

Congregational newsletter



November 2007

LUTHERAN CHURCH
— Founded 1955 Gegründet —

DEVOTION

Dear Members and Friends of MLC! I discovered the glass painting, which you see in the middle of this page, this summer in the cottage in Austria where we stayed for our holidays. It shows pictures of former rural life and characterizes them by short headlines. *Der Frühling begehrt* ó spring desiresö: there are young people, they dance and rejoice, May gives liveliness and happiness. *Der Sommer ernährt* ó summer nourishesö: the farmer and his wife work in the field, they can bring in a rich harvest. *Der Herbst verklärt* ó autumn transfiguresö: the grape harvest is a sign of contentedness and enjoyment of life as it is possible after hard work. And at last: *Der Winter verzehrt* ó winter consumesö: the farmer's wife sits in the room at her spinning wheel. The gifts of the summer are consumed by the winter. There is only the dim light of a lantern, the bright summer sun is gone.

These pictures show the rhythm of the year, but they even are a symbol for the rhythm of our human life. During our lifetime, we experience these seasons. Childhood and youth is the time of happiness and high-spirited expectations. Early adulthood is the time of strength and hard work. Mature Adulthood hopefully is the time of enjoying the achievements. And finally the old age: it is time to retire and retreat from the exciting daily life, it may be time of loneliness and mourning ó the woman sits in her small room, without her husband.

Now it is November. The summer is long gone. We get captured by coldness and wetness. November also is the month of mourning and remembrance. On

the last Sunday of the church year, we remember all those members of our congregation who passed away during the last year. In Bavaria on All-Saints-Day, families go together to the cemetery in remembrance of their beloved ones who they lost. There is something of this atmosphere of mourning even in this glass painting: *Der Winter verzehrt* brings to an end, everything comes to an end.

Two verses of the Bible may help us not to be totally captured by mourning and despondency. In 1. Thessalonians 4:13, Paul tells us: *Do not grieve as others do who have no hope!* Even if we are beset by grief, being Christians we still may feel the power of hope. Jesus has revealed himself as the risen and living Lord, death has been overcome. In Jesus Christ we have hope for new eternal and everlasting life.

The second verse is Psalm 31:15, *My times are in your hand.* The time of our life comes out of God's hands and remains in God's hands. We receive every

season of our life out of God's hands, and God blesses every season of our life. We are blessed not only by times of strength and success, but even in times of quietness and weakness God is near and ready to bless us. The famous R.C. theologian Romano Guardini wrote a book about *The Seasons of Life*. He distinguishes two ways of effectiveness in human life. First that of strength and action, that's the effectiveness we are able to achieve in our early adulthood. Second the effectiveness of meaningfully being present. We appreciate this effectiveness with old people. We do not expect them to have great achievements. We rather enjoy their kindness, life



experience and wisdom. Children feel this, sometimes they feel better with their grandparents than with their busy parents.

There are God's blessings in every season of our life, because every season comes out of God's hands, because every season is surrounded and arched by God's eternity. Therefore we can pray:

Lord our God, I receive all my time out of your hands. Times of activity and success as well as times of weakness and quietness. If I trust in you, I also

will receive your blessings in every time. Fill my life with your light, with the certainty that I am yours, also in the changing seasons of my life. Fill my life with eternal peace, even in the permanent change of years and days. Give me hope and courage for every new day which I receive out of your hands. Amen.

*With kind regards and blessings,
Your Pastor Alexander Mielke*

DELKINA CONFERENCE IN SAN FRANCISCO

From October 17th to 23rd, the DELKINA met, which happens every second year. DELKINA means %German Evangelical Lutheran Conference in North America.+ On October 17th, I and Edmund Scholz attended a Special Service in Kitchener , where the Eastern Synod celebrated Susan Johnson's election as National Bishop. Next morning, I flew to San Francisco, where Erich Feyerabend, Heinz and Annette Gutsch had already arrived. Almost 50 delegates from over 20 congregations had gathered, from Canada as well as from the USA; all coming from congregations which deal with similar problems, and where joint consultation and exchange of ideas are very helpful. Reports from congregations, reflecting on God's Word in Bible study sessions, and getting to know German congregations were the basic elements. Some people were very experienced in music, all had good voices,

and so the singing of old and new songs also was a nice experience for us.

In summer, a new partnership contract had been signed between the ELCA (Lutheran Church of America) and the EKD (Evangelical Church in Germany); in it, the DELKINA is named in its own paragraph. This shows how important it is in terms of representing the interests of the German congregations in the North American churches and as a mediator to Germany. Therefore, the Oberkirchenrat Paul Oppenheim attended the conference representing the EKD; he is the successor of Peter Weigand, who led the North America Desk in the EKD Church Office in Hannover, however now, he is going to be Director of the Bavarian Mission Department Neuendettelsau. Oppenheim has been responsible for the Asia Desk for a long time, and now he has also taken responsibility for the other side of the Pacific. Concerning the situation in Germany, he said that due to the improved economy, the churches are financially in a better situation again. In spite of this, the gloomy prognosis made by the EKD for 2030, regarding the decline of membership by one third, and the reduction of the church taxes by one half, continues to be a challenge for far-reaching measures. It is regrettable that the experiences of German congregations in foreign countries as well as other churches which have chosen new paths long ago, would find so little attention in the German discussions.





We got better acquainted with two congregations in San Francisco. St. Mattheus, where we have been welcomed in a very friendly manner, who took best care of us serving lunch, coffee and supplied meeting rooms, and the St. Markus Church, situated beside the enormous Catholic Mary Cathedral. Both are old historic church buildings which have been beautifully restored in the past few years. Both, however, suffer from a marked decline in membership. David Mullen, the Bishop of the Lutheran San-Francisco-Synod, also reported of difficulties. Of his 200 congregations, half



*Left above: Pastor Moeller and Pastor Roggelin.
Right: Bishop David Mullen.
Left below: Manfred Stolpe and Paul Oppenheim.*

have less than 50 members; the competition of the booming mission congregations is very strong. There are, however, promising new beginnings.

Of course, it also was interesting to get to know the city. Once more, we could enjoy days of warm summer temperatures. Attending a service in a synagogue was as well a part of the program as a tour of the Franciscan Dolores Mission. During the reception by Consul General Rolf Schuette, surprisingly, Manfred Stolpe attended too, the former Consistory Council, Minister President and Federal Minister, visiting his daughter who lives in San Francisco.

The conference ended with a Special Church Service in St. Mattheus, in which Bishop Mullen blessed the Board of Directors.

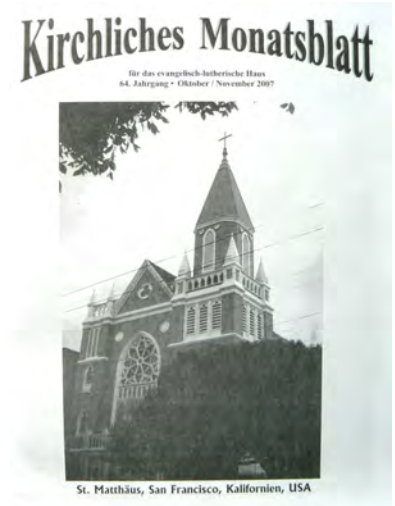


The team was confirmed as it had proven to be successful, only Moeller and Roggelin/Baltimore exchanged positions, so therefore Pastor Katharina Moeller is President and the Chair of the Conference is now seated in Toronto. The next conference will take place in Kelowna, British Columbia, in two years. I was impressed by the motto which Bishop Mullen emphasized in his sermon: %n humility let God be God+. If the future worries and frightens us , we want to remember that it lies in Gods hand. In humility we want to live and profess what we have understood of Gods truth. Therefore this is the way: %n humility let God be God+.

Pastor Alexander Mielke

I also met Pastor Jakob Pillibeit from Alberta at the conference. He is the editor of the *Kirchliche Monatsblatt* for the Evangelical Lutheran house+. In German language, it is sent out monthly and contains, beside spiritual reflections, also information from German congregations and accounts of life stories. This very interesting and helpful *Kirchliche Monatsblatt*+can be subscribed for the low sum of \$CD 20.00 per year, I invite you cordially to do this. If you already receive it, please recommend it to others! The Address is:

Kirchliches Monatsblatt 29 Morris Crt. SE
Medicine Hat, AB, Canada, T1A 7P5
Telephone: (403) 529 2679
Fax/TAD: (403) 527 4621
Email: kmblatt@shockware.com



Participants in the DELKINA also were Pastor Sigmar Reichel (at the front table on the left) and his wife. For four years, they had responsibility for the day care in Sao Paulo which we support. Now they live in Edmonton.

Wednesday is my office day. I am in the church office from **9.00 a.m. until 12.30 p.m.** It is a good opportunity for meeting me. You can reach me at any time by my cellphone: 416-567-2487. So an appointment can easily be made. Our secretary Anita Ratz usually is in office Monday, Wednesday and Friday in the morning. With kind regards, Pastor Alexander Mielke

In November, a new program will start in **Martin Luther Day Care**. There has been good cooperation with the non-profit-organisation LAMP for many years. Now there is an agreement that LAMP organizes a **parent-relief-programm**. One morning in the week, parents can bring their children and use this time for some urgent activities. Necessary staff and materials are provided by LAMP. On October 10, our church was used as a poll station for provincial elections. A big Thank You to our day care staff who had to organize many things anew for this day. Thank you also to Ali Giedraitis and Edmund Scholz who were present on this day as helpers on behalf of MLC.

When I visited Wesley Mimico United Church, Pastor Linda Petrides showed me the rooms of the **foodbank**. MLC supports this very important service to the community. Especially in winter time, it means a big help for many people. Please donate food gifts again and again! Needed are canned foods. Even toothpaste, soap and detergents or money donations can help. Thank you for all your support!



At **Thanksgiving**, we could enjoy the wonderfully decorated church by Else Weigelin and others. The Thanksgiving Service was made a beautiful experience by Christine Couturier singing two solos and Monika Schmidt with the Sunday School. At the same time, we were able to greet a large **Delegation of the Baden-Wuerttemberg Parliament**. The Financial Committee with the chair Ingo Rust (6th from left) and the Financial Minister Gerhard Stratthaus (5th from left) rounded off their

consultation trip to Toronto with the celebration of the Canadian Thanksgiving.



Unfortunately, our Mission Circle suffers a big loss through the sudden death of Elly Herold. The group has become very small. Therefore **the Mission Circle warmly welcomes new members!** Please contact Mrs. Pahnke or Mrs. Schmidt!

We are arranging an English choir for Advent and Christmas. Welcome whoever likes singing. Please contact Ali Giedraitis, our music director!

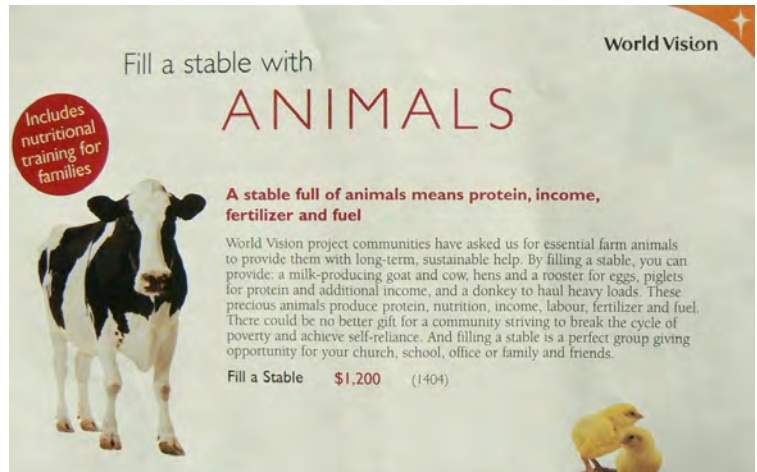
Fear not, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy.

Only 7 weeks to the annual **Sunday School Christmas play on December 16** and we are looking for volunteers. We need children to act in the play and lots of adults to help with props, costumes, scenery, etc. If you would like to participate or help out behind the scenes, please contact Monika Schmidt by phone at 416-760-7082 or by email at monikakschmidt@gmail.com. There will also be a sign-up sheet in the Sunday School room beginning November 4 so please drop by and sign-up.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS STABLE

In the true spirit of Christmas, the Sunday School is raising money to fill a stable with animals for a village in the developing world. Just as we read stories about the stable in which Jesus was born, with World Vision we can deliver a small Christmas miracle which will help an entire village become self-reliant. But we can't do it alone; we need your help. We are asking everyone in the congregation to make a special donation to **WORLD VISION STABLE** to help us realize our Christmas wish. Please help us reach our goal and make Christmas special for our children and the children in a poor village on the other side of the world.

Monika Schmidt



Monday make me good and kind
To all creatures that I find.
Help me love God's whole creation,
Make my life a celebration.

Tuesday teach me faith and caring,
teach me wisdom, teach me sharing.
Raise me up and make me strong.
Be with me the whole day long.

Wednesday make me full of light.
Guide my heart both day and night.
Give me gladness, give me grace.
Shine your love upon my face.

Thursday open up my eyes
To your angels in the skies.
Let me know their wings are near me
And that they will always hear me.

Friday keep the ones I love,
Comfort them from high above.
Lift their hearts and hold them dear,
Help them know that you are here.

Saturday in early morn
Make me thankful I was born.
Give my spirit peace within.
Let each day with hope begin.

Sunday in a quiet time,
bless this little life of mine.
In the wonder of each day,
Let me live a holy way.

A Child's Daybook of Prayer, by Cynthia Rylant

UPCOMING EVENTS

The film „**Central Station**“ will be shown on November 4 after the Joint Service which already will start at 10:00 a.m. Don't forget that clocks will be changed the night before!

I will take part in the **annual meeting of North American EKD-pastors** in Washington November 8 until 11. Thank you very much to Pastor Joachim A. Knaack who is ready to help in MLC during these days.

Pastor Katharina Moeller will conduct the MLC services on **November 18**. As there is a pulpit exchange between German Lutheran congregations in Toronto on this day, I am going to hold the services in Lutheran Epiphany Church, Scarborough.

1.Advent on December 2 will be a special event! We will start with a **Joint Service at 3:00 p.m.** After that we **meet for cookies, songs and playing with our children**. In the evening, there will be a **German Carol Concert at 7:00 p.m.** Under the direction of Manfred Petz, the Edelweiss Choir and the Schola Cantorum will give us a feeling of Advent Time.

The **German Contact Group** will meet again on December 6, 7:30 p.m., in the First Lutheran Church. I will conduct a **service in the Lakeshore Lodge on December 9** at 2:00 p.m.

We baptized ...

Torsten Alfons Dimpfleier

October 14, 2007

Now thus says the Lord, he who created you:

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.

I have called you by name, you are mine.

Isaiah 43:1

Maximilian Daniel Grotsch

October 28, 2007

God, you are my mighty rock,

My fortress, my protector,

The rock, where I am safe.

Psalms 18:2

We buried ...

Elly Herold née Mell

Passed away on October 2, 2007 in the age of 82 years

Jesus Christ says:

In my Father's house there are many dwelling places.

If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?

John 14:2

The book "50 Years Martin Luther Church" still is available. It is colourful, informative and consists of 128 pages. The events of the years from 1955 to 2005 are clearly arranged and vividly presented. It contains documents and photos which give insight into the events and the history of the congregation. The text is in German and English. The sale price is \$ 30. **It is a valuable memento and is also suitable as a Christmas present**, also for relatives and friends in Germany. Please contact our secretary Anita Ratz (church office 416-251-8293).

A big Thank You to the Frischkorn Company which gave great support to MLC and the pastor by providing new computer, printer and other devices!

Martin Luther Evangelical Lutheran Church
2379 Lake Shore Blvd. West, Toronto, ON M8V 1B7
Telephone: 416-251-8293, Fax: 416-259-2889
www.martinluther.ca

Pastor Alexander Mielke, Cell Phone: 416-567-2487

Email: alexander.mielke@rogers.com

Radio Devotion (in German) every Sunday 9:30 a.m. on AM 530

*Editor of MLC Newsletter: Pastor Alexander Mielke; Translations: Kaethe Kleinau, Iris Schweiger;
Homepage and List Administrator: Mona Frantzke; Mailing List: Anita Ratz*

MLC E-Mail Distribution List

We are trying our best to maximize the opportunities for good communication between home and church. By having an E-mail List we are increasing the opportunity for us to ensure that church information reaches home.

Please take a moment to fill out a slip of paper with your name and e-mail address to enroll in our MLC Email List and either mail it to us or leave it in the church office next time you attend a service.

In this way you will receive up-to-the-minute church news right in your inbox. Alternatively, you can contact Mona Frantzke at mona.frantzke@rogers.com and request that your name be added.

Please be assured that your email address will be blocked from view to safeguard privacy. Also, please indicate whether you wish to receive the church bulletins by e-mail **only** (and thus save us the cost of mailing it) - otherwise we will still gladly do both.

Mona Frantzke, List Administrator, MLC Distribution Email List

Please add my name and e-mail to the MLC Email Distribution List:

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*Return to: Mona Frantzke, List Manager mona.frantzke@rogers.com, or:
Martin Luther Lutheran Church, 2379 Lakeshore Blvd West, Toronto M8V 1B7 416-251-8293*

November 2007

Sonntag	Montag	Dienstag	Mittwoch	Donnerstag	Freitag	Samstag
				7:25 p.m. Church Choir	2	3
Reformation Sunday 4 10:00 Joint Service Pastor Mielke, afterwards Film „Central Station“	5	6	7	7:25 p.m. Church Choir	9	10
			7:00 p.m. Church Council	No Confirmation Class (see Nov 17 !)		
Remembrance Day 11 9:45 Engl. Service 11:00 German Service Both with Holy Communion Pastor Knaack	12	13	14	7:25 p.m. Church Choir	16	17
		6:00 p.m. Board of Directors/Day Care	7:00 Ladies' Group 7:00 Church Council	7:25 p.m. Church Choir		3:00 p.m. Confirmands' Meeting
25th Sunday after Pent. 18 9:45 Engl. Service 11:00 German Service Pastor Moeller (pulpit exchange)	19	20	Repentance And Prayer 21 7:00 p.m. German Service	7:25 p.m. Church Choir	23	24
		11:00 a.m. Seniors' Circle		6:30 p.m. Confirmation Class		
Christ the King 25 9:45 Engl.GD 11:00 German Service Pastor Mielke	26	27	28	7:25 p.m. Church Choir	Dezember 2 1. Advent Joint Service 3:00 p.m.	Afterwards Advent Togetherness Cookies and Songs 7:00 p.m. German Concert
		1:30 p.m. German Bible Study				

Sunday School and Open Nursery during both services !