



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

October • November 2019

Dear friends of Martin Luther Church,

Autumn is the most sensory season for me: the smell of ripe fruit, the scent of freshly cooked jam or the tomato sauce that my neighbor Lorenzo cooks in his garage. Of course, the earthy smell is also part of it, which is in the air when the colorful autumn leaves fall from the trees. There are many colors to see, as well as lots to smell and taste during this time.



Each year, autumn reminds me of the abundance and wealth we have. It lets me perceive with all our senses how richly we are blessed. It reminds me how richly not only October, but the whole year was blessed.

“The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food in due season” (Psalm 145:15), the Bible says. This is often going through my head these days because in this autumn season, it is obvious that this is true. With all my senses I am struck by it: God cares for us and gives us life in abundance.

Whoever wrote the Psalm knew this truth. This person grew confidence and faith for the future from it. In these words there is the expectation that God will continue to do so in the future, and that „food will be given in due season“.

During this time, whoever is thankful for all that has been given to us, nourishes the trust and hope for the future just like the psalm worshipper. Whoever thanks in these days, practices the expectation that God will be kind in the future. Worries aren't meant to shape life, but instead the expectation and certainty that God's future will come to meet us, that God will give whatever it takes to come to life again.

The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food in due season.

Let us go with grateful hearts into this autumn full of anticipation of God's future.

Sincerely yours,
Christian Ceconi

Vice President's Message

Dear friends and members,

I hope that you have had the opportunity to take a break over the summer – spending time with your family and friends, traveling and exploring.

I would like to thank all of you who came to our services and supported us financially and as volunteers in our many groups over the summer. A special thank you to all leaders at this summer's Camp Lutherlyn for making it a memorable experience for all participants, and to the drum circle for providing programs for our Daycare and for attracting patrons all summer long.



In September, we welcomed our two new vicars – Adam and Jordan – who are participating in our exciting Ecumenical Internship project. We held a joint service with Christ Church St. James Anglican Church in support of refugees and hosted our annual "Welcome to Canada" evening. Our monthly Dinner Church resumed with guest speaker Teresa Kurek, Supervisor of Martin Luther Daycare, and we started our new neighbourhood women's group (Women's Circle by the Lake). Thank you to all organizers and participants! We also welcomed our new confirmands, as well as Deacon Rahel Anne Römer from Germany who will be staying with us for a two-month internship.

Church Council was also informed that God called our Pastor back to Germany. I am sharing the September 22, 2019 announcement from our President Iris Schweiger below:

With mixed feelings I have the duty to inform you that Pastor Ceconi will follow a new call as director of the Citymission Berlin.

On the recommendations of the bishop elect of the Evangelical Church in Berlin, Brandenburg and Silesian Upper Lusatia, Dr. Christian Stäblein, the Board of the Berlin Citymission Berlin has offered our pastor this position.

Without the preparatory time at Martin Luther Church and the Eastern Synod, says Pastor Ceconi, this next assignment would have been impossible. What was learned in regards to the future orientation and missional development in churches, will now be implemented and applied. After careful discernment Pastor Ceconi will follow this call and will begin his new endeavor on April the 1st (no, this is not an April fools joke).

Even so our congregation and I myself had wished for many more years of working with Pastor Ceconi, I am delighted about this wonderful opportunity and ask all of you to pray for Pastor Ceconi and his family to help and prepare them in following God's call.

During his remaining six months we will make arrangements for transitioning to ensure that the lively work of our congregation will continue seamlessly. Additionally we will ensure that proper pastoral coverage will be in place. Please support the council with your ideas, your enthusiasm and prayers.

We invite you to a townhall meeting on October 6 after the German service to answer any questions you may have.

In spite of this announcement we have many reasons to celebrate this fall as we are richly blessed with wonderful activities that will be happening at our church in the coming months.

Highlights:

In October, we will be celebrating Thanksgiving and Reformation Day. We will dedicate October 6 (German Thanksgiving) to the Loaves and Fishes project. We will welcome new members to our congregation on October 20, and Church Council will go on its annual retreat to set goals for 2020.

In November, we will be hosting another book talk for Holocaust Education Week with author Kathy Kacer on November 5. A welcome and thank you service for lay leaders is planned for November 17 and from the 22nd to the 24th, the confirmands/youth leaders will go on their retreat.



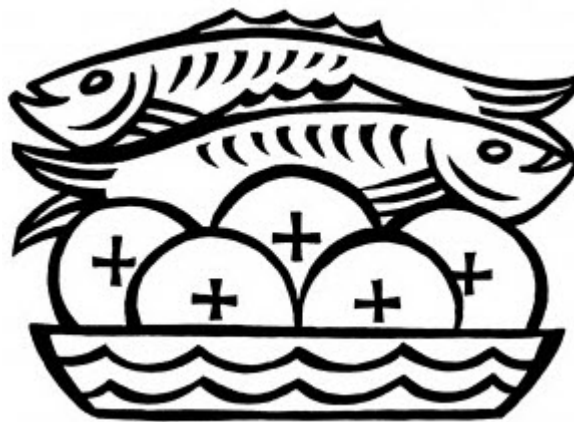
Kathy Kacer

In December, we will hold our annual Christmas Bazaar in conjunction with the Toronto Welsh Male Voice Choir as fundraisers to support refugees. On the third of Advent the Christmas Play will be performed, with new hand sewn costumes, quickly followed by the two Christmas and New Year's Eve services.

I am in awe of how vibrant our congregation is. By your presence and by sharing your talents and gifts, you make Martin Luther Church a warm and welcoming place. If you have thought about supporting us as a volunteer and are not yet sure which group you would like to join, please do not hesitate to reach out to the group leaders or us Presidents. We are also truly grateful for your continued financial support for our congregation, especially since we are offering more and more services to people in need.

With appreciation,

Andrea Dannecker, Vice President



Thanksgiving-

Donations for Wesley Mimico United Church (WMUC) Food Bank and "Loaves and Fishes"

Please donate non-perishable food items, as well as personal hygiene items and cloth bags, for the WMUC Food Bank and Community Lunch. All donations will be displayed on the altar for Thanksgiving. There is special need for: canned soup, tuna, ham, salmon, beans, tomatoes, pasta, pasta sauce, soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes and baby food. Our President Iris is also looking for a special donation of \$500 to print the MLC logo on reusable bags for eco-friendly advertising.

We dedicate German Thanksgiving, Sunday, October 6 to Loaves & Fishes. Loaves & Fishes is an initiative we have been supporting for many years now. A group of farmers from the Newmarket area dedicate some of their land to a good cause each year. The proceeds of their farming go to the Canadian Foodgrains Bank and are matched by the Canadian Government. We support them through our special collection which will also be matched 4:1 and will help to fight famine in many parts of the world.

Neukirchener Kalender 2020 order

We are accepting orders for the German Neukirchener Kalender in the church office until the beginning of October. Tel: 416-251-8293.

Meet Hannah Johnston, Theological Consultant for Dinner Church

I was born and raised in the UK, but spent 5 years living and working in New York City, before moving to Canada earlier this year. I am a graduate of St. Mellitus College, a Church of England (Anglican) seminary in London, UK, and am now undertaking some further study at Trinity College in Toronto.



I spent five years working for St. Lydia's Dinner Church in Brooklyn, in several different staff roles, where I fell in love with the practice of worship taking place around a meal. I am very excited to continue this work with the Dinner Church Team here at Martin Luther.

In 2017 I was a member of the Leadership Development Cohort of The Reformation Project, an organization which helps Christians to think theologically about human sexuality, and supports churches in moving towards more affirming theologies of LGBTQ+ people.

Before leaving the UK, I worked for a small but diverse Anglican church on a public housing estate in London, where I was involved in Interfaith Community Organizing, working together with Jewish and Muslim congregations on issues of social justice.

I previously worked for several years in the fashion industry as a stylist/personal shopper, and I also have a background working with affordable housing tenants and assessing welfare benefits.

I am committed to making church inclusive and fully affirming of LGBTQ+ people, creating fun and caring communities, empowering women, and working with people of other faiths.

I love hot weather, interesting ideas and conversations, wine, and anything with melted cheese. I have a deep and enduring passion for karaoke. I am married to Johnny and we live in Toronto with two very important cats.

Dinner Church by the Lake: Upcoming Dates & Guest Speakers

- **October 9-** 6:30 pm Dinner Church with Guest Speaker Sandra Van, GARDENS Advisory Council Co Chair
- **November 6-** 6:30 pm Dinner Church with Guest Speaker Karen MacPherson, Wesley Mimico United Church Food Ministry Coordinator
- **December 4-** 6:30 pm Dinner Church with Guest Speaker Celebration of Advent

Contact Andrea Dannecker for more information at dinnerchurch@martinluther.ca.

All Saints Sunday

We remember those in our congregation who have died in the past year. This commemoration will take place on All Saints Sunday, November 3. During the service the names of members who have passed away will be read. You also have the opportunity to remember people whom you have lost by lighting a candle. The services will be celebrated with Holy Communion and the church choir.

Bible Study

Bible Study will resume in November. Every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month we will meet in the pastor's office to read the bible together. For the winter term we will read in the book of Deuteronomy. In this book Moses summarizes his legacy and everything he has learned about God's love for his people before they enter the promised land (without him). In Dtn 6:20 it says: "When your children ask you in time to come..." – what a timely question in the days of global climate strike.

All sessions start at 7:30pm. Please bring your bible. Reading plan will be provided in the first session on Nov 12, 2019.

Contact: Pastor Christian Ceconi, pastor@martinluther.ca

Christmas Bazaar

The 2019 Christmas Bazaar is less than two months away. We are looking for organizers, helpers and participants for this event on the first of Advent (Sunday December 1, 2019). If you are interested in helping us please contact Iris @ 905 625 9174 iris.g.schweiger@gmail.com

Christmas Play on December 15

Sign your family up to participate in the Christmas Play!

The contact person is our Vicar Adam McComb, vicarmccomb@martinluther.ca.



Toronto Welsh Male Voice Choir

Toronto Welsh Male Voice Choir in support of refugees on December 1, 3:00 pm



Martin Luther Mission Fund

In 2018, the Martin Luther Church received a generous donation from a congregational member for the purpose of expanding the missionary work of the Church. To ensure that this donation has a long-lasting impact in our community, it was invested in fund managed by the Evangelical Lutheran Foundation of Eastern Canada (ELFEC). A Mission Fund Committee was established by Council to oversee the fund's growth and make recommendations to Council for how funds ought to be used. Sylvia Kunde (Chair), Pastor Ceconi (ex officio), Martin Haefele (Treasurer), and Trevor van Ingen (Secretary) are honored to serve in the committee's first three year term.

The goal of the Mission Fund is to preserve and grow the fund's principal, and use the fund's investment income and dividends to support the Church's mandate of serving others in the community. This mission work must have a local focus, with a view towards have sustainable long-term impacts in the community. Four key priorities have been identified:

1. supporting children and youth for educational or respite purposes (eg. church camp for underprivileged children, field trips and attendance fees to multi-faith youth gatherings, tuition support, leadership focus);
2. supporting the disadvantaged in our community in accessing critical support,
3. support change in the community, through development of programs, spaces or resources; and
4. support regular local programs (e.g. Dinner Church, outreach).

The Mission Fund Committee is pleased to be able to invest funds with ELFEC because of their commitment to investing money in socially responsible ways. In addition to bonds and equities, a portion of the Mission Fund is invested in 'Impact Investments': investments into companies and organizations that produce positive social and environmental impacts as

well as financial returns. Elimination of poverty in Canada, reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, and promotion of sustainable use of our environmental resources are key ELFECT Impact investing priorities. Quarterly financial reports are provided regularly to highlight market activities.

Currently, the Missing Fund is about half way to the goal of achieving a principal amount of \$50,000 invested, after which income may be distributed on mission work. To help the fund grow and serve the community, the Mission Fund Committee is asking you to consider making a charitable donation towards the Mission Fund. Besides regular weekly or monthly contributions, consider that one of the easiest, simplest, and least expensive ways of making a donation to the Mission Fund is through planned giving in a person's will. For more information on leaving a gift in your will, please visit https://elfec.ca/sites/default/files/resources/a_gift_in_your_will.pdf.

Support to the Mission Fund means a long-lasting commitment towards worthwhile endeavours to enrich the community, "in mission for others." The Mission Committee would like to thank all of those who have already donated towards the Mission Fund.

We would like to host a seminar about planned giving in October and invite Jeff Pym, the Executive Director of ELFEC to speak to us. If you are interested in attending, please contact Sylvia Kunde at skunde@rogers.com who will coordinate the session. Furthermore, should you have any questions about the Mission Fund in general or wish to discuss further details, please also contact any of the Trustees, Martin, Trevor or Sylvia.

Thank you for your continued support!

The Mission Fund Trustees.

Volunteer Management



We seek to protect children, youth, seniors and other vulnerable people entrusted to our care. A vulnerable sector training for volunteers in June was well attended.

If you are already volunteering, be sure you understand the ELCIC's policy and sign a Volunteer Ministry Covenant available in the church office. New and long-standing volunteers alike should also fill out a volunteer application form as part of protection procedures.

If you are interested in interviewing new volunteers and helping to implement the ELCIC's procedures, please speak with Pastor or Iris.

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).

National Convention

July 11 – 13, 2019 the ELCIC gathered for their National Convention in Regina. For the opening service special guest Rev. Dr. Martin Junge preached, while ELCIC National Bishop Susan C. Johnson presided over the service. Roughly 150 delegates gathered.

Rev. Susan Johnson was re-elected to a fourth term as National Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada. Several motions were passed and are available in detail at elcic.ca.

Some highlights are:

- Delegates took action to encourage congregations, faith communities, ministry organizations, areas, and synods to participate in the ELCIC Stewardship of Creation: Greening Faith Communities program as an expression of commitment to stewardship of creation. A resolution was passed that encourages congregations, faith communities, ministry organizations, areas, and synods to reduce the use of single-use plastic products.
- Friday morning's plenary session included the Report of National Church Council (NCC), including recommendations from the Joint Anglican-Lutheran Commission (JALC), which came in the form of three motions in the Bulletin of Reports.

- Members of the Task Force on Decisions at the End of Life addressed delegates several times throughout the agenda for the 2019 ELCIC National Convention. Following the conclusion of the task force's work, National Church Council brought forward four motions for consideration at convention. All motions passed and emphasized the importance of good end of life care.
- Financial sustainability of our National Church was discussed. Our strategic plan moved forward and \$250,000 was made available to synods for new mission initiatives.



Missional Leadership Cohort

we continue to train leaders for the future of our church

In November, February and April we will send our four vicars along with Hannah Johnston and Marlena Muller to the Missional Leadership Cohort, a leadership course for transformative leaders provided by Fresh Expressions. One of the fruits of this training in the past was our Dinner Church Program.

We are curious which ideas our team will bring back from this training.

The registration fees for our team have been generously provided by the EKD and our Eastern Synod.

More information at: <https://www.freshexpressions.ca/mlc/>



Enrollment Service welcoming First Graders with Pastor Ceconi at the German International School Toronto

Ladies' Circle by the Lake

Organized together with Stonegate Ministry, this group meets on the first, third and fourth Wednesday of the month over lunch.

The goal of this program is to bring women together to provide a place to form relationships and holistically approach the topic of physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual health.

This community group is meeting between 12 and 2pm from September 2019 until June 2020. The women will be welcomed with coffee and tea, followed by a luncheon, and then programming. Examples include visits from a nurse to talk about balance in life, a police officer to learn about safety, and a counsellor to discuss mindfulness. All small and large donations enrich the program.

Halloween at Martin Luther Church

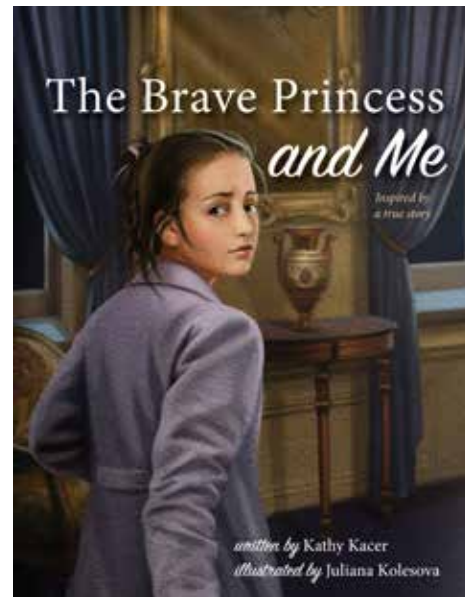
If you'd like to help pass out treats to the neighbours of the church on Halloween, October 31, contact Tanya Zielke, tanya.a.zielke@gmail.com.

Community Christmas Concert

December 8 at 2:00 pm and 7:00 pm

Local musician Marion Abbott is creating and directing a concert of Christmas music, both traditional and contemporary, performed for the community at Martin Luther Church. Songs will be presented in musical theatre performance style. Tickets are \$25 or \$20 with a donation to the Wesley Mimico United Church Food Bank.

Holocaust Education Week: Einladung zur Teilnahme an einem Bilderbuch-Gespräch



Our Martin Luther Church is again hosting an event with Second Story Press during Holocaust Education Week on November 5 at 10:00 am. Kathy Kacer will talk about her new book, *The Brave Princess and Me*. Contact the church office to borrow a copy. We encourage teachers to bring their students on a class trip. We welcome anyone who is interested in participating to reach out to the church office and your children's school.

Contact: President@martinluther.ca or the church office.



Save the Date!
Camp Lutherlyn
August 15-21, 2020





Gardening at Church and 5 Superior

Throughout the summer we were blessed with helpers to maintain our outdoor spaces. Alfred looked after the church property and Zelo looked after the daycare. The public could help themselves to herbs and plants donated by Iris in the raised beds in front of 5 Superior.

Installation of new vicars Adam McComb and Jordan Smith on September 8



Refugee Service Team

on September 15 with members from MLC, Christ Church St. James, Wesley Mimico United Church and Rev. Dr. Karin Achtelstetter, Executive Director, Canadian Lutheran World Relief

We thank Greg and Anneli Andre-Barrett for leading the "Forced to Flee" activity following the service.



We congratulate:

On September 8, 2019, Julian Baumann was baptized during the worship service. We welcome him as a new member of the congregation. God bless his whole family.



We mourn:

At the age of 81 on September 17, 2019, Barbara Annemarie Sator passed away. Her funeral took place on October 5.



**Because I live,
you also will live.**
(John 14:19)

Groups and Contacts

Altar Flowers

Flowers are unable to set up and look after themselves. If you have a green thumb and a couple hours a month to spare, please contact the office to step into the role of altar flower caretaker. The role is very rewarding since the effects are immediately visible.

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: November 12 & 26, December 10

Contact: Pastor Ceconi, pastor@martinluther.ca

Senior's Group

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

Next Meeting: October 9 & November 13

Contact: Irene Zielke and Waltraut Laser, seniorsgroup@martinluther.ca

Sunday School Team

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

Next meeting: TBD

Contact: Jocelyn Sommerfeld, Marlena Muller and Pedro Gallegos, sundayschool@martinluther.ca

Instagram Team

Next meeting: TBD

Contact: Iris Schweiger, president@martinluther.ca

Choir Practice every Tuesday at 6 pm for All Saints Sunday.

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

Summer Camp Planning Team

Next meeting: TBD

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

Website-Team

Next meeting: TBD

Contact: Marlena Muller, churchoffice@martinluther.ca

Youth Group

Next Meeting: Confirmands' Weekends

Confirmation Classes

Classes: October 26-27

Retreat: November 22-24

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

Martin Luther Daycare Office

Contacts: Teresa Kurek (Supervisor),

Tel: 416-259-2861, office@martinlutherdaycare.ca

Martin Luther Daycare Board

Contact: Karinna Neumann

Visiting Ministry Team

Next meeting: November 22 at 11:00 am

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

Dinner Church-Team

Next Meeting: TBD

Contact: Andrea Dannecker, dinnerchurch@martinluther.ca

Refugee Support Team

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

Next Meeting: October 17 at Christ Church St. James

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

Church Coffee Team

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@gmail.com

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 in 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: October 16 & November 20

Lakeshore Lodge Long-Term Care Services usually on the third Sunday every other month at 2 pm, the first (with Holy Communion) and third Thursday of the month at 10:30am
3197 Lake Shore Blvd West, Toronto

Next Service: October 20

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: October 8

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.

Vicar Silke Fahl

Cell: 905-717-5937, Email: vicarfahl@martinluther.ca

Vicar Adam McComb

Cell: 226-923-0673, Email: vicarmccomb@martinluther.ca

Vicar Jordan Smith

Cell: 416-356-3505, Email: vicarsmith@martinluther.ca

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German Radio Devotion Sundays 9:30 am on AM 530

Gottesdienstplan

October 6, 2019	German Thanksgiving 	9:45 am English Service 11:00 am German Service Both with Church Choir	Pastor Ceconi & Vicar Smith
October 8, 2019		10:00 am German Worship Service at Moll Berczy Haus Seniors Home	
October 9, 2019		6:30 pm Dinner Church by the Lake with Guest Speaker Sandra Van, GARDENS Advisory Council Co Chair	Dinner Church Team
October 10, 2019		10:30 am Service at Lakeshore Lodge	Vicar Smith & Vicar Fahl
October 13, 2019	Thanksgiving	9:45 am English Service 11:00 am German Service Both with Holy Communion	Vicar McComb & Vicar Fahl
October 16, 2019		10:30 am Service with Holy Communion at Delmanor Prince Edward Senior's Home	
October 17, 2019		10:30 am Service at Lakeshore Lodge	Vicar Smith
October 20, 2019	19th Sunday after Pentecost 	11:00 am Service in English and German with Welcome of new Members 2:00 pm Worship Service at Lakeshore Lodge	Pastor Ceconi
October 27, 2019	Reformation Sunday	9:45 am English Service 11:00 am German Service	Pastor Ceconi & Vicar Smith
November 3, 2019	All Saints Sunday, Remember People who Have Died 	9:45 am English Service 11:00 am German Service Both with Holy Communion	Pastor Ceconi
November 6, 2019		6:30 pm Dinner Church by the Lake with Guest Speaker Karen MacPherson, Wesley Mimico United Church Food Ministry Coordinator	Dinner Church Team
November 10, 2019	22nd Sunday after Pentecost	9:45 am English Service 11:00 am German Service	Pastor Ceconi
November 11, 2019	Remembrance Day	11:00 am Service at Delmanor Prince Edward Senior's Home	Pastor Ceconi
November 17, 2019	23rd Sunday after Pentecost 	11:00 am Service in English and German with Installation/Godspeed of Lay Leaders	Pastor Ceconi & Vicar Fahl
November 20, 2019		10:30 am Service with Holy Communion at Delmanor Prince Edward Senior's Home	
November 24, 2019	Christ the King Sunday	9:45 am English Service 11:00 am German Service	Pastor Ceconi & Vicar Smith
December 1, 2019	1st Sunday of Advent	11:00 am Service in English and German followed by Christmas Bazaar	Pastor Ceconi
December 4, 2019		6:30 pm Dinner Church by the Lake	Dinner Church Team

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.