



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

December 2016 • January 2017

Fling wide the door!

Countless thoughts run through your mind on the eve of the Advent season: Where did I put the candles for the Advent wreath? When will we bake the cookies this year, so that the timing is perfect and everything is ready for Christmas? And the noble goal: This year I'll already have everything done a week before Christmas, so that we can enjoy the holidays in peace.

A hymn comes to mind in the middle of these thoughts: Fling wide the door, unbar the gate! My favourite hymn for the Advent season, not just because it is number 1 in the German hymn book, but also because it is so cheery and full of movement. After all it is exactly this vibrancy and ease that I need in light of the flood of thoughts at Advent.

As the same time it reminds me what Advent is about: not about the "doing", but about making room. You can't do anything to make God arrive in the world; you can only make room for it. Taking time to listen and to see, to be quiet and to talk; this is what sets Advent apart. A time of mindfulness where we are aware of God's work in the world around us, where we open our hearts to God.

Therefore make room in your life for yourself and for God. This will do you good and give you the ease that then allows us to cheerfully join in singing the Advent hymn in three-four time: "Come, Lord, our Savior, Jesus Christ; our hearts are open wide in trust. Oh, show us now your lovely grace, upon our sorrows shine your face..."

Wishing you a blessed
Advent and Christmas season,

Your Pastor 



President's Message

Dear Members and Friends,

Advent is the four Sundays before Christmas. If we look the word Advent up in the dictionary, it means "coming" in Latin. It is a time where we prepare for the coming of Jesus. We take time to reflect, to think and to remember what the real meaning of Christmas is. Christmas is a time to give, a time to show our generosity and share the wealth with those who need it more than we do.

So, in keeping with my newsletter focus around our mission statement:

Celebrating Faith

We were fortunate enough to have celebrated some very special services in the past few weeks. We celebrated with Pastorin Miriam Gross during her DELKINA visit to Toronto, we celebrated Reformation Sunday with a look back at how it all began 500 years ago in Wittenberg, and now we begin to look forward towards Christmas. November and December draw us closer to the coming of Jesus.

Our upcoming services include the 3rd of Advent during which we will present the children's Christmas Play, all culminating with Christmas Eve.



Pastor Christian Ceconi with Pastorin Miriam Gross

Serving

We held our Christmas Bazaar on November 27th, the First of Advent. We had the opportunity to indulge in delicious homemade cookies and treats, find delicate handmade crafts and gifts, and join delightful people for a glass of mulled wine. All of the money raised will support our Syrian refugee families with their immigration and integration. Thank you to all who made this fantastic event happen.

As always, we are able to help Wesley Mimico United Church by offering our basement to their Food Bank and Community Lunch. If you are looking for a chance to volunteer some of your time, please come on by.

Inspiring People

Every time I come to church I leave feeling a little more inspired—inspired by the work we do, inspired by members of our Congregation who have given countless hours to making Martin Luther a place where you want to be. Keep reaching out, keep welcoming others, keep believing and inspiring others.

Tanya Zielke—Church Council President

Peace Light

Each year, a child from Upper Austria fetches the light from the grotto in Bethlehem where Jesus was born. The light is carried in two blast proof miners lamps on an Austrian Airlines jet from Tel Aviv Israel to Vienna (Austria) from where it is distributed at a Service of Dedication to delegations from across Europe who take it back, with a message of Peace, to their own countries. Austrian Airlines then flies the miner's lamps containing the Peace Light from Bethlehem to New York City from where it is distributed in North America.

On December 3 it will arrive at the Christmas Market in Toronto's Distillery District and Martin Luther Church will bring it to the Lakeshore and pass it on during the candlelight service on the 4th Sunday of Advent. Bring a lantern to take it home and to bring the light of peace to all your friends.

Maybe you'd like to volunteer to bring the light to our church on December 3. If so, please contact the church office.

Christmas Play on the Third Sunday of Advent, December 11

*The story is written, most actors are found,
Words and songs must be practiced,
Checked lighting and sound.
Now all that is needed are friends, neighbours and you
To fill the church up
Each row, seat and pew.*

The Christmas play takes place during the joint service on December 11 at 11:00 am.

Practice on Sunday, December 4 during the services at 9:45 am and 11:00 am. Dress rehearsal on Friday Dec. 9th will take place from 5 pm to 9 pm. There will be pizza from Amadeos and also some snacks and drinks. A final practice will take place at 9:00 am before the play on December 11.

Contact: Luisa, Tel: 905-717-5937, intern@martinluther.ca

Come and join us! See how the shepherds and their cousin Fred experience the Christmas story in the Martin Luther Church play "A baby is born".

Where? At Martin Luther Church - 2379 Lake Shore Blvd. West
When? Sunday, December 11th at 11:00 am
Who? You, your family and friends - the more the merrier!

Bible Study: The Letter to the Romans

In the anniversary year of the Reformation we will examine the Letter to the Romans during our Bible study. Aside from the Letter to the Galatians, it is considered one of the most important biblical reference points of Reformation. It's actually even more than that. Paul wrote the Letter before he visited the congregation in

Rome in order to provide information about his theological views. Ultimately he wanted to win the congregation over as supporters of the planned mission in Spain.

Come along on the journey of discovery: the first and third Tuesday of the month at 7:30 in the Pastor's office. We begin on January 17 because of the holidays.

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

Neukirchener Kalender

Copies of the Neukirchener Kalender have been ordered by Pastor Möller at St. Georg's Church. The 2017 prices will be announced as soon as possible so that you are able to pay and pick up your order once it arrives.

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

Legacy Donations

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) or 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

Pulpit Exchange on January 29, 2017

Pastor Katharina Möller will preach at Martin Luther Church on January 29 as part of the next pulpit exchange at 9:45 am in English and at 11:00 am in German.

Pastor Ceconi will be a guest at Epiphany church in Scarborough.

Summer Camp Early Registration

The preparations for our Summer Camp 2017 have already begun. We hope everybody saved the date in their calendar. Just to remind you: it's August 19th to 25th, 2017. Flyers and sign up forms are available in the foyer of our church and online on our website.

If you register before the end of February you will receive the early registration discount.

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

Volunteers who would like to help the Summer Camp Planning Team are always welcome.

Contact: Anna Lisa Wienecke, campdirector@martinluther.ca, Tel: 416-939-7441.

Stewardship and Sustainability at the Church Office— How can we help each other?

I appreciate the questions I get when the phone rings in the office and when I'm at church on Sunday. I love hearing from you and trying to help. I like finally matching a

face to a name (which I can do better with the photos in our new Anniversary Book.) I'm happy to support church council, members and all the groups that work in our church building. Let me organize and coordinate with you too! Here are a few reasons you might contact the office or get a call:



- Set up a visit with the Pastor
- Information about members living in a senior's residence
- Contact information has changed
- Family and emergency contacts
- Special dates such as birthdays, baptism, wedding and death anniversaries
- Change communication list (mail or email) or unsubscribe
- Add past and current confirmands to the mailing/email list

Contact: Marlena at the office, Tel: 416-251-8293, churchoffice@martinluther.ca

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)

LutheransToronto.org is Online!

Have you always asked yourself exactly which congregations are part of the Central Toronto Ministry Area? You'll find the answer to this and many other questions on the new website of our Ministry Area. You'll also find all important contact people there and in the future also information about what's happening in the Lutheran Churches of Toronto. The site is in any case worth a visit! www.LutheransToronto.org

Pope Francis, LWF President Younan and General Secretary Junge Inaugurate Historic Commemoration of the Reformation

Pope Francis, LWF President Bishop Dr Munib A. Younan and LWF General Secretary Rev. Dr Martin Junge led an event in which the Catholic Church and the Lutheran World Federation declared commitment to move away from conflict, journey towards communion and strengthen joint witness. The historic gathering in Sweden is the first ever Catholic-Lutheran joint commemoration of a Reformation anniversary at a global level.

The head of the worldwide Catholic Church and leaders of The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) co-hosted the Joint Catholic-Lutheran Commemoration of the Reformation consisting of a Common Prayer in Lund Cathedral with the participation of 500 people and a public event attended by some 10,000 people in the nearby Malmö Arena, and followed by people all over the world in live broadcasts and live streams.

Pope Francis told worshippers that "in the context of the commemoration of the Reformation of 1517, we have a new opportunity to accept a common path, one that has taken shape over the past fifty years in the ecumenical dialogue between The Lutheran World Federation and the Catholic Church."

In his sermon, Junge emphasized that both Lutherans and Catholics have "much more that unites us than that which separates us. We are branches of the same vine. We are one in Baptism. This is why we are here at this joint commemoration: to rediscover who we are in Christ."

Joint Statement

A highlight of the service was the signing of a Joint Statement by Pope Francis and President Younan. The document expresses gratitude to God for the sustained and fruitful ecumenical dialogue between Catholics and Lutherans, in which mutual understanding and trust has deepened. It states both partners "are no longer strangers," having grown closer through dialogue and shared witness.

In the joint statement, Catholics and Lutherans express gratitude for the "spiritual and theological gifts received through the Reformation." They confess and lament that they have wounded the visible unity of the Church because of the prejudice and conflicts that accompanied their theological differences, and became instrumentalized for political ends.

The statement emphatically rejects "all hatred and violence, past and present, especially that expressed in the name of religion."

Faith and baptism in Christ, they state, "demand of us a daily conversion, by which we cast off the historical disagreements and conflicts that impede the ministry of reconciliation." They acknowledge that "while the past



Pope Francis and Antje Jackelén, Archbishop of Uppsala, offer each other the peace of Christ during the joint commemoration in Lund Cathedral.

Photo: Church of Sweden/Mikael Ringlander

cannot be changed, what is remembered and how it is remembered can be transformed.”

Towards Increased Cooperation in Serving the Needy

At the Malmö Arena activities held under the theme “Together in Hope”, LWF’s Lutheran World Service director Maria Immonen and Caritas Internationalis Secretary General Michel Roy signed a Declaration of Intent mutually committing the global Christian organizations to deepened relationships and closer cooperation in humanitarian response and sustainable development. The arena staged performing artists and testimonies by Lutheran and Catholic advocates for social justice and climate issues from Burundi, Colombia, India, South Sudan and Syria. Pope Francis and LWF President Munib Younan offered responses to their testimonies.

EKD/Europe: Travel Stories

From Europe the Reformation extended to other continents, shaped cultures and regions. As of November 2016 the “Europäische Stationenweg” is making a recording and leads to the world fair Reformation in Wittenberg.

A truck is travelling through 19 European countries and is collecting Reformation stories from the 500th century. The truck is bringing all the stories from

Sibiu and Dublin, from Rome and Turku, from Zürich, Villach and Schmalkalden, from Worms, Augsburg and Osnabrück and from all the other stations to the Luther-town Wittenberg. Travel Stories are not just happening on 67 stations between November 3, 2016 and May 20, 2017 in the “story mobile truck”, but are also available any time online. Accompany the truck on its tour and live (or relive) what stories unfold on this journey.



The truck shown in a beautiful setting on the Martini-Kirchhof in Minden

Remarks and Reports



Thank you from Camp Lutherlyn

You folks did a great amount of work (during the fall clean up on October 15). Thank you so very much! You have no idea how relieved we are to get so many jobs finished!

Thank you with huge hearts... and we look forward to seeing you again!

*Pam McNeil—
Chairperson of the Lutherlyn Management Board*

Confirmation Retreat

During the Fall Confirmation Retreat, we focused on what it means to be Lutheran. Our goal was for the Confirmands to have a good understanding of what our churches do that make us Lutheran and how they can see Lutheranism in their daily lives. We started the weekend with the Luther movie, giving the Confirmands a chance to learn a little bit about who Martin Luther was and why the Reformation happened. Saturday, the Confirmands spent the morning getting to know the Bible and in the afternoon came up with how being Lutheran can be

applied to their lives today. They created t-shirts with messages: some of my favourites included "Lutheran because... loving not angry" and "Lutheran because... church is built on forgiveness". Saturday evening was spent playing some games, before heading off to bed. After an early morning devotion, we had a delicious breakfast, cleaned-up the site and headed back to Toronto to attend our respective services.

Thank you to our youth volunteers, parents and Pastors for their hard work in making this a successful weekend!



Our Confirmands and youth joined Pastor Matti Kormano and his Confirmands from Agricola Finnish Lutheran Church at Sidrabene Retreat Centre

News from the Day Care

We are excited to announce our website has launched. We invite you to take the time to discover martinlutherdaycare.ca, as well as our Facebook page.

Our children enjoyed Halloween with costumes and trick or treating.

Many prospective parents toured 5 Superior. All of them were very pleased with the results of the renovation and the modern layout and equipment and want to transfer their children to our care. We have received the subsidy contract with the City. Now we can accept subsidized, in addition to full fee children. The preschool program opened at 5 Superior Ave. on November 21, 2016, the toddler program on November 28.

Contact: Margarete Kaufmann-Buehler,
Tel: 416-259-2861, office@martinlutherdaycare.ca



We Congratulate...

On October 2, 2016, **Erik Mauke and Heather Davis** were married. We offer heartfelt congratulations and wish them God's blessing on their path together!

And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

(1 Cor 13:13)

We Mourn...

At the age of 77 on October 12, 2016, **Stefan Flisar** passed away. We said goodbye to him at a service celebrating his life on October 19.

At the age of 89 on November 6, 2016, **John Schmidt** passed away. We said goodbye to him at a funeral service on November 20.

**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

Next meeting: January 17, 2017

Contact: Pastor Ceconi, pastor@martinluther.ca

Choir

Practice every Tuesday at 6 pm for Christmas Eve

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

Worship Team

Usually the fourth Tuesday of the month.

Next meeting: January 24 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 meetings: December 13, 2016, January 11, 2017 (weather permitting)

Contact: Daina Wienecke, Tel: 905-939-2601, seniorsgroup@martinluther.ca

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

Youth Group

Next Meeting: Confirmands' Weekends and Fourth of Advent Candlelight Service on Dec. 18, 2016 at 7 pm followed by Christmas Tree Decorating

Confirmation Classes

Next Classes: December 3-4, 2016,
January 14-15, 2017

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

Translation Team

Contact: Church office, Tel: 416-251-8293,
churchoffice@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

Support Team for Syrian Families

2nd Thursday of each month at 7:30 pm

Next Meeting: January 12, 2017

Contact: Greg and Anneli Andre-Barrett,
anneliandrebarrett@gmail.com

Drum Circle Wednesday at 10 am until December 7th.
Resumes Jan. 18 with a visit to Pastor Paul.

Contact: Iris Schweiger, iris.g.schweiger@sympatico.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).

Contact: Kim, Tel: 647-677-5628

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 Services: December 21, 2016, January 18, 2017

Lakeshore Lodge Long-Term Care

Services on the third Sunday every other month at 2 pm,
3197 Lake Shore Blvd West, Toronto

Next Services: December 18, 2016, January 22, 2017

Moll Berczy Haus Senior's Home

German services the second Tuesday of the month,
and the last Wednesday of the month at 10 am, 1020
McNicoll Ave, Scarborough **Next Services:** December
13, 2016, January 10, 2017

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

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Martin Luther Church, Pastor Christian Ceconi

Email Distribution: Mona Frantzke

Mailing: Marlena Muller **Design:** Karen Hoffmann

Worship Service Plan

Dec. 4, 2016	Second of Advent		9:45 am English Service 11:00 am German Service	Pastor Ceconi
Dec. 11, 2016	Third of Advent		11:00 am Joint Service with Christmas Play	Pastor Ceconi
Dec. 13, 2016			10:00 am Service at Moll Berczy Haus Senior's Home	Pastor Ceconi
Dec. 18, 2016	Fourth of Advent		11:00 am German Service 2:00 pm Service at Lakeshore Lodge 7:00 pm Candlelight Service Followed by Christmas Tree Decorating	Pastor Ceconi
Dec. 21, 2016			10:30 am Service at Delmanor Prince Edward Retirement Home with Holy Communion	Pastor Ceconi
Dec. 24, 2016	Christmas Eve		4:30 pm German Service 6:00 pm English Service—Both with Church Choir	Pastor Ceconi
Dec. 25, 2016	Christmas Day		11:00 am German Service with Holy Communion	Pastor Ceconi
Dec. 31, 2016	New Year's Eve		5:00 pm Joint Service	Pastor Ceconi
Jan. 1, 2017	New Year's Day 1st Sunday of Christmas		5:00 pm Joint Service with Jazz Music	Pastor Ceconi
Jan. 8, 2017	1st Sunday after Epiphany Baptism of our Lord		9:45 am English Service 11:00 am German Service	Pastor Ceconi
Jan. 10, 2017			10:00 am Service at Moll Berczy Haus Senior's Home	Pastor Ceconi
Jan. 15, 2017	2nd Sunday after Epiphany		11:00 am Joint Service with Holy Communion, Welcome and Farewell to our Members	Pastor Ceconi
Jan. 18, 2017			10:30 am Service at Delmanor Prince Edward Retirement Home with Holy Communion	Pastor Ceconi
Jan. 22, 2017	3rd Sunday after Epiphany		9:45 am English Service 11:00 am German Service With Farewell to Intern Luisa Lenz 2:00 pm Lakeshore Lodge	Pastor Ceconi
Jan. 29, 2017	4th Sunday after Epiphany		Pulpit Exchange 9:45 am English Service 11:00 am German Service	Pastor Katharina Möller
Feb. 5, 2017	5th Sunday after Epiphany		9:45 am English Service 11:00 am German Service	Pastor Ceconi

A library of Pastor Ceconi's German Radio Devotions is also available online at martinluther.ca.



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.