



March - April 2015

Letting faith play a role...

Maybe you have already realized: Kids have an endless flow of questions. The best part is: They



often get the point with just a few words. Why did Jesus die on the cross? How did he rise from the dead? Where is he now?

Only three simple questions, but enough material for an entire series of sermons around Easter. What would you have answered?

Faith lives through discussion, even when it feels like we don't have the perfect answers. When you speak about faith with the young and old, you can easily respond back: Well, what do you think? And who knows, maybe you will gain a new perspective through this dialogue.



As a trained theologian, I know the terrifying moment when you think: I can't explain this completely. The next minute though I think of a

quote by Saint Francis: "Even if you know little, preach it." And I would add, for the rest we can search for the answers together.

With our new Luther statue, which is criss-crossing Toronto, we are sparking conversations. Many people have already learned what is important to us from a Lutheran perspective on faith.

"You are saved by grace alone"- many of us have learned this in Confirmation class as the core of the Lutheran perspective. And how would you explain this today? I would say: I believe in a loving God, who doesn't judge me for



my faults, but who instead takes me in his arms even when everything goes wrong. My life has value not because of my achievements but instead because God loves me. This allows me to breathe freely and to live freely, in service to others.

And what would you talk about?

Do you have the courage to put faith into action and to also bring into conversations? Share what is important to you, with the young and old.

I wish you a blessed time of Lent and a liberating Easter in April.

Your,

Cassia Cecan!

News and Information from our Congregation

Words from our Presidents

Dear all,

Your attendance and your decisions at the Annual General Meeting on the 22nd of February, 2015 shows a clear direction. As we hold onto our roots we move forward into the future by transforming challenges into strength.

Together we have confirmed that it is vital to expand the work from our office by creating a 30-hour position for an administrative assistant. This also supports the purchase of new church software to manage membership, finances etc. Alone the input of initial data needs many hours of dedicated work and accuracy.

In addition the priorities developed during last year's council retreat were outlined and embraced.

a. Worship - be at the services, participate, donate, include MLC in your will

b. Being welcoming and inviting - invite friends, neighbors, family, notice and welcome newcomers

c. Communication strategy

- tell your children and friends about your church

- to call the church when you get ill or need -- make sure to call the church when you get ill or need support

- take the Luther Ambassador home for a week, share his life and work, discover anew his key reformation message "you are saved by grace alone"

d. Establish the round table - make information available to group leaders for transparency

5 Superior - continue praying for a successful restoration and beginning of the new Day Care Programs

It is clear that your participation is crucial to the success of any endeavor spearheaded by your church leaders. This brings me to my next topic.

We had to say good bye to three church council members. Thank you to Keith Rabey for six years of dedicated service and for excellent leadership as vice president and as the head of redevelopment of 5 Superior. Thank you to Marlena who has to step out of council due to conflict of interest as she is also employed by the Martin Luther Church. To my team member Darren Wilmer a special thanks. You walked into our church and 6 weeks later onto council, always on time and counting correctly without fail.

We welcome Irene Zielke (your new vice-president), Dan Sommerfeld and Alex Rygas onto council and are looking forward to your inspiring leadership.

You will find a special donation envelope in this March/April addition of the newsletter. Please support the AGM decisions which in numbers come down to a 10 % increase overall. Also, do not forget to hold the work our your Martin Luther Church in your prayers for

"The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and he helps me..." - Psalm 28,7

Thank you for your trust and looking forward to serving you for another year

Iris Schweiger (President)

Lenten Services based on Images by Cynthia Tokaya



You have surely noticed! As you walk into the sanctuary you come face to face with artwork depicting the stations of the cross. Our new worship team has installed this wall. With one glance you can see all the pictures accompanying us through the Lenten services. Come and discover the fascinating imagery of the artist Cynthia Tokaya every Wednesday during our Lenten devotions at 6pm in German. The Lenten devotion in English is at 7pm; like last year it takes place in our Martin Luther Church with the participation of other Protestant churches in Mimico.

More info and videos on martinluther.ca.

Summer Camp 2015: Friends for life

The theme for this year's summer camp from the **15th to 21st of August** will be Friendship. The story of **David und Jonathan**, a day at the beach, building a low ropes course and many other enjoyable projects promise to be a lot of fun and create unforgettable experiences.



In addition, we will have a special visitor from Germany; Kira, the mascot of the German website **kirche-entdecken.de**. Kira will then report about her experiences at

Camp Lutherlyn on her webpage.

More than 30 requests have already been received. Registration forms are available in the church and can be downloaded from our website. Prices are the same as last year.

Sign up right away by contacting the church office.

Contact: churchoffice@martinluther.ca,
Ph. (416) 251-8293.

Everybody is welcome to join the camp team to plan.

Contact: Anna Lisa Wienecke,
campdirector@martinluther.ca, Ph. (416) 939-7441.

World Day of Prayer at Martin Luther Church on March 6th

White sandy beaches, coral reefs, crystal clear water: all this is found around the 700 islands of the Bahamas. Located between the USA, Cuba and Haiti, this island state is a dream come true for tourists. The Bahamas are marked as the richest Caribbean country. In addition it offers a multitude of Christian denominations.

But problems trouble paradise: extreme dependence from other countries, high unemployment rates and domestic violence against women and children.

Both sides of the coin come to light in the service written by the women of the Bahamas for the World Day of Prayer 2015. The central part is dominated by the reading of John (13:1-17) where Jesus washes the feet of his disciples. In the midst of violence and poverty this passage speaks to the women of the Bahamas as they discover Jesus active charity in this simple act.

All around the world women celebrate services on the 6th of March 2015 as part of the World Day of Prayer.

This year Martin Luther Church hosts this special event for all German Lutheran congregations in the GTA. We start with the service at noon and finish with a lunch provided afterwards. Men are also very much invited!

Host Martin Luther

In 2015 our congregation will turn 60. At the same time we are in the midst of the "reformation decade" leading us to the great jubilee of the reformation in 2017. Therefore Martin Luther himself will visit our congregation.

You can open your doors to Martin Luther too. This is how.

You come to church for a Sunday service of your choice to pick up Martin Luther. At home, you take a picture with him, your family and some friends you've been eager to introduce Martin Luther to. On the following Sunday you bring him back to church for the beginning of the service.

Book your appointment with Martin:

Church office, Tel. 416-251-8293, churchoffice@martinluther.ca.

Bible Study about the Gospel of Mark every other week till summer

The new series of bible study about the Gospel of Mark began in February. It takes place at 1:30 pm in German and 7:30 pm in English.

Please bring your own bible if possible.

Next meetings: March 3rd, March 17th, April 7, April 21.

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

Installation of the new Church Council on March 22 during Joint Service at 11 am

After the new Church Council was elected at the Annual General Meeting, we will officially install the new Council members into their positions during the joint service on March 22.

There will be an opportunity to talk during the coffee time that follows and Iris Schweiger will report on her trip to the EKD in Germany.

Easter Services

We will thoroughly celebrate Holy Week and the days of Easter as a high point in the liturgical year. To help you plan your time accordingly, here are all the service dates at a glance:



Palm Sunday, March 29:

9:45 English Service

11:00 German Service

Wednesday, April 1:

6 pm German Lenten Service

7:30 pm English Lenten Service

Maundy Thursday, April 2:

6 pm German Service with Holy Communion

7:30 pm English Service with Holy Communion

Good Friday, April 3:

9:45 English Service with Holy Communion

11:00 German Service with Holy Communion

Both with Church Choir

Easter Sunday, April 5:

6:00 Easter Sunrise Service at Humber Bay Park

Followed by breakfast at the church.

10:00 Easter Service in English and German with Holy Communion and Church Choir.

Dan Sommerfeld is coordinating set up for the **Easter breakfast**. Food contributions are always welcome. Please contact Dan: 905-274-6602.

Family Service with Renewal of Baptism on April 19, 11 am



During Easter time we invite children and families to celebrate a Family Service with the theme of Baptism. There is a lot of discover and experience.

So be sure to come and even better, bring friends with you.

Welcoming the new Administrative Assistant

Marlena Müller will be introduced in her position as the administrative assistant for the church office on April 19 during the Family Service. At the same time we will say good bye to Anita Ratz who is leaving this position and thank her for 10 years of dedicated work. The family service begins at 11 am.

Spring Cleaning at Camp Lutherlyn

The evening of Friday May 1 we are driving to Camp Lutherlyn with a group of volunteers, so that we can help with Spring Cleaning on Saturday May 3. Everything from chopping wood to repair work and cleaning is needed. Accommodation and meals will be provided.

So sign up to participate right away.

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

Spring Cleaning "from 1 'til done" in Martin Luther Church

Our church should sparkle too. On Saturday March 28 we need many helping hands to beautify our church for Easter. Following the motto

"from one 'til done" it will begin at 1 pm. A great activity for all – whether young or old.

Please call the church office and offer your help.

Contact: churchoffice@martinluther.ca, Tel. (416) 251-8293.

Swim Party at Norseman Pool, April 11 at 4 pm

Fun and games in the water for the young and old: In April we're back going to Norseman pool for our swim party. We'll spend an hour in the water and a pizza dinner in the hallway will follow.

Write it in your calender right away and sign up.

Contact: Tanya Zielke, Tel. (416) 622-7032, sundayschool@martinluther.ca



Event for "Permission for Dual Citizenship" with the German Consulate

Would you like to apply for a "Beibehaltungsgenehmigung" to keep your German citizenship status or do you know someone who needs help with this application? Thomas Nickel from the German Consulate Toronto will outline all necessary steps and answer your questions on Saturday April 18th 2015. In addition, you will get the opportunity to talk with people who have already successfully gone through the process.

Where? Our Martin Luther Church, 2379 Lake Shore Blvd. West

When? 2:30-4 pm.

Please let the church office know if you will be attending. (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 partnered with the Evangelical Church in Germany (EKD) and member of the Deutsche Evangelisch-lutherische Konferenz in Nordamerika (DELKINA).

New Structure in the ELCIC: Toronto Central Area lead by Dean Ilze Kuplens Ewart

The ELCIC transformed the old Conferences into a new area-structure. The Martin Luther Church is now part of a group of 20 congregations belonging to the Toronto Central Area. This new structure aims to improve the cooperation between congregations.

Chair person of our Area is Dean Ilze Kuplens-Ewart, who is also the Pastor at St. Andrews, a Latvian congregation.

She is supported by the following team of leaders: David Berg (First Lutheran), Andrew Slonetsky (Holy Cross, Newmarket), Pastor Brian Wilker-Frey and Pastor Christian Ceconi.

The first big action item the Area team took on is the preparation of a **Seminar day on the 25. April. At 9am** all council members, persons in leadership positions or interested parties are invited to learn more about the topic Leadership and how best to teach and learn from and with each other.

For further information and registration please contact the:

churchoffice@martinluther.ca, Tel. (416) 251-8293.

Introduction of our Dean:



Writing a resume has always been a challenge for Ilze. She has been blessed with wonderful opportunities to engage and minister at a parish level, to teach both in school and university, and to be part of leadership teams nationally, and ecumenically, working

in three countries: England, Germany, and, since 1997, at St Andrew's Latvian, Toronto.

Over these years, John 17:20-26 has been a key passage for Ilze and her hope for the church "*that they may all be one*". Yet it is more than the words that speak to her, it is more the depth of the prayer offered by Jesus. Ilze hopes, and prays, that all our work as congregations, as a church, and as individuals be grounded in a longing for this deep relationship and that this would shape our mission and ministry.

She is very excited about the possibilities for closer cooperation that the new Area ministry model offers and the way this might shape our witness and looks forward greatly to working with the leadership team to see how this might best be encouraged and directed.

Ilze is married to Ron Ewart, Executive Director of Toronto United Church Council. Ron is a United Church minister who spent many years in congregational development work before this appointment. They have three grown children and two grandchildren.

Dean Ilze Kuplens-Ewart

EKD-Seminar in Hannover

As every year, the EKD Seminar for church council members lasted three days. From Thursday evening the 12th until Sunday at noon the 15th of February, 52 church elders from 30 countries met at the Stephansstift in Hannover. The keynote speaker Dr. Peter Böhlemann from the institute for continuing education in Villigst brought the main topic "Leading spiritually" with humor and active participation to life. Seminar highlights were the devotion lead by Bishop Petra Bosse-Huber, the plenum with Oberkirchenrätin Dina Fecht and the personal conversation with OKR C. Ostarek. Please make time for a coffee talk to find out more about the seminar. Looking forward to your participation

President Iris Schweiger

Round table meeting

During our last council retreat in November we took a good look at the structures of our congregation and noticed that we really needed a meeting of all group- and project leaders to exchange information. As a result we will meet from now on every three month at the "Round Table".

The first meeting took place already. Many questions were easily and quickly answered and the calendar for 2015 was discussed (you can find it on a pin board at the entrance of the church). If you manage a project or a group and still have not received an invitation, please let us know. Simply call the church office or e-mail to churchoffice@martinluther.ca

Time of Lent noticable

The first project or the new Worship team is vividly noticeable: An art display on a removable wall is placed at the entrance to the sanctuary depicting images of the Stations of the Cross which take us through the weeks of Lent.

The group had wondered why we always decorate the church in a special way over Christmas but not at other times of the year. This inspired the wall of art.

Participants for future projects are always welcome. The worship team meets at 7:30pm once a month on a Tuesday in the church.

Next meetings: 24th of March, 28th of April.

New: Monthly Service at the Prince Edward Senior's Residence

The question "Could we offer a service at the senior's residence", was posed to Pastor Ceconi by Ollie Gilker and Christine Couturier in November. The answer: "Of course, we can do that. " No sooner said than done. In December the first service was held. In the future we will celebrate a service every third Wednesday of the month at 10:30 am at the Prince Edward Senior Residence, 4180 Dundas Street West, Etobicoke.

You are cordially invited to take part in the service. Afterwards we meet for coffee, tea and conversation.

On our way with Luther ...

"Our Martin Luther Ambassador was busy every day since we picked him up last Sunday. First he was the guest of honor at the Chinese New year's dinner party hosted by my brother and his wife last Sunday. Thanks to my wife all family members were able to learn a lot about him.



On Monday, Martin Luther was our companion on the way to the German Consulate in Toronto. Due to extremely cold weather the passersby did not want to stop to ask questions as we transported Martin Luther from the parking garage to the consulate on 2 Bloor Street East. To pass the security at the consulate we had to give a lot of information and answer questions. Our arrival in the waiting area was met with curiosity. Inge then



took the opportunity to introduce Martin Luther and many listened intently. At the end of our visit we were allowed to take pictures of Martin Luther in the consulate.

On Wednesday Martin Luther saw his first Fitness studio from the inside. Many explanations were necessary before I was able to take pictures. But all went well.

In the meantime Martin Luther has adopted to riding in the car."

Philippe Koo Tze Mew

More pictures of Martin Luther can be found on our facebook page:

[facebook.com/martinlutherchurchtoronto](https://www.facebook.com/martinlutherchurchtoronto)

We welcome and congratulate ...

We welcome **Erika Leslie** as a new member of our congregation with her husband Aaron and son Malakai (who was recently baptized in our church).

On January 18 **James Sykes** was baptized in our church. We offer heartfelt congratulations and we wish James and his family God's blessing.

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight.
In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. (Proverbs 3: 5-6)*

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: March 6 (World Day of Prayer), April 8.

Contact: Daina Wienecke, Tel. (905) 939-2601

Church Coffee Team

Contact: Waltraud Laser, Tel. (416) 766-9373

Confirmation Classes

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

Youth Group

Next Meeting: See MLC Youth Group page on Facebook or contact:

Contact: Amy und Sonja Schweiger, Tel. (905) 625-9174

Bible Study

Discussion every two weeks at Martin Luther Church of texts from the Gospel of Mark. At 1:30 pm in German and 7.30 pm in English.

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

Summer Camp Planning Team

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

Sunday School Team

Sunday School every 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month. Next meeting: March 6, 7:30 pm.

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

Welcome Team

Next meeting: Friday, March 27, 10:00 am at church.

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

Worship Team

Next meeting: 7:30 pm on March 27 and April 28 in the church.

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

Website Team

Next meeting: March 31, 7:30 pm in the church.

Contact: Eike Schamburek, eike.schamburek@gmail.com

Support Team for Kanoun Family

Contact: Church office, Tel. (416) 251-8293, churchoffice@martinluther.ca

Martin Luther Church Daycare Board

Contact: Ulrich Karthaus, Tel. (519) 942-6244

Martin Luther Church Daycare Office

Contacts: Helen Schmidt (Administrator),
Teresa Kurek (Supervisor)
Tel: (416) 259-2861
daycareoffice@martinluther.ca

Community Lunch & Food Bank (Wesley Mimico United Church)

Every Saturday, 11 - 1 pm (except for the last Saturday of the month)

Volunteers always welcome!

Contact: Kim, Tel. (647) 677-5628

We're here for you:

Church Office

Anita Ratz and Marlena Muller

Tel. (416) 251-8293, churchoffice@martinluther.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

Editor's Note: In this edition you may miss the section titled "Theological Insights". Due to the many other items, there was unfortunately not enough space. This section will appear in next month's newsletter again.

Service Plan

Mar. 8, 2015	3rd Sunday of Lent/ Okuli		9:45 am English Service 11:00 am German Service Both with Holy Communion	Pastor Ceconi
Mar. 11, 2015			6 pm German Lenten Service 7 pm English Lenten Service	Pastor Ceconi Mimico Pastors
Mar. 15, 2015	4th Sunday of Lent / Lätare		9:45 am English Service 11:00 am German Service	Pastor Ceconi
Mar. 18, 2015			10.30 am Service at Delmanor Prince Edward Senior's Residence 6 pm German Lenten Service 7 pm English Lenten Service	Pastor Ceconi Mimico Pastors
Mar. 22, 2015	5th Sunday of Lent/ Judika		11 am Joint Service with Installation of Church Council	Pastor Ceconi
Mar. 25, 2015			6 pm German Lenten Service 7 pm English Lenten Service	Pastor Ceconi Mimico Pastors
Mar. 29, 2015	Palm Sunday		9:45 am English Service 11:00 am German Service	Pastor Ceconi
April 1, 2015			6 pm German Lenten Service 7 pm English Lenten Service	Pastor Ceconi Mimico Pastors
April 2, 2015	Maundy Thursday		6 pm German Service 7 pm English Service Both with Holy Communion	Pastor Ceconi
April 3, 2015	Good Friday		9:45 am English Service 11:00 am German Service Both with Holy Communion and Choir	Pastor Ceconi
5 April, 2015	Easter Sunday		6 am Sunrise Service at Humber Bay Park, followed by breakfast at church 10 am Easter Service with Holy Communion and Church Choir	Pastor Ceconi
April 12, 2015	2nd Sunday after Easter		9:45 am English Service 11:00 am German Service	Pastor Ceconi
April 15, 2015			10.30 am Service at Delmanor Prince Edward Senior's Residence	Pastor Ceconi
April 19, 2015	3rd Sunday after Easter		11 am Family Service with Remembrance of Baptism	Pastor Ceconi
April 26, 2015	4th Sunday after Easter		9:45 am English Service 11:00 am German Service	Pastor Ceconi
May 3, 2015	5th Sunday after Easter		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.