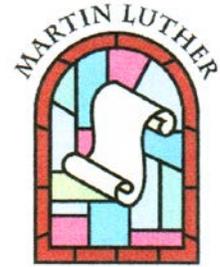


Congregational newsletter



LUTHERAN CHURCH
— Founded 1955 Gegründet —

October-November 2013

Devotion

*Dear Members and Friends
of the Martin Luther Church!*

At the end of the month we celebrate Reformation Day again. What is that all about?

When I saw the new Luther movie a few years ago, I particularly remember one scene. Deeply sad parents come to the young Luther and ask him to bury their child. But the child had not been baptized. According to medieval canon law the child could not be buried in the cemetery. In spite of that, Luther holds a church burial. Shortly thereafter, he gets to feel the criticism of his colleagues. When they hit him with hard criticism, he answers: "To comfort is the duty of the Church."

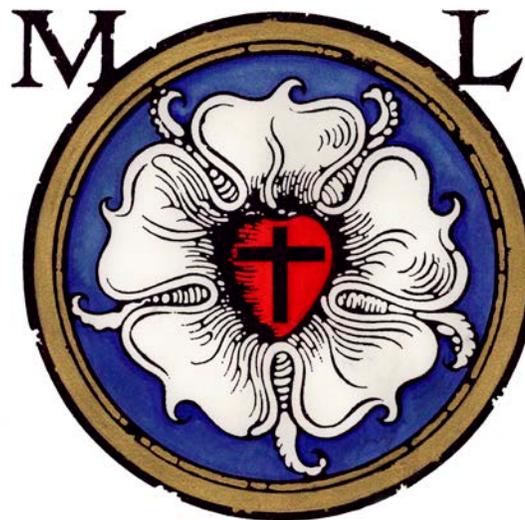
In daily life we generally comfort children. E.g., when a child falls down and scrapes their knee. But to comfort somebody means more. To comfort somebody means giving him inner strength, giving him support in his life.

Sometimes the human being, the ego of a person, seems to me a really fragile thing. As a teenager, and sometimes even as an adult, you are worried about what others may think of you. Sometimes you are afraid that you cannot stand up to their expectations. Sometimes it seems that all your failures of the past stick to your personality.

If the soul is worried about all these self-doubt, she needs comfort. She needs strengthening. She needs reassurance that we are and remain beloved creatures of God.

This is exactly what Jesus Christ used to preach. This is the message we have received as a church of Jesus Christ. This message is a real treasure (-the Pope had already understood this quite well in the middle ages).

But this treasure is not for sale. It is a gift. Our whole life is a gift. For real gifts you don't have to earn good ratings to get them. You can't buy them. Real gifts are simply given out of love and kindness.



Because God has given us life, because he meets us in Christ, he is unconditionally with us. By grace alone, and by love.

Martin Luther was often dissatisfied with his life as a monk. He felt unable to do God's will. Therefore he felt inadequate and poor.

And maybe you sometimes feel the same.

But the unconditional love of God means that he looks kindly at these aspects of your life. As if he says to you: This belongs to you and you are and still remain my child which I love.

To imagine this, to keep this in mind, helps me to live. It reconciles me with the aspects of my personality that I would rather hide.

So if it is the duty of the church to comfort people, I wish that you and I are working together to ensure that people learn in church:

I am accepted as I am, because my life is a very special gift and I am one of God's beloved children.

Yours Christian Ceconi

Thanks

„It is a commendable custom: He who receives something good, gives thanks.“ (Wilhelm Busch)

A heartfelt thank you to **Rev. Dr. Gerhard Hille** for many weeks of extraordinary preaching, guidance and music in our congregation. We are grateful for the prospect of seeing you soon again to sing songs of praise for our God together.

Thank you also to the Brass band from Berlin who touched our hearts with their joyous music on the first cold night at Lake Ontario. We will gladly find warm rooms in our homes for you again.

Iris Schweiger, President.

A tribute to Dan Sommerfeld, a.k.a. Dan the Man, a.k.a. Dan Sommercamp.

How to thank and honour a man for all his many hours spend preparing or working at camp Lutherlyn?

What do you say at the end of 15 years of dedication when the man embodies camp to such an extent that his last name had to undergo a transformation to better reflect his identity?

The only thing we can say: “Thank you Dan from the top of the flagpole to the bottom of our camp loving hearts. You gave it your best; you gave it your all. Even if you resign as camp director, we would like you to continue riding your bike through camp and enjoying the morning canoe rides. Cause, how can there be summer without Sommercamp?”

May you get repaid 10 fold with awesome memories for every hour spent for or at summer camp! We cannot wait to see where God takes you next and how it will reflect in your name?

Gratefully

Your campers and councillors



News and Information

Special Collection

Dear congregation, every fall Thanksgiving brings a concrete reminder to be thankful. Think about how very blessed you were this year?

With this year's special collection please show your appreciation by making an extra donation to either the MLC or to one of the charities supported by our congregation.

Grateful for your support is

Iris Schweiger, President

Christmas Bazaar on 1st Sunday of Advent

Dear congregation, we are planning to hold a Christmas Bazaar again during Advent.

If you have yarn or fruit donations, please contact Sonja or Iris.

Contact: Iris und Sonja Schweiger, Tel. (905) 625-9174

Christmas is coming ...

... therefore it is time to think about the Christmas play. Did you ever think about playing a role, creating the set, the costumes, or lend a helping hand. Now it's time to get involved!

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

Retreat in February!

We are preparing again for a retreat at Mount Alverno; expected on February 7th - 9th, 2014.

Away from everyday life, there is time to dive deeper into the issues of faith. This year we will talk about our images of God. "When I think of God ..." is the theme for our retreat. We will discuss which images of God are meaningful for our faith and in our lives. As usual, the retreat is addressed to adults. It is directed by Pastor Ceconi. If you want to join us at Mount Alverno, please sign up immediately.

Contact: Church Office, Phone 416 251 8293, mlchurch@bellnet.ca

Pining for Summercamp?

Next summer we will go back to summer camp. For 15 years, Dan Sommerfeld has provided unforgettable experiences. Now he passes on the baton.

Until the end of October we are looking for team players to start organizing camp. Only prerequisite: enthusiasm for the Martin Luther summer camp.

Contact: Anna Lisa Wienecke, Phone 905 939 7494, annalisawienecke@hotmail.com

Confirmation class started again

With five candidates for confirmation, we started again in the confirmation class. In the coming weeks, we will build prayer benches and pursue the topic prayer.

Come and join us, if you want to prepare for confirmation.

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

Volunteer Appreciation

Dear volunteers of the MLC. Included in this newsletter are a lot of personal invitations to a “volunteer appreciation lunch”. However, being aware of our own shortcomings we would like to apologize in advance in case we have overlooked anybody. Please feel wholeheartedly invited and let the church office know that you will be attending the warm lunch provided to us at the Wesley Mimico United Church right after the joint service on the 20th of October at the MLC.

All volunteers who work with children, youth or the elderly are asked to come to our church at 10am that day. We all need a “vulnerable sector” training to be covered by insurance, therefore attendance is mandatory.

We are looking forward to seeing you on the 20th.

The church council

Contact: Iris Schweiger, Phone (905) 625-9174, iris.schweiger@sympatico.ca

Would You like a visit from the Pastor?

Pastor Ceconi has already started visiting congregation members. If you want to welcome Pastor Ceconi into your home or if you know a person who should be visited, please give us a call.

Contact: Church office, Tel. 416 251 8293, mlchurch@bellnet.ca

Church Council Retreat

On November 8th – 9th the church council will be at the Cedar Glen YMCA Centre near Schomberg. The aim of the retreat is twofold: debate in more detail council meeting agenda points and develop future plans for our dynamic congregation.

We would appreciate very much if you could keep the Church Council in your prayers.

Visiting hours of Pastor Ceconi

Since I'm usually in the office in the church, you may visit me there any time for a chat or a cup of coffee. Please call ahead just to make sure that I'm not out visiting. Or just give me a call or sent me an email to make an appointment.

Your Pastor Christian Ceconi

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

Sunday School

The Sunday school will take place bimonthly in the coming months (usually on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month) and provided in both worship services.

If you want to join the Sunday school team or if you have any questions, please call us or write an e-mail.

Contact: Tanya Zielke, Tel. 416 622 7032, tanya.a.zielke@gmail.com



Photos of the farewell service for the Mielke family



More photos available from Tanya Zielke

The Mielke family back in Germany



DELKINA-Conference in Edmonton, Sept. 13th-19th. 2013



information is provided on the website of the DELKINA, which was revised recently (www.delkina.org).

During the conference Rev. Jakob Pillibeit resigned as the secretary of the Kirchliches Monatsblatt. He dedicated at least 20 years to this work.

Kirchliches Monatsblatt will be continued. The Board of DELKINA is still working on an updated concept.

New Board Members have been elected: Pastor Holger Roggelin from Baltimore as President, Ingrid Cramer-Doerschel from Edmonton as Vice-President, Pastor Olaf Wasmuth from Washington as Secretary and Albert Christ from Winnipeg as Treasurer.

This year, the German Evangelical Lutheran Conference in North America (DELKINA) held its biennial general assembly in Edmonton, Alberta. The conference was hosted by the Trinity and the St. John's church, which together have more than 1,000 enrolled members.

More than 20 delegates had arrived. With four participants, the Martin Luther Church was one of the strongest delegations (Annette and Heinz Gutsch, Erich Feyerabend, Christian Ceconi).

Currently the DELKINA is comprised of 35 congregations in Canada and the United States; at least 35 other communities also celebrate German services regularly. An overview and further information



Photos of the Installation Service for Pastor Ceconi





More photos available from Tanya Zielke

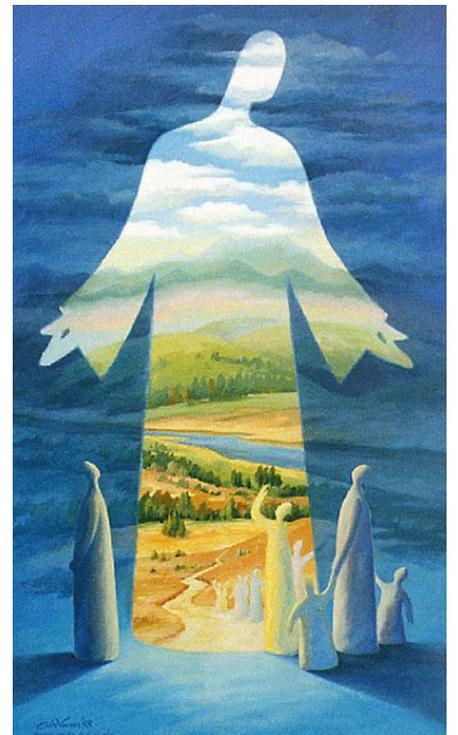
Funeral Services

Therese Petri, deceased at the age of 102 years,
on June 6th, 2013.

Lydia Schlag, deceased at the age of 90 years,
on June 21st, 2013.

Edward Lischewski, deceased at the age of 103 years, on September
13th, 2013.

*Jesus said,
I am the resurrection and the life.
Those who believe in me, even though they die,
will live.
(John 11:25)*



On **Christ the King Sunday** (November 24th, 2013) we will remember all those, who passed away in the last year. Come to this service and take the opportunity to light a candle in remembrance of those you loved.

Service Plan

6-Oct-13		German Thanksgiving/ 20th Sunday after Pentecost	9:45 am English Service 11:00 am German Service	Pastor Ceconi
13-Oct-13		Thanksgiving	9:45 am English Service 11:00 am German Service	Pastor Ceconi
20-Oct-13		22nd Sunday after Pentecost	11:00 am Joint Service and Volunteer Appreciation	Pastor Ceconi
27-Oct-13		23rd Sunday after Pentecost	9:45 am English Service 11:00 am German Service	Pastor Ceconi
3-Nov-13		Sunday of Reformation	9:45 am English Service 11:00 am German Service	Pastor Ceconi
10-Nov-13		25th Sunday after Pentecost	9:45 am English Service 11:00 am German Service	Pastor Ceconi
17-Nov-13		26th Sunday after Pentecost	11:00 am Joint Service	Pastor Ceconi
20-Nov-13		Buss- und Betttag	5:00 German Service	Pastor Ceconi
24-Nov-13		Ewigkeitssonntag Christ the King	9:45 am English Service 11:00 am German Service Both services held with Holy Communion	Pastor Ceconi
1-Dec-13		1st Sunday of Advent / Anni- versary of the Martin Luther Church	9:45 am English Service 11:00 am German Service Christmas Bazaar	Pastor Ceconi



On Sundays, marked with this icon, there will be Sunday school for both services. Children meet in the church, start with Children's' Time and go to the basement for the program provided by the Sunday School Team.

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