



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

June • July 2018

What Does Grace Even Mean?

One morning at breakfast during a youth weekend, the person across from me stopped suddenly and asked: "Pastor, you always pray that God should surround us with his grace. What does that even mean, grace?" Good question, I thought, and I was glad. Because I am convinced that grace is the pivotal point of our faith and that today more than ever it is necessary to tell others about it.

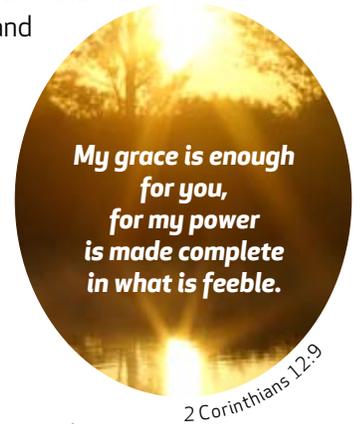
Grace for me is to know and to feel that God looks lovingly at me and my life. God looks lovingly at my life, regardless of success and failure, no matter how self-confident or anxiously I go through life. This is more than a nice thought, it is vital in the sense that it addresses the distress that I have within myself and with the world.

According to statistics from CAMH (Center for Addiction and Mental Health, Toronto), one out of five Canadians has mental health or addiction problems each year. 34% of high school students report symptoms that indicate anxiety or distress. Undoubtedly, in an environment like the GTA, the economic engine of Canada, performance and success play a big role. Where that is the case, fear of failure and individual stress generally grow. The concern of not being able to meet expectations exists and is justified in the face of increasing competition. Where people attach their self-esteem to professional or private success, they are vulnerable. They are at the mercy of what is socially important and recognized.

A person who has fallen short of these standards for many years, is the pastor Nadia Bolz-Weber. In her autobiography, "Pastrix, the cranky, beautiful faith of a sinner and saint," she describes what a relief it was for her to hear of God's grace: "Grace is when God is a source of wholeness, which makes up for my failings. My failings hurt me and others and even the planet, and God's grace to me is that my brokenness is not the final word. My selfishness is not the end-all ... instead, it's that God makes beautiful things out of even my own sh... .. It's God saying, "I love the world too much to let your sin define you and be the final word. I am the God who makes all things new."

Telling people about this gracious God, seeking ways for people to experience this grace, empowering each other in the belief that we are surrounded by God's grace—this is what I pray for again and again. And I believe that if we can grasp this grace in our lives, then church will happen; church that becomes a blessing to the world.

Wishing you a blessed summer in the light of grace,
Your



Report from the Vice President

Recently the saying “nothing comes from nothing” keeps popping into my head. I seem to be stuck in a cycle and I am finding myself using it to encourage myself or others. This morning, when I opened up my e-mail, I had received a message soliciting input for the upcoming Roundtable meeting for our Martin Luther church group leaders. During Roundtable we talk about upcoming events and everything that is happening in and around our church. Sometimes it is just sharing of information, sometimes concerns, sometimes enlisting help. Reading the existing list and adding to it as I went along, you can probably imagine that “nothing comes from nothing” weaved itself naturally into my thoughts. A lot is happening at MLC. None of it is happening all by itself. Each and every activity, shortlisted as bullet points below, requires many hours of planning, preparing and thought—“nothing comes from nothing”.

- Canada Summer Jobs Student
- Pentecost with Confirmation, May 20
- Central Toronto Ministry Area Lunch and Learn, May 26
- Party in the Park, June 12
- Family Camp Sunday and Church Picnic at Sidrabene, June 17
- Eastern Synod Assembly, June 21–24
- Summer vacation schedule and coverage
- Summer Camp
- Brass ensemble : 10–15 October 2018 (8 people, room and board)
- Altar Project (update)
- Inter Faith festival (feedback and show of interest)

As Lutherans by the lake, who celebrate our faith, we serve and inspire people because God our Father, Jesus our Saviour and the Holy Spirit guide and lead us and enable us to be lights within our church walls, in our neighborhood and the greater church. It is a pleasure to be a believer in Christ in this lively congregation, where we share our talents and receive support through generous donations. May the Holy Spirit continue to move us so that each and every one finds the perfect place within the MLC to celebrate, serve and inspire.

Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing. (*Psalm 100,2*)

—*Iris Schweiger*
Church Council Vice President

Great News!

We are happy to report that Pastor Ceconi and his family will be extending their stay in Canada for additional three years. All approvals from the EKD as well as the “Landeskirche” have been received.

Walk by the Lake After the Service

MLC’s logo has water in it, and our Pastor uses the hash-tag “PastorOnTheLake” on Twitter. It is very special that our church is this close to Lake Ontario. Some of us like to go for a little walk along the lake after the service when it



is nice out. That is a good opportunity to get to know one another better, to talk a bit about the sermon perhaps, and to do something that is good for you. And it is more fun in numbers. If you would be interested in joining us for a stroll along the lake after church, please contact Marlena in the office so we can figure out when would be a good time.

—*Manya Brunzema*,
manya@brunzema.com

Martin Luther Church Picnic and Camp Lutherlyn Fundraiser Sunday June 17, 2018

**11:00 am at Camp Sidrabene Retreat Centre
5100 Appleby Line, Burlington, ON L7M 0P5**

We invite you to join us at our annual church service and picnic at Camp Sidrabene Retreat Centre, beginning at 11am. Following the service, the camp team and families are preparing a BBQ lunch with deluxe sausages, delicious salads and cold drinks. Funds raised help fund our camp

counsellors attendance at Camp Lutherlyn. These youthful, enthusiastic and energetic Counselors are the key to the fun-filled program we provide at camp. We couldn't do it without the time and work they spend preparing and running all the programs offered at Camp Lutherlyn.

We suggest a minimum donation of \$5/person for your lunch, and remember, all funds raised at the picnic go directly towards Camp Lutherlyn, so if you enjoyed lunch then please be generous! We are looking forward to a day filled with worship, delicious food, fun and games and hope to see you all at the Church Picnic, at Camp Sidrabene.

If you need a ride or can offer one, please contact the church office.

Sacristy Completed— Interview with Altar Guild

Q: What is the Altar Guild?

A: Altar Guild prepares the sanctuary for services, and cleans up afterwards.

Q: What are the Altar Guild's responsibilities?

A: The Altar Guild is responsible for setting up communion and baptism and the cleaning of all the communion vessels after use. The guild also makes sure all the linens used for communion and baptism are washed and ironed. Another responsibility is changing the paraments for the different liturgical seasons. The guild organizes the sacristy for what is needed for worship. Altar Guild members assist in decorating the sanctuary for the different holidays celebrated during a liturgical year.

Q: What is the sacristy and what is stored there?

A: The sacristy is a room usually found behind the altar for storage and preparation for communion and baptism. The paraments for the altar and pulpits can be found there along with the vessels and linens for communion, wine, communion wafers and other supplies. The pastor's alb (robe) and stoles are also found there. Anything else that may be needed for the altar, such as candles, can be found in the sacristy.



**Annette Rowles
and Patricia Mills**

Q: How did you become involved in the Altar Guild?

A: Annette—When I first spoke to Pastor Ceconi about becoming a member of MLC he asked me if I'd be interested in joining the Altar Guild. After much thought I decided to say yes. And as many of you know, Pastor Ceconi can be quite persuasive.

A: Patricia—My reason for joining was that Pastor Ceconi knew I had been involved with the Altar Guild at St. Olave's Church and he asked me if I would take on the challenge of setting up an Altar Guild for Martin Luther Church.

On behalf of the Altar Guild we would like to thank **Pastor Ceconi** for his design work, **Vladymir** for his wonderful carpentry work and **Martin Haefele** for his generous donation of hardware for the cabinets.



Meet our Canada Summer Jobs Student—Shaheed

Dear congregation,

My name is Shaheed, I am 21 years old, and I was born and raised right here in Mimico! I am very excited to be working as an intern at Martin Luther Church for the next two months. I am currently in my second year of my Bachelor of Commerce program at Humber College and have a strong passion for business and community development. When I was a child, I had the

**Shaheed
Joe-Dewarder**



opportunity of attending Martin Luther Daycare and simply couldn't resist the chance to work with the organization that helped give me amazing childhood memories and experiences.

My hobbies include photography, reading, writing, and exercising. I also enjoy spending time with my family and friends, and the beautiful view the lakefront has to offer.

Summer Schedule

Our Pastor will be away July 13 to August 4. **Pastor Simone Geyda** will preach and cover pastoral care during this time. She can be reached at Tel: 905-717-5937.

While Pastor Ceconi is attending Summer Camp our substitutes are:

- August 12-19, **Pastor Katharina Moeller**,
Tel: 905-277-2631
or 416-921-2687
- August 20-24, **Pastor Rasma Caune**,
Tel: 416-265-2951
Cell: 416-284-5922

Our loyal organist **Linda Marcinkus** will also be taking time off July 4 to August 5. We will still have musical accompaniment during worship thanks to our supply organists.

Pastor Simone Geyda and Church Musician Michael Schlenker from Germany

Dear congregation,

We are happy that we can look after vacation coverage for Pastor Christian Ceconi in July. You will experience us on Sundays during the worship services. Michael will play the organ and I will preach.

Michael grew up with music. As a 10-year-old he made it into the Dresden Kreuzchor, where he performed great works, e.g. the St. Matthew Passion of J.S. Bach. Later he studied church music in Greifswald. Today he also listens to French chansons and pop music.

His parents, Manfred and Ursula Schlenker, are both church musicians. Manfred Schlenker directed the church music school in Greifswald. He also composes many songs, some are published in the evangelical hymnal. A few years ago you already met Michael's brother, the gospel musician Niko Schlenker, when he performed for you with a gospel choir.

I studied theology in Greifswald and met Michael there. Then we moved to Berlin, where we live nearby. Our daughter Musette was born on December 24, 1989, a "divine Christmas gift". She lives in Jena today. In Berlin, I worked for a long time as a pastor at a school and taught religion. I like to sing in the choir, preferably cantatas by J.S. Bach. We look forward to meeting you.

—Sincerely,
Simone Geyda

Summer Camp Spots Still Available!

August 18-24, 2018

Register now for this year's summer camp on the shore of beautiful **Golden Lake**.

This year's theme "Adventures along the Nile: Joseph and his brother" promises interesting stories and fun-filled activities. The program also includes our traditional morning canoe trips; daily bible studies for children, youth, and adults; a day at the beach; building a cable rope; campfire at night and much more. Our teens will test their courage, canoeing and camp skills on an overnight island trip. If you are interested in joining this year's camp, don't hesitate, and sign up today to reserve your spot! Registration forms are available in the church and can be downloaded from our website.

Sign up by contacting the church office:

Email: churchoffice@martinluther.ca
Tel: 416-251-8293

If you have any questions please contact:

Anna Lisa, Tel: 905-939-7441
Email: campdirector@martinluther.ca

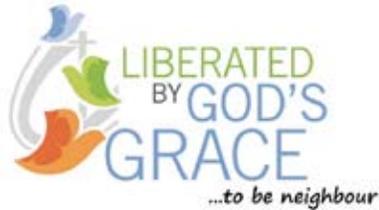
You are not coming to camp this year but you remember all the fun you had and all the memories you made. Would you still like to support summer camp? Please make a special donation to "summer camp", your support helps to fund teen camp counsellors who work hard to make camp fun for kids and adults alike. We welcome, and are thankful for, any financial assistance you can provide to make Camp Lutherly 2018 a success!

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)

2018 Eastern Synod Assembly

Pastor Ceconi and Iris Schweiger will be attending **June 21-24, 2018** in Toronto. Thank you to the volunteers who signed up from MLC.



News from the Community

Party in the Park

Join in! Enjoy life! Celebrate a party for kids and parents in the neighborhood!

On **June 12, from 5:30 to 8:30 pm**, the "Party in the Park" will take place at the George R. Gauld Junior School at 200 Melrose St. (located near Royal York Road and Evans Ave).

Take an hour or more and help out at the Martin Luther Daycare and Church table or take time to set up and dismantle.

Please contact: Shaheed at s.joedewarder@gmail.com or Tel: 647-740-3696 for more information.

Stonegate Ministry's Great Finds

Offering quality gently-used clothing, shoes, books and household items for the whole family at great prices! Come in our friendly Thrift and Vintage store to browse, shop and make new friends.

Spring/Summer Season Donations Needed:

- Men's & Women's Clothes esp. Plus size and Accessories (e.g. undergarments, athletic wear, swim wear, etc.)
- Children's & Teen's Clothes & Shoes
- Clean Linens

CAP Money Course

Stonegate Ministry plans to run a personal finance course called **Christian Against Poverty (CAP)** at Christ Church St. James Anglican Church (194 Park Lawn Rd) the **first 3 weeks of June, every Monday, the 4th through the 18th, from 4-6 pm**. Please sign up through the church office.

Remarks and Reports



Easter Sunrise Service at Humber Bay Park West, April 1, 2018



Vicar Catharina (Thara) Klein 's Farewell, April 22

Sophie's Internship Reflection

Words cannot express what I feel deep down in my heart when I think about my internship in your congregation. When I came to Canada I felt insecure whether I had something to give or whether people would accept me. You showed me that all of my worries were unnecessary. Never will I forget your warm greetings from the very first day on. My thanks go out to all of you.

I would like to share a little poem to show you what I took back to Germany.



Jesus Christ—our Lord and saviour, my tree of Life who is truly passionate about me and who I praise for his gracious goodness.

Evenings of prayer and passion—that helped me to fill up my resources by leading me back to he who created me and believes in me.

Strength—in my faith and the knowledge that I can achieve anything if I believe in myself and in Jesus Christ

Uncountable memories—and gratitude for the people I met and that made my experience as truly amazing as it was

Songs—that move my heart and that I will sing to think back to the confirmation retreat, the Lenten services, the family camp Sunday, Easter sunrise service, ...

—May the Lord be with you always,
Yours Sophie Mouteney

Drum Circle

The drummers by the lake are a group of women and men who meet once a week to drum, talk, laugh and enjoy the beat.

During the Wednesday 10–11 a.m. sessions we have learned that:

Drumming

- Begins with the beat of your heart
- Is the natural extension of your daily routine
- Provides a way of nurturing faith and spiritual growth

On May 2, drum master Saikou led an inspiring one and a half hour drum circle with 13 people in attendance. We learned different beats and were encouraged to share our own beat with the group.

Our next big event will be the **Party in the Park on June 12** of at George R. Gauld Junior School, 200 Melrose St. (located near Royal York Road and Evans Ave.).

Come and join us on a Wednesday morning or enjoy an evening out as we ...

—Let the Beat Go On
The Drum Circle

Common Vision: Singing to End Hunger

Martin Luther Evangelical Church and Wesley Mimico United Church presented a joint concert to support Canadian Food Grains Bank campaign to end world hunger. Over \$1200 was raised and will be matched 4:1 by the Canadian government.





Another Marvelous MLC Event: Spring Cleaning at Camp Lutherlyn, April 28.

Definitely not coming to a theatre near you, but the fruits of the MLC Team’s labour are certainly worth checking out with your own eyes this August at MLC Summer Camp! (Detailed report will follow shortly on website blog news)

Mother’s Day Buttons and Sunday School

The Sunday School team recognized the women in our congregation on Mother’s Day by creating button magnets.

Tanya Zielke has been teaching Sunday School for 20 years. We thank her for her years of dedication and creativity as she moves on to focus on other projects after June.

The Sunday School team would like to connect with families before the summer vacation. We value your input. Please let us know if you’d like to join the team!

—Pastor, Jocelyn, Pedro and Marlena
Your Sunday School Team



Daycare Board

The MLDC Board of Directors consists of six persons. **Karin Hoernig** joined the Board late in 2017, but had to withdraw in March as a result of personal commitments. Karin, as a volunteer was extraordinarily helpful last summer in handling the lengthy recruitment campaign for the Manager.

Karina Neumann joined the Board in January 2018. She is Director, Marketing & Strategy for a leading management consultancy. Among other things, she has a proven track record in delivering financially sustainable business units, as well as establishing strategic plans and metrics to monitor success. Karinna was made Vice President of the MLDC Board.

Marc Kilchling continues as Treasurer, **Christiane Boeck** as Secretary, and **Cam Watson** as President. **Pastor Ceconi** and **Inge Koo Tze Mew** are Directors at large.

There is considerable ferment in the day care field at the City, Provincial and Federal levels and the Board looks forward to appropriately responding to a year of growth opportunity.

Susan Orwin-Tutko, who worked as manager at MLDC for eight months, has resigned for health reasons as of the end of May. Susan made a lasting contribution to the organization, for example, by introducing the HiMama system for monitoring activity and managing finances. She was a fully involved leader whose enthusiasm unquestionably left a positive impact on the operation. Susan will be sorely missed by her staff and Board colleagues at MLDC. A recruitment campaign for her replacement is underway. We wish Susan all the best in her future endeavours.

—On behalf of the MLDC Board of Directors,
Cam Watson—President

We Congratulate...

On May 20, 2018,

(top row, left to right) Augustine, Himesh, Lukas

(bottom row, left to right) Sabrina, Emilia, Gabrielle, Julia and Amelia

celebrated their Confirmation at our Martin Luther Church. We wish them and their families God's blessing.



Photo: Lika Severin

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: June 5

Contact: Pastor Ceconi, pastor@martinluther.ca

Choir

Practice Tuesday June 5, 19 & 26 at 6 pm for Thanksgiving.

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 meeting: June 13

Contact: 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 (not in summer).

Next meeting: TBD

Contact: sundayschool@martinluther.ca

Website Team

Next meeting: June 7 at 7:00 pm

Contact: Marlena Muller, churchoffice@martinluther.ca

Youth Group

Next Meeting: Confirmands' Weekends

Confirmation Classes

Classes: September 2018

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

Martin Luther Daycare Office

Contact: Teresa Kurek (Supervisor), Tel: 416-259-2861,
daycareoffice@bellnet.ca

Martin Luther Daycare Board

Contact: Cam Watson

Visiting Ministry Team

Next Meeting: September 7 (tentative)
Contact: Gisela Wilhelm, Tel: 416-763-3789

Outreach Team

Next Meeting: June 14 at 7:00 pm
Contact: Prerit Gomes

Support Team for Syrian Families

Usually 3rd Thursday of each month at 7:30 pm
Next Meeting: June 21
Contact: Greg and Anneli Andre-Barrett,
refugeesupport@martinluther.ca

Church Coffee Team

Contact: coffeeduty@martinluther.ca

Altar Guild

Contact: Annette Rowles & Patricia Mills via the church
office, Tel: 416-251-8293, churchoffice@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 and during the summer).

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 Service: June 20

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: June 24

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: June 12

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

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Andy Boettcher, Iris Schweiger

German Radio Devotion
Sundays 9:30 am on AM 530

Worship Service Plan

June 3, 2018	2nd Sunday after Pentecost		9:45 am English Service 11:00 am German Service	Pastor Ceconi
June 3, 2018	2nd Sunday after Pentecost		9:45 am English Service 11:00 am German Service	Pastor Ceconi
June 10, 2018	3rd Sunday after Pentecost		9:45 am English Service 11:00 am German Service Both with Holy Communion and Welcome of New Members	Pastor Ceconi
June 12, 2018			10:00 am German Service at Moll Berczy Haus Senior's Residence in Scarborough	Pastor Ceconi
June 17, 2018	4th Sunday after Pentecost		11:00 am Family Camp Sunday Service followed by Church Picnic and Camp Lutherlyn BBQ Fundraiser	Pastor Ceconi
June 20, 2018			10:30 am Service with Holy Communion at Delmanor Prince Edward Senior's Home	Pastor Ceconi
June 24, 2018	5th Sunday after Pentecost		9:45 am English Service 11:00 am German Service 2:00 pm Service at Lakeshore Lodge Senior's Home	Pastor Ceconi
July 1, 2018	6th Sunday after Pentecost		9:45 am English Service 11:00 am German Service	Pastor Ceconi
July 8, 2018	7th Sunday after Pentecost		9:45 am English Service 11:00 am German Service Both with Holy Communion	Pastor Ceconi
July 15, 2018	8th Sunday after Pentecost		11:00 am Joint Service	Pastor Geyda
July 22, 2018	9th Sunday after Pentecost		9:45 am English Service 11:00 am German Service	Pastor Geyda
July 29, 2018	10th Sunday after Pentecost		9:45 am English Service 11:00 am German Service	Pastor Geyda
Aug. 5, 2018	11th Sunday after Pentecost		9:45 am English Service 11:00 am German Service	Pastor Geyda and 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.