



Martin Luther
Evangelical
Lutheran
Church

Inside:
**A window
into
church
life**
**Our Spring
Bazaar**
**Easter
events and
services**

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)

Spring has Sprung!

March 2022 - Congregational Newsletter

Auf Wiedersehen Winter!

With my best German accent and a big smile on my face I am saying auf Wiedersehen Winter! I believe I am a positive person yet here I am willing to admit that February was kein Spaß, March wasn't a picnic, and I worry it was the same for you.

February started with too few hours of daylight and then more darkness rolled in. "Protestors" showed up to close down the centers of most of this nation's major cities and land borders. We experienced an ominous temperature swing from -18°C to +16°C. I was hopeful and ready to embrace March and Lent, but President Vladimir Putin had other plans.

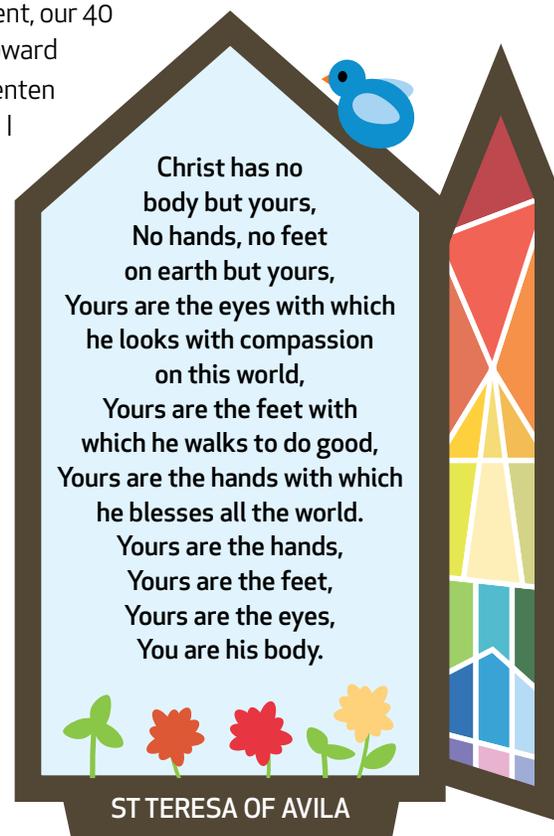
Wednesday, March 2 marked the start of Lent, our 40 day journey to the Cross. It is a dark journey toward hope. My understanding of an intentional Lenten journey is one that brings me closer to God. I learned this from "The Lent Song" I was introduced to this song by children in Sunday School. They sang about prayer, fasting, almsgiving, and being extra super nice. The song even has actions! When I learned that song from the children, they had great examples of how they participated in each of those categories.

Sometimes my plans to dig deeper into prayer, fasting, and the others sound like round-two of my new year's resolutions. That's when I know I might be on the wrong track. When discerning how I might participate more fully the quote from St. Teresa of Avila has always been valuable. It can inspire action and service, which always help us to see the best in each other and ourselves. To me that feels like hope.

My habits and practices for a rich Lenten journey have been formed and motivated by a children's song, a Nun from 1500s, and of course some prayer. This year, I need a fresh perspective and you might to. Let's practice the German habit of "lüften": open a window, and allow a fresh breeze to fill our lungs and ignite our hope. I hope you will join me as I open a window, yell auf Wiedersehen winter, and journey through Lent fueled with the hope of the Cross and the excitement of spring.

Are you looking for practices of prayer, fasting, almsgiving, and being super nice, to form your Lenten observance? What are your habits during these 40 days that help you draw closer to God and rediscover the hope of the Cross in your daily life?

Vicar Adam McComb



Looking into...

The Web Team - *Mona Frantzke*

As the web team, we're like a newspaper editorial team: MLC's own news-desk curating our window to the world: <https://martinluther.ca>.

We meet weekly on Zoom to review church news; liaising with ministry team, church council, group leaders, etc. We vet texts, photos and images for the website, arrange content, as well as plan future articles, known as blog posts, and social media posts. Volunteer translators help us share information in both English and German. Graphic designers make appealing visuals. We decide which articles to feature on the homepage from the "news blog". Another three front-row spots are updated weekly: the German radio devotion, the Sunday sermon on YouTube, and a third wildcard spot, for miscellaneous information or weekly activity schedules. We also regularly review our 80-page website to identify pages that need updating and/or navigation optimization. For example, we recently added our newest webpage "Bowls and Blessings" under a new navigation button called Outreach where we are keeping our related web pages (i.e. Dinner Church, Refugee Support, Bazaar, etc.). Join us if you like, for a behind-the-scenes look! Please also send feedback.

The Tech Team - *Alex & Andy Boettcher*

Since 2020, worship videos have been regularly uploaded to YouTube –with nearly 18,000 views of these videos (and the announcement videos featuring Church Council members) to date. After undergoing multiple shifts and transformations since March 2020, due to the pandemic's far-reaching impacts, we currently endeavour to provide an audio-visual live broadcast (via ZOOM or live-stream) and/or a summary edit uploaded to the web on YouTube (which also serves as an audiovisual archival record for posterity of those serving on the ministry team throughout these two tumultuous years. We invite you to come look behind the scenes with us!

Bible Study with Luke - *Pastor Annika*

6 times we met online and talked about texts from the Gospel of Luke. We also found out a lot about the author and the origins of his scripture, such as why he often is depicted with an ox. Shared was also a lot on a personal level that went far beyond favorite ice cream flavors and Olympic sports. I am grateful for interesting thoughts and questions that often became part of the sermon. I hope for a repeat soon - maybe even in person this time?

A window into Church Life!

The Office and Ministry Team

We used our detour to come up with new ideas in our weekly meetings, for example the prayer walk, in addition to our tried and tested online services with changing guest preachers. We also dreamed ahead for the spring and summer with thoughts of family camp and a trip. In the coming months, we would like to create spaces for encounters within the congregation and our neighborhood - adapted to the current COVID situation - because we feel that many people need them. But that also means facing the challenges that arise from this together. For example, with emergency training for our volunteers to equip them for their tasks while also accompanying them pastorally.

The Building Project and Altar Art Steering Committees - *Sonja Schweiger*

The Building Project stormed full steam ahead into 2022 with a property survey and a closer look at how space is shared with the Child Care. We hope to get engineers on site to investigate the building conditions in April to move forward with the design and costing.

The Altar Art Committee got off to an equally strong start with 6 dedicated and enthusiastic members (with arts backgrounds). Stay tuned for an update by both committees at the AGM!

Church Council

8 council members, meeting almost weekly online in times of crisis, were tasked with steering the MLC ship through uncharted waters over the last 2 years. With resourcefulness, resilience, and elbow grease they tackled the big questions that faced our church: how do we keep our congregation safe? How do we find a new Pastor? How do we weather changes in donation patterns? How do we continue to preserve our traditions? How do we minister to a community in great need? At times it was difficult, even painful, to choose the safest option, at other times, rising to the challenge came with pleasant surprises in the form of fun online announcements, more accessible virtual meetings, or fulfilling outdoor ministry. A huge thank you to everyone who volunteered their time to the council and to all those who met their hard work and leadership with grace and patience. Do you feel called to join the Church Council and help shape the future of MLC? Contact the office and be sure to be at the AGM!

Confirmation - Vicar Adam

What do 2 kilos of cheese, 29 apples, 47 COVID tests, 14 scoops of Ed's Real Scoop ice cream, and 4 sleepless Saturday nights (for Pastor Annika and Vicar Adam) all have in common? That's a great question! I would suggest you ask our hopeful confirmands or "Konfis". Pentecost Sunday is June 5, 2022 and that means another great Confirmation service. Pastor Annika, the Konfis, and I have been spending one weekend a month in an intensive "immersion" style confirmation bootcamp. We are discussing all of our favorite topics to figure out how we can each participate in deepening our relationship with God and how to live it through the church. Our Konfis are finding themselves in our great story and learning how to tell it, and that's what it's all about! Keep up the great work Konfis!

Our newest Intern: Nefeli

Hello everyone! My Name is Nefeli. I'm 22 years old and I'm from a small town in northern Bavaria called Obermichelbach. Currently, I'm studying theology in Erlangen in my fifth Year, which means that my studies are coming to an end. When I was starting to look around for my field placement I really wanted to go to Canada. From the moment



I saw your website, I knew I wanted to work with you. The logo of your church just seemed so alive! I started looking around and was amazed by the things you do and the people you presented, and I was sure I wanted to be a part of your journey for a few weeks. I would be happy to assist you in any way you need and I look forward to seeing how a German-Canadian community works and believes. I'm hoping that you want to be a part of my journey for a few weeks as well!

Blessings, Nefeli

Looking out on...

The Food Bank - Bob Sharkey

I would like to express the deep appreciation of Wesley Mimico United Church for the strong support of Martin Luther Evangelical Lutheran Church for the food programs of WMUC. The Community Luncheon remains suspended due to Covid-19 but the Food Bank and Christmas basket and grocery card programs continue. We appreciate use of the Food Bank room and the donations in kind. At Christmas we delivered food and \$30 grocery cards (1 per adult) to about 40 needy families in the Mimico community. Each week we deliver food and \$10 grocery cards. Each month we deliver to about 35 families. Please extend our thanks to the congregation for their support over the past 8 years.

Martin Luther Child Care Name Change

Martin Luther Church Day Nursery is Martin Luther Child Care! New signs around the building announce this name change and make us more visible to the community, in line with our strategic vision.



Bowls & Blessings

We continue to feed and greet the community with soup and baked goods on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 12-1pm in front of the church. Volunteers and visitors are very welcome!

Looking forward...

Thank you for your patience throughout the ups and downs of COVID! As per government guidelines we dropped our vaccine and mask policy on March 27, 2022. We believe it is prudent for all members and facility users to be vaccinated and recommend updating your COVID shots as per government guidelines. Feel free to wear your mask and participate in services at your comfort level. Please be advised that sermons can be viewed on YouTube via our website after the service.

Holy Week & Easter 2022

April 10 - Palm Sunday

11:00am English-German Service with Harfentoene choir
Please bring good-as-new socks to donate as part of the Eastern Synod Palm Sunday Challenge!

April 14 - Maundy Thursday

7:00 pm Dinner Church

April 15 - Good Friday

11:00am German service with Holy Communion and choir

April 17 - Easter Sunday

6:15 am Sunrise Service at Etobicoke Point in Humber Bay Park West. Please see our website or contact the church office for directions to the meeting point.
10:00 am English-German Service with church choir

Let us know if your family is interested in participating in an Easter egg hunt!

AGM

The 2022 Annual General Meeting will be held in person on May 15 after the service.

Day Trip to Petroglyphs Provincial Park with Martin Luther Church Ottawa

On June 19 we will spend a nice day together, visiting the museum with the ancient Indigenous petroglyphs, stroll through the park, picnic, and enjoy the landscape around us. Please contact the church office by Easter if you'd like to join. Transportation and fees to be determined.

Pastor Klappert will be in Costa Rica from April 21-May 3 attending the EKD Regional Conference for the Americas.



Spring Bazaar

It is time for our second MLC Spring Bazaar! The sale goes live on our website: www.mlcbaazar.ca on **Wednesday April 27, 2022** and closes at midnight on **Friday May 6, 2022**. You will be able to shop amazing hand made or home baked treats, just in time for Mother's Day. Pickup of purchases will be at the church on **Sunday May 8 from 11am - 1pm**, so you can come and enjoy the service and take home your purchases all in one visit! Funds raised support our outreach programs: community pantry, + garden, Martin Luther Child Care, refugee partnerships, and soup distribution.

Summer Camp Registration

It is with great joy that we announce our return to Camp Lutherlyn! Mark you calendars and get excited for a week of camp antics **August 1-7**. This year we hope to see lots of you at camp. We will head north with all our favorite activities and programming to join the Camp Lutherlyn team for a week, with hosted activities and plenty of space to find some peace. Each year they have been hosting this Choose-Your-Own-Adventure style camp for all ages and stages and we are excited to join them. There will be parts of the day where our favorite programs will be hosted by a team from Martin Luther Church and the rest of the day, we will get to join stations hosted by the Lutherlyn Activities Staff with our new camp friends. **We will confirm numbers with Camp Lutherlyn by Easter**. Questions? Interested? Ready to register? Let us know by e-mailing Churchoffice@martinluther.ca so we can ensure you know all you need to know and are ready to go!