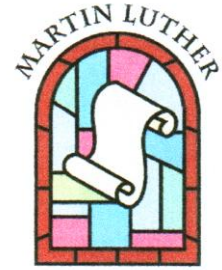


Congregational newsletter



LUTHERAN CHURCH
— Founded 1955 Gegründet —

December 2013 – January 2014

Devotion

When is Christmas?

*Dear members and friends
of the Martin Luther Church!*

Have you ever wondered when it becomes Christmas for you? When do you realize it's Christmas?

For me it is the moment in worship when the song "Ich steh an deiner Krippe hier" (Beside thy cradle here I stand) is played. Every year I look forward to this song on Christmas Eve.

Not only the beautifully flowing melody from the pen of Johann Sebastian Bach touches my heart, but also the poignant text by Paul Gerhardt.

Paul Gerhardt goes on a search for the connection between the Christmas story and your own life:

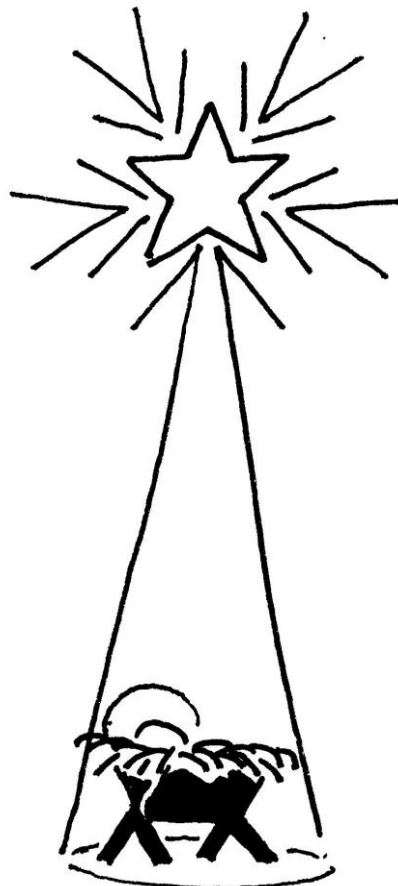
*Before I took on flesh and bone,
Thy spirit rested on me
And chose that I should be thy own
Before I thought upon thee.*

Even if the events took place more than 2000 years: They are renewed through every person that relives them. God not only then dared to give his world a fresh start by sending his son. He dares to give us a fresh start here and now when Christ is born in our lives. Gerhardt describes this in the image of the night and sun.

*I wandered lost in dark of night;
Thou rose as sun prevailing,
A sun that brought renewing light,
Life, love, and joy unfailing.
O sun that strikes the glowing spark
Of faith within my fearing heart,
How lovely is thy dawning!*

Finally Gerhardt leads us directly into the group of those who have gathered around the crib: the shepherds, the animals, the child's parents and, finally, the Wisemen. They all arrived

at the manger. Amazed, they surround the newborn and their faces draw from the light that comes into the world.



*Unto the cradle I draw near
And find in it salvation;
And finding safety only here,
I stay in adoration.
O had my mind the world's breadth,
O had my soul the ocean's depth,
That I might fully know thee!*

And suddenly we are in the midst of this colorful group, with a fascinated gaze on the newborn.

I wish you a good path to the manger, accompanied by the songs and lyrics of the Advent and Christmas season, a celebration of the joy of the coming of our Savior.

Yours Christian Ceconi

Nachrichten und Informationen

Fire at 5 Superior

On the 18th of October, a fire broke out at around 8pm in our building at 5 Superior. All daycare children, staff and cleaners had already left for the weekend and the tenants were able to escape unharmed. For the last 4 weeks all material damaged by fire and/or water was removed. We are now in the process of gathering information to reconstruct the building with future uses in mind.

Christmas Bazaar

Thank you very much for your fruit and yarn donation. On December 1st, in other words, the first of Advent, you will be able to purchase what we have lovingly created leading up to the bazaar. Bring your wallet, bring your friends and start or finish your Christmas shopping at our MLC.

The proceeds will benefit our former tenants who have lost all material possessions in the fire at 5 Superior.

Special collection

Dear congregation, thank you for generously supporting your congregation all year long either during the collection on Sundays or via mail. In recent months, in addition to the regular household expenses, your donations went towards an organ- as well as multiple liturgical books which were necessary to enrich our experience during the services. All communion dishes were polished and stored in hand sewn velvet bags for protection. Our large silver carafe also needs some polishing. Please call the office if you have connections to a craftsman who could help us with this task.

Recently we had a tune up of the sound system. We might need to update some of the equipment. But before we purchase anything, please let us know if the tune up made a significant difference.

As many of you have already noticed, we have hired Marlana Mueller as a supply secretary to cover for Anita when she goes on well-deserved vacations. Marlana will also continue part-time to digitalize newsletters and annual meeting documents so that we may send the originals to Kitchener Waterloo for archiving.

Enclosed you will find a special donation envelope to be filled freely this Christmas season to support the important work of the Martin Luther Church who continues to be in mission for others.

Iris Schweiger, president

When you give with right intentions, it will always come back to you multiplied. –Anonymous

Christmas Wishes



With the words of a song from this year's Christmas Play, we, your church council, wish each one of you a happy, healthy, blessed Christmas and New Year.

"Star over Bethlehem, we must now part; your light has given us a brand new start. Gladly we share the joy, give it away, star over Bethlehem, shine every day."

On behalf of the Church Council

Yours Iris Schweiger, president

Retreat in February not taking place!

Unfortunately the group that signed up for the retreat at Mount Alverno is not sufficiently large enough. Therefore, the retreat will not take place.

In the coming year we will offer another opportunity for a retreat. Please look for the Bible discussion group that will start in January.

Interested in Summer Camp?

Next year we'll attend summer camp again. For 15 years Dan Sommercamp helped create unforgettable experiences. He's now passing on the baton.

For this reason we're putting a planning team together that will organize camp. The only requirement for joining: enthusiasm for the Martin Luther summer camp.

Contact: Anna Lisa Wienecke, Phone 905 939 7494, annalisawienecke@hotmail.com

Is Christmas a time that makes you feel more grief than joy? - Then perhaps the Longest Night Service on December 21 is a good opportunity

Christmas can be a sad rather than happy time for some people. For some it is the first Christmas without a beloved family member. For others Christmas has always been a difficult time.

The intense Christmas advertising and the ever-present sound of carols can make life particularly difficult.

Our worship on the evening of December 21 will give people who go through the Advent and Christmas season with mixed feelings the time and space to feel sadness. It offers fellowship and consolation.

We will celebrate this service together with neighbouring Mimico congregations at Martin Luther Church on December 21 at 7 pm.

Visit of the Etobicoke German School on the 4th of Advent

The German School in Etobicoke has intensively studied German Christmas customs and songs. Under the direction of Sylvia Mayer, a group from the school will be guests at our church on the 4th of Advent and will help shape the service.

Worship in Lakeshore Lodge Nursing Home on December 29

There will be a service on Sunday December 29th, at 2 pm at Lakeshore Lodge retirement home, 3179 Lake Shore Blvd West. Pastor Ceconi will conduct this service. You are cordially invited to Lakeshore Lodge to celebrate the service. This is good opportunity to get to know the neighborhood better!



New Offer: Bible Study

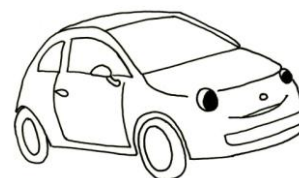
As of January 2014, a Bible study will take place in the church every second Thursday of the month from 7-9 pm. The topic will be the Bible text for each following Sunday. If you are curious to dig deeper, if you have (even uncomfortable) questions and want to talk about them with others, then you are in the right company. Please, if possible, bring your own Bible. Registration is not required.

First Meeting: Januar 9, 2014, 7 pm, Martin Luther Kirche

Contact: Pastor Christian Ceconi, Tel. 416 567 2487

Ride Program

In the cold season some of us might hesitate to drive. Others may have no opportunity to come to services. For this, we are once again organizing our ride program. If you want to be picked for services, then please call our church office by Thursday each week. From there, we will coordinate to get you a ride.



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

Remarks and Reports

Look Back at Church Council Retreat



On November 8 and 9 our Church Council Retreat was held. Together we went to the YMCA Cedar Glen Centre to speak at ease about the situation and the future of our congregation. We not only discussed how lively our congregation is, but also about ways to sustain and promote this vitality in the future.

By the end, we decided to focus in particular on two areas in the coming year: First, we will look in more depth at how people who come to our church can quickly feel at home and how we can encourage them to participate in the congregation. Secondly, we will look at the issue of worship closer and ask what makes services

inspirational, timely and appealing.

Work on these topics will certainly not be limited to the church council.

If you have the desire and interest to work on these topics, please contact:

Iris Schweiger for the theme “MLC Welcome”, Tel. 905 625 9174,

Pastor Christian Ceconi for the Theme “Worship Services”, Tel. 416 567 2487.

First Steps towards New Website

In the coming weeks and months, we will give our website a new look. This is initially done offline.

Participating in a working group is Tanya Zielke, Mona Frantzke, Karl Kriese, Eike Schlaburek and Pastor Ceconi.

We hope we can present you the results by Easter. Let us know if you have requests or suggestions for the redesign.

Contact: Mona Frantzke, mona.frantzke@rogers.com

Thank You

Just in time for this newsletter a Thank you e-mail from the Berlin Brandenburg brass band leader, Barbara Barsch, arrived in my inbox. She thanks all of us who helped make this trip a success. She still cannot believe how much they were able to see and experience in such a short time. Also, Gerhard Hille had predicted that she would start planning the next trip to Canada shortly after the return to Germany. Therefore it comes as no surprise that Barbara writes: *“God willing, there is a good chance for another trip in 2018.”*



From our Congregation we lost ...

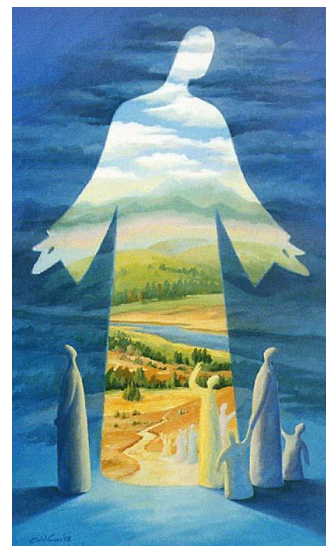
Hilde Schnick, at 87 years of age on October 14 2013.

Otto Karthaus, at 92 years of age on November 24 2013.

Jesus said:

*"I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live,
even though they die*

(John. 11:25)



Regular Groups and Contacts

Choir

Every Tuesday at 6 pm

Choir Director: Linda Marcinkus, Tel. 416 255 2612

Women's Group

Once a month on Wednesday at 11 am at church

The next meeting is on:

Contact: Daina Wienecke, Tel. 905 939 2601

Confirmation Class

Wednesdays, every 14 days at church; as of January once a month on Saturday/Sunday.

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

Youth Group

Meeting to be determined.

Contact: Sonja Schweiger, Tel. 905 625 9174

Bible Study

Every second Sunday of the month, 7-9 pm at church.

If possible bring your own bible.

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

Summer Camp Planning Group

Meeting to be determined.

Contact: Anna Lisa Wienecke, Tel.

Sunday School Team

Sunday School every 1st and 3rd 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

We're here for you:

Church Office

Anita Ratz, Tel. 416-251-8293, mlchurch@bellnet.ca

Office Hours:

Tuesday, 9:30-12

Wednesday, 9:30-12

Friday, 9:30-12

Parish

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

Dec. 1 2013	1st Advent		9:45 am English Service 11:00 am German Service Followed by Christmas Bazar	Pastor Ceconi
Dec. 8 2013	2nd Advent		9:45 am English Service 11:00 am Deutscher Gottesdienst beide Gd. mit Hl. Abendmahl	Pastor Ceconi
Dec. 15 2013	3rd Advent		11:00 am Joint Service with Christmas Play	Pastor Ceconi
Dec. 21 2013	Longest Night Service		7:00 pm English Service	Rev. Shepherd, Pastor Ceconi
Dec 22 2013	4th Advent		11:00 am German Service 7:00 pm Candle light Service	Pastor Ceconi
Dec 24 2013	Christmas Eve		5:00 pm German Service 6:30 pm English Service	Pastor Ceconi
Dec 25 2013	Christmas		11:00 am German Service	Pastor Ceconi
Dec. 29 2013	1st Sunday after Christmas		9:45 am English Service 11:00 am German Service	Pastor Ceconi
Dec 31 2013	New Years Eve		5:00 pm German Service with Holy Communion	Pastor Ceconi
Jan 1 2014	New Years Day		5:00 pm Joint Service with Jazz Band	Pastor Ceconi
Jan 5 2014	2nd Sunday after Christmas / Epiphany		9:45am English Service 11:00am German Service	Pastor Ceconi
Jan. 12 2014	1st Sunday after Epiphany		9:45am English Service 11:00am German Service Both with Holy Communion	Pastor Ceconi
Jan. 19 2014	2nd Sunday after Epiphany		11:00 am Joint Service	Pastor Ceconi
Jan. 26 2014	3rd Sunday after Epiphany		9:45am English Service 11:00am German Service	Pastor Ceconi
Feb. 2 2014	4th Sunday after Epiphany		9:45am Englischer Gottesdienst 11:00am Deutscher Gottesdienst	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.