

Martin Luther Ev. Lutheran Church

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Pastor Stefan Wolf

February 2006

Let them that love him be like the sun as he rises in his might.

Judges 5, 31

Devotion on the Verse for the Month of February

Dear Congregation,

Hearing the word “sunrise”, we probably have romantic pictures in our head immediately: We are sitting at the beach. We got up especially early to experience this spectacle. Then the sun rises like a large, round ball – marvellous! - However, the context out of which this verse for the month is taken, is not quite so romantic, unfortunately, quite the contrary! The song of the judge Deborah, which ends with this verse, is about war. For twenty years, the Israelites were oppressed by Jabin, the king of Canaan. Deborah, together with the commander Barak has led the people to victory. *So shall perish all your enemies, O LORD! But let them that love him be like the sun as he rises in his might!* – Prior to this, it is told how a woman has killed the leader of the enemy. But before we get upset about the brutality of the Old Testament, it should become clear to us that in the faith of the Israelites, God is



experienced and believed to be someone who acts very concretely in the history of the people. He is the one, who liberates the people and, logically, therefore also conquers the enemies. Another important point: At the beginning of the story it says – as so often in the Book of the Judges and also later on in the Books of the Kings: *“The Israelites did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, after Ehud had died. And the LORD sold them into the hand of Jabin king of Canaan...”* Their own disobedience towards God, therefore, leads them into Jabin’s captivity. Only then the people remember God; and God liberates them from their distress. Although such stories are troubling for some of us, they should actually not be foreign to us. We ourselves know, that our behaviour, as a rule, has consequences. Nor is it foreign to us, that we often remember God only when “the child has already fallen into the well”. – The crucial lesson which we perhaps can take from this verse of the month is, that there is, indeed, always hope. It is never too late to turn to God, and even if things often look anything but rosy, one can come away from a difficult situation “radiantly”. The sun is a symbol, that in the end the darkness will not be victorious, but the light shines. 237 times, light is mentioned in the Bible. Particularly in the Old Testament, the people, again and again, are in search of this light. In the end, it always rises above the people. – I hope that, if you are presently going through a valley and your life

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appears to you like a dark room without light, this verse of the month will become a light beam of hope. It will not remain dark. – The theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer, who was born on February 4th, one hundred years ago, has once written: “God wants to comfort us. The world, as it is in reality, frightens us always. But whoever is comforted, sees and has more than the world, he has the life with God. Nothing is destroyed, lost, senseless, when God gives comfort.”

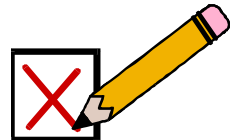
With kind regards, I remain during February,
Your Pastor

Our Groups and Circles

The Literary Circle takes place on Mondays from now on! The next meeting is on **Monday(!), February 6th**, at 4:00 p.m. at the parsonage, 3203 Gatliff Ave., Mississauga. We will discuss the book “The Kite Runner” by Khaled Hosseini. It is the story of two friends and takes place in Afghanistan. It is a well-written and interesting book.

The Ladies’ Group invites on **Wednesday, February 8th**, at 7.00 p.m. at the Church.

The Church Council holds its next meeting on **Wednesday, February 8th**, at 7:00 p.m. at the Church



The Board of Directors of the Nursery meets on **Thursday, February 9th**. 6:00 p.m. at the Church, and invites all who are interested to attend the **Annual General Meeting of the Nursery**.

Confirmation Instruction is on **Monday, February 13th and 27th**, at 7:00 p.m. at the Parsonage.

The English Bible Discussion Group meets on **Thursday, February 16th**, at 7:30 p.m. at the Church.

The Visiting Service Circle meets on **Sunday, February 19th**, after the German Service at 12:00 noon.

The Seniors’ Circle meets on **Tuesday, February 21st**, at 11:00 p.m., at the Church.

The German Bible Discussion Group takes place on **Wednesday, February 22nd**, at 1:30 p.m., at the Church.

Weekly Lent Services as of March 8th

The Lent Services take place **from March 8th, every Wednesday**, at 7:00 p.m. at the Church. The topic this year is: “Believers and Doubters”.



Don't forget: The Annual General Meeting on February 26th!



The date of the Annual General Meeting this year is February 26th. The meeting begins app. at 1:30 p.m.. We hope to have active participation. It is important that you take advantage of this opportunity, to become informed of the further plans and give your opinion. It is about discussion and information. It would also be nice if we could welcome younger members of our congregation. The issues that are discussed in this meeting concern us all! We hope to be able to make the reports available 2 weeks before the meeting. In case it is not possible for you to get the reports beforehand when visiting the Church, there is the possibility, that, if you inform us, we can send them to you through the mail or via e-mail.

New Church Council Members



We have to fill three positions in the Church Council. The members Brenda Wilson, Ulrich Karthaus and Hans Vetter leave the council. We thank these Church Elders very much for their ideas, their work and their engagement. We hope that we can hold an election and that a few congregation members are interested in the church council. It is always good to have member representation from all age-groups and all areas of our congregation in the Church Council. It is expected of Church Council members to participate in the life of the congregation and the Church Council meetings (app. 10 times annually), and observe the duties around the Church Service (greeting, distributing of programs and song books, collecting and counting money etc.). The Church Council is responsible for the financial administration of the congregation, based on the decisions of the Annual General Meeting, the hiring and firing of personnel, the careful maintenance of the buildings and the function of promoting and supporting the membership and the spiritual work within the congregation. It is possible that candidates are named on the day of the Annual General Meeting. However, it is surely advisable to speak to candidates beforehand and to win them to participate in the Church Council. Please inform the Church Council, if possible, of sincere suggestions before the time of the Annual Meeting, so that the election can be prepared adequately. **THANK YOU!**

Please note!

- **The Introduction of new Congregational Members is on February 26th, in the Church Service at 11:00 a.m.**
- **The Inauguration of the Church Council takes place in the Church Service on March 5th. This Service also begins at 11:00 a.m.**

Please inform us!

- **Do you need transportation to events and Church Services?
Please call us! Telephone: 416-251-8293.**
- **Do you wish to receive the Congregational Bulletin via e-mail? In this case, we save postage.
Please send an e-mail with the password "Congregational Bulletin" to fralupus@rogers.com!**

Looking back to Church Services



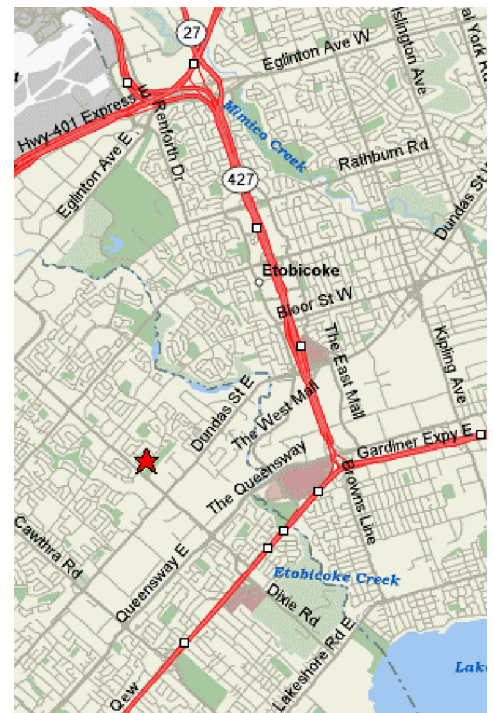
“I had tears in my eyes when the children came in” a congregational member told me just recently. Yes, it was truly a special moment, when on Christmas Eve the Children with their lanterns entered the more than fully occupied Church. It was certainly a good decision to offer child care and to arrange the Service language-wise so that all could take something away. The stable around the Altar, the star, the Christmas trees and the decorations in the Church, as well as the singing of the Church Choir, the Flute Ensemble and the Brass Band, lend the Church Service its festive splendor. During the second Service, there was classical Guitar music. Magnus Hjerpe, a nursery father, has played pieces by Bach. There was a truly relaxed, festive atmosphere. On New Year’s Day, we had the *J.S. Jazz Quintet* once more as our guests. In a Church Service based on the song “What a wonderful world” by Louis Armstrong, we have had a good

introduction to the New Year, with more than 90 visitors, followed by a meal in the foyer and musical entertainment by the jazz band. Here we want to express our heartfelt thanks again to all the participants!



Please register your Children for Confirmation Instruction!

On **Monday, April 3rd**, after the March break, the instructions for the new confirmands begins with an information evening for parents and confirmands. It would be nice if this year also, young people who are interested in questions of faith and the Lutheran tradition, get together again in an instruction group. Instruction takes place every two weeks. Confirmation is on Pentecost 2007. If you are interested, please speak to Pastor Wolf (Cell: 416-567-2487), or send an e-mail (fralupus@rogers.com). The meeting as well as instructions take place at the parsonage. The address is: 3203 Gatliff Ave., Mississauga (north of Dundas St. east, east of Dixie Rd.).



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*World Prayer Day on March 3rd at 1:00 p.m.
at the First Lutheran Church*

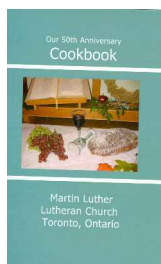


On March 3rd, we are all cordially invited to the First Lutheran Church for the World Prayer Day. This time, the Service has been prepared by women from South Africa and bears the title: "Let us be Light". The Republic of South Africa with the capital city of Tshwane (formerly Pretoria), is located in the southern point of the African continent, where, at the Cape of Good Hope, the Atlantic and Indian Oceans meet. Varied landscapes, a rich fauna and flora and many raw materials are natural treasures. In this country, which, with its 1,219,912 square km is 3 ½ times larger than Germany, live less than 47 million people of

different population groups: 79% consider themselves as Blacks/Africans, 10% as Whites and 9% as Coloured. Also people from Asian countries (2%) belong to this "Rainbow Nation of God" (Archbishop Desmond Tutu). The first democratic elections in 1994 marked a radical political change: the end of apartheid, the decades-long systematic oppression of the black and coloured population by the white minority. Eleven official national languages are signs of the equality of the population groups. The consequences of the apartheid system continue. The country is marked by social, economic and regional contrasts. Racism, violence, unemployment, new rifts between rich and poor, tuberculosis, malaria and HIV/Aids are presently the largest challenges. However, the government has ambitious development programs, and many people engage themselves in Churches and non-government organizations for the improvement of their life situation. For 75 years, the World Prayer Day is celebrated in South Africa, and, namely, always by women of all population groups, even though only as of 1967 the first non-white women became members of the South African World Prayer Day committee. Today, app. 30 women from 15 different denominations belong to the committee. The Church Service on World Prayer Day is celebrated in most of the eleven national languages, in urban and rural regions. Every year, women and men in app. 170 countries celebrate the Church Service on World Prayer Day of the women. In joint prayer, a world-wide community comes into existence. Through the collection, women and aid projects, the concerns of women, are supported and promoted. - After the Service there is a coffee hour. The First Lutheran Church is located in central Toronto, 116 Bond Street, two blocks east of the crossing of Yonge – Dundas and the Eaton Centre. The Church can be easily reached by public transportation. It is close to the Dundas subway station (Yonge line). Furthermore, there is a stop of the Dundas streetcar (505) on Dundas street in close proximity to the Church.

The Sewing Circle ends its Work!

For many years now, a few ladies of the sewing circle have taken the responsibility on Wednesday, to pack parcels with aid items, which are sent to refugees in crisis regions through the Canadian Lutheran World Relief. These first provisions have helped many people already and have, besides receiving necessary items, shown that other people think of them. Because of moving away and the fact that the members of this group are growing older, the circle now, unfortunately, discontinues its work. We regret this, because it has been a truly Christian service for the needy, however, we can also understand it. We are immensely thankful to the ladies! – The question remains, whether others would possibly take over this service? – Mrs. Pahnke presently still accepts CLEAN, WEARABLE summer clothing. Please contact her directly, in case you still have women's, men's or children's clothing to give away. Mrs. Pahnke's telephone number: 416-239-7900.

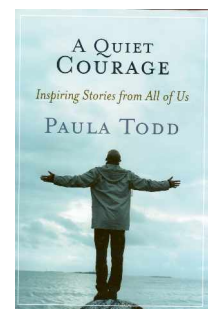


Do you still need a Cook Book?

We still have a few Cook Books with recipes from congregational members for sale. If you like to buy one, please contact the Church or mention it after a Church Service. The cook book with the delicious recipes costs \$12.00.

A Quiet Courage – The Book by Paula Todd

I have heard that a few congregational members still are interested in the exceptional book by Paula Todd, “*A Quiet Courage*”. Paula has offered us that we can put in a collective order. It would be nice if you could let us know, how many books you want to have. We will put out a list. You can also call the Church and put in your order. It may be possible that we receive a better price.



Donation Envelopes



We want to point out that you, if you come to the Services regularly and have neither a donation number nor donation envelopes, you can have a box with envelopes and a donation number at any time. Please ask us! It would simplify the accounting of donations considerably.

English Bible Study

Once more, I want to invite all English speaking congregational members to our Bible Discussion Group. This is a good opportunity, to have conversations about questions of faith and to finally ask about the things, one has always wanted to know. For a while now, we are just a very small group. Therefore, I want to ask who would be interested, and whether the idea, to meet in private homes in turn, would simplify the matter. Please tell Pastor Wolf your opinion of this suggestion.

The 100th Birthday of Dietrich Bonhoeffer



Dietrich Bonhoeffer is one of the most famous and influential German theologians. He would have been 100 years old on February 4th. Dietrich Bonhoeffer grew up in Breslau, then in Berlin. 1923 he began his studies of theology in Tübingen, which he continued in Berlin and concluded with his doctoral thesis in 1927. A vicariate in Barcelona followed during the year 1928, then from 1929 his time as assistant in Berlin. 1930, Bonhoeffer passed his second theological examination, followed a few days later by the university lecturing qualification. From 1931 to the summer of 1933, he taught as lecturer at the University of Berlin. Besides teaching at the university, he gave confirmation instruction in a Berlin congregation; 1932 he purchased a barrack, in order to conduct week-end retreats for his students and confirmands. In the summer of 1933, Bonhoeffer gave up his teaching to devote himself fully to the work as

Pastor in his congregation. From October 1933 till April 1935, he was working in a German congregation in London; from here he maintained ecumenical contacts and informed about the occurrences in Germany after the Nazis took over power. 1935 he returned to Germany upon the requests of the 'Confessing Church' and took on the leadership of the Preachers' Seminary of the Evangelical Church of Berlin-Brandenburg in Finkenwalde. The 'Confessing Church' appointed him 1935 to establish a "Brothers' House" for Pastors and those who joined the fight. In August of 1937, his teaching permit was revoked. During a journey to America in the early summer of 1939, Bonhoeffer refused to stay there and returned to Berlin, 1940 the ban of speaking and writing was imposed on him. He participated actively now in the resistance against Hitler and became the contact person to the military resistance under Admiral Canaris. In January 1943, Bonhoeffer became engaged, in April he was arrested and taken to the Wehrmacht-Prison Berlin-Tegel. There, his well-known book "Resistance and Surrender" (Widerstand und Ergebung) was written, containing letters from his imprisonment, which make evident the great, confident power of the unbroken prisoner. An attempt to escape in 1944 failed; after the attempt on Hitler's life on July 20th in 1944 failed, Bonhoeffer's hope of a change sank, too. In October 1944, he was transferred to the Gestapo bunker in Berlin, in February 1945 to the concentration camp Buchenwald near Weimar. Hitler personally issued the order for his murder on April 5th, 1945, on April 9th, he was executed with other resistance fighters in the concentration camp Flossenbürg.

We buried...

**Mrs. Lieselotte "Lilo" Seelke
Mr. Julius Schulz**

**I have seen their ways, but I will heal them;
I will lead them and requite them with comfort.**

Isaiah 57, 18

Married were...

James and Miriam Heusser

**God is love, and he who abides in love,
abides in God and God abides in him.**

1. Letter of John 4, 16

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Our Services in February and beginning of March

05. February	Last Sunday after Epiphany	English	9:45 a.m.
	Pastor Joachim Knaack, ret.	German	11:00 a.m.
12. February	Septuagesimae	English	9:45 a.m.
	Pastor Stefan Wolf	German	11:00 a.m.
With the Celebration of Holy Communion!			
19. February	Sexagesimae	English	9:45 a.m.
	Pastor Stefan Wolf	German	11:00 a.m.
26. February	Estomihi	German and English	11:00 a.m.
	Pastor Stefan Wolf		
Joint Service on the occasion of the Annual General Meeting and Introduction of new Congregation Members			
03. March	World Prayer Day at the First Lutheran Church	German	1:00 p.m.!
	Pastor Christian Schweter		
05. March	Invokavit	English	11:00 a.m.
	Pastor Stefan Wolf		
Joint Service on the occasion of the Inauguration of the Church Council!			
08. March	First Service in Lent	German	7:00 p.m.!
	Pastor Stefan Wolf		

**We express our thanks for all donations and for the active attendance of our Church Services,
and we cordially invite you to stay a while for coffee time after the Services!**

All Dates at a Glance

Church Choir	every Friday,	7:30 p.m.,	Church.
Literary Circle	Monday, 06. February,	4:00 p.m.,	Parsonage!
Ladies' Group	Wednesday, 08. February,	7:00 p.m.,	Church.
Church Council	Wednesday 08. February,	7:00 p.m.,	Church.
Board of Directors, Nursery	Thursday, 09. February,	6:00 p.m.,	Church.
Confirmation Instruction	Monday, 13. + 27. February,	7:00 p.m.,	Parsonage.
English Bible Discussion Group	Thursday, 16. February,	7:30 p.m.,	Church.
Visiting Service Circle	Sunday, 19. February,	12:00 p.m.,	Church.
Seniors' Circle	Tuesday, 21. February,	11:00 a.m.,	Church.
German Bible Discussion Group	Wednesday, 22. February,	1:30 p.m.,	Church.
Annual General Meeting	Sunday, 26. February,	1:30 p.m.,	Church.

The Last Word

All meaning of life is fulfilled, where there is love.
(Dietrich Bonhoeffer)

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