

Martin Luther Ev. Lutheran Church

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Pastor Stefan Wolf

April 2005

**Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers,
for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.**

(Hebrews 13, 2)

Devotion on the Verse for the Month of April

Dear Congregation,

the congregations in Rome live underground. These are former Jews and new Christians. Life is not easy, when one cannot practice one's faith publicly. Memories of systematic persecution of Christians and then the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem are still vivid. It is also not so easy to pass on the new teachings in such a way that all understand them nor are all in the congregation on the same level. There are those who belong to the first generation of Christians and have probably had Paul or perhaps Peter, who is said to have come to Rome, as witnesses of the resurrection as evangelists and teachers. The more time goes by, and the more new people came to believe, the congregation is facing the not so easy task to pass on this faith. There are things that have been obvious earlier on, that must be said again. For this reason there is the Letter to the Hebrews, which is actually a speech or even a sermon to the congregation of Rome. Things are recalled into memory like: "Show hospitality, do not neglect..." Whoever has been in Italy or in other countries, knows, that hospitality is impressive even in poor countries. But in a Christian underground congregation, it is not without danger to let someone into one's house. There could be disadvantages if one was unmasked as a Christian sympathiser thereby. People risked their lives if it was discovered. – I remember visits in the then GDR, where the neighbourhood agent stood already at the window and watched carefully to when visitors came from the west. And he did not shy away from questioning the just five



year old son of our friends, what the guests might have brought or said. And as this was a partnership between congregations, which was known the security authorities, our friends professed themselves in this way to be Christians. That had some disadvantages concerning their education and profession. Party members who were expected to read Marx and Engels instead of the Bible, were preferred, of course. You realize, this harmless topic is about more than preparing the guest room and setting the table. What is not a problem for us, could become dangerous at the time in Rome, when the Letter to the Hebrews was written. However, there is also a blessing in the danger: Many have given shelter to angels without knowing it. Now, much can be said to the topic "angel", but the idea is that, through the visit, God's message reaches the hosts.

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The visitors have become messengers, it was about more than giving shelter, it was about the hosts being presented with the gift of God's presence in the end. Wherever one shares something, be it food or the roof over one's head, one becomes closer to each other, exchanges thoughts, perhaps learns something that one furthers one's faith. – This year, our congregation will receive many a visitor. It begins this month with the visit of Mr. and Mrs. Reichel. We are all looking forward to it and are certain, what we will hear about their work and life in Brazil, will also help us to better understand God's actions, become enriched and will grow in our faith.

With best wishes for April,
I remain with kind regards,
Your Pastor

Our Groups and Circles

All Groups, Circles and interested Congregation Members are invited to a meeting with Mr. and Mrs. Reichel on **Wednesday, April 20th at 6:00 p.m.** at the Church. There will be a Pot-luck supper; we ask you to bring some food. The Reichels will talk about their work in Sao Paulo, Brazil.



Confirmation Instruction begins on **Monday, April 4**, at 7:00 p.m. at the parsonage. The next date, an exception, is a **Tuesday, namely April 19**, at 7:00 p.m., also at the parsonage!

The Literary Circle meets on **Tuesday, April 5**, 4:00 p.m. at the Parsonage, 3203 Gatliff Ave. Mississauga (east of Dixie Rd., south of Bloor St.).

The Board of Directors of the Nursery meets on **Tuesday, April 5**, 6:00 p.m., at the Church.

The Church Council meets on **Wednesday, April 6**, for a special meeting at 6:30 p.m. (!), and on **April 13** for the regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. at the Church.

The Visitor Service Circle meets on **Sunday, April 10**, after the German Church Service for half an hour at the Church. **Please come – it is important!**

The English Bible Discussion Group takes place on **Tuesday April 12**, at 7:30 p.m. at the Church. The topic: "The beginnings of Christendom".

The Senior Care/Senior Residence-Committee will meet, after a long pause, on **Tuesday, April 26**, at 7.00 p.m., at the Church.

The German Bible Discussion Group will take place on **Wednesday, April 27**, at 1.30 p.m., at the Church. From now on, we will always meet on the last Wednesday of the month! The topic: "The beginnings of Christendom".

Dates in May:

The *Contact Circle* of the bilingual Lutheran Congregations is on **Thursday, May 5**, at about 8:00 p.m. The meeting and the Ascension Service beforehand, which begins at 7:00 p.m., are taking place at the St. Georg's Church.

The Seniors' Circle meets regularly again from **Tuesday May 17, 11:00 a.m.** We ask that you bring your lunch. The circle has decided to meet earlier in the day, to eat together and to avoid the evening rush hour. The Seniors' Circle will, from now on, always take place on the third Wednesday of the month!

Easter - a joyous and contemplative Celebration in the Martin Luther Church



Between 45 and 50 persons took part in the "Sunrise Service". The Service began at 5:00 a.m.. This time, there were four stations, where four Biblical stories in which Jesus has touched the lives of people were read of even role played for us. As always, there was a special atmosphere. The weather was extraordinarily good: Hardly any wind, moon shine, a picture book sunrise! Afterwards, there was breakfast at the Church, as always. At 10:00 a.m., the Joint Easter Service took place, with the participation of the Church Choir and the Sunday School. The message of God's love, which overcomes death, was the red thread of this Service. Time and again, we experience, that particularly at Easter, new people come to our congregation. During the past few

years, some of them also stayed and have then participated in the life of the congregation. This is an encouraging sign and shows that, indeed, special events of the Church year act like a "door" into the congregation, and for this experience and for all the help in this event, we are thankful. Thanks to all who have taken part in organizing this Easter.

Here a few pictures of the Sunrise Service:



Visitors from Brazil



From April 16th to 26th, Pastor Sigmar Reichel and his wife Gertrud will be guests of our congregation. Thanks to the generous donation of a congregational member, the flights could be paid. During the week that Reichels will be here, they will meet many members of our congregation and inform them about their work. We have already reported several times on the Nursery Project, which was founded in a slum in the outlying areas of Sao Paulo. For us, this is a great opportunity to introduce other congregations to this project. Pastor Reichel and his wife will, of course, get to know our groups and facilities and hopefully have enough time for sightseeing. A visit to our Bishop is also on the agenda. We are looking

forward to this visit very much. I want to draw your attention particularly to their meeting with the entire congregation on Wednesday, April 20th, from 6:00 p.m., at the Church. Please bring some food, so that we can offer a pot-luck dinner. A special thank-you goes to Mr. and Mrs. Wienecke and Mr. Gall, who have extended this contact through travels and correspondence. Reichels will stay with the Wieneckes. Pastor Reichel will preach in a Joint Service on April 17th.

Our Congregation goes swimming...!



**Make a Splash at the Sunday School Swim. Everyone is welcome.
The Youth Group will be there as well!**

Everyone is welcome to join the Sunday school and Nursery children for our second annual swim day on Saturday, April 9 from 5 to 6 pm.

We have rented Norseman pool (105 Norseman Road, south of Bloor and east of Islington) from 5 to 6 pm. Following the swim we will go for dinner around the corner at Rocco's Plum Tomato restaurant.

If you can't stay for dinner, please join us for the swim. If you can't swim, please come join us for dinner. Space is limited and we have to provide the pool and restaurant with final numbers, so please sign-up in the Sunday school room as soon as possible. Directions are also available in the Sunday school room. For more information about the day, please call Monika Schmidt at 416-760-7082 or email: mschmidt@orgmetrics.com)

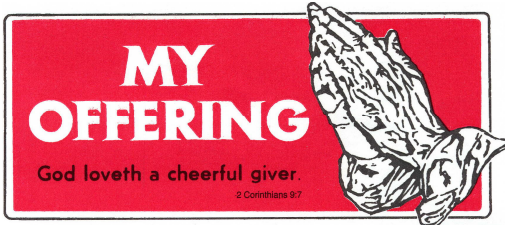
Visiting Service Circle

The next meeting of the Visiting Service Circle takes place on **Sunday, April 10th**, **after the German Church Service**. It has become evident that we have to better clarify the question who visits whom, as there have been irritations regarding the visitor lists. It would make sense to speak about this once again, and therefore, all interested in visiting should come. The goal is, that we co-ordinate this better and have accurate agreements. We want to take the time to clarify this.

Annual General Meeting Moll Berczy

On **April 20th**, the Annual General Meeting of the Moll Berczy House takes place again. The meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will inform about the work of the council and the activities of the Moll Berczy House. Presently, Pastor Wolf is the president of the council.

Special Collection begins!



Dear Congregation, we want to begin our special collection earlier than in the past year and conclude it, if possible, in June. With the next bulletin we will again mail envelopes which can be used for the donations. As always, members of the council and the congregation will contact you.

Distribution of Lists for the Special Collection

Starting April 17th, we will distribute the lists for the special collection. Therefore, we want to ask all who want to pay visits in connection with the special collection, to contact Pastor Wolf and to come to a **Meeting after the German Service on April 24th**, to plan how to conduct the special collection.

Photo Album of the Congregation

The telephone ran hot, the appointment lists were full in a jiffy, the firm “Life Touch”, which does the photographing, was surprised that so many congregational members take part in this project. We even had to fill openings, which are normally left for the photographer’s breaks. An additional day, too, Tuesday, had to be added. And still, not all of our congregational members could be reached for an appointment. Those who have appointments, receive a reminder card with this Bulletin. Wherever it is missing, we will call in the next few days. I thank you for the great willingness, to be part of this photo album. Almost no one has declined to be photographed. We can be proud of our congregation!

Kind regards, yours, *Mirjam Wolf*.



Important Dates in May - please note!

Church Service on Christ's Ascension Day

As last year, there will be a joint Church Service on Christ's Ascension Day, this time at the St. Georg's Church. All German-speaking Lutheran congregations are invited. It takes place on **Thursday, May 5th**, at 7:00 p.m. Following the Service, we invite to a cup of coffee. Afterwards, the Contact Circle of the Lutheran Congregations will meet.



Cordial Invitation to Mothers Day and Joint Church Service on May 8th

On **Sunday, May 8th**, it is Mothers Day again! On this day, a Joint Service will be held at 11:00 a.m. Afterwards, there will be a luncheon, that is traditionally prepared by the men. For this reason, the men meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Church! We would be happy to have many participating in this!

Congregational Picnic on May 29th, at Camp Edgewood

We draw your attention now already to our Picnic. Please mark down May 29th. This year again, a great program for all ages is waiting for you! We begin with a Family Service at 11:00 a.m.! **Come and bring your family along!!!**

VERY IMPORTANT: We want to take a picture of the entire congregation on the sports grounds nearby. The picture will decorate our congregational photo album. Another reason to take part!!!

A true Spring Flower - The Tulip

Ever heard of tulip-mania? It truly existed, approximately 450 years ago. Tulips were traded for top prices, and the more odd they looked, the more expensive they were! So expensive were they, that one could have bought a whole house for one bulb of a particularly beautiful multicoloured tulip! There were rich noblemen, who built an entire room with mirrors for one single tulip: So it would look like a bed of tulips. That was at a time, when the first tulips were just brought to Europe from the Orient. There, the ruler of the great Osman empire, the Sultan had his palace, the seraglio, decorated with many tulips. In our country, the merchants and citizens had oil paintings made of especially beautiful tulips. Crazy, isn't it? Yet, we can buy tulips so easily at the supermarket.



Our Church Services in April and the beginning of May

03. April	Quasimodogeniti Pastor Stefan Wolf	English German	9:45 a.m. 11:00 a.m.
10. April	Misericordias Domini Pastor Stefan Wolf With the Celebration of Holy Communion in both Services!	English German	9:45 a.m. 11:00 a.m.
17. April	Jubilate Pastor Sigmar Reichel and Pastor Stefan Wolf	German and English	11:00p.m.! Joint Church Service!
24. April	Cantate Pastor Stefan Wolf With Participation of the Church Choir	English German	9:45 p.m. 11:00 p.m.
01. May	Rogate	English German	9:45 p.m. 11:00 p.m.
05. Mai	Church Service on Christ's Ascension Day at the St. Georg's Church, College St.! Pastor Katharina Moeller	German	7:00 p.m.(!)

All Dates at a Glance

Meeting with Pastor Reichel	Wednesday, 20.04., 6.00 p.m., Potluck-Dinner	Church!
Mission Circle	every Wednesday morning from 9:30 a.m., except on 20.04.!	
Church Choir	every Friday, 7:30 p.m.,	Church.
Confirmation Instruction	Monday, 04.04. + 19.04., 7:00 p.m.	Parsonage!
Literary Circle	Tuesday, 05.04., 4:00 p.m.,	Parsonage!
Board of Directors of the Nursery	Tuesday, 05.04., 6:00 p.m.,	Church.
Church Council	Wednesday, 06.04. 6:30 p.m. (!) and Wednesday, 13.04., 7:00 p.m.,	Church, Church.
Ladies' Group	cancelled this month because of meeting with Pastor Reichel	
Visiting Service Circle	Sunday, 10.04., after German Service,	Church.
English Bible Discussion Group	Tuesday, 12.04., 7:30 p.m.,	Church.
Senior Care/Senior Residence-Committee	Tuesday, 26.04., 7:00 p.m.,	Church.
German Bible Discussion Group	Wednesday, 27.04., 1:30 p.m.,	Church.
In May:		
Contact Circle German Congregations	Thursday, 05.05., 8:00 p.m.,	St.Georg's Church.
Seniors' Circle	Tuesday, 17.05., from 11.00 a.m.	Church.

The Last Word

Whoever believes to be a Christian just because he goes to Church, is mistaken.

One does, indeed, not turn into a car, because one stands in a garage.

(Albert Schweizer)