



Congregational newsletter September 2007

Martin Luther Lutheran Church

2379 Lake Shore Blvd. West, Toronto, ON M8V 1B7 Telephone: 416-251-8293 Fax: 416-259-2889
Pastor Alexander Mielke Cell Phone: 416-567-2487 Email: alexander.mielke@rogers.com
www.martinluther.ca

Pastor Alexander Mielke

Dear Members and Friends of Martin Luther Church!

You see one of our presents from Germany in the photo, which shows Christophorus with the Christ Child on his shoulder, which carries the globe. This stone statue stands on a bridge over the Wörnitz, the river near Nördlingen, where we lived for the last 8 ½ years. Also our new congregation, the Martin Luther Church, is situated on the water. Just as the places of our vicarship, Sommer- and Winterhausen, which were located near Würzburg on the Main River, where a footpath of only 5 minutes connected the churches of these beautiful wine estate villages. As my Massai-Congregation in Tanzania on the Pangani River, where sometimes half of my 15 Church Service Stations were flooded. As Wechingen and Holzkirchen, two congregations in the deaconry of Oettingen (diocese Augsburg), where we could go canoeing on the Wörnitz with the confirmands sometimes. And now we resume our office at the Martin Luther Church on the shores of the enormous Lake Ontario.

Christophorus' task was to help people cross a large body of water. You probably know the legend of this strong and fierce giant. Because he was so strong, he feared no one and was only willing to serve the mightiest ruler of the world. Therefore, he left the king whom he had served at first. Therefore, he did not stay with a terrible black knight. Therefore, he was not even satisfied with the devil, for he fearfully avoided the cross at the wayside. After a long unsuccessful search he was ready to give up and accepted the job of carrying people across a wide and dangerous river.

One night, he heard a child's voice calling. As he climbed down into the water with the child on his shoulder, the burden grew heavier and heavier, so unbearably heavy, as if the whole world were lying on his shoulder. He sank down into the water and was

afraid to drown. Then the child said to him: "You have been given to carry more than the world. The Lord, who created the world, is your burden." Then the Child Jesus pushed him under the water and baptized him. Since then, his name was "Christophorus – Bearer of Christ".

Now he had found the mightiest ruler. He seemed to be only a small, weak child. But also the devil feared him. And this child carried the entire world in his hand; therefore, it was so tremendously heavy. This Medieval legend contains a great truth. Jesus and his message are often underestimated. His message of love and mercy is often ridiculed; his gentle and non-violent actions for people are viewed as being weak. And yet, God's love is more powerful than all the hate and all the power, which torment and suppress our world. Our great

hope is that God's kingdom will, at the end of time, prevail and benefit all creation. As the resurrected Christ says in Matthew 28, 18-20: "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age."

I find it nice that the Christophorus, whom we often saw on the Wörnitz Bridge, now accompanies us across the great ocean. His name points to his task: "Christophorus – Bearer of Christ". And with this, he also

points to our task. Every one of us is appointed to be a "Bearer of Christ". To bear Christ in one's heart, to let our entire life be determined by this centre. And to bear the burden of Christ on our shoulders, by supporting our



neighbour and by assisting him with his burden. Martin Luther says that Christian community consists of "one person becoming Christ to the other". That we have Christ in our heart and help carry the other's burden, and thus let one another experience Christ's love.

This is the basis of all congregational work. This we wish each other for the togetherness in the Martin Luther Congregation and for this we ourselves are prepared, as far as it is possible in all human inadequacy. We have

felt some of that supporting love of Christ from so many congregational members, who assisted us in the many questions and problems of the new beginning, and for this we wish to express our heartfelt thanks as the new Pastor-Family. Let us be encouraged by Matthew 28 to be "Christ Bearers", to carry his love to all people everywhere in this world!

*With kind regards,
Your Pastor Alexander Mielke with the entire family*



Arrival of Pastor Alexander Mielke

Dear Martin Luther congregation!

Many weeks and prayers later, we can finally welcome Pastor Alexander Mielke, his wife Pastor Heike Block-Mielke and their children Franziska (15), Dorothee (14), Benedikt (12) and Veronika (10) in our congregation. We are overjoyed that Pastor Mielke and his family took the brave step across the Atlantic to fill the position as our pastor for the next 6 years. How worried were we when Pastor Stefan Wolf announced his resignation? We asked ourselves, how will we go on? Will the Evangelische Kirche in Deutschland (EKD) help us again and will our congregation overcome this shock? When we open our bible to 1. Corinthians 3, 11 we read: For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Doesn't that touch us? Christ himself is the foundation of our congregation. We do not have to worry. Trusting in Christ we look faithfully into the future.

Now I would like to invite you, dear congregation, to attend the festivities of **Pastor Alexander Mielke's Installation Service on Sunday September 16th at 3:00 p.m.** A representative from the Synod will conduct the festivities. We are looking forward to welcoming you at this special occasion. Please mark this date in your calendar. After the service the congregation will again have a chance to get to know Pastor Mielke and his family. We will be having coffee and cake. Please bring along cake or sandwiches. Many thanks!

May the heavenly father bless Pastor Alexander Mielke and his family with good health and strength for his work in our congregation. And may our congregation be patient and keep the pastoral family in our prayers in this time of adjustment and throughout the years.

Edmund Scholz, President, Church Council

Thank You to the Helpers

A work-filled summer is coming to a close. The following are notes of thanks to people in and outside of our congregation who worked hard during this time of transition. We start the "thank you" with the farewell committee lead by Christine Couturier and the participants, who made the Farewell party for the Wolf family an unforgettable event.

A heartfelt "thank you" goes to Pastor Joachim Knaack who has faithfully helped our congregation time and time again during the Sunday services in the months of July (15, 22, 24) and August (5, 12). We thank Pastor Erwin Lange who conducted 2 Sunday services during the transition time. He had a long drive to bring the word of God to us. We are very grateful to Mrs. Ella Morgan-Schwantes for the warm hospitality she provided twice to Pastor and Mrs. Lange.

The Martin Luther Church is blessed with many talents. It is always amazing that members of our church set an example to volunteer when help is required. The vacancy of the parsonage was used to renovate inside and around the building. Many thanks to all helpers who never shied away despite the extreme heat in the last 3 weeks. They were Ira Mazalewski, Ursula Pahnke, Ursula Scholz, Helen Schmidt, Iris Schweiger, Henriette Swistunowicz, Dina Wancar, Christina Wienecke, Daina Wienecke, John Schmidt, Robert Peter, Eugen Pahnke, Melvin Zabel, Heinz Gutsch, Erich Feyerabend, Emil Mazalewski, Dan Sommerfeld and Edmund Scholz.

Thank you to Joachim Arndt who organized both container shipments from Pastor Wolf to Germany and Pastor Mielke to Canada. He made it possible that family Mielke's container went through customs the day of their arrival (August 14, 2007) minimizing further cost. Thank you to his former employer, the company Kuehne & Nagel who generously paid for the freight expenses for the shipment to Germany.

Thank you Heidi Jonuschies, Dina Wancar and Iris Schweiger who looked after the planting of the flower bed in front of the church before the farewell service of Pastor Stefan Wolf. Many thanks go to Inge & Philippe Koo Tze Mew for the beautiful plants in front of our church and the nursery, as well for the welcome banner in the church and parsonage.

Thanks to our computer expert Karl Kriese Jr. for the many hours he spent to correct all the computer problems.

God bless you.

Edmund Scholz, President, Church Council

A Photo Look Back at the Congregational Picnic in June



Camp Lutherlyn 2007 OUR 41st ANNIVERSARY OF CAMP

Many thanks to Dan Sommerfeld, Iris Schweiger, and all the volunteers who participated in our traditional summer camp on Golden Lake at Camp Lutherlyn. A total of 41 campers enjoyed the good weather and fresh air.

The Voice ... It was a dark and stormy night. Clouds hustled in the sky rarely giving the full moon a chance to show his face. A cabin door opens with a squeak. A slight figure in a blue checkered flannel pajama emerges to check activities in the surrounding cabins. Satisfied with the inspection of the grounds the figure strides purposefully towards cabin number 3, slowing down the approach a few paces before the cabin. Minutes later, using the light of the full moon the figure takes hold of the scary orange Jack-O-Lantern and disappears into the night. Another squeak of a cabin door and the silence is broken by loud cheers and laughter, immediately hushed by concerned voices. A short while later a not so scary Jack-O-Lantern (rather pretty indeed) replaces the old one on the front step of cabin number 3. The rest of the night passes in peace yet dawn approaches with a roar of fury. What happened? Who did it? Speculations are running wild. Everybody is a suspect. Only a few people are in the know. Will they be able to stand the trial at Kangaroo Court without jeopardizing their truthfulness? An oath on the bible is taken by all but one in the know and each passes the test. All answers were true but the truth was never found. The guessing continues. Delighted with the results of a nights activity is the Prang... I mean the Gangster....



You know you are at camp when:

- Bribes, being late or eating before prayers are crimes punished with the Chicken Dance.
- You are paired up with a buddy in and outside the water.
- Getting up at 5:45 a.m. adds reward points during cabin inspection and muscles to the paddlers
- Children of all ages cannot wait for curfew, the smaller ones to finally get some rest and the bigger ones to finally start their night activities
- Campfires and mosquitoes are always mentioned in the same sentence
- Dan Sommerfeld gets a 7 minute long standing ovation for a job well done
- you are allowed to scare people and steal all their possessions during bible study and are rewarded with treats



Quotes:

Christina: This was my first time at camp, but it will not be my last.

Rick: When you drive towards camp you laugh about all the wonderful experiences in the past and when you leave you laugh about the new ones you experienced at camp this year.

Derek: In the past camps I always missed technology. This is the first year I don't.

Christine: When I heard that there won't be many people at camp this year I was worried but now I think this was the best camp ever.

Nadine: I like kitchen duty!!!!!!!

Chris: I feel younger because I am at camp, yet I feel older when I get up for canoeing. It should even itself out.

Andreas: The song we sang at the talent show... we really meant it... We hope you really had the time of your lives.

Molly's tips on cabin inspections:

- Bring decorations from home.
- Use a little on the first day and keep adding more.
- Sweep everything under the mat, nobody checks there.
- Use all your arts and crafts to decorate.
- Definitely make your bed.
- Use nature around you to decorate like writing "welcome" with sticks in front of the cabin.

Thank you song to Bruno [Q] (our bus driver): "Bruno we adore you, place our luggage before you, how we love you."

And finally, always remember what Gideon learned in the book of Judges: 1. Every person has a hidden strength. 2. God will always be with you no matter how scary or difficult life seems at the moment.

The Voice of Iris Schweiger

Concert of German Songs on Sunday Sept 23

On Sunday, September 23rd at 6:00 p.m. in our church, a choir from Rotenburg an der Wümme (near Bremen), Germany, will perform together with the Edelweiss Choir and Schola Cantorum. Director Manfred Petz from the Edelweiss Choir and Schola Cantorum has thankfully arranged this concert and gives us the following information:

"The director of the 'Canada Tournee Choir' is Rene Clair. He has assembled this choir for this Canadian concert tour from various different choirs which he leads in Germany.

The touring group consists of over 50 people, more than 30 of those are singers, the others are accompanying them. They will arrive in Toronto on September 22nd and will be accommodated in the Days Inn in Mississauga. On Tuesday, September 25th, they will go on to Ottawa, where they will sing on Thursday, September 27th at 12 o'clock in the Rotunda of the Parliament Buildings. September 29th to October 2nd, they will spend on the Niagara Peninsula, where they will give a concert in the German Seniors Home Heidehof in St. Catharines.

Following this, they fly back to Germany from Toronto. Their repertoire includes sacred songs as well as German and English folksongs. They will be happy if there would be some voluntary donations for the choir from the visitors to cover expenses of traveling costs. I am certain that your congregation will enjoy the concert and will perhaps offer some people the opportunity to resume contact with the old homeland."

Song Books with Larger Print

In the container from Germany we brought with us the 30 German Evangelical song books with larger print which had been ordered by the congregation. Hopefully these larger letter song books will be helpful are for congregational members who have difficulties reading small letters. They will be available at the front entrance; please take one at the beginning of the service and return them at the end of the service, as they should remain in the church.

Pastor Alexander Mielke

Sunday School begins

It's the most wonderful time of the year!!

Sunday school starts again on **Sunday September 9th, 2007** for both the English service at 9:45 a.m. and the German service at 11:00 a.m. It's been a terrific summer and we're planning all kinds of fun adventures for the fall. We look forward to seeing everyone soon!! We have several new members of the teaching team this year and if you'd like to **join us teaching one Sunday per month**, please contact Monika Schmidt by phone 416-760-7082 or email monikakschmidt@gmail.com.

Monika Schmidt, Sunday School Leader

Confirmation Class begins

Confirmation classes are starting again on September 28th every second Friday at 6:00 p.m. at the Church. Thank you to Stefan Wolf for starting this new group in March of this year. We are really very happy that we have 6 confirmands in our group, On the Sunday of Pentecost in 2008, some of these young people will be confirmed. I am asking the congregation to bid a hearty welcome to the confirmands in the Church Service and to pray for the success of the confirmation instruction

In the News

- Käthe Kleinau has written an article about Pastor Stefan Wolf in the *Deutsche Presse* May 30 2007 issue.
- Watch for an interview with Pastor Alexander Mielke coming up in the *Deutsche Presse*.

News from the Choir Director

Fall's Musical Leaf Headlines...

Welcome back songbirds.

The first get-together-ness for everyone who feels or is youngish, and *would like to sing in German*, is **Thursday, September 13th, 2007 at 7:25 p.m.** Our first service that we will be taking part in as a musical body is Sunday, September 16th, 2007 for Pastor Alexander Mielke's Inauguration and then for the Thanksgiving Service on Sunday October 7th, 2007.

Anyone wishing to take part in the **Brass Ensemble** can contact me at ali_giedraitis@hotmail.com.

If there are spirits out there who would like to sing, play an instrument, dance or even chant a moving picture please whisper in my ear, (do suggest someone whom you think we would enjoy). It would be helpful to already gather ideas and volunteers to ripen in time for Christmas. Feel free to talk to me anytime *except during choir rehearsals*.

Don't forget to ask if anyone in *your neighborhood needs a ride* to the first Choir Practice on Thursday, September 13th.

aaaaali Giedritis, Choir Director and Band Leader

Website www.martinluther.ca

To put the website together requires a lot of effort and dedication. Mona Frantzke is doing this for many years. This requires good knowledge. The website is read by many people not only in North America but also abroad. It is always nice to hear praiseworthy comments how good our website is. Many thanks goes to Mona for her positive attitude and patience.

Mona, the Martin Luther Church is very thankful.

Edmund Scholz, President, Church Council

We buried...

Bruno Eugen Gutsch

passed away on August 12, 2007 at the age of 70

He who hears my word and believes him who sent me, has eternal life.

John 5, 24

MLC Email Distribution List

Before Pastor Stefan Wolf left he asked me to go ahead and set up an "Email Distribution List" for the church. The List can be a timely means of keeping the MLC community well informed about its activities and events. Together we, but especially the Pastor, the Church Council, the Leaders of the Church, can use this list to communicate important information, regular news and announcements on an as needed basis.

A few facts and details about this service:

- Your name and e-mail address remain confidential. It will never be displayed within a mailing.
- When you want to share information with the other members, send an email to me **Mona Frantzke at mona.frantzke@rogers.com** . I will review and edit your message and include it in the next distribution. Make sure the messages you compose are related to MLC activities and that information is not of a personal nature.
- If you wish to update/change/delete your e-mail information, please advise me at the above e-mail address.

Please add my name and email address into your E-mail program to ensure that this mail is not considered junk mail. Thank you for your time.

Mona Frantzke, List Administrator

Pastor Stefan Wolf's Farewell in June 2007

Many thanks to Pastor Stefan Wolf and his family for the wonderful years we shared together. May the heavenly father bless Pastor Wolf and his family with good health and strength in his new career. Our heartfelt best wishes.

Ed Scholz (President of Church Council) and the Farewell Committee



New Address for Pastor Stefan Wolf

Email: fralupus@gmail.com

Mail address: Allee 15, 32756 Detmold, Germany.

September 2007

Children's Talk followed by Sunday School both services!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sunday after Trinity 2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9:45 English Service 11.00 German Service Pastor Mielke			The Mission Circle will resume in October	6:00 p.m. Board MLC Nursery	7:00 p.m. Church Council	
Sunday after Trinity 9	10	11	12	13	14	15
9:45 English Service 11.00 German Service Pastor Mielke			7:00 p.m. Ladies Group	7:25 Church Choir		
Sunday after Trinity 16	17	18	19	20	21	22
3:00 p.m. Joint Service with Holy Communion, Installation of Pastor Alexander Mielke with Pastor Guenter Dahle (ELCIC)		11:00 a.m. Seniors Circle		7:25 Church Choir 7:30 p.m. German Contact Circle at Epiphany Lutheran Church, Scarborough		
Sunday after Trinity 23	24	25	26	27	28	29
9:45 English Service 11.00 German Service Pastor Mielke 1:00 p.m. German Song Concert , Choir from Rotenburg an der Wümme, Germany		1:30 p.m. German Bible Study		7:25 Church Choir	6:00 p.m. Confirmation Instruction	
German Thanksgiving 30	<h2>October 2007</h2> <p>Thanksgiving Sunday October 7th 10:00 a.m.!! Joint Service, followed by a Potluck-Luncheon Pastor Mielke</p>					
9:45 English Service 11.00 German Service Pastor Mielke						