



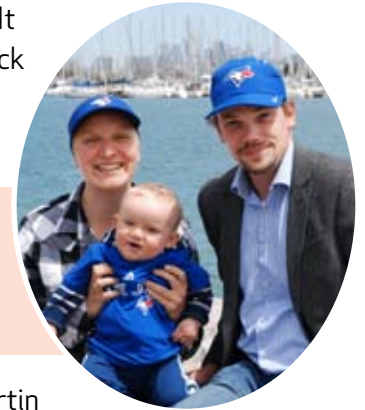
## Martin Luther Evangelical Lutheran Church

# Congregational Newsletter

June • July 2016

## One Year in Review

Just about one year ago I arrived at the Martin Luther Church. It was one year full of experiences and changes. Now looking back at this year from Germany, I would summarize my experience as a year of fruitful growing.



**I am the vine, you are the branches.  
Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit.**  
*(John 15:5)*

I believe the image of the vine to be a fitting image for the Martin Luther Church. Like a vine, a community needs caring hands and loving hearts to make it prosper and bear fruit. The Martin Luther Congregation cultivates fellowship and community with care and love, so that it is and stays a place where people abide in Christ through their faith and thus grow and prosper. I experienced the fellowship of the Martin Luther Church at summer camp, at coffee and cake after worship service, with church council, with the choir and in so many other ways.

While I was at Martin Luther Church, the church grew. People became members of the church and were welcomed at worship services. A growing congregation is something special nowadays, so it shows what a lively and welcoming community the Martin Luther Congregation is.

On a personal level as well, I think of my year in Canada as a year of growth. The many encounters with you as well as my experiences in the congregation and in Canada over all prepared me for my future ministry. I was encouraged in my decision to serve as a pastor. For this I am very thankful to you, people of the Martin Luther Church, and I hope and pray that God will bless my ministry being a pastor who brings much fruit.

During our year in Canada, even my family grew by one member. Hanna and I became parents. You helped us with your generosity and support, such that we felt surrounded by family. We, and Joshua Jacob as well, want to say "Thank You!" for your love and care! We pray that God's invigorating spirit continue to bless the Martin Luther Church, so that it stays a fertile place of faith and belief, where everyone cares for their neighbour.

Greetings from Germany!  
We hope to see you soon!

*Moritz Menacher  
with Hanna and Joshua Jacob "JJ"*

### In This Issue:

- Intern from Germany
- 60th Anniversary Book
- Church Picnic  
at Camp Edgewood
- Summer Back Up  
for Pastor Ceconi
- Summer Camp 2016: Exodus
- Confirmation on Pentecost
- Integration of Syrian Family

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Member of the Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in Canada (ELCIC) and Partnered with  
the Evangelical Church in Germany (EKD)

## President's Message

Dear Members and Friends,

At the last round table meeting, various groups and teams were invited to share three things: what they achieved since the last round table, a concern they had and something important that will happen within the next month. As the various groups/teams presented, I thought to myself: "Wow! We are on the right track. We are busy and we are happy." At the end of the meeting, we looked at upcoming events in the church. We have so many exciting events and services that are coming up and I can't wait for you to come and join us.

When I became President, I decided to focus my newsletter reports around our mission statement, as I believe that we are doing some pretty amazing things. Our mission statement is:

**Lutherans by the Lake:  
Celebrating Faith  
Serving and  
Inspiring People**

### Celebrating Faith

Anyone who was at Church on Mother's Day during the English service might have noticed something different. A few months ago, we decided to use our cranberry hymn book for more than just songs. We decided to try-out the setting 10 liturgical format for 6 months. The melodies are easy to follow and we have the opportunity to sing more, something I know we enjoy. Please let us know how you like the new liturgy.

### Serving

A few weeks ago almost 20 volunteers got together on a Saturday afternoon and lent a hand at 5 Superior. A team from our Congregation, as well as two of our Syrian refugees, volunteered to put together furniture. What a great way to help! The first weekend in May, 14 members of our Congregation headed up to Camp Lutherlyn to help with their Spring cleaning. We cleaned windows, dusted, swept floors, rode on ATVs, raked leaves, and chopped wood to help Camp Lutherlyn get ready for summer. Thank you to everyone who helped!

Spring cleaning took place at our Martin Luther Church on May 14th. Many thanks for the support there as well!



### Inspiring People

The last few weeks have been really special for me. I have had some really exciting conversations with members of our Congregation during coffee and cake downstairs. I have heard about what the church was like before I was born, I have been reminded of events that have happened in our church, I have heard from people that being a part of Martin Luther has changed their lives. I am inspired by the work we do, I am inspired by members of our Congregation who have given countless hours to make Martin Luther a place where you want to be. Keep reaching out, keep welcoming others, keep believing and inspiring others.

*Tanya Zielke — President*

### Intern from Germany: Hilke Troff

A friendly hello to the whole congregation,

I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to you. My name is Hilke Troff, I am 31 years old and come from the beautiful Lower Saxony. The past five years I have worked in two village congregations approximately 60km from Celle. There I offered teen retreats, held youth services, children bible weeks and confirmation classes. On the first of August I will start a new job and would like to spend the time in between being useful.

Canada and its impressive nature has appealed to me for a long time and a spontaneous idea came to me to spend my “free” time with you and to get to know the country and people a little. I’m very excited to experience your congregational life with you after all that Pastor Ceconi has told me about you. The first photos



from the lake behind the church make me curious about Toronto and the surrounding area. I want to contribute with my experience in your congregation and experience Toronto as part of a community.

If you want to know more about me, such as hobbies, please just ask.

### Sonja Schweiger— Canada Summer Jobs

The office welcomes Sonja Schweiger, who is interning in the church for the next 8 weeks through Canada Summer Jobs. Sonja is home for the summer after studying architecture at Waterloo university, and will be providing interior and graphic design, marketing, and administrative support to the church’s existing staff and volunteer groups. Currently, she is working on our 60th anniversary book, and asks all members to please send in their photos or call the office to have their photo taken by the order deadline, June 13th.



### 60th Anniversary Book

A team is in the process of creating a practical keepsake to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of Martin Luther Church in 2015 and capture the members of our lively congregation. More information can be found in the accompanying letter. Please submit the attached form, or contact the office by Monday June 13, 2016 to add any last minute photos and/or order your own copy at a cost of \$20. We would like your permission to publish your name as a member even if we do not have a photo of you. We want to include as many members as possible.

If you (and your family) had your photo taken at Martin Luther Church by Christiane Böck, you will also have the opportunity to order a digital or printed copy of your photo in addition to the Anniversary Book at an extra cost.

### Party in the Park June 14

The neighborhood is celebrating the 19th Annual Mimico Party in the Park for children and their families and we are invited. Please call the office if you would like to make this event even more special by either participating as a volunteer for an hour or more anytime between 10am and 9pm or just dropping in to enjoy the celebration in the park at 95 Mimico Ave. on Tuesday the 14th of June from 5:30 – 8:30pm.

**19th Annual Mimico** Summer Festival

**Party in the Park**

**JOHN ENGLISH JUNIOR MIDDLE SCHOOLYARD**

**TUESDAY JUNE 14th, 2016**  
**5:30 - 8:30 pm**  
**95 Mimico Ave.**

**FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY**

- Games, Slides, Crafts & Face Painting
- Entertainment / Display Booths
- Seniors Tea Tent / Amusements
- Refreshments and Food
- Toronto Scottish Regiment & Pipe Band / Emergency Services

**For More Info Contact @ 647.295.5854**  
**www.mimicopartyinthepark.com**

## **Worship, Food and Fun: Church Picnic at Camp Edgewood**

Please mark your calendar for this year's church picnic at Camp Edgewood (49 Memorial St., Eden Mills, ON NOB 1P0) on **Sunday, June 19th at 11 am**. We invite you to join our fundraiser BBQ after the service, to enjoy meeting and mingling with fellow church members and campers and of course to participate in the traditional annual soccer game. As in previous years, the BBQ after the service will be hosted by the Summer Camp Team. Food and drinks will be provided.

Don't forget your soccer shoes and see you at the picnic!

— *Anna Lisa Wienecke*

## **God's Blessing for Summer Holidays and Welcome of New Members, June 26**

We will celebrate our last service before summer holidays on June 26 at 11 am to ask God's blessing for the (hopefully relaxing) summer. This will be a very special worship service you won't want to miss when we will also welcome new members!

## **Summer Back Up for Pastor Ceconi**

We are grateful that our Pastor and his family take the time to rest and rejuvenate during their well-deserved vacation from the 30th of June until the 5th of August in Germany. During that time, the English and German services on the 3rd and 10th of July will be led by Deacon Hilke Troff. She will cover most pastoral needs (can be reached at 905-717-5937). Between June 30th and July 14th Pastor Sebastian Meadows-Helmer (Christ the King Dietrich Bonhöffer Church) will help in times of bereavement (can be reached at 905-889-0873).

As of the 15th of July Pastor Dr. Gerhard Hille, whom most already know very well, will be covering until Pastor Ceconi's return on the 5th of August. He will be responsible for all services and will be your contact person for all pastoral needs. You can reach him at 905-717-5937.

We are looking forward to an exciting summer and are grateful to all helpers for their support!

## **News from the Day Care**

In the last couple of months, the Martin Luther Daycare has seen a tremendous amount of effort by staff, church members and community volunteers in the final push towards re-opening the building at 5 Superior. Since April, three volunteer Saturdays (April 23rd, May 7th and May 14th) have taken place to get the toddler and preschool program rooms ready to be a home away from home for up to 26 neighborhood children. From unpacking and washing toys to assembling brand new equipment and mounting the self-constructed pin boards that will soon be full of young artistic genius, there is never a dull moment in the process. That is not to mention the work staff have put in behind the scenes to make the facilities safe- allowing the classrooms and outdoor play space to pass fire, water, playground and public health inspections. The annual fire safety certificate and approval from the Fire Department for our license has also been achieved. With new teachers interviewed and carefully chosen, it looks as if only teacher contract signatures, and (albeit many) finishing touches stand in the way of re-opening the doors on the renovated classrooms.



Ready and willing volunteers are still needed and greatly appreciated in this exciting home stretch! Please contact the church office if you have any desire to offer your skills to the cause.

**Contact:** Margarete Kaufmann-Buehler,  
Tel: 416-259-2861, daycareoffice@bellnet.ca

## **Want Ads**

A roll top desk in good condition is being sought.  
Please call Iris: 905-625-9174

Are you interested in a complete, well preserved set of "Encyclopedia Britannica"? Then you are in the right place! Please call the church office for further details.

## Summer Camp 2016: Exodus

The Exodus of Moses and the Israelites will be the theme of the 2016 summer camp from the **20th – 26th of August**. It is a story wound around the mystery concerning the name of God, adventures and a wondrous water source in the desert. A group from the German speaking congregation from St. Pauls church in New York City with Pastor Miriam Gross will be participating. Ziplining, beach days and bonfires will ensure an unforgettable experience.

Over 80 campers have signed up so far. If you would like to come along, please contact the church office for information: [churchoffice@martinluther.ca](mailto:churchoffice@martinluther.ca), Tel: 416-251-8293.

## Legacy Donations and Lutheran Planned Giving

We thank Jeff Pym from Lutheran Planned Giving for presenting at our church in April. We were pleased with the turnout and questions.

We would like to thank everyone for their ongoing generous donations to Martin Luther Church. To

help fund the future of Martin Luther Church, please consider donating to the church through bequests or gifts of securities in your last will and testament. Martin Luther Church can also be named as a beneficiary of a Registered Retirement Savings Plan (RRSP), Registered Retirement Income Fund (RRIF) or of a life insurance policy. In lieu of flowers at a funeral, a request can be made for donations to Martin Luther Church.

## Enclosed is Our Familiar Offering Envelope with a Few Changes

There is now plenty of space to write your donation number for tax purposes above your name. There is also an additional line to specify a Special Offering. White envelopes will still be used in the pews. The most surprising change might be the colour yellow. These economical, coloured envelopes will accompany newsletters and can be used for special collections.

## 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)*

## Annual Report of the ELCIC Now Available

Please check the website of the ELCIC to download the annual Report. The appropriate document can be found at <http://elcic.ca/About-the-ELCIC/Overview.cfm>. A brochure will provide a condensed overview of numbers and activities in the Lutheran Church of Canada.

## Eastern Synod Assembly in Toronto

From the 23rd to the 26th of June 2016 the Eastern Synod Assembly will take place at the Plaza Hotel in Toronto. Iris Schweiger and Pastor Christian Ceconi will be joining the assembly as delegates from the Martin Luther Church. "Liberated by God's Grace" is the theme of the meeting. In the program are budget talks, elections for the Synod council and plans for the 2017 reformation anniversary. Soon all documents and reports will

be posted on the Website [easternsynod.org](http://easternsynod.org). In addition, the Martin Luther Church will be sending three volunteers to support overall organisation of the meeting. Please keep the Assembly and the ensuing conversations in your prayers and ask God for guidance during elections, discussions and decisions.

## "Diversity is More Beautiful than the Same Old Porridge!" — In Rome Protestant and Catholic theologians recognized the value of the Reformation

The Reformation anniversary strengthens ecumenism. This was confirmed by participants of the international interfaith meeting in Rome. "The conference is an important signal for the constructive cooperation of Protestant and Catholic Christians," said Irmgard Schwaetzer, the President of the EKD. A Message from

Pope Francis in regards to the commemoration of the ecumenical Reformation underlined the importance given to this anniversary by the Roman Catholic Church. In a letter from the Secretary of State Cardinal Pietro Parolin, the Pope expressed his hope, "that the fruit of joint reflection on commonalities is a way to restore the unity of all Christians."

— From the EKD newsletter of May 17, 2016

## Workshop: Lutherans in Toronto

Martin Luther Church council and group leaders were invited to contemplate and discuss worship and leadership themes with people from other Lutheran churches in the Central Toronto Ministry Area on May 28. Sessions at St. Ansgar Church included church music, refugees, social media and volunteer management. We look for inspiration as we share resources and learn from the larger Lutheran community.

## Theological Background

### God's Spirit Works and Grows

Chinese men on the shore of a lake. They repeatedly dip a sponge, attached to the end of a stick, into the water.

Then they paint Chinese symbols on shallow, stony islands in the water. Depending on whether clouds drift across the sky or the sun is shining, the characters disappear sooner or later. Hardly even one remains for more than half an hour.

Christoph Ransmayr observed the calligraphers on the shores of Kunming Lake in northwestern Beijing and describes them in his book, *Atlas*. When he asks what they are doing there, they tell him their story. They depict ancient poems on the stone islands. They preserve them in a tender way with their



delicate tools. Often I have thought about whether these calligraphers could be an image of a God who shows his eternity in mortal life. Similarly absorbed, sometimes silent, he pursues his work. Carefully and tenderly he introduces himself into the ephemeral world.

Could it be, that we are his symbols? Fleeting and fragile. Drifters in/through whom the spirit of God works and grows. His precious word, flashes fleetingly in the course of time. Evanescent. Yet home to the Holy Spirit and therefore sanctified. God knows who we are. He preserves our essence, in his memory.

— Tina Willms  
(translated by Iris Schweiger)

## Remarks and Reports

### Sunday School Update

In April, the Sunday School was active at the annual Swim Party and at church during the Family Service with Renewal of Baptism. The kids also made butterflies which were handed out after the services on Mother's Day. Thank you to all who helped and participated in lessons and crafts.

Inspire kids to read this summer by following a free Bible Story Reading Plan from Spark House Family. The link to download it is on our website.



## Confirmation on Pentecost, May 15

We congratulate Noah, Sebastian, Yannik and Ida on their Confirmation during the joint service on Pentecost.



## The Integration of Our Syrian Family is a Success

The Rosto family moved into their own apartment (with the help of generous donations of furniture and household goods by members of MLC). Gems (John) has found work right away. Andreh attends Father Henry Carr High School. Mary and Ritta switched to Yorkdale Adult School and hope to be able to go to Humber College in the future. This month they are planning on taking their Smart Serve and Food Handling certificates and to get part time work serving at banquets and weddings.



Besides helping with their educational integration, Karen and Anneli are helping Andreh, Ritta and Mary with tutoring. In addition, they do ESL tutoring for Gems and Salwa. Ritta and Mary helped with the cleaning of the MLC day

care and impressed everybody with their English skills.

Under the guidance of CLWR, MLC decided to co-sponsor Ritta's parents. The paperwork is already accepted by Immigration Canada.

Besides being here, there and everywhere, Iris invited our Syrian family and our Syrian Refugee Support Group Members to a BBQ at her house. It was a great success and we thoroughly enjoyed Chef Peter's cooking.

We are still accepting monetary donations as well as cell phones and laptops for our Syrian family. Thanks for all your support this far. Special thanks to Amy Schweiger and Christine Couturier for donating laptops.

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

Who is in fact German? Why would you like to be a German Citizen or why would you like to keep your German Citizenship? What are your connections to Germany? The excellent presentation on April 30 at our church by Frau Rasbach from the German Consulate answered these and many other questions raised by the 70 participants. Thank you to all for taking part.

[http://www.kanada.diplo.de/Vertretung/kanada/en/02/citizenship/dual\\_citizenship.html](http://www.kanada.diplo.de/Vertretung/kanada/en/02/citizenship/dual_citizenship.html)



## Thank You

Thank you to all volunteers who assisted with cleaning and organizing the riches of our church. Your tremendous hard work is very much valued. I can not thank you enough. Special thanks to all helpers who came for spring cleaning on May 14. I appreciate the hard work you put into making the church shine.

—Tanya Zielke

## We Congratulate...



On May 14, 2016, **Andrew Boyce** and **Andrea Bondi** were married. We offer heartfelt congratulations and wish them God's blessing on their path together!

On April 30, 2016, **Edmund and Ursula Scholz** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. They were blessed during the joint service on May 1.

## We Mourn...

At the age of 58 on April 11, 2016, **Sylvia Littek** passed away. We said goodbye to her at a funeral service of remembrance on April 23.

**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)*

## Groups and Contacts

### Altar Flowers

Sign up on the list in the church entrance. Arrange to have flowers delivered or drop them off before the services on Sunday. You can also donate to the flower fund. Please notify the church office of your plans. You and the person(s) you are donating for will be included in the church announcements.

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

### Bible Study

Every 1st and 3rd Tuesday at 7:30pm

### Resumes after Summer

**Contact:** Pastor Ceconi, pastor@martinluther.ca

**Choir** Practice every Tuesday at 6 pm for Thanksgiving

**Choir Director:** Linda Marcinkus, Tel: 416-255-2612

**Worship Team** Usually the fourth Tuesday of the month.

**Next meeting:** June 28 at 7:30 pm

**Contact:** Pastor Christian Ceconi, Cell: 416-567-2487, pastor@martinluther.ca

### Welcome Team

**Next meeting:** TBD

**Contact:** Iris Schweiger, Tel: 905-625-9174

### Senior's Group

2nd Wednesday of the month at 11 am at church.

**Next meeting:** June 8, 2016

**Contact:** Daina Wienecke, Tel: 905-939-2601

### Summer Camp Planning Team

**Next meeting:** TBD

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

### Sunday School Team

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

**Next meeting:** TBD

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

### Website Team

**Next meeting:** TBD

**Contact:** Marlena Muller, churchoffice@martinluther.ca



**Church Coffee Team****Contact:** Waltraud Laser, Tel: 416-766-9373**60th Anniversary Photo Book Team****Contact:** Church office, Tel: 416-251-8293, churchoffice@martinluther.ca**Youth Group****Next Meeting:** TBD**Contact:** Sonja Schweiger, Tel: 905-625-9174, youthgroup@martinluther.ca**Martin Luther Church Daycare Office****Contacts:** Margarete Kaufmann-Buehler (Administrator), Teresa Kurek (Supervisor), Tel: 416-259-2861, daycareoffice@martinluther.ca**Martin Luther Church Daycare Board****Contact:** Heidi Jonuschies, ralphie12@sympatico.ca**Confirmation Classes**

Sign up for September

**Contact:** Pastor Christian Ceconi

Cell: 416-567-2487

pastor@martinluther.ca

**Support Team for Syrian Families****Next Meeting:** TBD**Contact:** Dieter Schill, schill@rogers.com**Translation Team****Contact:** Church office, Tel: 416-251-8293,

churchoffice@martinluther.ca

**Community Partners****Wesley Mimico United Church****Community lunch** 12–1 pm every Saturday and **Food Bank** 11–1 pm (except for the last Saturday of the month). Closed July and August.**Contact:** Kim, Tel: 647-677-5628**Drum Circle** every Wednesday at 10 am**Contact:** Iris Schweiger, iris.schweiger@sympatico.ca**Stonegate Ministry & Great Finds**

Offering quality gently-used items.

**Store hours:** M–Th: 9:30 am–5:30 pm; Fri: 9:30 am–6 pm**Contact:** Carol-Anne, Tel: 416-255-6282, 2358 Lakeshore Blvd. West Toronto M8V 1C3**Delmanor Prince Edward Retirement Home**

Services by Pastor Ceconi with Holy Communion the third Wednesday of the month at 10:30 am at 4180 Dundas St W, Etobicoke

**Next service:** June 15 at 10:30 am**Lakeshore Lodge Long-Term Care** Services on Sunday every few months at 2 pm, 3197 Lake Shore Blvd West, Toronto **Next service:** May 29 at 2 pm**Moll Berczy Haus Senior's Home** German services the second Tuesday of the month at 11 am, and the last Wednesday of the month at 10 am, 1020 McNicoll Ave, Scarborough **Next service:** June 14 at 11 am**We're Here For You****Pastor Christian Ceconi**

Cell: 416-567-2487, Email: pastor@martinluther.ca

**Office Hours and Visits:** by appointment. Please call or send a short email.**German Radio Devotion****Sundays 9:30 am on AM 530****Church Office: Marlena Muller**

2379 Lake Shore Blvd. West, Toronto, ON M8V 1B7

Tel: 416-251-8293, Fax: 416-259-2889



Email: churchoffice@martinluther.ca

**Office Hours:** Tues., Wed. and Fri. from 9:30–12**Church Newsletter Publisher:**

Martin Luther Church, Pastor Christian Ceconi

**Email Distribution:** Mona Frantzke**Mailing:** Marlena Muller**Design:** Karen Hoffmann

## Worship Service Plan

June 5, 2016	<b>3rd Sunday after Pentecost</b>		9:45 am English Service 11:00 am German Service	Pastor Ceconi
June 12, 2016	<b>4th Sunday after Pentecost</b>		9:45 am English Service 11:00 am German Service Both with Holy Communion	Pastor Ceconi
June 14, 2016			11:00 am Service at Moll Berczy Senior's Home (Scarborough)	Pastor Ceconi
June 15, 2016			10:30 am Service at Delmanor Prince Edward Retirement Home with Holy Communion	Pastor Ceconi
June 19, 2016	<b>5th Sunday after Pentecost</b>		11:00 am Joint Service at Camp Edgewood and Church Picnic BBQ for Camp Lutherlyn	Pastor Ceconi
June 26, 2016	<b>6th Sunday after Pentecost</b>		11:00 am Joint Service with Blessing for Summer Vacation and Welcome of New Members	Pastor Ceconi
July 3, 2016	<b>7th Sunday after Pentecost</b>		9:45 am English Service 11:00 am German Service	Deacon Troff
July 10, 2016	<b>8th Sunday after Pentecost</b>		9:45 am English Service 11:00 am German Service Both with Holy Communion	Deacon Troff
July 17, 2016	<b>9th Sunday after Pentecost</b>		11:00 am Joint Service	Pastor Hille
July 24, 2016	<b>10th Sunday after Pentecost</b>		9:45 am English Service 11:00 am German Service	Pastor Hille
July 31, 2016	<b>11th Sunday after Pentecost</b>		9:45 am English Service 11:00 am German Service	Pastor Hille
August 7, 2016	<b>12th Sunday after Pentecost</b>		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.