



Martin Luther
Evangelical
Lutheran
Church

Congregational Newsletter

November 2022 - January 2023

Note from the Newsletter Team:

This newsletter has a simple design because our volunteer graphic designer was sick at the time of publishing. We look forward to sharing our content in the usual beautiful format again in the new year. Thank you for your understanding.

The Big Picture

Have you ever wished you could travel in time? There are a few films and books that play with this idea. I would find it most exciting to see what my life will be like in the future. And, of course, I would like to be a contented old lady someday who can look back on her life with gratitude.

The monthly verse for October is also a time travel text. It comes from the Revelation of John and catapults us to the end of all time, to the last chapter of our earth as we know it. In his book, the seer John first describes a great final battle between good and evil forces on earth. Finally, however, God is victorious, and a great judgment takes place over the living and the dead. Following this, his people live in harmony with him on a new, wonderful earth without suffering and sorrow. In short, the end times will be terrible, but there is a great happy ending waiting for us when justice prevails.



In this particular book of the Bible, there are many images that we can hardly understand without background knowledge. Much of what is reported actually says more about John's present than about our future. For in his time, the first Christians often suffered oppression from the politically powerful and were persecuted for their faith. Perhaps that is why, over the centuries, this text has comforted many Christians who were themselves threatened by struggle, persecution and war. And I must confess, the images of Revelation also have grown dearer to my heart in recent years. So much seems to be out of control in the world right now. And I see and experience a lot that makes me sad and angry. That's why John's words comfort me, because they tell us that everything we are suffering from now cannot be the end. Simply because God created this world and us for good. Life makes sense to me only when the bad

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things that people experience in their lives will be absorbed by God's love and mercy in the end.

I ask myself: If I take this future perspective into my every day - How can it change my life in the here and now? Even if I can't make sure via a journey into the future that everything will be fine, later. Even if I don't know today what will happen to me in my life. Even if I do not know at this moment how my life will end - It is good to be aware that I am part of a greater reality. If I assume that in the end God will be victorious with his justice and love and that we as his people will then live together in peace and happiness, then I can already live more fearlessly and courageously, more freely and more lovingly. I believe that hoping for a good end makes it easier for us to see the good in our present already now, to enjoy it and to strengthen it. Therefore, my tip: Why don't you make John's end-time hymn the catchy tune of your present: "Great and marvelous are your deeds, Lord God Almighty. Just and true are your ways, King of the nations." (Revelation 15,3)



Pastor Annika Klappert

Student Iris Mak introduces herself

I am Iris Mak and I am currently studying in the Master of Divinity program at Martin Luther University College in Waterloo. Prior to my study, I worked full time as a kindergarten teacher at an elementary school in Toronto. From exploring nature with children to studying the Bible with youth, I love to help people discover the wonder and mystery of God's love. I am excited to have my placement at Martin Luther Church from now until April 2023 and look forward to learning about the different aspects of planning and leading worship. Thank you again for allowing me to have this learning opportunity!



Join Iris for a presentation after the 11:00 am service on **December 18**. More information to come!

Renovation Project Congregational Meeting, Sunday November 13 at 1 pm

The Building Project Committee will present a scope of work, budget, and timeline for the renovation project. The congregation will be asked to vote on whether to proceed with the project's goals and budget. To hold this critical vote, it is imperative that at least 10 percent of all voting members are present. If you cannot attend in person and need access for online participation, please contact Sonja Schweiger, Project Manager at project@martinluther.ca.

Special Appeal for Donations by our Treasurer on behalf of Church Council

Dear congregation and friends,

Our church currently has a large financial deficit. Donations for the general household are down and overhead expenses are back to pre-pandemic levels. To be able to keep our church doing the good work it does, we need financial help. Members have hopefully already received our detailed letter about the financial situation of our church sent out mid-October 2022. If you haven't received the letter, let Marlena Muller in the church office know, 416-251-8293, office@martinluther.ca. She will be happy to send it to you.

In response, some people have increased their donation by pre-authorized remittance (PAR) or sent in a one-time donation. We thank all generous donors. See our [donation webpage](#) for ways to contribute.

We have spoken to many congregation members and answered questions. If you would like to receive a call to ask your questions, please write a message to Martin Haefele, Treasurer Martin Luther Church, Toronto treasurer@martinluther.ca

Please also keep Martin Luther Church in your prayers.

Fundraising Events FIFA World Cup 2022

We will be showing the games of the German soccer team in our church as a fundraiser on these three days of the preliminary round FIFA 2022. Tickets for the preliminary round will be \$10.

Wednesday November 23, 2022, Germany vs Japan.
Game starts at 8:00 am. Doors open at 7:30 am.

Sunday November 27, 2022, Germany vs Spain. Game starts at 2:00 pm. Doors open at 1:00 pm.

Thursday December 1, 2022, Germany vs Costa Rica. Game starts at 2:00 pm. Doors open at 1:00 pm.

If you would like to help to sell tickets and organize drinks and food, please contact Martin Haefele at 416 569 5408, treasurer@martinluther.ca.



Christmas Play on the Theme of Peace

Yay! Finally the time has come again and we have begun rehearsals for our Christmas play which will be on the **2nd Sunday of Advent, December 4, 2022 at 11:00 am**. This year we want to create the story again and ask ourselves what the birth of Jesus actually has to do with peace on earth and how we can contribute to it. We are looking forward to children of all ages (also little sheep and angels) and everyone who feels like helping out might be fun! Rehearsals are Sundays at 9:30 am in the church. We will get to know each other and learn the play. You are welcome to join us!

Christmas Bazaar on December 4, 2022, 12 to 2 pm

Join us for a traditional German Christmas market with home baked treats, hand-made soaps, Christmas decor, cookies, hand-knit socks, fresh waffles, spiced punch, European sausages and so much more!

Crafters are wanted to produce goods for our sale! **Sign up by November 20.**



Seniors Group

We had a Senior's Group gathering at the Wienecke farm on October 4, 2022. It was a beautiful sunny fall day with an excellent lunch, good fellowship and a walking tour of the grain elevators. It was awesome catching up - our first meeting since the start of the pandemic.

We invite our seniors to an Advent celebration at church on the **3rd Sunday of Advent, December 11 at 1 pm**.



Council Retreat at Camp Lutherlyn, October 21 - 23, 2022

Just like in previous years, your church council members went on an overnight weekend retreat to make plans for the future of our church and set goals for the upcoming year 2023. These will be introduced during the **Annual General Meeting on February 26, 2023**.

Save the Date: Family Camp at Camp Lutherlyn, August 7-13, 2023. Please sign up no later than January 2023.

Church Council Members 2022/23

Current members are (pictured from left to right): Mona Kakoschke Frantzke, Andrea Dannecker (Interim Secretary), Pastor Annika Klappert (non-voting member), Martin Haefele (Treasurer), Iris Schweiger (President), Kai Herrmann (Vice President). Not pictured are Prerit Gomez and Tanya Zielke who are on a leave of absence.



Both Schweiger and Haefele will need to step down at the 2023 Annual General Meeting as they have fulfilled their six years of duty as per our Martin Luther Church constitution. We are once again aiming to fill our council with 12 members. Talk to any of us. We are looking forward to welcoming you into our midst.

We mourn...

Inge Koo Tze Mew passed away on October 20, 2022. A celebration of life took place at our church on October 30, 2022.



Food Ministry

Our mission at Martin Luther Church as Lutherans by the Lake is to celebrate faith, serve and inspire people. I experience the food security and moral support systems in the Lakeshore and South Etobicoke community through our church. I talk to volunteers from Wesley Mimico United Church who restock the food bank that we accommodate in our church. They regularly deliver food to the homes of neighbours in need. I talk to our Bowls and Blessings food ministry team of church & community members, as well as local businesses, that cook and serve healthy, homemade soup. I am greeted by neighbours we serve outside our church twice a week, all-year, rain or shine. They are invited to leave a donation at their discretion but there is no charge as such. I chat with people who take and/or leave non-perishable food in our 24/7 community food pantry. I coordinate with a kind neighbour who brings donated bread and pastry from Paris Bakery every week. I meet partners in our food security network including farmers who donate produce from the nearby food terminal for us to share. Another neighbour at Food for Now brings our leftover soup to the homeless, and a volunteer working with Not Far From the Tree shares fruit picked in people's yards. I learn from gardeners who plant and harvest vegetables or herbs in our community garden. I am grateful to be part of a generous community that prepares, shares, and eats healthy food together, amidst conversations and prayers.



Marlena Muller

Discovery of the Bible - Bible Study for 2023

In the new year, we will meet Thursday evenings on Zoom with the congregation members of Martin Luther Church in Ottawa. Just like us, they have German and English church members and a German pastor. So we meet together on Thursdays and then sometimes split into a German and an English group on Zoom.

On Sundays, in the service you only hear a small excerpt, but of course the Bible is part of a longer story. It builds on each Book and chapter, so there is a lot to discover. If you want, you can read the respective chapters by the dates!

Genesis, Thursday January 12, 2023, at 7pm

Exodus to Deuteronomy, Thursday February 9, 2023, at 7pm

Survey Results

During the summer we provided all church members and friends of the congregation with the opportunity to fill out a survey to indicate worship service preferences. We are grateful to the 25 people who participated. The answers were highly varied. This makes the survey inconclusive.

But we are listening! So, together with the Pastor, church council has come up with a 3-month plan for worship services in the new year, considering our current resources, both of volunteers and our financial deficit situation. From January to March, there will be 2 services on Sundays every other week: 9.45am English and 11am German (about twice per month). On the other Sundays, there will be 1 bilingual service at 11 am. We will revisit this worship model in the new year based on attendance and the development of our financial situation.

In general, we plan to have both an English and a German service on Christmas Eve, Palm Sunday, Good Friday, Erntedank (German Thanksgiving) and Reformation. There will be one bilingual service for 1st Advent, Christmas Day, on the Sunday of our Annual General Meeting, for Easter Sunday, Pentecost, Canadian Thanksgiving and All Saints.

Tech Team

Due to the low number of views on our YouTube channel, the lack of additional tech team volunteers, and since we are now back to in-person worship, the Tech Team has suspended the weekly recording and posting of the sermon. As of January 2023 only important dates in our liturgical year will be recorded.

Worship Schedule

November 13, 2022, 23rd Sunday of Pentecost

11:00 am German-English Service

1:00 pm Congregational Meeting for Building Committee Update

November 20, 2022, Christ the King Sunday

11:00 am English Service with Guest Preacher Rev. Adam Snook, Assistant to the Bishop at Eastern Synod, ELCIC

November 27, 2022, 1st Sunday of Advent & 67th Anniversary of Martin Luther Church

11:00 am English-German Service with our church choir

December 4, 2022, 2nd Sunday of Advent

11:00 am English-German Service with our Christmas Play

12:00-2:00 pm Christmas Bazaar

December 11, 2022, 3rd Sunday of Advent

11:00 am German Service with Holy Communion

December 18, 2022, 4th Sunday of Advent

11:00 am German Service

7:00 pm English Candlelight service

December 24, 2022, Christmas Eve

5:00 pm German Service

6:30 pm English Service

Both with our church choir

December 25, 2022, Christmas Day

11:00 am English-German Service

January 1, 2023, New Year's Day

1st Sunday of Christmas

11:00 am English-German Service

January 8, 2023, 1st Sunday of Epiphany (Baptism of our Lord)

9:45 am English Service

11:00 am German Service

January 15, 2023, 2nd Sunday of Epiphany

11:00 am English-German Service

January 22, 2023, 3rd Sunday of Epiphany

9:45 am English Service

11:00 am German Service

January 29, 2023, 4th Sunday of Epiphany

11:00 am English-German Service