



## Martin Luther Evangelical Lutheran Church

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- Introducing Sermon Discussions
- Preparing for the World Day of Prayer – Zimbabwe
- Reports from the Advent and Christmas Season
- Upcoming Building Project presentation

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 2020

## Let the Word of Christ dwell among you!

Community arises when you do something together. For example, when our vicars assemble IKEA furniture together, or when our seniors sing together. When our youth plan the summer camp or cook together. When we celebrate worship together every Sunday.

Community with each other and with God arises when we do something with God. When we pray together, comfort and encourage each other, sing, read the Bible, help people and celebrate life. Building a community in which we and many others experience and deepen fellowship with God is important to us as a congregation. At the National Convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC), our national bishop Susan Johnson encouraged us to do so. She invited the whole church to deepen fellowship with God: "I am inviting the entire church to join me in a new four-year emphasis on Living our Faith, as together we pray, read, worship and love." And we as Martin Luther Church are taking part!

Last year we focused on giving more space to shared prayer. We talked about it at meetings and learned from each other how we pray. We found different answers to questions such as: Would you pray in a restaurant before eating?

This year the focus is on reading the Bible. Paul wrote in his letter to the Colossians (3:15): Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God.

Letting the word of Christ live with us means having it with you: on the sofa, on the smartphone and as an audio book in the car. I installed an app on my smartphone that provides two Bible verses for each day. I have made it my goal that I open this app first thing every morning so that the day can also begin with God's Word on the phone.

What ideas do you have about how the Word of Christ can dwell abundantly with us? I am excited to hear about them!

Sincerely,

Christian Ceconi

**Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God.**

**- Col 3:16**

## President's Message

### All good things come to an end

Solomon says in the Bible: To everything there is a season. A time for every purpose under heaven.

Dear friends and members, for the Martin Luther Congregation it is a time to say good-bye and thank you to Pastor Ceconi who generously brought his love for God, with enthusiasm and passion, into our church for the last six years. On the **22nd of March at 3pm**, we will celebrate his farewell service and then gather for a reception in the church hall afterwards. We will provide a scrap book for everyone who would like to add something to a farewell momento for the family to take back to Germany. Feel free to prepare the text at home on a card or a piece of paper no larger than the size of a postcard.

Please mark this date in your calendars and let us know how and when you can help prepare this special event.

### Annual Meeting 2020

The **23rd of February** marks our **64th annual meeting in our 65th year of existence**. We would like to share our vision for the next 20 years and goals for 2020, and ask for your attendance, questions and support. Please bring a lunch and three hours of time after the joint service at 11am.

"...and also that every man should eat and drink and enjoy the good of all his labor – it is the gift of God" - Ecclesiastes 3,13

Gratefully,

*Your presidents Andrea, Jocelyn, and Iris*

**Contact:** Please contact Martina at mineolamama@gmail.com to help with the reception. In regards to the scrapbook, please contact Gabi at 14gmandl@gmail.com with any questions or contributions.

## Pastoral Coverage

Dr. Pastor Gerhard Hille- April-June 2020  
Vicar Silke Fahl- June-December 2020

## Summer Camp, August 15-21, 2020

Register by the end of February to take advantage of the early registration discount. Can't come? Think about making a donation to support the wonderful work we do.

We are looking forward to seeing "old and new campers" at Camp Lutherlyn in 2020!

## Sermon Discussions

Have you ever listened to the Sunday sermon and wished that you could have a deeper discussion about what you heard? Have you ever been excited to share an insight you had after listening to the preacher? The vicars would like to invite you to a series of sermon discussion groups during coffee time after the service on the dates listed below. While preparing our sermons we have had a chance to reflect on the text for an entire week or more. These discussions will allow that reflection to continue and bring more people into the conversation.

### Points of Discussion

Some of the discussion points could be:

- What was the main point you heard in the sermon?
- What did you learn about God?
- How was this helpful to your Christian life?
- What image or story stood out for you?

### Dates

We will meet at a table downstairs during the coffee time about ten minutes after the service ends. Upcoming dates for the sermon discussion are:

- **February 16** after the German service with Vicar Silke Fahl
- **March 1** after the German service with Vicar Caroline Raddatz
- **March 15** after the English service with Vicar Adam McComb
- **March 29** after the English Service with Vicar Jordan Smith
- **April 19** after the English Service with Vicar Adam McComb

## Lenten Services

The season of Lent is almost here. Year after year Christians around the world make choices, sacrifices, and promises during Lent as we journey toward the cross. Here at MLC, we will be hosting Thursday Lenten services with other churches in the Mimico area. With our ecumenical friends, we will journey together, share intentional times of reflection, and find the cross in every moment of our day.

Come and join us for this annual series **each Thursday of Lent!**

## Bible Study

We will meet twice in February in the pastor's office to read the bible together. For the winter term we have been reading 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).

All sessions start at **7:30pm on February 11 and 25**. Please bring your bible.

**Contact:** Pastor Christian Ceconi, pastor@martinluther.ca

## Dinner Church by the Lake: : Upcoming Dates



# Dinner Church

A monthly gathering with food, conversation, and worship.

**February 5- 6:30 pm** Dinner Church with Dr. Clarise Chan, Clarity Wellness Chiropractic

**March 4- 6:30 pm** Dinner Church with Vicar Silke Fahl on the topic „Confidence! 7 weeks without pessimism „

**April 9- 6:30 pm** Dinner Church on Maundy Thursday

**Contact:** Andrea Dannecker at dinnerchurch@martinluther.ca.

## 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).*

## Together in Mission

Please take a look at a series of slides from the Eastern Synod called "Together in Mission" posted in the church foyer. They tell a story of what we can do together as a Synod, and how we can support each other in order to thrive in our ministries.

The first slide featured here is about the relationship between the Eastern Synod and the National Church.



A minimum of 25% of your benevolence offerings goes to the National Church to support ministries such as:

- Global Mission
- Compassionate justice
- Ecumenical and inter-faith ministry
- CLAY youth gathering

## Together in Mission





## Ladies' Circle by the Lake

The Ladies Circle provides a forum for local women to connect through shared activities, presentations and lunch. It takes place the **first, third and fourth Wednesdays of each month, 12-2 pm** in our church foyer.

**Contact:** For more information, contact Samantha at [samantha@stonegateminsty.ca](mailto:samantha@stonegateminsty.ca), 416-474-9297.

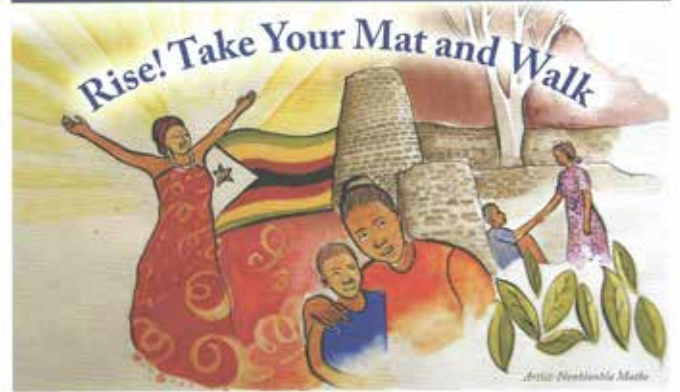
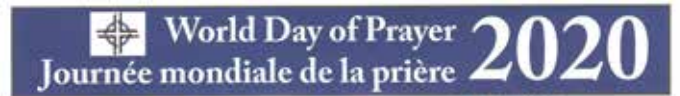
## Peace Quilt

The Ahmydiyya Muslim Community invited the Martin Luther congregation to partake in the creation of an interfaith peace quilt. Each square has been assembled by individual faith communities and our logos will be embroidered on in the middle during a joint meeting of all groups in March. This endeavour lets us meet in friendship to make Canada a country for all our children to live in peace and respect. The quilt will be displayed in a mosque and then we will have the opportunity to display it, as it will be shared among all the participating faith groups.

**Contact:** Please give Marlena in the church office a call if you would like to participate.



## World Day of Prayer Zimbabwe



Ecumenical Worship Service Informations/Renseignements sur la célébration œcuménique

FRIDAY, MARCH 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020  
Day/la date

CHRIST CHURCH ST. JAMES ANGLICAN CHURCH  
194 PARKLAWN RD. ETOBICOKE

1:00 PM  
Time/Heure

PHONE CCSJ OFFICE: 416-251-8711  
Additional Informations/informations supplémentaires

Service written by the World Day of Prayer Committee of Zimbabwe, prepared and adapted for use in Canada by the Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada  
Service rédigé par le Comité de la Journée mondiale de la prière de Zimbabwe, préparé et adapté pour le Canada par le Conseil œcuménique des églises au Canada

We are inviting you to take part in the World Day of Prayer or just come and enjoy ecumenical fellowship with us at Christ Church St. James on **Friday March 6 at 1:00 pm**, focusing on Zimbabwe. Carol-Anne will be the lead this year, and needs all the helping hands she can get for this to truly be honoring God as we celebrate the women and people of Zimbabwe.

We also invite you to the German World Day of Prayer on **Tuesday March 10 at 11:00 am** at St. George's Church, 410 College St.

Our seniors group will be attending instead of meeting on their regular Wednesday.

**Contact:** Please contact Carol-Anne if you are able/willing to join in the planning of this event: Christ Church St. James, 416-500-0253 (cell), [cafoty@outlook.com](mailto:cafoty@outlook.com)



Toronto Police delivered toys from Christmas Toy Drive to Martin Luther Daycare

## Wesley Mimico United Church Food Bank

Please donate non-perishable food items, as well as personal hygiene items and cloth bags, for the WMUC Food Bank and Community Lunch. There is special need for: cereal, canned soup, tuna, ham or salmon, peanut butter, crackers, coffee and tea, rice, sugar, pasta, pasta sauce, soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes and baby food.



Christmas Worship Service with the German International School

## Remarks and reports

### Christmas Bazaar

As we put our Christmas treasures back in their boxes for another year and reflect on the season just passed, we can add to our store of happy memories the very successful Christmas bazaar! In spite of poor weather conditions, people came out from far and wide to add their warmth and spirit to this wonderful occasion. There was ample opportunity to share food and fellowship, browse the diverse selection of gift ideas, and appreciate the many



talents represented in our community. The Toronto Welsh Male Voice Choir concert was an inspiring addition and set the mood for the season ahead. A big **THANK YOU** to all who contributed their time and energy to organize, prepare, cook, forge, craft, donate, share, serve, and let their light shine through the winter weather. Together we were able to make a substantial difference in the lives of people in need and to continue to build our community.



## Fundraising Concert at Martin Luther Church by the Toronto Welsh Male Voice Choir

The Refugee Support Team at MLC, headed by Anneli and Greg Andre-Barrett, organized a fundraising concert at MLC in support of 3 refugee families being sponsored by the church to come and settle in Canada. The proceeds will be used to help the BARSOUM family, the KIFLE family, and the YOUNES family. The concert given on Sunday December 1, 2019 by the Toronto Welsh Male Voice Choir was distin-

guished by the meticulously prepared program performed by the 30-plus voices in the choir. The choir's sound was warm, confident and nuanced. It really was a marvel to see the singers looking ahead at the conductor as they sang the program from memory. With the eyes of the singers focused on his direction, the conductor, William Woloschuk, was able to shape musical phrases with finesse.

The order of songs carried the audience on an emotional celebration of the secular and sacred aspects of Christmas. It was really delightful how the choir started their performance by proceeding to the front platform from the back of the church singing „Sleigh Ride“. The arrangement of „Mary, Did You Know?“ was particularly effective in expressing the immense significance of Jesus' birth. The following „Suo Gan“ was an example of the distinctive musical Welsh character in its simplicity and beauty of sound from the men's voices. And so the concert progressed to carry the listeners through tonal landscapes that showcased at times the tenor section, the bass section and various solo voices and added percussion effects. The audience participation carols were gloriously expanded by the choir in arrangements that enhanced well-known melodies.



The piano accompanist, Matthew Coons, added sensitive support to the choir in his dynamics at the keyboard and also played well-chosen solos to highlight the Christmas theme. The whole afternoon was so joyful and evoked heartfelt appreciative sentiments from the audience who spontaneously gave the choir a standing ovation. The encore piece „We Rise Again“ secured the choir's power to inspire. Besides the worthy purpose of the concert to raise funds for refugee support, the Toronto Welsh Male Voice Choir left the audience with their gift of music that animated the Christmas spirit.

– Linda Marcinkus



## Krippenspiel, Christmas Pageant, Christmas Play!

By any name, we had a blast! Holidays are always more magical through the eyes and excitement of children. Thank you to everyone who participated, our stars, their families, all who attended, and of course Amadio's Pizza. We also thank WMUC Patricia McPhail for donating handmade costumes.

## Presentation of the Building Project

Please make sure to mark your calendars for the Annual Meeting on the **23rd of February**. There will be a special presentation concerning the joint Martin Luther Church and Daycare Building Project proposal. We will be voting on the future of the building we all call home. Your voice is important to us! Please bring an open mind and any questions you may have. See you there!



Senior's Group Advent Singing

### Open for Advent

From December 1 to 23, the doors of Martin Luther Church were opened each day to the community for a time of reflection and calm amid the busyness leading up to Christmas. A group met each day to light a candle, read scripture, and reflect on what was happening in our lives as we opened ourselves to the coming of Christ's birth. Thank you to Dan, Jocelyn, Iris, Sylvia, Vicar Jordan, and Vicar Silke for offering leadership during the Advent season. During those twenty-three days we learned that spiritual growth is definitely a discipline – it takes effort and commitment to meet and pray together each day, but the personal growth and insight we gain is certainly worth the effort.

The Vicars also committed to having the church doors open from 9-5 during the first week of December, and we had nineteen people come in during those days for conversation, time in a quiet space, pastoral care, and to participate in our PA Day drop-in program. It was truly inspirational to learn from those who came through our doors and we heard multiple times that it took people two, three, or five days of seeing the "Open" sign before they took the plunge and walked in.

Martin Luther Church is blessed to be placed in a busy area of the city and I hope that we can continue opening our doors to the community, offering a spiritual space, and learning from those who come in.

– Vicar Jordan



Vicar Caroline Raddatz's Installation

### The Christmas Tree: From the Eble Family to our church



A big thank you to the Eble Family for donating a wonderful Christmas tree to our church this year, and to all the volunteers who helped with set up and decoration.



## Gratitude from the Scholz Family

We would like to thank the congregation, friends and acquaintances for the sympathy, support in the hardest days of our lives when we had to say goodbye to my dear husband, father and grandfather.

In deep mourning,

*Ursula Scholz with family*

## We mourn:



At the age of 85 on December 26, 2019, **Pauline Eisfeld** passed away. Her funeral took place on December 30, 2019 at our church.

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

## We congratulate:



On December 22, 2019, **Vicky and Noah Niederhagen** were baptized during the worship service. God bless their whole Family!

Congratulations to **Gems Rosto**, one of the Syrian refugees our Church had sponsored, on receiving his Canadian citizenship!



## Groups and Contacts

### Altar Flowers

Altar flowers are unable to 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

Two Tuesdays a month at 7:30 pm

**Next meeting:** February 11 and 25

**Contact:** Pastor Ceconi, pastor@martinluther.ca

### Choir

Practice every Tuesday at 6 pm for Pastor Ceconi's Farewell Service on March 22

**Choir Director:** Linda Marcinkus,

Tel: 416-255-2612, choir@martinluther.ca

### Instagram Team

**Contact:** Iris Schweiger, president@martinluther.ca

### Senior's Group

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

**Next meeting:** February 12 and Tuesday March 10 at St. Georges Church for German World Day of Prayer

**Contact:** seniorsgroup@martinluther.ca

### Summer Camp Planning Team

**Next meeting:** TBD

**Contact:** Tanya Zielke and Leona Pitura, summercamp@martinluther.ca

### Sunday School Team

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

**Next meeting:** February 27

**Contact:** sundayschool@martinluther.ca

### Website Team

**Next meeting:** March 31 at 7:15

**Contact:** Marlena Muller, churchoffice@martinluther.ca

### Youth Group

**Next Meeting:** Confirmands' Weekends



### Confirmation Classes

**Retreat:** February 21-23 at Crieff Hills

**Classes:** March 28-29

**Contact:** Vicar Jordan Smith, Cell: 416-356-3505, vicarsmith@martinluther.ca

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### Martin Luther Daycare Office

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

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### Visiting Ministry Team

**Next Meeting:** TBD

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

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### Dinner Church Team

**Next Meeting:** February 12

**Contact:** Andrea Dannecker, dinnerchurch@martinluther.ca

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### Church Coffee Team

**Contact:** coffeeduty@martinluther.ca

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### Refugee Support Team

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

**Next Meeting:** March 19

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

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### Church Coffee Team

**Contact:** coffeeduty@martinluther.ca

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### Altar Guild

**Contact:** Annette Rowles & Patricia Mills via the church office, Tel: 416-251-8293, churchoffice@martinluther.ca

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### Translation Team

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

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### Drum Circle

Wednesdays at 10 am

**Contact:** Iris Schweiger, iris.g.schweiger@gmail.com

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## 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

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### Stonegate Ministry & Great Finds

Offering quality gently-used items.

**Store hours:** Monday and Thursday: 9:30 am-5:30 pm; Friday: 9:30 am-6 pm

**Contact:** Samantha, Tel: 416-255-6282, 2358 Lakeshore Blvd. West Toronto M8V1C3

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### Delmanor Prince Edward Retirement Home

Services by Pastor Ceconi with Holy Communion

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the third Wednesday of the month at 10:30 am at 4180 Dundas St W, Etobicoke

**Next Services:** February 19 and March 18

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**Lakeshore Lodge Long-Term Care** Services usually on the third Sunday every other month at 2 pm, the 1st (with Holy Communion) and 3rd Thursday of the Month at 10:30 am 3197 Lake Shore Blvd West, Toronto

**Next Service:** February 16 and 20 and March 5 and 19

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**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 11 and March 10

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## 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.

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### Vicar Silke Fahl

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

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### Vicar Adam McComb

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

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### Vicar Jordan Smith

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

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### Vicar Caroline Raddatz

Cell: 905-717-7024, Email: vicarraddatz@martinluther.ca

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### 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

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### Church Newsletter Publisher:

Martin Luther Church, Pastor Christian Ceconi

**Email and Mail Distribution:** Marlena Muller





**Design:** Leanne Grammenz

**Translation:** Andy Boettcher, Manya Brunzema, Helmut Herrmann, Solveig Voss, Silke Fahl

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**German Radio Devotion Sundays 9:30 am on AM 530**

## Service Plan

February 9, 2020	<b>5th Sunday after Epiphany</b>		9:45 am English Service 11:00 am German Service	Pastor Ceconi
February 11, 2020			10:00 am German Service at Moll Berczy Haus	Pastor Ceconi & Vicar Fahl
February 16, 2020	<b>6th Sunday after Epiphany</b>		9:45 am English Service 11:00 am German Service 2:00 pm Service at Lakeshore Lodge	Vicar Fahl
February 19, 2020			10:00 am Service with Holy Communion at Delmanor Prince Edward	Pastor Ceconi & Vicar Fahl
February 20, 2020			10:30 am Service at Lakeshore Lodge	
February 23, 2020	<b>Transfiguration</b>		11:00 am English-German Service with HC & Welcome of New Members, followed by AGM	Pastor Ceconi
February 26, 2020	<b>Ash Wednesday</b>		7:00 pm Worship Service	Pastor Ceconi & Vicar Raddatz
March 1, 2020	<b>1st Sunday in Lent</b>		9:45 am English Service 11:00 am German Service	Pastor Ceconi
March 4, 2020			6:30 pm Dinner Church by the Lake	Dinner Church Team
March 5, 2020			10:30 am Service with Holy Communion at Lakeshore Lodge 7:00 pm Lenten Service	Vicar Smith & Vicar Fahl Vicar Smith & Vicar McComb
March 6, 2020	<b>World Day of Prayer</b>		1:00 pm Worship Service at Christ Church St. James Anglican	
March 8, 2020	<b>2nd Sunday in Lent</b>		9:45 am English Service 11:00 am German Service Both with Holy Communion	Pastor Ceconi
March 10, 2020			10:00 am German Service at Moll Berczy Haus 11:00 am German Worship Service for World Day of Prayer at St. George's Church	Vicar Fahl Pastor Möller
March 12, 2020			7:00 pm Lenten Service	Rev. Joan Smith (Wesley Mimico United Church)
March 15, 2020	<b>3rd Sunday in Lent</b>		9:45 am English Service 11:00 am German Service With Installation of Church Council & Blessing of Volunteer Leaders	Pastor Ceconi & Vicar McComb
March 18, 2020			10:00 am Service with Holy Communion at Delmanor Prince Edward	Pastor Ceconi & Vicar McComb
March 19, 2020			10:30 am Service at Lakeshore Lodge 7:00 pm Lenten Service	Rev. David Smith (Christ Church St. James)
March 22, 2020	<b>4th Sunday in Lent</b>		3:00 pm English-German Farewell Service for Pastor Ceconi with Holy Communion & choir	Pastor Ceconi/Bishop M. Pryse
March 26, 2020			7:00 pm Lenten Service	Rev. Jim Sanderson (Mimico Baptist Church)
March 29, 2020	<b>5th Sunday in Lent</b>		9:45 am English Service 11:00 am German Service	Vicar Smith Pastor Hille
April 5, 2020	<b>Palm Sunday</b>		11:00 am English-German Family Service	Vicar Smith & Vicar Fahl

**A library of Pastor Ceconi's German Radio Devotions is also available online at [martinluther.ca](http://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.