



November / December 2014

From welcoming to an inviting church

If you want to inspire people to go to church, you only have to think about two questions:

What makes me curious to go to church? And: What do I need to feel comfortable at church?

Making people feel welcome has always been part of the culture of our congregation. We have tried to get even better at it. But what about answering the first question?

Recently I read the Internet blog of a colleague: "A church that welcomes people isn't necessarily a welcoming church." So I thought and reflected on what he means by this. I began to read his article and what he wrote made sense to me.

He says: Let's wander together through a typical invitation to church. First of all we pluck up the courage to invite our friends to a worship service. To our surprise and delight they say yes! We meet them at the door of the church building, we nervously sit next to them in the service. Afterwards we introduce them to people over coffee and biscuits. Then comes the moment of truth, the second invitation. All sensible people would just ask, shall we do this again next week? Unfortunately a version of Christian lockjaw takes hold of us and we cannot get the question out! We start to justify why we can't ask the question, by thinking to ourselves that our friend is an adult and if they wanted to come for a second time they would ask us!

As a result, my colleague suggests not just celebrating Back to Church Sunday once a year, but instead inviting people regularly and repeatedly.

The next few weeks offer up a great chance to do so: All Saints Day, First of Advent, Christmas play, Christmas Eve, New Years - all good services and good opportunities.

Join in and help so we can be not only an open but also a welcoming church. Not only can you invite friends and acquaintances but you can also invite other congregation members and say: Let's go to church again together. I'm even happy to pick you up Sunday morning. Jesus told his first disciples right away: "I will make you fish for people." Fishers of people are those who invite and motivate others. This creates community; a community that shares life and celebrates together. In this way the community becomes a blessing for the world.

Sincerely,

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

- Who decides the readings for the worship services?
- Advent Bazaar
- Youth Group goes rock climbing
- Christmas Play
- Bishop Michael: "This is exactly how I want congregational visits to go!"

Words from our President

Hello all,

it just occurred to me again what remarkable people we are, in October most notably in terms of thanksgiving.

How many congregations do you know that celebrate Thanksgiving three Sundays in a row?

It all begins with the decoration of the sanctuary to give us a visual sign how blessed we are and how rich God provides for us at the time of German Erntedank. Then we break bread together on Canadian Thanksgiving as the crucified and risen Christ awakens faith, unites, comforts and strengthens us for the work to which we are called in the world. We finish in joyfully sharing our most favorite dishes with each other during a pot luck luncheon. This is underlined by the spirit of giving generously to "Loaves and Fishes" to feed the hungry in the world.

Furthermore, this is not just an October phenomena. These expressions of thankfulness and generous giving help the leaders of all our church groups and council to make decisions during the whole year on every aspect of the Martin Luther Church life.

Remarkable, don't you think?

Thank you for your support of all groups and church leaders in 2014

Gratefully,

Iris Schweiger (President)

Ernst Carl appointed as the twelfth member of the church council

At a meeting on June 10th 2014, the Church Council of Martin Luther Church appointed Mr. Ernst Karl as a member, in accordance with Article IX, Section 7 of our Church constitution. A routine election at the last Annual General Meeting was not possible due to a lack of candidates. He will take on the role of Church Council member until the next Annual General Meeting. The Church Council is grateful for his

willingness and his commitment to the congregation.

Please support the work of our congregation!

Like every year, a **special donation** envelope is added to the November-December newsletter. Your special donation helps us to cover the cost to run all our programs and expenses. We also are looking for additional funds for some upcoming needed renovation and repairs at church. To list a few: replacement of leaking hot water tank, a rotting wooden door and a kitchen cupboard door, installation of doorbell to make communication from the street to the office possible, new monthly charge for fire alarm monitoring, painting of office and foyer. In addition, **if you** would like a **personal visit** regarding the scope of this special collection, please leave your name and telephone number on the answering machine at the church office or speak with our church secretary in person at (416) 251-8293. Members of the Church Council and the congregation will contact you to arrange a convenient time for the visit. The aim of this special collection is not only to collect money for the congregation but also to expand the contact within the congregation and to foster an exchange of ideas. Of course, we are very happy if you participate in celebrating our Church Services and remit your special donation during these Church visits.

A few days ago I met a group of volunteers who asked me not to mention their names in the newsletter. Here is a special thank you to all who are actively participating in making the Martin Luther Church an exceptional place to meet God and be inspired to share his message of grace.

A blessed end of the year wishes you,
Iris Schweiger

All Saints Day: Remembering the Dead

As in previous years, we remember those in our congregation who have died in the past year. In the past we have traditionally done this on Christ the King Sunday. This year for the first time it will take place on All Saints Sunday. This change comes about because we have almost always been following the Canadian Church Calendar since November 2013. (See also the article: Theological Background).

During the service the names of the dead will be read. You also have the opportunity to remember people whom you have lost by lighting a candle yourself. The service will be celebrated with Holy Communion.

Christmas Play practices begin

It's that time again: We begin preparations for our annual Christmas play in the coming weeks. Whoever would like to act a part, help with the rehearsals or set display, please contact Iris.

The following rehearsal times are planned:
Four Sundays in a row, Nov. 16- Dec. 8 at 11 am.
Friday Dec. 13, 5:30 pm- Dress rehearsal and Pizza dinner.

Sunday Dec. 15, 9:30 am- Rehearsal,
11 am Service with Christmas Play

Contact: Iris Schweiger, email:
iris.schweiger@sympatico.ca, Tel. (905) 625-9174

Christmas Bazaar and Advent Songs

On November 30th, please note in your calendar, you are all invited to the Christmas Bazaar. Mulled wine, handmade goods and candlelight, culinary treats and more will awaken your delight. Nice music, happy people everywhere, directly after our service downstairs. When family and friends gather and children run, do Christmas shopping and have a lot of fun.

Contact and Organizer: Ariane Oelkrug, Tel. (416) 799-4767, email: ariane.oelkrug@icloud.com

Greetings from Wesley Mimico United Church!



Martin Luther has always been a church with lots of great people and activities. But since September, there have been a few more people sharing the space which you might have seen around. Because in September, Martin Luther - or should I say, you - were gracious enough to share space with our congregation.

We are deeply grateful for the space you are sharing with us: a room for our church office in the basement, another room in the basement for our food bank and storage for our community lunch, the use of the basement and kitchen for our community lunch, sharing of the Pastor's office, and other spaces as needed. Since we have left our own building in anticipation of our redevelopment project, the heartbeat of our congregation is now at Martin Luther, although we are holding our Sunday worship services at Mimico Public Library.

I can't express strongly enough how grateful we are that our food ministries can continue while we are out of our own building, because we have built those ministries over many years. And being on the Lake Shore now, we are attracting new people. Of course, you should all feel free to participate in our food programs if you are interested.

But really, space is only the beginning, because you are sharing much more than space with us. As we are moving into new relationships together, we are all discovering gifts in each other. We all have lots to share: passion, spirit, humour, friendship, and faith. The conversations at our shared meal with both church councils demonstrated that. Our lives are starting to intersect in meaningful ways that go well beyond just sharing space, and I think that is fantastic.

And personally, I am delighted to be back in an office environment with more people, because that always contributes to more ideas and to friendships. We had our first full staff meeting this week and I know we will all work together very well. I look forward to working with Anita, Helen, Marlena, and Teresa. And it is wonderful working with Pastor Ceconi as a colleague and with Iris.

Our staff includes only Donna-Marie Batty, our church secretary and myself, but you will meet members of our congregation from time to time too.

I am looking forward to sharing wonderful times together!

Rev. Paul Shepherd

Rock climbing and more



In the last weekend of September, the Martin Luther Church Youth Group embarked on its most exciting adventure yet! We started off the morning making sandwiches and washing up at the Mimico United Church community supper in our church basement, and then three cars went on to go rock climbing downtown. The afternoon in the climbing gym was a lot of fun for everyone that signed up. After a quick lesson, even the pastor was scaling the walls! It was also a great way to say goodbye to Liesbeth (a fantastic rock climber), who has since gone back to Germany after helping out with the Youth Group in the last year. From bouldering to speed climbing, everyone found something for them, and the Youth Group really reached new heights.

Join us! Our Youth Group holds meetings at least once a month, from retreats to camp Edgewood to volunteering and horseback riding, we've got lots of things planned for the next year, and are always open to suggestions! Currently we are working on Halloween for Hunger, a project where cans are collected for the food bank on Halloween night. Our next meeting will be on November 1st, and preparation for the Christmas Bazaar will be held on November 21st and November 29th.

Please contact Sonja Schweiger at sonja.schweiger@bell.net or call 905 625 9174 to be added to the e-mail list and receive more information. Also check out MLC Youth Group on Facebook for updates

Hope you can join us!

November 14-15: Church Council Retreat

Like last year the Church Council will meet for a two-day retreat, this time in the ecumenical Mount Carmel Centre in Niagara Falls. After the first year together with the new pastor, it's time to look back in order to develop and plan the next steps for the future.

If you have concerns or suggestions that should be included in the discussions, then speak to our church council members and share your thoughts with them.

Have you already had a visit?

I'm still in the process of getting to know many people from the congregation and it is great to do so during visits. My focus is also to visit people who just need encouragement or time to talk. You can all help me with the planning of visits! Maybe you know someone who is desperately waiting for a visit. Or maybe you would like a visit from the pastor yourself. In both cases: let me know with a short email or a phone call.

Contact: pastor@martinluther.ca,
Church office: Tel. 416-251-8293

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).

EKD: Countdown to the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation has begun



With the unveiling of a globe two-meters in diameter in the market square of Wittenberg, the countdown to the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in 2017 has started. In Luther's principal city, an embedded clock counts the seconds, minutes and hours until the opening of the "World Exhibition on Reformation" on May 20, 2017. The head of the Evangelical Church in Germany (EKD), Nikolaus Schneider, referred to this year's theme "Reformation - Image and Bible", as well as numerous exhibitions for "Cranach 2015" in Wittenberg.

ELCIC: TESL now sent via email

What does TESL mean? It's simple: *The Eastern Synod Lutheran*, the regular newsletter of our Synod which you've known for a long time. What's new is that it's regularly released digitally and is available on our Synod's website. We will inform you of each edition in the future, by sending you a digital version via our email list.

ELCIC: Canada Lutheran available in church foyer

Our national church has a regular magazine: Canada Lutheran. The magazine has won several awards in the past year and provides broad information from across the Canadian Lutheran Church. It is recommended! Sample copies are available in the foyer of the church, as well as forms to subscribe to Canada Lutheran. Take advantage of the opportunity.

Eastern Synod: New Website

If you haven't visited the Synod's website for a while, you should definitely take another look now. Just like us at Martin Luther Church, the Eastern Synod has updated its website. More information and a fresh design entices to read: www.easternsynod.org

In addition you can receive news from the Synod by following on Twitter through [@ESynodELCIC](https://twitter.com/ESynodELCIC).

Theological Background: What is a lectionary? Or: Who exactly decides what will be read on Sunday?

Reading the Bible during worship

One of the basic elements of our worship service are readings from the Bible. Consequently we follow a practice that already existed with the early Christians. The book of Acts explains: "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers." (Acts 2:42).

With the Reformation, this practice was once again highlighted. In the Augsburg Confession the Reformers defined the Church as "the assembly of all believers who hear the Gospel preached and are administered the holy sacraments according to the Gospel. After all this is sufficient for the true unity of the Church ... "(Article 7, Augsburg Confession).

In other words, by listening to the readings and the gospel text for the sermon, the word of God is alive among us and this practice connects us with other believers to the church of Jesus Christ.

But what do we read?

During worship we read excerpts from the Bible. To determine which texts are appropriate, expert groups through the history of the Church have considered readings that are helpful for the particular day and age and encourage faith. Almost always the goal wasn't, and still isn't, to read the Bible completely, but instead it is explained through examples. That means selecting the stories that deal with important issues of faith and illustrate the themes of the church year. A reading order for one or more years is also known as the Lectionary.

Different orders in North America

In the area of lectionaries, our congregation sits in between Germany and Canada since the Evangelical Church in Germany (EKD) uses a different Lectionary than the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC).

In the ELCIC, as in most Protestant churches of North America, the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL) is used. It follows the Gospels over the course of three consecutive years. In the first year Matthew is read for the most part, in the second year Mark and in the third year Luke. Passages from the Gospel of John can be heard in all three years on selected Sundays. The festival calendar is also slightly different. "Buß- und Bettag" (Day of Repentance), for example, is only in the German lectionary and Christ the King Sunday is only in the RCL. So what to do?

Martin Luther Church has been reading from the RCL since November 2013

In November 2013, the church council, together with the Pastor, decided to consistently follow the reading order of the RCL and at the same time to mark the German celebrations that do not come up in the RCL. The reason for this was that it makes sense to opt for one of the lectionaries. Only in this way can we discuss the same texts in the congregation (and in the wider church). Using a combination of both lectionaries would ruin meaningful connections within the reading order and is therefore not helpful. Ultimately the reading order has always been an expression of the church congregation. As a church that belongs to the ELCIC, we therefore want to use the RCL. In addition, all Sunday School worship materials reflects the teaching in the service.

Still have questions?

Please feel free to speak with me. Or join the worship seminar in progress now, where we are already providing deeper insights into the topic of worship. By the way, in January there will be bible studies dealing with texts of the second year of the RCL readings. It will then be based on the Gospel of Mark.

Christian Ceconi

Bishop Michael: "This is exactly how I want congregational visits to go"



A week ago I met our bishop by chance at the end of a pastors' meeting. He beamed at me and said of his visit to Martin Luther Church on September 14th: "This is exactly how I want congregational visits to go!" And I could easily reply: "We feel the same

way."

The combination of worship, discussion over coffee and cake, and intense meeting with church council members has resulted in many suggestions. Specifically, the bishop has encouraged the church council to raise the profile of Martin Luther Church. To do so he named bilingualism, dedicated volunteers and concern for the problems of the neighborhood as important factors. He also pointed out that vibrant worship, good preaching and pastoral care still form the foundation of congregational work.

Thanks to all who helped so that we were able to experience a successful day with the bishop.

18 new members welcomed

On September 21, we welcomed 18 new members to our congregation. Many have already been active with us for several months and so we are pleased that this bond has now found expression in worship.

At the beginning of next year we will celebrate a welcome service like this again. You can

contribute to the growth of the church by inviting (preferably several times) friends and interested people to worship and witness.

News from the Kindergarten

A year has passed since the fire at 5 Superior on October 18, 2013. As a result of this and the final implementation of Full Day Kindergarten programs at schools, our Daycare has gotten smaller. While we had 72 children last year, we now provide care for 46. However we are happy that we are still running the Martin Luther Church Daycare with the support of your congregation and our Board of Directors. We are in the process of obtaining a new license for the site. Hopefully by the beginning of the New Year we will have toddler and preschool programs back at 5 Superior.

With warm wishes,
Teresa (Supervisor)

Potluck for Loaves and fishes



On October 19 the annual potluck for Loaves and Fishes took place. Loaves and Fishes was created by farmers and individuals from the area south of Lake Simcoe and set out to fight world hunger. Thank you to everyone who helped prepare and make this potluck possible.

We mourn ...

At the age of 83 on July 26, **John Greenway** passed away. We said goodbye to him at his internment on August 1.

At the age of 77 years on August 29, **Henrietta Swistunowicz** passed away. We said goodbye to her at a funeral service on September 10.

At the age of 87 years on September 13, **Rolf Ehrenfried Leupolt** passed away. We said goodbye to him at a funeral service on September 19.

At the age of 86 on October 2, **Alfred Liske** passed away. We said goodbye to him at a funeral service on October 7.

At the age of 84 on October 15, **Gernot Schmidt** passed away. We said goodbye to him at his internment on October 25.

**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)**



Regular Groups and Contacts

Choir

Every Tuesday at 6 pm.
Choir Director: Linda Marcinkus, Tel. (416) 255-2612

Women's Group

Once a month, Wednesday at 11am at church.
Next meetings: Nov. 12 and Dec. 10.
Contact: Daina Wienecke, Tel. (905) 939-2601

Confirmation Classes

Next course starts September 2015. Contact:
Pastor Christian Ceconi, Tel. (416) 567-2487,
pastor@martinluther.ca

Youth Group

Next Meeting: See article, Rock climbing and more and or contact:
Amy und Sonja Schweiger, Tel. (905) 625-9174

Worship Seminar

Last date: November 4, 7:30 at Martin Luther Church.

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

Summer Camp Planning Team

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

Sunday School Team

Sunday School every 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month. Next meeting: Dec. 3, 9:30 am.
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

We're here for you:

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.

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

Service Plan

2. Nov. 2014	All Saints Sunday In remembrance of those who have died		9:45 am English Service 11:00 am German Service Both with Holy Communion	Pastor Ceconi
Nov. 9, 2014	Lectionary 32		9:45 am English Service 11:00 am German Service	Pastor Ceconi
Nov. 16, 2014	Lectionary 33		11:00 am Joint Service With Holy Baptism	Pastor Ceconi
Nov. 19, 2014	Buss- und Betttag (Day of Repentance)		6 pm German Service with Holy Communion	Pastor Ceconi
Nov. 23, 2014	Christ the King		9:45 am English Service 11:00 am German Service	Pastor Ceconi
Nov. 30, 2014	1st Advent		11:00 am Joint Service with Choir Followed by Christmas Bazaar	Pastor Ceconi
Dec. 7, 2014	2nd Advent		9:45 am English Service 11:00 am German Service Both with Holy Communion	Pastor Ceconi
Dec. 14, 2014	3rd Advent		11:00 am Joint Service with Christmas Play	Pastor Ceconi
Dec. 19 2014			7 pm Longest Night Service with evangelical congregations in Mimico (Location to be determined)	Evangelical Pastors in Mimico
Dec. 21, 2014	4th Advent		11:00 am German Service 7 pm English Candlelight Service	Pastor Hille Pastor Ceconi
Dec 24, 2014	Christmas Eve		4:30 pm German Service 6 pm English Service Both with the Choir	Pastor Ceconi
Dec. 25, 2014	Christmas		11:00 am German Service	Pastor Ceconi
Dec. 28, 2014	1st Sunday after Christmas		9:45 am English Service 11:00 am German Service Both with Holy Communion	Pastor Hille
Dec. 31, 2014	New Year's Eve		5 pm Joint Service	Pastor Ceconi
Jan. 1 2015	New Year's Day		5 pm Joint Service with Jazz music	Pastor Ceconi
Jan. 4, 2015	2nd Sunday after Christmas / Epiphany		9:45 am English Service 11:00 am German Service	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.