



May - June 2015

There is nothing good unless you do it!

This expression is from a short poem by Erich Kästner and has become a popular saying for many people. For me it is the perfect summary of what is at stake when diaconal work is discussed at church.



In this light, someone in the story of the Good Samaritan asked Jesus: "Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" He could answer right away himself, since as a lawyer he knew with certainty the most important commandment: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself."

Then came the next question that each of us has asked at some point as well: "And who is my neighbour?"

If Jesus had known Kästner, he might have answered with the little poem. Instead Luke the

Evangelist reports how Jesus tells the story of the Good Samaritan. It's meant to make clear: If you witness someone in need, do what you can! Comfort the crying child, buy the beggar something to eat, call for help after a car accident, speak up when an immigrant is mistreated. It becomes clear that it doesn't help to argue about definitions of charity. What matters is the act.

God himself showed us this by sending his son to us. He did something for those who were hoping for healing. In so doing Jesus didn't debate definitions very long, instead he simply preached: You are children of God if you trust him. If you trust in his salvation, you will feel his power.

Jesus knew for sure: actions speak louder than words.

Sincerely,
Your,

In this issue read:

- Vikar Moritz Menacher will serve in our congregation for one year
- Martin Luther ambassador at the Day-care
- Theological background about Mark's Gospel
- ELCIC Convention in Edmonton
- DELKINA Conference in San Diego
- Church Picnic on July 21st
- "Goodbye" and "hello" in our church office

Words from our Presidents

Dear Congregation,

During our last Church council meeting, our In Focus had us answering three important questions: Why am I here? What do I want to get accomplished? and What is my dream for the Martin Luther Church?

Our discussion led us to these three points:

1. We were chosen to join the Church Council because of our many talents; we were called to serve the church, and the congregation to help grow and prosper.
2. As a Council we would like see our congregation grow; to attract new families and support the changing community outside our front door.
3. Our dream for Martin Luther Church is to remain alive and giving in the years to come.

We continued to look at our Constitution to better understand our roles in the church. So what exactly does the council do? We are a support system to not only the Pastor and the Office Administrator, but we also support the Congregation by advising them on what we can do to ensure growth and prosperity and on how we can better support the community of Mimico. We make sure that everything runs smoothly during all services and events. We ask you, the Congregation, to keep Council in your prayers, as we continue to lead and serve.

5 Superior

As mentioned on our website, construction at 5 Superior had stopped due to incomplete building inspections. After an emergency meeting with City Councilor Marc Grimes, members of the City and Martin Luther Church representatives, we are now aiming to open our doors for the beginning of the new school year. As a congregation we should continue to pray for and support our Day Care. This is not just a building, but a piece of who we are and what we are doing to support our Community.

“Like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house.” 1. Peter 2:5a

Irene Zielke – Vice President

The members of our church council in 2015:

From left to right: Dan Sommerfeld, Martin Haefele (treasurer), Iris Schweiger (president), Catherine Wolf-Becker, Gisela Wilhelm, Ernst Carl, Alex Rygus, Larissa Mattwich, and Tanya Zielke (secretary). Not pictured: Irene Zielke (vice president), Anna Lisa Wienecke and Ernie Wienecke. Karl Kriese (third from right) was appointed as financial secretary.



Moritz Menacher will serve as a vicar in our church for one year!

Dear Martin Luther Church Congregation,

As you may have heard, there will be a new face in your congregation. Beginning in June, I will work with Christian Ceconi as a vicar (pastor in training).

If you're asking yourself, "Who is coming to us?", this might help answer your questions:

I am in my early 30s and enjoy participating in worship services. I am happy for the opportunity to preach both in English and German. I am experienced in working with children and young people



and really like teaching Confirmation classes and celebrating services with children. I am interested in faith and church life in an international context, but I am also able to talk about non-religious topics like hiking and fishing or riding a motorcycle and soccer.

I am really looking forward to getting to know you and the Martin Luther congregation! It will be a great pleasure for me to celebrate and pray with you, to share happy and sad times, to talk about heavenly and earthly things; in short: to live with you! The idea behind "living together" is one of the most important parts of my belief: Jesus taught his disciples in Matthew 18:20 "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." So we can find Jesus in our lives when we share it with others and we can be sure that Jesus is there among us.

Every community, every congregation, is more than the sum of its parts. The different abilities and skills, as well as the individual stories and experiences every single member brings with him/her form something that is more. It makes everyone stronger, maybe even better, but for sure it makes every community unique. My own story did not start with the choice to become a pastor, but with the decision to become a scientist. After my B.Sc. in Molecular Biotechnology, I was interested in bio-

ethical issues and took classes at the department of theology and there, I got to know the church as a community where I could be who I am. So I became an active church member and later on, I decided to be a pastor. But being trained as a scientist still influences my faith and belief.

I want to send a "Thank You" in advance, especially to those of you, whom I already had contact with. You were and are so heartwarming and welcoming towards me and my wife that our time in your congregation cannot be anything but a great time!

Yours sincerely,
Moritz Menacher

Moritz Menacher will arrive on May 30 and **you can meet him at church on May 31st**. So come and see and welcome him!

Ascension of the Lord: German Service at St. George / College St.

We continue having our joint German service on Ascension Day, Thursday, May 14th at 7:00 pm. This year's service will be held at St. George Lutheran church on 410 College Street, Toronto. The service is followed by a meeting of the German Contact Circle.

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 unforgettable and a lot of fun.

More than 45 people have already signed up. You are still welcome to register as a single camper or with your family or children and grandchildren. Registration forms are available in the church and can be downloaded from our website. Prices are the same as last year.

Sign up right now by contacting the church office: churchoffice@martinluther.ca, Ph. (416) 251-8293.

Bible Study about the Gospel of Mark 'til summer

The new series of bible study about the Gospel of Mark continues at 1:30 pm in German and 7:30 pm in English usually every other Tuesday (see dates for one exception).

Please bring your own bible if possible.

Next meetings: May 5th, May 26th, June 2nd and June 16th.

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

Worship, food & fun: Church picnic at Camp Edgewood

This year's church picnic at Camp Edgewood on June 21 at 11 am will again be hosted by the Summer Camp Team. Food and drinks will be provided.

We'd like to invite you to a BBQ after the service, time to enjoy each others' company and of course the traditional annual soccer game.

So don't forget your soccer shoes and see you at the picnic!
Anna Lisa Wienecke

Daycare: They promise the work will be done by September 1st, 2015

A beautiful German song reflects perfectly the reconstruction efforts at our 5 Superior building.

It translates as follows: Two steps forward and one backwards, that's how life moves along...

Alone in the last 6 months the proposed finish date for 5 Superior has changed three times due to various and very plausible reasons. To finally get everybody back on track and working together an emergency meeting was called on the 20th of April. Present were Ward 6 City Councillor Marc Grimes, Forensic Engineer Pepper, Plan Review Manager for Etobicoke York District Veltman, Manager, Inspections Etobicoke York District Salvati, Construction Manager Iron, Adjuster O'Hearn and Iris Schweiger. All parties committed to the 31st of August as non-negotiable finish date. This makes the reopening of the day-care for the beginning of the school year possible.

Rehearsal

The church is dark, silent, lonely. A door opens, footsteps mark the way into the sanctuary. The keyboard is moved into position. Suddenly the church comes alive. More and more people arrive as voices mingle with laughter. The day's events are being exchanged until the last choir member arrives. Warm up exercises transform speaking into singing. Voices become clear, are tuned, become one with the piano. The rustling of note paper is added. Gentle directions lead sopranos, altos, tenors and bass filling the house of God from floor to rafters. Your secret Observer leaves with a joyful heart.

Looking for Hosts - choir workshop

Right after the summer holidays we will get a visit from the Gospel Unity choir from Bockenem, Germany. They will arrive on September 11th. All are welcome to join them for a choir workshop on Saturday, September 12th. Songs from this workshop will be performed on Sunday.

We are looking for hosts who can accommodate one or more choir members from September 11th - 14th, 2015. Pickup is 6 pm Friday night at our church. There are 31 choir members.



Get a blessing for your holidays on June 28th!

What could be better than starting your summer holidays with God's blessing? We celebrate an English Service at 9:45 am and a German service at 11:00 am. Receive a blessing and take a blessing card with you for the holidays.

New Donation Envelopes

Enclosed you will find our redesigned envelopes. Refills for your boxes are available in the office or from Council members on Sunday. Please ask if you have questions about your donations.

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).

Liberated by God's grace: 15th Biennial ELCIC National Convention

The Fifteenth Biennial Convention of the ELCIC will be held in Edmonton, AB from July 9-12, 2015 with the plenary sessions occurring at the Shaw Conference Center in downtown Edmonton. Our Congregation will be represented by our Pastor.

All documents for the Convention will be available soon on the ELCIC website (elcic.ca).

EKD text on theology of the cross for today

The EKD has recently published a new study on the theology of the cross and its meaning for today.

The study gives an overview not only on the history of this core of Lutheran theology, but also offers an introduction to modern approaches to the theology of the cross. The study also tries to connect to contemporary culture, art and music. Definitely a good read of almost 200 pages.

"The cross is the Christian sign of God's love of people and reconciliation with the world," EKD Council chair Heinrich Bedford-Strohm writes in his foreword. Arising from this engagement with the theology of the cross, he sums up the authors' view:

Theological Background:

God's kingdom is growing - Sermons on Mark 3-7 in June

Summer: time of growth

During June everything is growing outside. Our readings on Sunday will reflect this growth. In June especially the gospel readings from Mark focus on how Jesus grows his fellowship.

In the first part up to chapter 8 the gospel of Mark tells the story of Jesus' ministry in Galilee. Not far from his family's hometown in Nazareth he is wandering back and forth on the shores of the Sea of Galilee calling his disciples, preaching,

"Christian theology faces the challenge of explaining and developing its understanding of God's love in the cross ever anew."

Für uns gestorben. Die Bedeutung von Leiden und Sterben Jesu Christi. Ein Grundlagentext des Rates der Evangelischen Kirche in Deutschland (EKD), 194 Seiten, Gütersloher Verlagshaus 2015

The study is available online (only in German): http://www.ekd.de/download/fuer_uns_gestorben_2015.pdf

DELKINA biennial conference will be held in October in San Diego

From October 14th to 19th delegates from different German speaking Lutheran congregations from North America will meet in San Diego. A day with Lutheran Border Concerns Ministry on the border to Mexico, celebrating services together and the reformation jubilee in 2017 are on the agenda as well as some administrative business.

You can download further information and registration form on the DELKINA website (delkina.org).

performing miracles, casting out demons and healing the sick.

We will hear quite a few interesting narratives about casting out demons and Jesus' true relatives (on June 7 based on Mark 3:20-35), the growing of the seeds and the mustard seed (on June 14 based on Mark 4:26-34), Jesus calming the storm (on June 21 based on Mark 4:35-41), and about Jesus healing a woman and raising someone's daughter from the dead (on June 28 based on Mark 5:21-43).

Many of us are quite familiar with some of these stories like the calming of the storm, but there are still a lot of interesting details to discover.

Are we family?

While he is gathering with his followers, Jesus' family wants to see him. His answer to this request seems very harsh. He replied, "Who are my mother and my brothers?" (3:33) and then looking at those who sat around him, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother." (3:34-35)

Indeed this is harsh, but if you go back to Mark 3:21 you will read that his family tries to restrain him. "He has gone out of his mind", they say. So Jesus has to deal with resistance even within his family. Coming up with new ideas isn't always easy. It was the same in Jesus' time.

Connecting to daily life and making sandwiches

Chapter 4 is almost all about parables which describe the growing of God's kingdom. Since the people living around the Sea of Galilee in these times depended mainly on farming and fishing, Jesus took examples from daily life for his preaching. In this area you will find plants from Asia, Europe and Africa and the soil and climate make this region very fertile as long as enough water is provided.

One of Mark's defining characteristics is that he makes "sandwiches". Chapter 4 is a good example. He starts with the parable about the sower (Mark 4:1-9).

He continues with a short paragraph about the meaning of parables in general and then explains the meaning of the parable of the sower. In this way the text structure looks like a sandwich, for Mark a technique to cluster texts which deal with the same topic. You find this sandwich structure in many parts of the gospel of Mark.

Do you speak Hebrew?

We find another interesting detail in the story of when Jesus raises the daughter of Jairus from the dead. When Mark reports Jesus' words "talitha cum", he gives right away a translation by saying "which means: little girl get up". Have you ever wondered why Mark gives a translation?

Probably not all of the people who belonged to the congregation or group that listened to Mark were able to understand Hebrew. Looking at these translations given by Mark, scholars found out Mark's congregation probably had a non-Jewish background and was Greek-speaking. So a translation was definitely necessary for them, whereas Mark seems to be bilingual.

I am looking forward to seeing you for worship in June (or even before ...) to share some more interesting details of the gospel of Mark. If you have a specific question, don't hesitate to send me an email and I will cover this question within one of my sermons.

Christian Ceconi

Remarks and Reports

We had a fantastic swim party with the Martin Luther ambassador

A wet and wonderful time was had by all at the 2015 Martin Luther Church swim party Saturday April 11 at Norseman Pool in Etobicoke. Water volleyball, water frisbee, swimming, breast stroke, side stroke (fancy diving too) were all part of the festivities. This year the Martin Luther ambassador was watching us, it being the 60th anniversary of the founding of our church here on the shores of Lake Ontario in Toronto.

About 40 hungry kids and adults feasted on fresh hot pizza, healthy snacks and treats. Thanks to Tanya for organizing, and also to attendees for the lovely meal contributions. Special thanks to Amadios Pizza, a family owned restaurant in Port Credit/Mississauga, for the pizza.

It's always over so quickly but surely that means we were so busy having a fantastic time. Next up — swimming at Camp Lutherlyn on beautiful Golden Lake!

“Goodbye” and “hello” in the church office

For 10 years Anita Ratz served our church by managing the office. On April 19th she passed on her duties to Marlena Muller who was introduced as our new administrative assistant in the office.

During the words of farewell, Iris Schweiger said: “Anita, we are blessed by all you have done in the past ten years as our secretary. We are blessed to



have you as a member of our church. We are blessed to know you with all your gifts and talents which you so generously distribute. Thank you.”

“Permission for Dual Citizenship” with the German Consulate

The question, how can I become Canadian without losing my German citizenship, torments Germans young and old.

The active participation of 160 people confirmed the importance of the dual citizenship seminar on April 18 at our church.

We are grateful to Mr. Nickel of the German Consulate for his expertise, the participants for their questions and donations, and the volunteers from the Martin Luther Church for the informative event seamlessly executed.

Luther at the Daycare

Presenting Martin Luther to the daycare was a wonderful experience. All of the children were very open to listening to what we had to say. They were very enthusiastic to read, contributed ideas and participated in the activities we had planned for them. All of the children received us very well, they were very positive and even though they had just met us for the first time, they talked to us as if they knew us for a long time. They showed a ton of creativity in their artwork and it was evident that they enjoyed working with different mediums including crayons, markers, glue and watercolours. Overall, it was an extremely pleasant experience and we would definitely do it again. Thank you Roxana and Teresa for the wonderful opportunity to be welcomed in such an amazing learning environment.

Thank you for the anonymous donation of a Gold Coin around New Years. We are grateful to the generous donor.



Thank you very much to the clean-up crew that found their way to church from “one till done” on Saturday March the 28th for the 2015 Spring Cleaning event. “And the golden glove goes to.....

Waltraud, Peter S., Peter K., Paul, Matthias, Margarete, Larry, Irene, Iris, Helmut, Gisela, Gerta, Ernst, Catherine, Bart, Annette and Amy

Thank you to B. and H. Stoefer and M. Gutsch for the many hours spent to modernize the pastor’s office.

We congratulate ...



We congratulate Katarina Prosenjak and John Jenkins!

Their new son **Aljoscha Francis Jenkins** was born on March 20, 2015 in Frankfurt.

God bless their whole family!

We mourn ...



At the age of 94 years on March 9th, **Jolanda Heber** passed away. We said goodbye to her at a funeral service on March 13th.

At the age of 90 years on March 20th, **Wilhelm Mandau** passed away. We said goodbye to him at a funeral service on March 25th.

At the age of 87 years on April 25th, **Richard Hartstock** passed away. We said good bye to him at a funeral service on April 29th.

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)

Thank you note from the Mandau family



On behalf of my family I would hereby like to express my heartfelt gratitude for all the love and attention that the members and friends of our Martin Luther congregation gave during my husband Willi's illness, and which provided comfort in so many ways I can't express. I am grateful for the many cards, flowers and donations.

Erika Mandau

Regular Groups and Contacts

Bible Study

Discussion of texts from the Gospel of Mark every other week (see dates for one exception) till summer at Martin Luther Church. At 1:30 pm in German and 7.30 pm in English. May 5th, May 26th, June 2nd and June 16th.

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

Choir

Practice every Tuesday at 6 pm till Pentecost.
Choir Director: Linda Marcinkus, Tel. (416) 255-2612

Women's Group

2nd Wednesday of the month at 11am at church.
Next meetings: May 13, June 10 at Wienecke farm

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

Summer Camp Planning Team

Next meeting: May 22, 5 pm at Anna Lisa's home.
Contact: Anna Lisa Wienecke, Tel. (905) 939-7494.

Sunday School Team

Sunday School every 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month.

Next meeting: May 24 after Pentecost service.

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

Website Team

Next meeting: May 15, 6:30 pm at Eike's home.

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

Welcome Team

Next meeting: May 22, 10:00 am at church.
Contact: Iris Schweiger, Tel. (905) 625-9174

Worship Team

Next meeting: 7:30 pm on May 19 and June 23 in the church.

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

Youth Group

Next Meeting: See MLC Youth Group page on Facebook

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

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

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)

Community lunch 12-1 pm every Saturday, 12 - 1 pm and Food Bank 11-1 pm (except for the last Saturday of the month). Closed July and August.

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

Service Plan

May 3, 2015	5th Sunday of Easter		9:45 am English Service 11:00 am German Service	Pastor Ceconi
May 10, 2015	6th Sunday of Easter Mother's Day		9:45 am English Service 11:00 am German Service Both with Holy Communion	Pastor Ceconi
May 14, 2015	Ascension of the Lord		7 pm Service at St. George Lutheran Church	Pastorin Möller
May 17, 2015	7th Sunday of Easter		11:00 am Joint Service with Holy Baptism	Pastor Ceconi
May 20, 2015			10.30 am Service at Delmanor Prince Edward Senior's Residence	Pastor Ceconi
May 24, 2015	Pentecost		11:00 am Joint Service with Holy Communion and Choir	Pastor Ceconi
May 31, 2015	Holy Trinity		9:45 am English Service 11:00 am German Service	Pastor Ceconi
June 7, 2015	2nd Sunday after Pentecost		9:45 am English Service 11:00 am German Service	Pastor Ceconi
June 14, 2015	3rd Sunday after Pentecost		9:45 am English Service 11:00 am German Service Both with Holy Communion	Pastor Ceconi
June 17, 2015			10.30 am Service at Delmanor Prince Edward Senior's Residence	Pastor Ceconi
June 21, 2015	4th Sunday after Pentecost		11:00 am Joint Service at Camp Edge-wood	Pastor Ceconi
June 28, 2015	5th Sunday after Pentecost		9:45 am English Service 11:00 am German Service Both with Holiday Blessing	Pastor Ceconi
July 5, 2015	6th Sunday after Pentecost		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.