



Martin Luther
Evangelical
Lutheran
Church

**Inside:
Welcoming
our new
Pastor
Many
Thanks!
Take Some
Share Some
A Daycare
Update**

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

Summer is here!

July 2021

When one door closes, God points to a window....

We are continuing a series of Sunday reflections inspired by the beautiful stained-glass windows that fill Martin Luther Church with bright colours and shine out like a beacon in our community. I love the windows, I always have. They were one of the first things I noticed in 2019 when I first walked into the church. That feels like lifetimes ago. I have been in and out of the church hundreds of times now, still, the windows catch my eye. When I think about Sundays during the “before times,” I have fond memories of the smell of sugary goodness and coffee wafting up from downstairs. I remember the sound of Linda warming up the organ, the sight of each of you coming in from the cold and slipping out of big jackets while Pastor and I greeted you. I have so many great memories of those Sundays, but somehow when I remember us all there together I can't picture the windows that caught my eye every other day. Perhaps amidst all the Sunday buzz I didn't take the time to stop and soak in the stories they wanted to tell, our stories.

Last year we were all diverted off our usual path onto a detour; a safe route while our usual one is closed. Our detour has given us the chance to slow down, notice the things we miss on our daily commute, it has allowed us, our windows, and our community to tell their stories.

"The people walking in darkness
have seen a great light;
on those living in the
land of deep darkness
a light has dawned.
You have enlarged the nation
and increased their joy;
they rejoice before you
as people rejoice at the harvest"

- Isaiah 9, 1-2

"I now establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you and with every living creature that was with you—the birds, the livestock and all the wild animals, all those that came out of the ark with you—every living creature on earth. I establish my covenant with you: Never again will all life be destroyed by the waters of a flood; never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth."

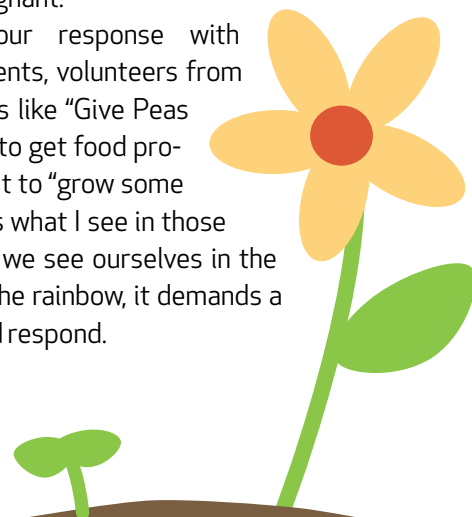
- Genesis 9, 9-11

Each window's center image is punctuated with smaller symbols in the corners adding layers to the vignette and helping the story unfold. The Hand of God and the tree of Life, the Ark under a rainbow and an olive branch, the manger and a rose, a Hebrew scroll featuring the words of Isaiah 9 and a crocus. Together they point to our partnership with the Creator, they speak of hope and joy, and ask us to feel the interconnectedness of all living things. It is a story that is profound and poignant.

We live our response with summer students, volunteers from our congregation and community working on projects like “Give Peas a Chance” and other creation-care ministries. We try to get food producing seeds and plants into the hands of all who want to “grow some good” with us, with God, with and for creation. That is what I see in those first windows when I let them tell their story. When we see ourselves in the story, our story, when we find our Ark and marvel at the rainbow, it demands a response. I pray we each find ourselves in the story and respond.

Adam McComb

Vicar Adam McComb



Warm Welcomes...

Welcome to Pastorin Annika Klappert and husband Tim Büchner

With much anticipation we will be welcoming Pastorin Annika Klappert and her husband Tim Büchner into our congregation on August 8. Her official installation service is planned for October, with Pastor David Tin (Dean of the Toronto Area) officiating and hopefully with OKR Marcus Garras (our contact at the EKD) also in attendance.

Times of change in our personal lives as well as in the lives of congregations are always times of anticipation and excitement. It is therefore beneficial to keep the words of Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (German poet and novelist) in mind: "Treat people as if they were what they ought to be, and you help them become what they are capable of being." We know that Pastorin Annika will nurture our potential, inspiring us to further become what we are capable of being, and that if we follow this splendid piece of advice we will surely learn with and from each other.

Welcome, Pastorin Annika and Tim, to your new home and church: we look forward to growing together!



Virtual Eastern Synod Assembly

The Eastern Synod Assembly took place on the 25th and 26th of June. Find the highlights on Youtube at Easter Synod ELCIC!

Reopening Info (Reference Point: June 30, 2021)

Ontario is moving through the reopening steps as more people are vaccinated and health improves. It is important to note that as of June 30, 2021, Toronto Public Health still strongly encourages virtual or outdoor services to reduce the spread of COVID-19, and to ensure that everyone can participate safely.

Step 1

	Wedding, funeral, or service	Social gathering
Indoor	15% of room capacity	Not permitted
Outdoor	2m distance apart	10 people or less

Step 2

	Wedding, funeral, or service	Social gathering
Indoor	25% or room capacity	5 people or less
Outdoor	2m distance apart	25 people or less

Even though we are allowed to reopen for in-person worship with limited capacity (step 1- 15%, step 2- 25%), we will continue online with our detour for now. Our understanding of in-person worship includes social gathering. No social gatherings were permitted indoors in Step 1. In Step 2, there can be a maximum of 5 people. We are hoping to reopen on August 15 and we will continue to follow government regulations. God is guiding us on our detour and we trust we will get to the destination soon!

2021-22 Confirmation Class Registration

After the summer holidays our new confirmation classes begin. The course lasts one year and ends with Confirmation during a special worship service. It is aimed at young people who will be in grade 7 after the summer holidays or who are 12 to 15 years old (exceptions are possible in consultation). You can register until the middle of September. For questions and to register please contact Marlena in the office.

... And Heartfelt Thanks!

From the Parsonage with Love: A Reflection

My refuge, my Ark has been the parsonage and both the Martin Luther and Mimico communities. The rain stopped, the skies cleared, and a rainbow formed. This Rainbow Covenant captured in our windows fills the church with multicolored light and it demands a response. The Creator extends his hand in partnership and calls us to take up our mantel to care for creation, all of it. Thankfully, I have been able to respond because of our community and the parsonage.

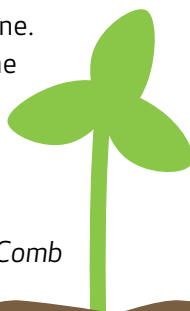
This home has been a refuge and the staging ground for so many great projects that help me to get my hands dirty in partnership with God. Gifted plants and seeds have produced projects like Give Peas a Chance and yielded a bounty that we have shared with cards saying "From the Parsonage With Love". Our Masks for Good project has seen hundreds of masks, incredible stories, and tonnes of donated resources pass through this house. Growing some good, raising awareness about food insecurity, meeting our neighbours, offering masks, sharing soup, stories, and hope - that is caring for creation, and that is how we at Martin Luther have responded to God's call. That is what I see in those first windows when I let them tell their story.

The parsonage continues to be a blessing and a refuge that allows me, and all of us to respond to God's call. Part of appreciating the home that has allowed this and the community that supports us has been through amazing projects in and around the house. Volunteers like Kai, Dan, and others have taught us skills and empowered us to serve the house that serves so many. The sharing of time, skills, and resources within the Martin Luther community continues to impress and form me.

This house has brought friends together for holidays, birthdays, staged ministries and offered refuge. We have changed tiles, painted walls and decks, planted gardens, and shared from our abundance. This could only happen with so much help and support from the Martin Luther community, one outrageously generous Polish neighbour and one stern but kind Italian one.

Together we are trying to grow some good and get the parsonage ready for our new Pastor and her husband to walk in and feel the love and excitement of this community.

- Vicar Adam McComb



Thank you Pastor Gerhard and Margret Hille

Woodrow Wilson said the following in 1913 in his first term in the White House: "You are not here merely to make a living. You are here in order to enable the world to live more amply, with greater vision, with a finer spirit of hope and achievement. You are here to enrich the world."

We have had the opportunity to experience a man and woman living in this manner since December 2020. Pastor Gerhard Hille and Margret Hille had already made their living. They are retired, yet they strapped on their "big boy and big girl boots" to enable us to live into our abundance. Pastor Hille's greater vision for our pandemic detour touched our spirits and filled our cups with hope, and we benefited from his hopeful vision which he expressed in his thoughtful sermons and calm leadership in our services. Margret Hille, in turn, offered her own splendid cooking skills to provide soups for Bowls and Blessings many times over. They each used their time and talents to enrich our world, even and especially during this pandemic time.

Pastor Gerhard and Margret, we are so very grateful that you came on this errand with such great success. Thank you! WE are certainly "the better" for all of your efforts!

Thank You for Participating!

Bowls and Blessings ended for now with a final serving of soup and bread on May 27 and a surprise pancake, pizza, pastry lunch on May 31. Thank you, dear volunteers, for your generous donation of time and soups and thank you to all who participated. We learned a lot; we were blessed often by neighbours walking by. We served hundreds of litres of soup since December 1, 2020 and met Jesus on the Lakeshore as we served people in need of nutrition, conversation, prayers and spiritual guidance. God led us well.

We are also grateful for all the **Masks for Good** volunteers. Hundreds of masks made with love were generously handed out to protect the vulnerable.

More projects are on the way, with the help of our two summer students, **Maliha and Johnny**, to help remedy food insecurity around our church with the planting of two raised beds in front of 5 Superior and the long-awaited food pantry.

- Iris Schweiger



Good around the Neighbourhood

TAKE SOME SHARE SOME

GROW SOME GOOD

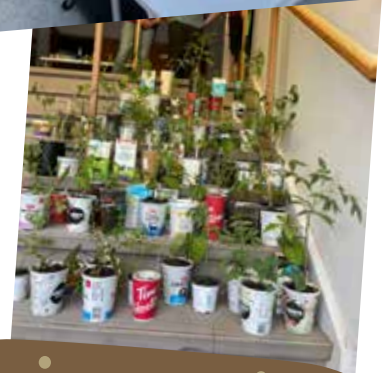
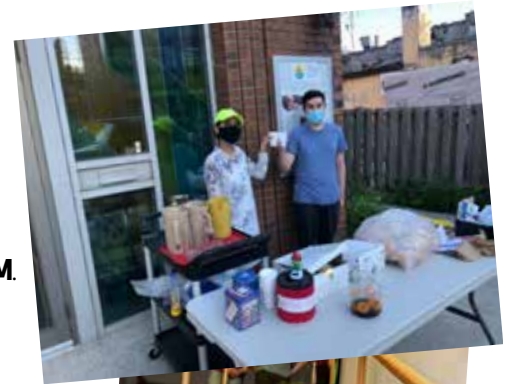
Join in on the urban farming fun! Pick up seeds or home-grown plants and vegetables as part of the Give These A Chance initiative and get involved in the Community Garden at 5 Superior. Learn and share on Instagram [@FabulousFridaysMimico](#) and [@YourSundayFundayCYFM](#).

BEVERAGES AND BLESSINGS

Mondays and Fridays at 4pm, tea, treats, bread, produce from the "Grow Some Good" project, shoes, clothes, and "Masks for Good" are set up outside the church for the community. Donations and Volunteers welcome!

COMMUNITY PANTRY

The pantry is under construction! Wood donations are appreciated and non-perishable goods will be welcomed and available once it is built and placed in front of the church.



A special update from the Daycare

It has certainly been a very unprecedented year as we have had to navigate through the challenges of COVID-19, like all of you as well. We have had to make changes to our programs and services to ensure the health and safety of all our children, their families, and our staff during this time! We have faced both full and partial closures of our programs at times over the past year and a bit, but we are happy and excited to report that our children and staff are overall safe, healthy and doing very well!

Everyone is looking forward to the summertime! Our school age program, which operates out of the basement of the Church, has been closed again since April 6, 2021, but we just received official word that the program can open again for summer programs on July 5. We are busy accepting new and returning registrations. Feel free to pass the good news on to friends, families, neighbours, etc!

The most exciting news of 2020 was reaching the 50th Anniversary of the childcare centre. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, we had to defer our celebrations for a future date when it is safe to gather in large groups. We will keep you all posted when a date has been set, as you are all invited to join the celebrations. The child care would not be where and what it is today (i.e. one of the best in Toronto!!!) without the partnership and ongoing support from the church and its members. Thank you all! Please **visit martinlutherdaycare.ca or call (416)-258-2861** for more information.

One final note: we would like to share with you that the child care centre will be holding our Annual General Meeting on **August 10, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.** As a not for profit organization, we are governed by a volunteer Board of Directors that is comprised of members of the church as well as parents. We have a couple of vacancies to fill on our Board and would like to extend an invitation to you all to attend a virtual information session on **Monday, July 19 at 6 p.m.**, where we will provide information on the roles, responsibilities and obligations for members of the Board of Directors. Typically, the board meets for about 1 hour on the 4th Wednesday of each month (late afternoon or early evenings). Within the Board there are additional committees that you can join based on your availability and/or area of professional expertise. If you are interested, **please contact Cathy O'Toole at daycareoffice@bellnet.ca** and an invitation and link to the virtual Zoom meeting will be sent to you. If you are interested but not able to make the information session on July 19th please reach out to Cathy at the same email with your questions. In the meantime, from all of us to all of you -

stay safe, be well!