



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)

# Let us give thanks!

October 2021 - Congregational Newsletter

## Inspired to do good deeds

Bright red and fruity, the tomatoes shine in the display of our Community Pantry. I picked them in the garden this morning. Now they are waiting for someone to take them and enjoy them. Sometimes doing good is so easy. A piece of furniture, lovingly built by hand by our summer students and church members and now accessible to everyone in front of our church, reminded me of this and motivated me to get involved myself.

Paul says in his letter to the Hebrews: And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds (Hebrews 10:24).

Given the challenges and many problems that we face, these words comfort me. They steer my gaze away from the big, sometimes overwhelming picture towards what surrounds me. The apostle writes to a group of people who want to direct their lives to God. He encourages us to appreciate each other, to see what concerns you and me. Then we can pray together and encourage

each other to go on. This is the promise of Jesus Christ for our lives. In it lies the power to change - both inwardly and outwardly. I am grateful that there are people in the Martin Luther Church and elsewhere who are inspired by God's Spirit to do good things in a way that is welcoming and allows everyone to easily participate. The confidence that we have as Christians is expressed in this way:

There is great power in being on our way together!



*A. Klappert*  
Pastor Annika Klappert

## Introducing Pastor Annika Klappert

Hello! I'm Annika Klappert and I have officially been serving this lovely congregation as pastor since August 1, 2021. After some problems with immigration due to the pandemic, I finally arrived in Toronto on September 8, 2021. I am so happy to finally be here! Since I am brand-new to this congregation, I think you might want to know a little bit more about me.

I completed my theological studies in Münster and Berlin, and my practical training as vicar in Hamm, Westfalia (Germany). In my first years as a pastor I came to know all fields of pastoral work at three different congregations and was able to set my priorities in child and youth work, and experiential Confirmation work. My work with young adults aged 20-35 in the Münster student congregation imbued me with the perspective of the next generation of church members, which I think can help churches remain relevant as a place of community and faith in the future. I also really enjoyed working with and accompanying seniors, for example regularly organizing afternoons in women's groups and senior circles as well as special projects such as a pilgrimage for people using walkers.

I feel very blessed that the Martin Luther Church congregation chose me to be their next pastor, because it is an incredibly diverse and lively church community with many groups and projects. I am also impressed by the strong social justice causes that characterize the MLC.

I'm really excited to venture forward and find out together with you what kind of church God needs us to be in these coming years - hopefully with a lot of music, since I love to sing, play the guitar, and piano!

# Autumn updates and reflections

## Vicar McComb will continue to serve at MLC

Vicar Adam McComb will continue to serve part-time on the ministry team with Pastor Annika Klappert at Martin Luther Church. His special focus is child, youth and family ministry. We received a special donation to ensure he continues to be part of the church community.

## The Visiting Ministry Team Stays in Touch

"Call me again soon" I hear often when I talk to a senior of our congregation. But despite my promise to do so, weeks might go by before I pick up the phone again. The goal of the Visiting Ministry team has not changed: keep in touch with all parishioners over 75 years of age. We originally planned to call, visit, or talk to them in church at least once a month. But because of the Corona pandemic, conversations in the church were no longer possible. There were only a few visits, mostly outdoors wearing masks and distancing, which made communication difficult. Instead, many more phone calls were made, many at different intervals.

Through the conversations, we got the impression that most seniors had found a way to cope with the pandemic and to hear God's word, even when the church building was closed. "What's new in the church?" was a common question. How good that the team was informed by MLC update e-mails and the always up-to-date MLC website, and could pass this information on. Services were also provided that went beyond our mission, for example not so mobile seniors were accompanied to doctors' appointments, because a taxi drops someone off in front of the door, but help is needed with walking or finding their way around. Since the middle of July 2021, it has been possible to visit people in Long-Term Care Homes again. However, there are different regulations to be observed

depending on the home. How wonderful to see our church members in person again! For a long time, it was our wish that the team meet in person. This then became possible on June 3, 2021, where we met with Pastor Gerhard Hille, outdoors wearing masks and at a distance. We shared our experiences and talked about the welfare of the parishioners we were in contact with. We thank Pastor Hille for his encouragement.

In August, Pastor Klappert contacted us from Germany to find out more about our work. Her plan was to call parishioners from Germany if her entry into Canada would have been postponed even further. We put together information to make these calls easier for her. But now she is in Canada, in our congregation, and we are sure that she will look out for the older congregation members and give new impulses to the Visiting Ministry team. With God's help we will be happy to support her!

-Gisela Wilhelm



## Confirmation on German Thanksgiving

We congratulate our 2020-21 Confirmands Kristine S. and Michelle B. who have completed their year of formation and were confirmed on German Thanksgiving, October 3, 2021. We also welcomed our new 2021-2022 confirmands on September 26.



## Reflections from our summer students

As the summer wraps up and school starts to roll in, my time as a summer student at Martin Luther Church comes to an end. It was a long journey filled with fun, everyday, and hardworking tasks. It started with examining Alfred's large flower garden outside of the front of the church. It was a great sight to behold and as the summer went by and the flowers bloomed. Next, we got to grow our community garden in the raised beds. I learned a lot thanks to our Gardening Guru Catherine from the Lakeshore Environment Gardening Society (LEGS) about plant pairings as well as proper mulching and fertilizing techniques.

How can I talk about a summer wrap-up without mentioning Beverages and Blessings? Originally known as Bowls and Blessings, Beverages and Blessings focused more on keeping people hydrated and cool. We started with tasty pastries from Paris Bakery and freshly brewed iced teas with leaves picked from the raised beds. It grew into even more treats! Ice cream in huge pints, Kit-kat ice cream bars, freezies, as well as the occasional soups and sandwiches from community members. We also had plenty of clothing on the clothing rack for those who may have needed it too. I thank everyone in the community for being so generous and helping Beverages and Blessings continue.

Dan-days were an amazing experience. I got to do many things I never thought I would do as a student in university. From power washing and cleaning the huge front window of the church, to cutting through bushes that lined the side of the church, laying down bricks and levelling the ground in front of the parsonage, and flinging brick over the side of a (small) cliff in the recycling yard. It was quite the adventure and it all culminated in the big project I was tasked with: Our Community Pantry. I couldn't have done any of it without the help of Dan. I'm very grateful for

everything he helped me with.

I also thank Marlena for being the best helper around, Iris for being the voice of reason, Adam for keeping the hustle going and the brains for the initial Grow Some Good project, and Maliha for helping throughout the summer. Thank you to anyone else I may have interacted with and to the church for letting me help. That's all for now folks.

- Johnny

My time at the Martin Luther Church has been a very productive learning experience. I have learned and experienced new things throughout my time at the church and have been able to grasp as much knowledge as I can. I worked with some wonderful people at the church who mentored me. My time planting and gardening at the raised beds was where I learned about plants and insects with the help of Iris and Catherine. I am glad about my gardening experience. At Beverages and Blessings I learned a bunch of things that will help me in the future. It allowed me to come out of my comfort zone and has helped me grow. By meeting people, I have learned how a little bit of kindness can make someone's day, and how helping people will not only benefit them but also help you feel content. Working towards good with the right people feels really nice and I loved the time I worked with everyone at the church. I have been extremely lucky to have been able to get so much knowledge and experience working with the church members. I have been able to work better in groups now due to this job. I have learned so many new things and met all sorts of kind people thanks to the Martin Luther Church and am grateful for such a wonderful experience.

- Maliha

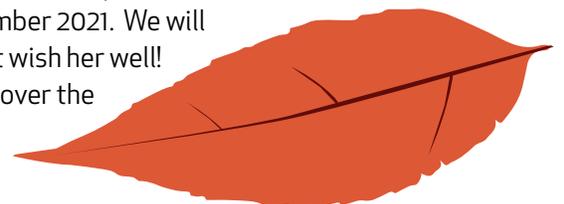
## Thanksgiving Food Drive

Please donate non-perishable food items, as well as personal hygiene items for our Community Pantry and Wesley Mimico United Church Food Bank. Financial donations to support our food pantry are also appreciated.



### MLC Daycare Supervisor: A changing of the guard

Teresa Kurek retired from the position of supervisor of Martin Luther Daycare at the beginning of September 2021. We will miss Teresa as part of our team but wish her well! Citlalli Jimenez-Luengas has taken over the role and we wish her all the best.



# Upcoming services



**Sun. Oct 10**

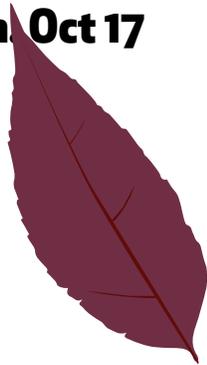
## **20th Sunday after Pentecost - Canadian Thanksgiving**

11:00am English service in person with Pastor Klappert (Sermon on YouTube)

**Sun. Oct 17**

## **21st Sunday after Pentecost - Pastor Klappert's Installation Service**

3:00pm English-German service led by Pastor David Tin (Dean of the Toronto Area). As a special guest we will welcome OKR Marcus Garras from Germany. Normally we would now invite all church members from near and far, all friends of the congregation, the German Consulate, politicians at all levels and all pastors we know. This time, places will be limited so we will require you to register with the church office or on Eventbrite due to COVID regulations. Unfortunately, **if you do not register we will not be able to allow you to join the service in person**. However, we will offer an online version so that everyone can be there. If you would like to express good wishes, please send a letter or e-mail to the church office.



**Wed. Oct 20**

## **Dinner Church by the Lake**

7:00 pm reflection with Pastor Annika Klappert

**Sun. Oct 24**

## **22nd Sunday after Pentecost**

11:00am German service in person with Iris Schweiger (Sermon on YouTube)

**Sun. Oct 31**

## **Reformation**

11:00am English-German service in person with Vicar McComb (Sermon on YouTube)

**Sun. Nov 7**

## **All Saints and Remembrance of the Dead**

11:00 am English-German Service with Pastor Klappert. Registration is required. The service will be followed by the Annual General Meeting. It will be a hybrid meeting, meaning it will be offered both in-person and online. We will cover only the essential points to keep it brief: minutes of last meeting and 2020 year end financials.

**Sun. Nov 14**

## **25th Sunday after Pentecost**

11:00am German service in person and on youtube with Pastor Klappert

**Wed. Nov 17**

## **Dinner Church by the Lake**

7:00 pm reflection with a Guest Speaker

**Sun. Nov 21**

## **Christ the King Sunday**

11:00am English-German service in person with Vicar McComb (Sermon on YouTube)



You are welcome to attend services when you feel well and comfortable to worship in-person. Please wear a mask. Registration is not required but appreciated to make tracking attendance easier. Please call the office or register online on Eventbrite. The sermon can be viewed on YouTube via our website after the service.

## **Get your MLC mask while supplies last!**

We thank Christine C. for ordering masks with our Martin Luther Church logo to celebrate our reopening!

