



Martin Luther Evangelical Lutheran Church

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

Congregational Newsletter

August • September 2016

Summer Church

As soon as the sun shines in the sky and the weather gets warmer, people make their way outside. It is beautiful to feel the sun on your face, to meet people, whom you have not seen all winter long, on the street or on your walks. For many, this is also the time for camping and cottages.

When I first came to the Martin Luther Church I frequently heard: "Not much is happening here during the summer. Most people are out and about on the weekends." Then I thought to myself: That is sad. There might not be many people in the church on Sundays.

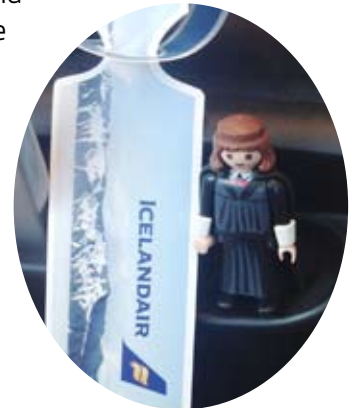
Now I think differently. During the summer our church expands, makes connections and searches for encounters beyond the walls of the church building. In front of the church doors, I meet people from the neighborhood. The Party in the Park offers opportunity for conversations over popcorn. Our Condo Committee dedicates time to speak to people in the high-rise buildings in our area. And all of you? You are telling me about the churches you visit while travelling, camping or at the cottage.

Jesus said: "Where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them." Thank you for bringing your faith to life with a friendly face and a community that began with Jesus, to embrace the many wonderful encounters during the summer time.

May your conversations and encounters be blessed and may the spirit of peace fill your hearts.

Sincerely

Your Pastor



News and Information from Our Congregation

President's Message

Dear Members and Friends,

Summer is a time in the church year where congregational members take a break from weekly worship at Martin Luther Church and use their time to go to the cottage, to explore other parts of the country to travel and enjoy the wonders that God has blessed us with. That also means that less donation envelopes are coming into the church and less donations to our bank account. This year, we are asking the congregation to help us reach a few financial goals.

At the beginning of the summer we were about \$25,000 short. At this point we are almost caught up, and we are confident that with continued support we will reach our

goal. We hope that through our special collection, we'll have enough funds to get us through summer, as well as complete our office improvements.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank a few people who have been instrumental in keeping our church going throughout the summer months.

I would like to start by thanking our summer intern student Sonja Schweiger. Sonja has been supporting the office and the day care during her time with us as a summer student through Canada Summer Jobs. We appreciate all the hours she has put into supporting the work we do.

Thank you to Hilke Troff, a Deacon who came to us from Germany. She assisted Pastor Ceconi and supported the office by helping Marlena and Sonja. She also provided pastoral care and covered two Sunday services while Pastor was in Germany.

Thank you Pastor Sebastian Meadows-Helmer for being available to assist with pastoral care during Pastor Ceconi's vacation.

And lastly, a big thank you to Pastor Gerhard Hille who came to us from Germany to supply for Pastor Ceconi for the end of July. We are lucky to have him with us again this summer.

I continue to be inspired by the work we do! I am inspired by members of our congregation who give countless hours of their time and talents to make Martin Luther Church a place where you want to be.

Keep reaching out, keep welcoming others, keep believing and inspiring others. Enjoy the summer and I look forward to reconnecting with you after the break!

Tanya Zielke — President

Outdoor Ministry—Drum Circle

The drum circle has moved outside since the warmer weather has made it possible. Many neighbours have found some long lost beat as they try their hand at drumming or walk past with a bounce in their step. At the end of June we met Charlie, a man from Greensburg Pennsylvania, who had walked from Pittsburgh to Toronto in an effort to raise funds for the project



“Eliminate” supported by Kiwanis and UNICEF with the goal to eradicate maternal/neonatal tetanus. What an inspiration!

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 to capture the members of our lively congregation. We worked to get permission to publish as many members and take as many orders as desired. Thank you for your interest and support! The cost of the book is \$20. You will still have the opportunity to buy a finished copy from a limited quantity. When the Anniversary Books are ready for pick up, you can order a digital or printed copy of your photo, taken by Christiane Böck at church, for the anniversary last year.

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. 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. Zip lining, 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, Tel: 416-251-8293.

Youth Employment at MLC

There Will be Even More Life in Our Day Care!

A generous donation from a church member makes it possible for Derek Franzke to do what he does best. For six weeks he will lead drama workshops for different age groups teaching drama games and creating a short theater performance. In addition, the day care has hired him as male assistance during all summer outings. We wish that Derek will find enjoyment in his work.

Sonja Schweiger is Grateful for an Educational Time in the Church Office

It has been a wonderfully busy and exciting eight weeks in the church office! From grand renovation plans to Staples trips with Hilke, there was never a dull moment!

I am very grateful to the office staff, the Pastor, Hilke and many mentors from the congregation who provided their guidance, expertise and snacks. I feel as if my time here has given me a wider skill set in communications, graphic and architectural design. I am also happy to announce that the anniversary book is now ready to go to print! Thank you for making my time in the office so enjoyable, I am definitely going to miss it!

— Sonja

Luisa Lenz Interning in the Office September 2016 to January 2017

My name is Luisa and I am 22 years old. I am studying religious education at a protestant college in Freiburg/Germany. During my 3rd semester of studies I get the chance to do a practical semester in a foreign country and I am really excited to come to Toronto and meet your congregation. I am curious to learn more about working in a church.



I enjoy working with children and young people and I have a lot of work experience in this area. I'm looking forward to working in Toronto, learning new things and handling new challenges. My goal is to become a part of your church and to gain experiences which I can take back to Germany to implement in my future workplace.

New to Canada Info Night

On September 9th at 7 pm, we invite all those who are interested to a New to Canada Information Night.

In short presentations, there will be information about everything from weekend getaways to tax returns, church and shopping. We've invited a diverse group of experts who are available to answer questions for all new residents. We also offer plenty of opportunity for discussion.

Contact: Martin Häfele, mhaefe@rogers.com.

Services with Blessing at the Start of the New School Year on September 11

It's "back to school" after the summer holidays and for many back to church, too. This year we will combine the two and invite all children and youth to the English and German services. Children who are going to school for the first time (and all other children who'd like) will be blessed during the service.

Definitely mark your calendars: September 11, 9:45 am in English and 11:00 am in German.

New Confirmation Classes

After the summer holidays our new confirmation classes begin. The course lasts one year and ends with Confirmation on Pentecost 2017 (the 500 year anniversary of the Reformation!). It is aimed at young people who will be in grade 7 after the summer holidays or who are 12 to 15 years old (exceptions are possible in consultation). The course will be taught in English and German, based on the language ability of confirmands. The confirmands meet once a month at Martin Luther Church from Saturday afternoon until noon Sunday. There will be two three-day weekend retreats, one in the fall and one in the winter. This year's course begins on September 24. There will be a parent's meeting before the first class on September 24 at 2 pm. On Sunday September 25, we will welcome the new confirmands together with their families during the services.

You can register until the middle of September.

For questions and to register, please contact:

Pastor Christian Ceconi, pastor@martinluther.ca,
Cell: 416-567-2487, or Marlena in the office.

Confirmation Class Schedule

- Classes:**
- September 24–25
 - Sat. November 19 Community Lunch
 - December 3–4
 - January 14–15
 - March 18–19
 - May 20–21

- Retreats:**
- October 28–30
 - February 24–26

Confirmation Service on Pentecost, June 4th 2017

Mrs Leopoldine (Poldi) Wancar is now residing in Eatonville Long Term Care at 420 The East Mall, Etobicoke, ON M9B 3Z9. She will be 96 on October 1st, 2016.

She would welcome any visitors or calls. Her telephone number is 647-647-3977. Please note she doesn't have voicemail.

Legacy Donations and Lutheran Planned Giving

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.

Contact: Catherine Wolf-Becker, cwolfbecker@gmail.com

News from the Day Care

The summer promises to be an exciting one for the daycare. All summer programs are running at full capacity. We are planning a trip to the zoo, a drama workshop with Derek Frantzke (Special grant received from congregation member) and a variety of day trips to provide

a wide variety of learning experiences for the children over the summer.

During the "The Gem of Etobicoke" celebration and the "Party in the Park" we were able to strengthen ties to local organizations and politicians. The day care licensing through the City of Toronto process continues to be a challenge but we are hopeful to open our doors at 5 Superior for Toddlers and Preschoolers soon.

The staff, parents and children of the Martin Luther Daycare are wishing you an enjoyable summer. Please keep us in your prayers.

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

Worship Team

All who are interested in continuing to play an active role in worship are more than welcome to join our worship team, usually meeting the last Tuesday of the month.

Next Meeting: Tues. September 27 at 7:30pm in the church.

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

Bible Study

In October the bible study series continues at 7:30 pm in English, usually the first and third Tuesday of the month. Please bring your own bible if possible.

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

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)

Eastern Synod Assembly in Toronto

ELCIC Assembly Facts:

- 1 Theme: Liberated by God's Grace
- 4 Days
- 10 Special Guests
- 57 Visitors and Volunteers
- 227 Clergy and Lay Delegates
- 276 Playmobil Luthers sold
- 284 Attendees

Leaving the closing service of the Eastern Synod Assembly on Sunday, I felt the urge to ride my bike down to the lake and be part of our own congregation. At arrival, Pastor Christian was just about ready for announcements and he asked me to sum up what I had taken from the Assembly. At that time I said: "Be brave! Use your gifts and bravely walk into the world sharing what God has graciously given you."

The closing sermon held by Bishop Michael Pryse (Luke 9, 62) evoked further reflection on my part and

led to the rather absurd questions: How many times do you walk backwards to the grocery store? Or, how many times do you, the driver, drive forward along the highway looking out the rear window? Naturally the answer to both questions is “NEVER”.

I cannot plow my field looking back, nor walk backwards to get things done, nor drive my car as described above. Therefore, if I constantly look back, I miss what God needs me to see and do today. And there is plenty of it because: Salvation; not for sale. Creation; not for sale. Human beings; not for sale. Please follow the link to find out more about these bold statements in the report of Bishop Pryse. <http://www.easternsynod.org/blog/june-23-2016-report-bishop>

Also, to broaden your horizon even further please read the address to the assembly from Bishop Younan. (President of the Lutheran World Federation Rev. Dr. Munib Younan) <http://www.easternsynod.org/story/june-24-2016-bishop-younan-speaks-assembly-friday-june-24-2016>

I feel very blessed to have been a delegate at the assembly.

— Iris Schweiger

Visit from Pastor Ostarek

Is It That Time Already?

Pastor Claudia Ostarek from the EKD church office will visit us from September 16 to 20. She is responsible for the North American, Asian and Pacific regions. The purpose of her visit is “Visiting and Advising”: At the halfway point of a contract (after three years), congregations and Pastors receive a visit to give mutual feedback and evaluate work done so far. For this reason Pastor Ostarek will be present at the joint service on September 18th at 11 am. There will be an opportunity to have a discussion with her during coffee and cake after the service. At the end, Council will have a meeting with Pastor Ostarek.



Theological Background

Reformation Songs

“Now we ask the Holy Spirit for true faith in abundance, that he will keep us until our demise when we go home and leave this misery. Kyrieleis.”

This verse from song number 124 in the Protestant hymn book is mentioned and praised as “quite useful singing” as early as the 13th century. Such one verse songs were very popular for they were among the few hymns that were allowed to be sung at church before the Reformation. These songs were called “Leisen” since they ended with a Kyrieleis.

There is some evidence that Martin Luther chose this song at Pentecost 1524 to add further lyrics. He was in the process of looking for hymns to reshape the German Sunday Service. For that purpose, Luther translated Latin songs into German. In addition, he composed “Leisen” as well as new hymns, often with words from Psalms. Luther continued with a similar format, thus creating an indirect prayer to the Holy Spirit. In his new

verses Luther speaks directly to the Holy Spirit, using “You”, as a divine Counterpart:

*You, precious light, send us your glow,
teach us to know Jesus Christ alone,
that we remain in him, the true Savior,
who brought us to our Father.
Kyrieleis.*

*You, sweet love, give us your favor,
let us feel the loving fervor,
that we love one another with all our hearts
and remain as one in peace.
Kyrieleis.*

*You, crucial comfort in all distress,
Help that we do not fear shame nor death,
that we do not give up hope,
when the enemy will beseech us.
Kyrieleis.*

Moreover, Luther conveys what true faith in God entails. Namely: being comforted in temptation, practicing charity and knowing Jesus Christ at the core.

This precisely outlines Martin Luther's Reformation insight, that Jesus Christ is the center of faith, not our achievements and good deeds. Jesus alone opens heaven's door to the Father and makes us into people of the Kingdom of God without any effort on our part. It is a gift of the Spirit when people realize that. In 1529 Luther wrote in the Small Catechism, in the explanation to the 3rd article which is about the Holy Spirit: I believe

that I cannot be my own reason or strength to believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; instead the Holy Spirit has called me through the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith.

— Reinhard Ellsel

Info: Detailed sermons to 14 songs from the period of Reformation by Reinhard Ellsel entitled *Songs of the Reformation*—published by the Luther-Verlag.

Remarks and Reports

Hilke Troff's Impressions

Dear Congregation, "It's Time to Say Goodbye"

Six Weeks ago I came from Germany to work in your church and to get to know your members for two months. Aside from that, I had the chance to experience the wonderful Canadian landscape while camping and at other opportunities.

It's hard to believe that my time here is almost finished; just one more worship service and one week volunteering at Camp Lutherlyn and then it means leaving this great city and its residents.

When I came I wanted to experience how people here live and I wanted to get to know them. This wish came true



in more ways than one, as I was welcomed with open arms and felt accepted in your company right away. I experienced you as hospitable, generous and open to new people. These experiences and you, as church members, helped to ensure that I take home not just photos of the CN Tower but also stories of people that will stay with me in Germany too. For this I thank you.

Party in the Park 2016



God sent the sun and a lot of people to celebrate and enjoy the Party in the Park at John English School in Etobicoke on June 14—an event run by many different neighborhood groups and churches.

Often after an event one sits together to meditate over the best and worst experiences. This time around, the best started with the worst. 10 Martin Luther Volunteers had popped, packaged and labeled hundreds of bags of popcorn and had just begun selling them at the Party when another group across the field proceeded to give freshly popped corn away for free. However, quick communication with this group, the Scouts Canada 138th Street division, enlisted them as willing helpers to raise awareness for our Martin Luther Church Day Care. They were happy to sell our popcorn and their own to benefit our cause. The drums and musical instruments provided by Wesley Mimico United and our own church



Senior's Circle at the Wienecke Farm

brought much enjoyment to children and adults alike. We delighted in strengthening ties with neighbors, friends and politicians, made new connections and enjoyed welcoming people at our enthusiastically manned popcorn stand. We are grateful for all helpers and for being part of an exceptional neighborhood.

Church Picnic at Camp Edgewood



Our congregation enjoyed another wonderful picnic on the grounds of Camp Edgewood. In spite of the hot temperatures, 70 adults and 18 kids gathered at the chapel for an outdoor service filled with lots of music. Afterwards, everyone met for a BBQ provided by the Summer Camp Team. Thank you for the cold drinks, delicious salads, sausages and juicy watermelons. The kids played fun water games while the adults enjoyed conversations and fellowship over coffee and cake. A thank you also to the Church Coffee Team for all the help.

Syrian Family Update: Immigration and Integration

Thinking about many conversations with congregation members and their stories of immigration to Canada, we find many parallels as our Syrian friends are settling in. James continues to work full time supporting his family.



Mary has found a part time job in addition to full time schooling. Ritta also goes to school full time and is looking for a part time, maybe even full time job to support her parents whom we are hopefully able to welcome to Canada soon. Ritta has a Civil Engineering Assistant Diploma. She has worked as a customer service representative and also has some experience teaching at elementary school level (resume available at request). Andreh has successfully finished his first half year of high school and is off for the summer. We are praying to take him and a friend to summer camp at Golden Lake. Salwa is most content when she can help. She assisted her extended family moving into a new home, created a big vegetable garden there and was happy to lend an expert hand in the garden of the parsonage picking an abundance of red currants. Their work ethics and drive for independence are exemplary. We continue to pray for rich blessings for the whole family.

We thank Dieter Schill for his dedication. He has resigned as chair of the group. Anneli and Greg Andre-Barrett are the new main contacts.

We Wish God's Blessing for His Journey...

Mike Mollner was sent off during the outdoor service at Camp Edgewood on June 19. He moved back to Germany.

We Congratulate...

On June 26, we welcomed **Hark Savinsky** and **Katja Brittain** as new members.

We Mourn...

At the age of 88 on June 14, 2016, **Erika Redmann** passed away. We said goodbye to her at a funeral service of remembrance on June 18.

**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 in October

Contact: Pastor Ceconi, pastor@martinluther.ca

Choir Resumes September 6.

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: September 27 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: September 14, 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**Next class:** September 24-25**Contact:** Pastor Christian Ceconi

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

Support Team for Syrian Families**Next Meeting:** TBD**Contact:** Greg and Anneli Andre-Barrett, anneliandrebarrett@gmail.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.

Resumes with BBQ on September 17

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: September 21 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: TBD**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:** September 13 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: Marlina Muller**

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

Martin Luther Church, Pastor Christian Ceconi

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

Worship Service Plan

Aug. 7, 2016	12th Sunday after Pentecost		9:45 am English Service 11:00 am German Service	Pastor Ceconi
Aug. 14, 2016	13th Sunday after Pentecost		9:45 am English Service 11:00 am German Service Both with Holy Communion	Pastor Ceconi
Aug. 21, 2016	14th Sunday after Pentecost		11:00 am Joint Service	Pastor Mikelic
Aug. 28, 2016	15th Sunday after Pentecost		9:45 am English Service 11:00 am German Service	Pastor Ceconi
Sept. 4, 2016	16th Sunday after Pentecost		9:45 am English Service 11:00 am German Service	Pastor Mikelic
Sept. 11, 2016	17th Sunday after Pentecost		9:45 am English Service 11:00 am German Service Back to School Services, both with Holy Communion	Pastor Ceconi
Sept. 13, 2016			11:00 am Service at Moll Berczy Senior's Home (Scarborough)	Pastor Ceconi
Sept. 18, 2016	18th Sunday after Pentecost		11:00 am Joint Service With Visit from Pastor Claudia Ostarek (EKD)	Pastor Ceconi
Sept. 21, 2016			10:30 am Service at Delmanor Prince Edward Retirement Home with Holy Communion	Pastor Ceconi
Sept. 25, 2016	19th Sunday after Pentecost		9:45 am English Service 11:00 am German Service	Pastor Ceconi
Oct. 2, 2016	20th Sunday after Pentecost		German Thanksgiving 9:45 am English Service 11:00 am German Service Both with Church Choir	Pastor Ceconi
Oct. 9, 2016	Thanksgiving		9:45 am English Service 11:00 am German Service Both with Holy Communion	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.