



Martin Luther
Evangelical
Lutheran
Church

Inside:
Bees for
Peace

Godspeed
Vicar McComb
& Tanya Zielke

50th
Anniversary
of the Daycare

Save the
Dates!

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

The Church is Abuzz!

August 2022 - Congregational Newsletter

A jump into the deep end

I was asked yesterday what my best moment was in my ten weeks as an intern. Not an easy question, which at first triggered many more questions in me. What had happened in the last weeks? What stands out in particular? And how can it be that ten weeks are already over; that by the time you get this newsletter in your hands, I will already be back in Germany and that summer will already be in full swing again.

A summer with some Godspeeds: Tanya Zielke, who has left for her year of adventures, Vicar Adam McComb, for whom the last part of his training to become an official pastor is coming up, and also for me, whose internship at the church is over.

When I think of all the many things that have happened in the last few weeks, and that are yet to come, I think the daily verse for August 5 fits pretty well: Psalm 18:29: For in You I can charge an army, and with my God I can scale a wall.

With all the special events in the lives of each and every one of us, it's easy to be overcome with fear. Can I really do it? Do I dare to do it? Am I good enough? Yes. A simple answer. God goes along with it. He jumps into the deep end with us or over walls. He dares to take the next step with us no matter how exciting or perhaps scary it may be.

That is also what I answered to the question about my most beautiful moment: There were a lot of beautiful moments and they let me just be thankful that I took the leap and that I trusted God to jump with me over the wall and into the cold water. I can definitely say after these ten weeks: It was worth it.

I wish you for this summer that you also dare to jump over the wall or into the cold water and simply dare to try something new. It doesn't have to be a trip around the world or an internship on another continent. Sometimes even small steps feel big. Just believe: You are not taking this step alone. God jumps with you.

Nefeli Xigos

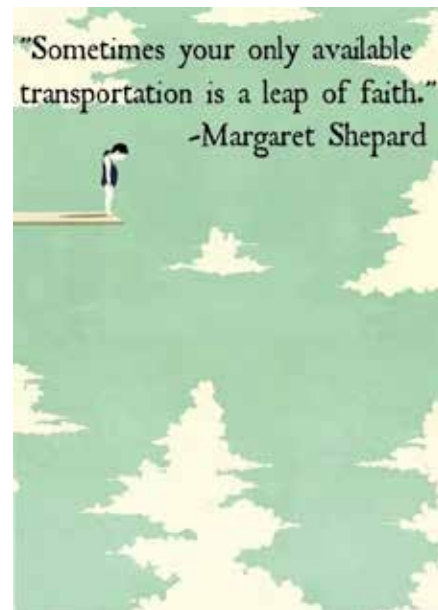


Thank You Nefeli!

We appreciated Nefeli's positive attitude, honesty and readiness to help with expertise wherever it was needed, as well as her humour and flexibility in working with us together as a team. We really hope that this experience will give her confidence and joy to pursue the goal of becoming a pastor herself one day.

Plan Ahead:

Place your order of "Der Andere Advent" 2022/23 with the church office by September 15. "Der Andere Advent" accompanies you through the Advent and Christmas season with texts and pictures from the evening before the 1st Advent until January 6. The poems, stories and narratives invite you to think about our time, our togetherness and our confidence.



Working and growing close to home...

Introducing our Summer Students

Our summer community workers, Niki Shiari and Rachel Gaynor, have been leading Bowls and Blessings food ministry and working with teams including the church office, the Tech Team, Dinner Church and Bees for Peace, as well as helping to launch our Little Library. We are grateful that we could hire youth in the community again thanks to the Canada Summer Jobs program.



50th Anniversary of Martin Luther Child Care

Martin Luther Child Care was very excited to finally be able to celebrate the 50th Year Anniversary together! MLCC was actually 50 years old in 2020 but due to COVID-19 were not able to celebrate. We were overwhelmed with appreciation for all those who came to celebrate and enjoy the amazing multicultural cuisine prepared by the MLCC staff! It was truly magical... we actually did have a magician onsite as well as games and activities for the children. The members of our Board (Karinna, Astrid, Christiane, Robert and Pastor Annika

Klappert) were all in attendance, as were Marlena and Dan to represent Martin Luther Church. We also welcomed back our long time Supervisor Teresa who retired in the fall of 2021, and were honoured with a visit from City Councillor Mark Grimes who presented MLCC with a certificate to honour the 50 Year milestone! The event was wrapped up with a lilac tree planting in the playground garden. What a great day and way to celebrate 50 years of serving the children and families in our community!

Wilkommen Pastor Iris Junge Visiting Pastor covering on August 14 and September 4

"Whom God wants to show the right favour, he sends into the wide world". These words from a German folk song fit my situation very well because with great excitement, joy and gratitude I look forward to my journey "into the wide world". It started in July. I will spend three months in Canada to



getting to know German and Canadian churches. My first path leads me directly to your Martin Luther Church. My name is Iris Junge and I am a pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran church of St. Marien Uelzen, a small town between Hamburg and Hanover. The congregation has around 3800 members, who live in the town as well as in the surrounding villages. I have been a pastor for more than 22 years and I still love it! I still appreciate the diverse tasks, the varied contacts and trusting encounters in joy and sorrow. I sing in a choir, like to ride my bike, have a large garden with work and joy, like to host friends and family and above all I like to travel. I am happier still when I travel to you and God shows me the favour of sending me "into the wide world". I look forward to meeting you. God bless you!

- Pastor Iris Junge

Little Library

The idea for a Little Library was proposed by Karen MacPherson from Wesley Mimico United Church. Once approved by Martin Luther's Council, work started on the design and the idea of a bench to go alongside the Library was proposed by Dan Sommerfeld. The project was built by Karen's neighbour, John Naglic, and finished and installed by Dan.



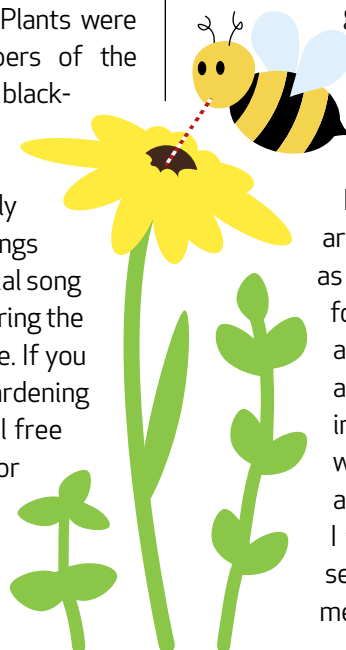
The cost was covered by both churches and a donation from the public. It is open in front of Martin Luther Church for the public to donate and take books to enjoy.



Bees for Peace Program

Recently, Emily and Mauricio have been working with Martin Luther Church on their pollinator and vegetable community gardens in front of 5 Superior Ave. Plants were collected from Project Swallowtail and members of the congregation. Some of the native plants include black-eyed susans, sweet grass, and milkweed. The pair are looking forward to seeing how the gardens do throughout the coming months! Mauricio and Emily also regularly attended services, Bowls and Blessings and Dinner Church in July. There was even a special song performance (Der Nussbaum sung by Mauricio) during the

July 24 service. If you see them gardening out there, feel free to stop by for a quick chat or ask any questions.

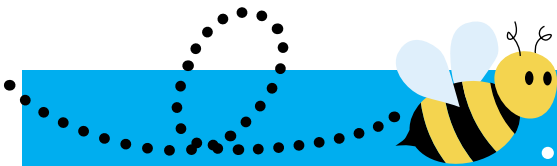


Learning Experiences in June- Indigenous History Month

In June I got the chance to learn about Indigenous history in Canada three times. First, I participated in the KAIROS Blanket Exercise where we were guided in an immersive way through the suffering of Indigenous peoples since the arrival of the settlers. I had the chance to empathize with the feeling of the gradual loss of land, as well as the systematic discrimination and isolation. Secondly, during our congregational trip to Petroglyphs Provincial Park, where we met with the Martin Luther Church from Ottawa, we learned many exciting things about the religious traditions, myths, and rites of the Indigenous peoples in this area. The largest collection of stone inscriptions in Canada testifies to a rich culture that combines worship of the sacred with respect for life and knowledge of nature. Finally, I read *Five Little Indians* by Michelle Good as part of a book study organized by Iris Schweiger and other members of the Circle of Reconciliation and Justice of the ELCIC – a particularly moving experience. The story is about five young adults trying to find their place in the world after a traumatic childhood in residential schools. It tells of despair, but also of impressive willpower and the ability to stand up for yourself and for others despite unspeakable suffering. As a pastor, it is particularly upsetting for me to learn how church personnel in these institutions physically and emotionally abused children. I therefore really hope that we as a congregation participate in the process of coming to terms with the past and trying to find ways towards reconciliation.

- Pastor Annika Klappert

An opportunity for you to hear and live Canadian history to the present through the eyes of Indigenous peoples is on Saturday September 24, 2022. From 9:30 am to 12:30 pm a KAIROS Blanket Exercise will be offered by ECULINKS Etobicoke and KAIROS Toronto West at our church. Register with the office. Pay what you can; suggested offering of \$15.



... and in the great wide world!

Vicar Adam's Stories: The MLC Chapter

With a lot of humor and humility, Adam McComb drew us into his Bible stories and everyday stories with God right from the start. Each of his stories leaves an impression, encourages reflection and retelling. I am deeply grateful that Vicar Adam, despite his intensive study time, kept extending his contract with the Martin Luther Church! At first it was only supposed to be one year together with four other vicars but then the pandemic caused the plans to change. Vicar Adam rose to the occasion, and he was not just on the sidelines, he was always right in the middle! On July 31, 2022 his contract as an employee of the Martin Luther Church came to an end with a farewell service. With God's infinite blessings, we send him into the next phase of his life. Auf Wiedersehen Vicar McComb! All the best,

- Iris Schweiger

P.S. Adam has been endorsed as a candidate for rostered ministry by the Eastern Synod. His journey towards ordained ministry in our Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada continues with a Clinical Pastoral Education program. We pray that he is able to begin soon.



Farewell Tanya Zielke!

We wish you well and hope you strengthen Lutheran ties abroad during your year-long travels

Dear Congregation,

On July 31, 2022 I am taking off on a 12-month sabbatical. The plan is to travel around the world to visit friends and family, check off bucket-list items and experience new and exciting things. I will be staying in EKD congregations in Athens, Turkey, and Mexico City. I will also be connecting with the EKD congregation in Cairo.

Not only will I be in contact with EKD overseas congregations, but I will also be visiting with former pastors, vicars and interns as I travel through Germany during my first 6 weeks of travel. I am excited to catch up with Pastors Ceconi, Hille, Wolf, and Mielke. I am also going to be visiting with former vicars, Pastors Mirjam Steinebach, Thara Klein, Caroline Raddatz, Silke Fahl and Katarina Prosenjak. And of course MLC interns- Hilke, Luisa, and Nefeli.

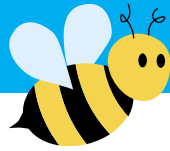
I ask that you keep me in your prayers during my trip abroad and I already can't wait to share my adventures with you all when I get back!

- Tanya Zielke

Check out Tanya's Blog: <http://tanyatravelsca.wordpress.com>



A look ahead...



August 14, 2022

10th Sunday after Pentecost

11:00 am Service in German led by Visiting Pastor Iris Junge

August 21, 2022

11th Sunday after Pentecost

11:00 am Service in English and German led by Guest Presider Sara

August 28, 2022

12th Sunday after Pentecost

11:00 am Service in English led by Lay Preacher Iris Schweiger and Pastor Catharina Klein

September 4, 2022

13th Sunday after Pentecost

11:00 am Service in German led by Pastor Iris Junge

September 11, 2022

14th Sunday after Pentecost

11:00 am Service by Pastor Annika Klappert

Note from the Worship Team: We will share the results of the congregational life questionnaire in the fall. Until further notice we will continue with one English, German or bilingual worship service every Sunday.

Note from our Tech Team: On Sundays when the sermon cannot be recorded the church we will share a pre-recorded video from the ELCIC Summer Sermon Series on our YouTube channel. This is a wonderful way to get to know Bishops (and Assistants to the Bishops) from across the ELCIC, while giving our thinly-spread Tech Team some summer time off!

Pastor Klappert is away

Pastor Annika Klappert will be away from August 10 to September 10, 2022. Please contact Pastor Katharina Moeller from St. George's Church for emergency pastoral care during this time at (905)-277 2631 or via k.moeller@sympatico.ca. Services will be led by a team of guest preachers. See the complete schedule to the left.

From August 16-21, 2022 Pastor Klappert will participate in the international pastoral conference in Bad Boll, in southern Germany. After the assembly of EKD (Evangelische Kirche in Deutschland) pastors from all over the world, prominent visitors will also be present: The President of the EKD Synod, Anna-Nicole Heinrich, as well as the President of the Council of the EKD, Dr. h.c. Annette Kurschus. In addition, there will be lectures by renowned professors on the topic of "Thinking church - Today".

SAVE THE DATES!



Church Choir

Rehearsals resume on **Tue Sep. 6** at 6pm in the church. All are welcome!

Dinner Church

We kick off our fall season on **Wed Sep. 14** at 7pm in the foyer.

Blessing of the Volunteers and Installation of the Church Council During the Service

Will take place on **Sun Sep. 25** at 11am. More information to come.

German Thanksgiving Service

On **Sun Oct. 2** featuring our Church Choir.

Seniors Group

A meeting will take place on **Wed Oct. 5**. More information to come.

Christmas Play/Rehearsals

Rehearsals will begin on **Sun Oct. 30 (Reformation Sunday)** at 9:30am. Sign up with the church office to participate in the show or assist with other fun Saturday morning activities. The play will be performed on **Sun Dec. 4 (second Sunday of Advent)**.

Online Bible Study

Reading the Bible and talking about the experiences we have in our faith is a key component to Christian fellowship. After exploring a passage of the scripture together we will decide in which form and structure we want to continue as a group. Please register via our office, and we will send you the Zoom link to join us. This Bible Study will take place on **Thursdays, Sep. 15-Oct. 20** at 7:30 pm.