service 11:00 am German Service	Pastor Ceconi
October 5, 2014	German Thanksgiving Lectionary 27		9:45 am English Service 11 am German Service Choir	Pastor Ceconi
October 12, 2014	Canadian Thanksgiving Lectionary 28		9:45 am English Service 11:00 am German Service Both with Holy Communion	Pastor Ceconi
October 19, 2014	Lectionary 29		11 am Joint Service Sunday School Potluck for Loaves and Fishes	Pastor Ceconi
October 26, 2014	Reformation Sunday		9:45 am English Service 11:00 am German Service	Pastor Ceconi
November 2, 2014	All Saints Day <i>Remembering those who have died</i>		9:45 am English Service 11:00 am German Service	Pastor Ceconi
November 9, 2014	Lectionary 32		9:45 am English Service 11:00 am German Service Both with Holy Communion	Pastor Ceconi



Sundays with the Sunday School symbol have Sunday School take place at the same time as the worship. The children meet in the Church and have their own program after Children's Time.