



Martin Luther
Evangelical
Lutheran
Church

In This Issue:

- Annual General Meeting
- World Day of Prayer
- Our New Intern
- Holy Week, Easter Services and Breakfast
- CLAY Youth Gathering 2018
- Interview with Refugee Support Team Volunteer
- New Intern at Daycare

Office 416 251 8293
churchoffice@martinluther.ca
2379 Lake Shore Blvd West
Toronto, Ontario M8V 1B7
www.martinluther.ca

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

Congregational Newsletter

February • March 2018

Ashes for Valentine's Day?

Did you notice that Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday are on the same day this year? Sounds odd, but if you start thinking about it, it's an inspiring combination.

Ash Wednesday is the start of the Lenten season, a time that comes along with some special spiritual discipline: fasting, praying, almsgiving. The ash crosses which we receive on Ash Wednesday are a reminder of our mortality and a sign of repentance. Or in other words: a sign that we want to get back on track on our faith journey. This journey is about love, as is Valentine's Day. To keep focus in faith means to keep love in focus.

Some people think that fasting is a somewhat joyless practice. Nevertheless, fasting is a practice which reminds us to make room and time for the important things in life. That's why Lent is about focusing on Christ's love and on community. By quitting things and habits, we make room for a healthier and more meaningful life not only for ourselves but also in our relationships.

Celebrating Valentine's Day at the beginning of this year's Lenten season reminds us to show others our love during Lent; to make time for our various personal relationships, for our marriages and for friendships. So, Christ's love will become visible in our lives and Lent becomes a life giving season.

Happy Valentine's Day and blessings on your Lenten journey!

Sincerely,

Your



News and Information from Our Congregation

Report from the Vice-President

Dear friends and members of the Martin Luther Congregation,

The church council would like to cordially invite you to attend the Annual General Meeting on **February 25, 2018**. We would love to share all the wonderful plans for the upcoming year.

To reflect again on all the exciting events and work that happened during the past year, you can pick up a copy of reports from all the different groups at MLC the week prior to the 25th at the Sunday services.

We, the **Lutherans by the Lake**, have been celebrating worship services faithfully all year long on Sundays as well as mid-week. In addition, in 2017, the year of 500-year commemoration of Martin Luther, we had the opportunity to celebrate with other congregations

and in other churches. We continue to serve people in our neighbourhood, the Greater Toronto Area, and even as far as Adelaide, Australia (we received praise from the other side of the planet about our webpage and all the activities that are happening at MLC).

And just recently we were humbled again by the generous donation of a member of our congregation to beautify the altar area. To find out more, make sure to mark the AGM Sunday in your calendar, bring a lunch and get **inspired**.

Iris Schweiger
—Vice-President Church Council

Birthday Cards and Prayers

As of January, we have included members in the Prayers of Intercession during the worship services on the Sunday following their birthday (or, if a birthday falls on a Sunday, the day of their birthday). Members 75 and older should also receive birthday cards this year. Please confirm your date of birth with the office to make sure we can make your day even more special.

Bible Study Resumes!

Beginning on **February 6**, we will meet again for Bible Study on the first and third Tuesday of each month in the pastor's office. The focus this year is the Letter to the Ephesians. The area around Ephesus was as multicultural as Toronto is today. There were a variety of different cults and religions. In this context, the Letter to the Ephesians draws a picture of Christ as the Lord of the world.

It will be exciting to read the Letter to the Ephesians as a testimony of faith in a multicultural world, bringing to light your own experiences here in Toronto.

Please bring your own Bible if possible. Prior knowledge is not required, only the curiosity to discover the Letter to the

Ephesians for yourself.

Contact: Pastor Christian Ceconi

Lenten Services on the Lake Shore



This year's Lenten services will reflect on glass paintings by Reinhard Zimmermann. Starting on Ash Wednesday we will have a Lenten Service each week until Easter. We worship together with our ecumenical friends in our neighbourhood. Each time you can listen to a different preacher. Come and join us on Wednesdays during Lent at 7:00 pm at our church. Services are followed by a cup of tea in the foyer.

Installation of Lay Preachers

The official assignment and installation of our lay preachers will take place during the worship service on **February 25**. We congratulate them and look forward to them supporting the liturgical life in our congregation.

Iris and Tanya already assisted Rev. Doug Reble from the Eastern Synod office with the services on January 7.

Annual General Meeting on February 25

All confirmed members who participated in the life of our church during the past year have the right to vote.

On the agenda are reports and budget as well as the election of new council members and the annual plan for 2018.

Please bring your own lunch to eat before the meeting.



Registration for Summer Camp

The preparations for our Summer Camp 2018 have already begun. We hope, you have saved the date in your calendar: **August 18–24, 2018**. Flyers and sign up forms are available in the foyer of our church and online on our website. The weekly rate is \$410 for adults and for youth attending on their own. A \$30 early registration discount is available until February 28. The rate for children attending with their families over age 10 is \$200, and for those under age 10 is \$150.

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

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

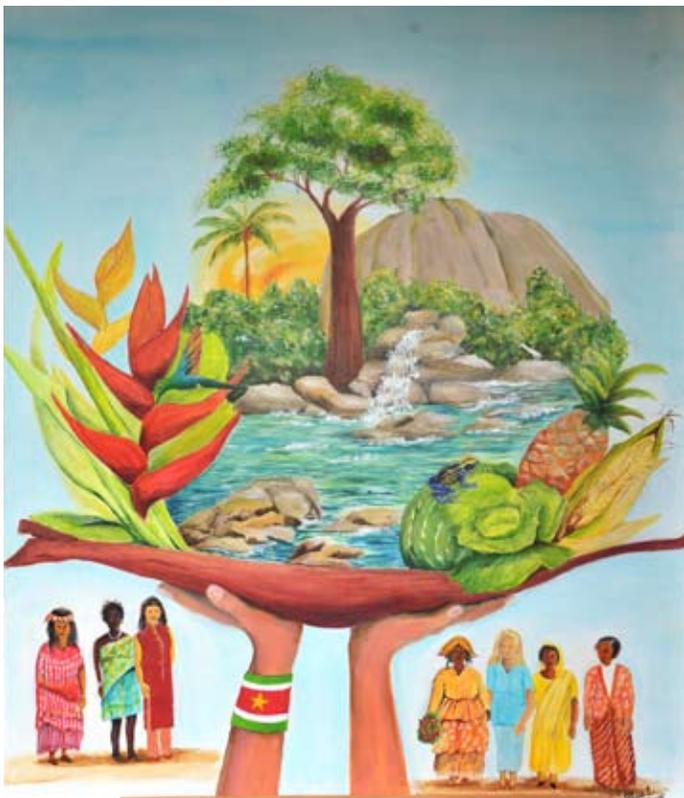
Contact: Anna Lisa Wienecke,
campdirector@martinluther.ca, Tel: 416-939-7441.

World Day of Prayer, March 2

The program for this year was written by the World Day of Prayer Committee of Suriname, a Republic in the north-eastern part of South America.

Let's proclaim in Sranan Tongue "All God's Creation is Very Good!"

"A heri grontapu di Gado meki bun doro, doro!"



As in the beginning, God created from chaos. But everything that was created found its place in Creation. All were related to each other—the earth with the light, the waters with the sky, the tree seeds with the living creatures, and humankind with God.

The World Day of Prayer is a global ecumenical movement led by Christian women who welcome you to join in prayer and action for peace and justice and this year it is our turn to be the host for neighbours and neighbouring churches on **Friday, March 2 at 6:00 pm**. We are looking for organisers, actors, readers, singers, musicians, cooks and bakers.

Would you like to be part of the organising team? Would you like to participate in the service (read, play an instrument, act) and or cook/bake for the dinner afterwards? Please contact Marlena at the church office or Iris with your preferences.

Many blessings in 2018

Contact: Iris Schweiger, iris.g.schweiger@gmail.com
Martin Luther Office, churchoffice@martinluther.ca
Or leave a voice mail message at MLC. Tel: 416-251-8293

Greetings from Our New Intern

Dear congregation,

My name is Sophie Mounteney. I am 21 years old and looking forward to breathing some Canadian air starting February 22. From this day on, until April, I will be doing an internship in your congregation as part of my studies at the Leibniz University in Hannover, Germany. There I am currently in my third semester working on an interdisciplinary Bachelor degree with a major in English and a minor in Protestant theology. It is the goal of the internship to learn about an extracurricular professional field which relates to at least one of the subjects. I have, so to speak, won the jackpot as I can combine my two preferences. After my confirmation, I was quite active in youth ministry and have a proven track record as a group leader. Now I would like to get to know further aspects of congregational work and am looking forward to sharing Lent with you and to conclude my internship with a festive Easter



**Sophie
Mounteney**

celebration. In addition, I hope to get to know Canada and its people a little better. I would really enjoy chatting with you and to perhaps come away with some valuable insights.

Family Camp Sunday

Next Date: March 18



For the second Family Camp Sunday, we will work with the topic of Lent. Through the Stations of the Cross, we will talk about the life, suffering and death of Jesus Christ. We will also make time to think about what we (could) give up during Lent.

Donations for the Martin Luther Church Made Easy

We would like to thank everyone for their ongoing generous donations to Martin Luther Church. To help ensure a vibrant future for the Martin Luther Church, please consider donating by choosing one of the following options:

- Online via our web page with a credit card, using our partner "Canada Helps". A minimal fee is deducted from donations so this is best for people who are unable to donate directly to the church.
- Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR), a direct debit program that allows you to support the church through an automatic monthly withdrawal from your bank account. In order to participate, please fill out a form and attach a voided cheque.
- Bequests or gifts of securities in your last will and testament.
- Naming Martin Luther Church 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.

Holy Week, Easter Services and Breakfast

We will celebrate Holy Week and the days of Easter as a high point in the liturgical year. To help you plan your time accordingly, here are all the service dates at a glance:

- **Palm Sunday, March 25:**
9:45 am English Service
11:00 am German Service with the Harfentöne choir
- **Wednesday, March 28:**
7:00 pm English Lenten Service
- **Maundy Thursday, March 29:**
7:00 pm English Last Supper Service with Holy Communion
- **Good Friday, March 30:**
9:45 am English Service with Holy Communion
11:00 am German Service with Holy Communion
Both with Church Choir
- **Easter Sunday, April 1:**
6:30 am Easter Sunrise Service at Humber Bay Park West
Followed by breakfast at the church.
10:00 am Easter Service in English and German with Holy Communion, Church Choir and Sunday School.

Dan Sommerfeld is coordinating set up for the Easter breakfast. Food contributions are always welcome. Please contact Dan: **Tel: 905-274-6602.**

Do You Have an Interest in Visiting People?

For the past year, our Visiting Ministry Team has worked to keep in touch with as many members who are over the age of 75 years as possible. We still need help with this. We look are looking for people to regularly contact 5-10 people once a month. You will be supported in your work by four Visiting Ministry meetings a year, as well as by team leaders, Gisela Wilhelm and Anita Ratz. If you have any questions, you can also contact Pastor Ceconi for further information.

Contact: Gisela Wilhelm,
Tel: 416-763-3789

Celciano Casio Digital Keyboard Available To Go To a New Home!

Please contact the office if you're interested.

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)

Our Central Toronto Ministry Area Will Join the CLAY Youth Gathering 2018

August 12–19, 2018 the biennial CLAY Youth gathering is taking place at Lakehead University, Thunder Bay, ON.

The theme is “threads”:

Stories are the diverse threads that God weaves together to form the tapestry of our lives. They can be ancient, personal, intimate, and can help us find meaning and



purpose. We gather stories from each other and from our surroundings.

Join youth from across Canada at threads, where we will learn how to discern our God-given stories.

Our Central Toronto Ministry Area has set the goal to bring 50 youth to CLAY. Contact Pastor Christian (pastor@martinluther.ca) to participate and join our delegation. Minimum age: 14 years.

Youth: Age 14–19

Hometeam Leaders: Age 24+

Leaders in Training: Age 19–23

More Information: <http://claygathering.ca/>

News from the Community

Do You Need a Nanny?

Dear families at Martin Luther Church,

My name is Josefine Racky and I'm looking for a position as a nanny in Canada starting in August. If you need an au pair, please contact the church office to get a more detailed description about me.

Fortunately, I heard about your congregation through a friend of my family, Pastor Katharina Prosenjak.

Yours, Josefine
josefine.racky@gmail.com



Remarks and Reports

O Christmas Tree

We asked for a tree, and the Eble family answered. We asked for help to pick it up, Helmut Mueller, Philippe Koo Tze Mew and John Rosati delivered. We asked for help to decorate it, and members young and young at heart, old and new, came through. Thank you to everyone who helped with the tree this year.



Christmas Bazaar 2017

Many hands make light work.
—Haya Proverb from Tanzania



● AGNES ●
● ANDREW ● ANJA ●
● ANNABEL ● ANNA LISA ●
● ARIANE ● AUGUSTINE ●
● BARBARA ● BERNI ● CHRISTA ●
● CHRISTEL ● CHRISTIAN ● CHRISTIANE ●
● DAVID ● DEEN ● EMILIA ● ERIN ●
● ERIKA ● EVAN ● FRANK ● GABE ● GABI ●
● GABRIELLE ● GERTA ● GEORG ● HANS JOACHIM ●
● INGE ● IRINA ● IRIS ● JENNY ● JOCELYN ● JULIA ●
● JULIE ● JOAN ● HEIDI ● HOLDEN ● KATJA ●
● KIM ● LALA ● LARISSA ● LARS ● LEANNE ● LEONIE ●
● MARGIT ● MARLENA ● MARTINA ● MEL ● MURRAY ●
● NINA ● PATRICIA ● PETER ● PHILIPPE ● SABRINA ●
● SEBASTIAN ● STEFAN ● SYLVIA ●
URSULA
WILLEM



Thank you to all helpers. We reached our goal \$3,500 for refugee relief.

Christmas Play

Our Vicar Thara, who lead the play this year, is still in awe of all the talent, the fun, the spirit, that she was privileged enough to witness. We thank her, the Christmas Play team, actors and helpers.

We also thank Amadio's Pizza for donating dinner for the dress rehearsal.

Sunday Coffee Team

Dear Ms. Laser,

One never fully appreciates what one has until it's gone. We thank you for taking such wonderful care of everyone and for organizing the weekly church coffee for so many years.

As long as you were in charge of the kitchen, we never had to worry about a thing.

The pastor always said, "Don't worry, Ms. Laser has everything under control."

Now, how will we manage?

Does someone have any ideas?

Who likes hospitality, organizing volunteers, shopping?

Please contact the church office with any questions or ideas.

Refugee Support Team Interview with Volunteer Karen Ridley

Q: How did you become involved with the Martin Luther Church Refugee Support Team? What inspired you to volunteer?

A: In the fall of 2015, as the situation in Syria escalated, I read that the Government of Canada had committed to accepting 25,000 Syrian refugees to Canada. I wanted to make a difference and help these families settle in Canada by volunteering my time and expertise. As a retired school principal with experience in teaching, I wanted to help families improve their English so that they could adjust to life in Canada more quickly. I had heard that the Martin



Luther Church was sponsoring Syrian families, so I phoned Iris—that is how it started!

Q: Do you have any memorable incident that made you realize how rewarding it is to volunteer?

A: The Refugee Support Team welcomed a family in December 2015—Salwa, Gems and their daughter Mary. While Mary had a good grasp of English, her parents did not. During the first few months Salwa did not like to leave the house as she could not speak English. After a few months of learning English with me, however, she felt more at ease leaving the house; one day while shopping she even managed to bargain using one of the phrases I had taught her—“No thanks, that’s too expensive!”. She was proud that she was able to purchase the item she wanted at a lower price.

Q: Can you tell us a bit more about the current work of the Refugee Support Team?

A: A couple of weeks ago Greg, the chair of the Refugee Support Team, and I went to meet a neighbour who is trying to bring her mother, father and brother over to Canada from Syria. Greg and I are currently helping with the refugee sponsorship application. The local church communities—MLC and Wesley Mimico United Church for instance—have been very supportive with their donations to the refugee fund.

Q: Do you have any tips or advice for individuals who might be interested in getting involved?

A: Volunteering through the Refugee Support Team has been a rewarding experience, and we’ve all become friends with the wonderful families that we welcomed. While the priority for supporting Syrian refugees has dropped this year compared to the past couple of years, the Team is currently working on two new refugee sponsorship applications. We meet on the third Thursday of every month at 7:30 pm at MLC; anyone who is interested in joining or learning more about the Team can contact Greg at refugeesupport@martinluther.ca

New Intern at Daycare

Hello dear congregation,

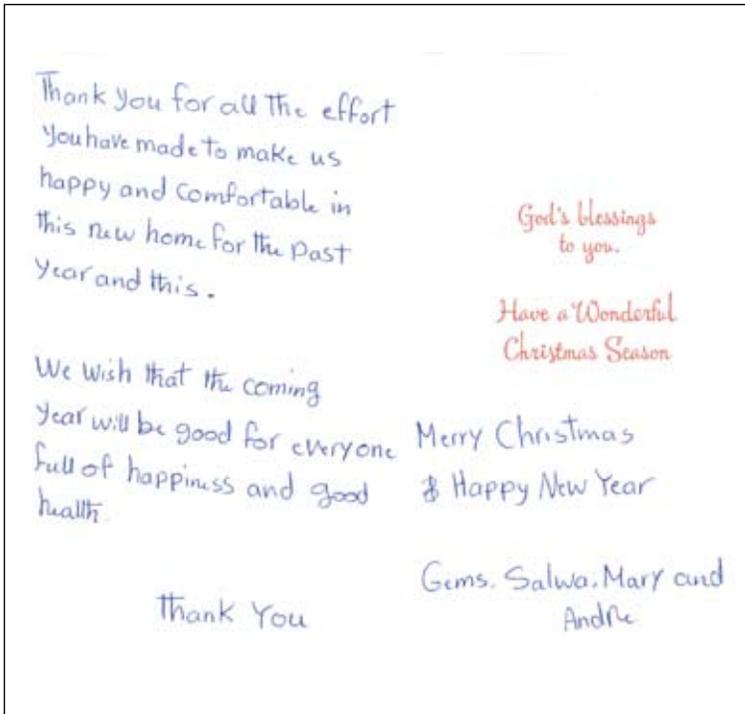
My name is Maika, I am 21 years old and I come from Regensburg, a beautiful city in Bavaria. I am very happy to be working as an intern at Martin Luther Daycare from March onwards.

Currently I am in the 4th semester of my Social Work program. I really like my studies and have already gained a lot of practical experience in recent years. I especially enjoy working with children. That’s why I worked as a nanny in the Netherlands for a year prior to my studies. I took care of two girls, with whom I have a very good relationship to this day. The year abroad also showed me how much fun it is getting to know other countries and cultures, which is why I can’t wait to come to Canada!

I’ve been lucky enough to have been to Canada twice, including Toronto in 2015. (The attached photo was taken in 2017 in Vancouver). The country and the people fascinate me a lot and also the nature is beautiful! Unfortunately, I was only there for a few weeks, whereas the next internship will be about 5 months.

My hobbies are traveling, reading, music (playing the violin and singing), painting, drawing and crafting and generally anything that lets you have a creative outlet. Of course I also like spend time with my friends and family.

Maika Müller



I'm looking forward to meeting you.
—Maika Müller

We Congratulate...

Annette Rowles was welcomed as a new member on December 3.



We Mourn...

At the age of 86 on December 18, 2018, **Frieda Schonert** passed away. A funeral took place at St. Andrew's Church in Cumberland, near Ottawa.

At the age of 87 on January 9, 2018, **Hugo Hack** passed away. His funeral took place at our church on January 15.

At the age of 91 on January 22, 2018, **Marion Holtorf** passed away. A funeral took place on January 25.

**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 7:30 pm

Next meeting: Resumes February 6.

Contact: Pastor Ceconi, pastor@martinluther.ca

Choir Practice every Tuesday at 6 pm for Good Friday and Easter.

Choir Director: Linda Marcinkus, Tel: 416-255-2612, choir@martinluther.ca

Family Camp Sunday Team

Once a month

Contact: David Sykes, dsykesis@hotmail.com

Senior's Group

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

Next meetings: February 14 & March 14

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

Summer Camp Planning Team

Next meeting: February 7

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

Sunday School Team

Sunday School every 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month (not in summer).

Next meeting: February 2

Contact: Tanya Zielke, Tel: 416-876-7470, sundayschool@martinluther.ca

Website Team

Next meeting: February 1 at 7:00 pm

Contact: Marlena Muller, churchoffice@martinluther.ca

Youth Group

Next Meeting: Confirmands' Weekends

Confirmation Classes

Retreat: February 23-25 (in Crieff Hills)

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

Martin Luther

Daycare Office

Contacts: Susan Orwin-Tutko (Manager),
Teresa Kurek (Supervisor),
Tel: 416-259-2861, office@martinlutherdaycare.ca

Martin Luther

Daycare Board

Contact: Pastor Ceconi, pastor@martinluther.ca

Visiting Ministry Team

Next Meeting: May 4 at 11:00 am

Contact: Gisela Wilhelm, Tel: 416-763-3789

Support Team for Syrian Families

Usually 3rd Thursday of each month at 7:30 pm

Next Meeting: TBD

Contact: Greg and Anneli Andre-Barrett,
refugeesupport@martinluther.ca

Church Coffee Team

Contact: coffeeduty@martinluther.ca

Translation Team

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

Drum Circle

Wednesdays at 10 am

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: February 21 & March 21

Lakeshore Lodge Long-Term Care Services usually on the third Sunday every other month at 2 pm,
3197 Lake Shore Blvd West, Toronto

Next Service: February 18

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 Service: February 28

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.

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. and Fri. 10 am-5 pm, Thurs. 1-5 pm

Church Newsletter Publisher:

Martin Luther Church, Pastor Christian Ceconi

Email Distribution: Mona Kakoschke Frantzke

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

Translation: Helmut Herrmann, Manya Brunzema,
Andy Boettcher, Thara Klein, Iris Schweiger

German Radio Devotion

Sundays 9:30 am on AM 530

Worship Service Plan

Feb. 4, 2018	5th Sunday after Epiphany	 Pulpit Exchange 9:45 am English Service 11:00 am German Service	Pastor Katharina Möller
Feb. 11, 2018	Transfiguration	9:45 am English Service 11:00 am German Service—Both with Holy Communion	Vicar Klein
Feb. 14, 2018	Ash Wednesday	7:00 pm Lenten Service	Pastor Ceconi
Feb. 18, 2018	1st Sunday in Lent	 9:45 am English Service 11:00 am German Service 2:00 pm Service at Lakeshore Lodge	Pastor Ceconi
Feb. 21, 2018	Midweek Lenten Service	10:30 am Service with Holy Communion at Delmanor Prince Edward Senior's Home 7:00 pm Lenten Service	Pastor Ceconi
Feb. 25, 2018	2nd Sunday in Lent	11:00 am Joint Service with Holy Communion and Installation of Lay Preachers followed by our Annual General Meeting	Pastor Ceconi
Feb. 28, 2018	Midweek Lenten Service	10:00 am German Service at Moll Berczy Haus 7:00 pm Lenten Service	Pastor Ceconi
Mar. 2, 2018	World Day of Prayer	6:00 pm English Service	Planning Team
Mar. 4, 2018	3rd Sunday in Lent	 9:45 am English Service 11:00 am German Service	Vicar Klein
Mar. 7, 2018	Midweek Lenten Service	7:00 pm Lenten Service	
Mar. 11, 2018	4th Sunday in Lent	9:45 am English Service with Baptism of Max Blocher 11:00 am German Service—Both with Holy Communion	Pastor Ceconi
Mar. 14, 2018	Midweek Lenten Service	7:00 pm Lenten Service	
Mar. 18, 2018	5th Sunday in Lent	 Family Camp Sunday 11:00 am Joint Service	Pastor Ceconi Vicar Klein
Mar. 21, 2018	Midweek Lenten Service	10:00 am Service with Holy Communion at Delmanor Prince Edward Senior's Home 7:00 pm Lenten Service	Vicar Klein
Mar. 25, 2018	Palm Sunday	9:45 am English Service 11:00 am German Service with the Harfentöne Choir	Pastor Ceconi
Mar. 28, 2018	Midweek Lenten Service	7:00 pm Lenten Service	
Mar. 29, 2018	Maundy Thursday	7:00 pm English Service Last Supper Service with Holy Communion	Pastor Ceconi & Vicar Klein
Mar. 30, 2018	Good Friday	 9:45 am English Service 11:00 am German Service	Pastor Ceconi
Apr. 1, 2018	Easter	 6:30 am Easter Sunrise Service at Humber Bay Park West, followed by breakfast at the church. 10:00 am Joint Service with Holy Communion, Church Choir	Pastor Ceconi & Vicar Klein
Apr. 8, 2018	2nd Sunday of Easter	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.