

Congregational newsletter



LUTHERAN CHURCH
— Founded 1955 Gegründet —

March 2008

Devotion

Dear Members and Friends of Martin Luther Church!

The painting by the artist Andreas Felger displays the Watchword for the Year 2008, John 14:19: "Jesus Christ says, 'Because I live, you also will live.'" This word of Jesus reminds us that the church is the community of faith and hope. Faith in our crucified and resurrected Lord. Hope of all the life this crucified and resurrected Lord provides for us.

When the disciples heard this word "Because I live, you also will live" for the first time, they had to bid farewell to their Lord and Master; this belonged to the parting words of Jesus before he was to die at the cross. Today we hear it as a word of the Resurrected who promises us abundance of life because he the Living has defeated the death. This points to an eternal hope which cannot be overcome by death. But this also opens a perspective in our every day life. Let me pass on to you an experience of a priest in the streets of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

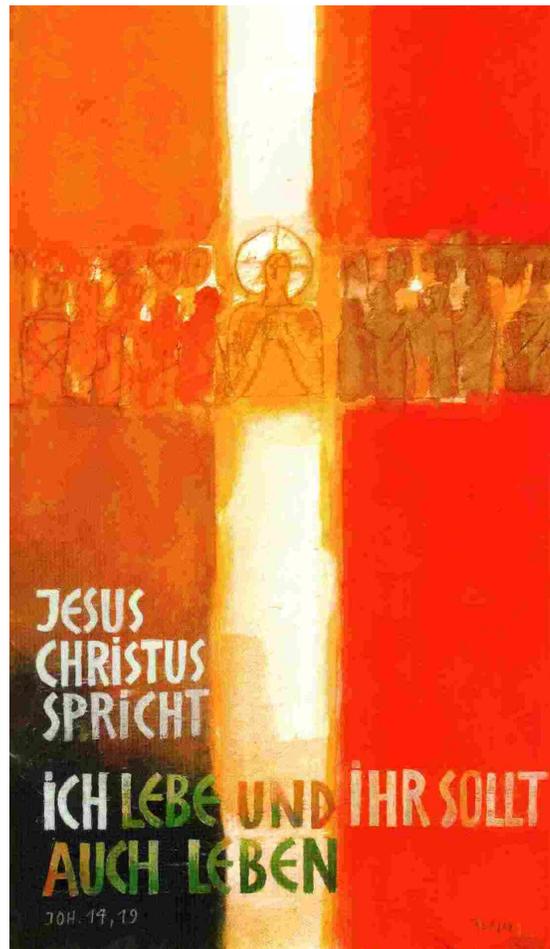
"Every day, when I walked through the streets of Rio de Janeiro, I saw a man in his best years, sitting on the ground, leaning against the wall of a house, with his hand extended and asking for a donation. He was unable to walk. His legs were mutilated. Too

often I had passed him without thinking what it means not to be able to get up, to be handicapped.

One day, however, I realized the fate of this man in its full harshness, for I saw how many people passed him without paying attention to him, much less giving him something. On the spur of the moment, I approached him and asked him whether he wanted to get up, whether he had the wish to be able to walk. With mistrust he looked me up and down for a while, but then he must have recognized in my face that I did not want to taunt him, and he began to talk. He still hoped for a change in his life. I, however, was the first person in a long time who addressed him of those who passed him. 'I am so alone with my fate', he lamented, 'for many people find it embarrassing to stop and talk to me, I can sense this only too well. I thank you. – I would very much like to move around, but nobody offers me help, for the walking aids are out of reach for me and my

relatives. I just have to forget about it.' I shook his hand and promised him: 'I will arrange for you to walk.' Then I went home.

During Sunday Mass, I only spoke about this man in my address and about his lot in life, and what we could do for him. A spontaneous collection brought more than was needed for crutches and artificial legs. I was happy. But even happier and more surprised was the man on the street, he could not



believe that he was being helped. Over the next few weeks he practiced studiously, until he could walk without assistance. Then Easter approached. I invited him to the main Sunday Service and gave him a seat at the very front beside the altar. Again I preached about him and said: 'Jesus has arisen to new life. He grants us a new life. It is also in our hands that an entirely new life begins for our fellow human beings. Because of you, it has begun for our friend who is sitting beside me. Get up and show yourself to the congregation, to which you now belong.' He got up and showed that he could walk.

The church was filled with touching enthusiasm. This, for me, was the most beautiful celebration of Easter."

Jesus promises us life, eternal life, abundance of life; that's the promise we as Christians live from. So let us help each other, let us grant life each other, every new day; that's the task we as Christians live for.

*With kind regards,
Your Pastor Alexander Mielke*

**This newsletter focuses on information about forthcoming events.
A more elaborate newsletter will be edited for April.**

New Members in the Church Council

At the Annual General Meeting, Edmund Scholz (as President), Karl-Ernst Kriese, Ron Mayer and Keith Rabey declared their resignation from the Church Council. Karl-Ernst Kriese is going to continue as rendant. Ernst Carl, Gordon Weber and Irene Zielke joined the Church Council. In the first meeting of the Church Council, Ernst Wienecke was elected to be the new President, Iris Schweiger Vice President and Gisela Wilhelm Secretary. The installation of the new Church Council will be held in the Joint Service on Easter Sunday, March 23, 10.00 a.m.

Organist

On March 2, we thanked Heike Eble for 19 years of service as our organist. The new main organist is Klaus Schneeberger (read more in the next newsletter).

Greetings of Edmund Scholz, former President

Liebe Mitglieder der Martin-Luther-Gemeinde!

Es war für mich eine besondere Ehre, 28 Jahre im Vorstand und 7 Jahre im Board of Directors in unseren Kindergarten zu dienen. Nun ist die Zeit gekommen das ich aus gesundheitlichen Gründen mein Amt leider niederlegen muss.

Ich danke unseren himmlischen Vater, dass er uns als Gemeinde über so viele Jahre so reichlich beschenkt hat. Es war nicht immer einfach, aber wir in der M.L.K. haben immer wieder im Glauben unsere Zusammengehörigkeit erfahren. Meine besondere Ehre war es, mit Pastor E.Schwantes, Pastor S.Wolf und jetzt mit Pastor A. Mielke zu arbeiten. Der Dank geht an Sie, liebe Gemeinde, dass Sie mir über so viele Jahre das Vertrauen und die Unterstützung gegeben haben.

Meine Familie hat seit der Zugehörigkeit in dieser Gemeinde viele Freunde gewonnen, sei es im Gebet oder auch in schweren Tagen. Dieses schätzen wir sehr. Für meine Frau Ursula und für mich war diese Entscheidung nicht einfach, wir hoffen, dass Sie Verständnis hierfür haben.

Liebe Gemeinde, mein Anliegen und Gebet möchte ich an Sie richten, bitte unterstützen Sie Pastor A.Mielke und den Vorstand weiterhin so gut, wie Sie es bis hierher getan haben. Denn wir alle sind ein Leib Christi, und alle Glieder gehören dazu. Mein besonderen Dank möchte ich nochmals den Vorstand aussprechen für die gute Zusammenarbeit. Ein herzliches Dankeschön an die ausscheidenden Vorstandsmitglieder K.Kriese, R.Mayer und K.Rabey für ihren treuen Dienst. Es ist eine besondere Freude dass Herr K.Kriese sich bereit erklärt hat, den Redanten-Posten weiterhin so sorgfältig auszuführen.

Mit besten Grüßen verbleiben Ursula und Edmund Scholz

J.S. Bach Concert on March 16

We look forward to a very fine concert on Sunday, March 16, 2008 2:00 pm in the Martin Luther Church of the **Goldberg Variations of Johann Sebastian Bach by a string trio**, Marie Berard (Violin, Concert Master Canadian Opera Orchestra), Teng Li (Solo Violist), Winona Zelenka (Solo Cellist, both Toronto Symphony). Tickets 15 \$ adults, 10 \$ seniors and students, 20 \$ family price, children free. For reservation, please call church office: 416-251-8293.

Easter Sunrise Service and Easter Joint Celebration

And a famous special event in the Martin Luther Church: A warm welcome for all to attend our Easter Sunrise Service! Come and see the sun rising over the lake and the city when we celebrate Easter at the shore of Lake Ontario from **Humber Bay West**. Start is at **6:30 a.m.** in the morning of Easter Sunday, March 23, 2008. After that we can have some breakfast with pancakes and toast in our church.

Meeting on the last parking lot of "Humber Bay Park West" (this is about 1.5 km east of the church, south side of Lake Shore, directly behind the large apartment buildings complex "Marina del Ray"; near the Yacht-Club!), stay to the right and drive along the road to the last parking lot.

Let us know if you need transportation. Please call the church (416-251-8293) or Pastor Mielke (416-567-2487).

10.00 am: JOINT EASTER SERVICE
With participation of the Choirs and the Sunday School

Swim Party of the Sunday School

Save the date for another big splash ...

Martin Luther Church & Day Care

5th ANNUAL SWIM

When: Saturday March 22, 2008 from 12:45 to 3pm

Where: Memorial Pool
44 Montgomery Road

(North off Bloor St W just west of Royal York Road)

Who: ALL ARE WELCOME!!

Please sign-up on the Sunday school room door

AFTER THE 1 HOUR SWIM WE HAVE THE PARTY ROOM BOOKED FOR PIZZA, DRINKS AND FUN.

PLEASE STAY AND JOIN US.

Contact Monika Schmidt for more information
phone 416-760-7082 or email monikakschmidt@gmail.com

Various Announcements

To be able to carry out our congregational work as well as our mission projects for the year 2008, we enclose in this newsletter an envelope for a special donation and hope for your generous support.

In the name of the Church Council, we wish you a blessed Easter Season!
Your Ernst Wienecke, President, and Hans-Joachim Arndt, Treasurer

Family Mielke cordially invites members and friends of MLC to an **Open House in the parsonage on Saturday, April 12**. The address is: 3203 Gatliff Avenue, Mississauga (corner Dundas / Dixie).

My wife and I would like to start an **English bible study** after Easter. It is important for us to listen to the word of God together and offer spiritual inspiration to each other.

A warm welcome to our **Family Choir** where we sing English and German songs. Parents, children, teens are cordially invited.

Confirmation will be celebrated on **Pentecost Sunday, May 11**. Please contact **Pastor Alexander Mielke (cellphone 416-567-2487)**, if you your child is eligible for the new **confirmation class**.

Together with Dan Sommerfeld, we are preparing the **Confirmands' Retreat of April 18 – 20**. We will meet for that in Camp Edgewood which is not far away from Guelph, a very nice resort. Start will be on Friday evening, end on Sunday after lunch. Our group of 8 confirmands is comparatively big, but to have some more with us would be fine, so **other youths are very welcome**.

We are planning the Spring Cleaning of the church for April. You will be informed about the exact date.

The **Toronto Conference Spring Meeting** will be held on **Saturday, April 5, 2008**, at Christ the King/Dietrich Bonhoeffer Lutheran Church in Thornhill. This is our annual business meeting where we will elect clergy delegates to the 2009 National Convention, Dean, and three Conference Council Members. We will receive a Synod report and reports on Campus Ministry and on "It's Your Call". We encourage all congregations to be represented at this meeting. There will be no registration fee.

The Ascension Church Service of the German-speaking congregations of Toronto will be celebrated on May 1st in our Martin Luther Church.

Welcome to our **Congregational Picknick on June 1 in Camp Edgewood!**

Camp Lutherlynn Summer Camp on Golden Lake 2008

HELLO CAMP AFICIONADOS. THE DATES ARE SET! Look past the doldrums of winter and set your sights on another glorious SUNRISE 201 at SUMMER CAMP with our NEW PASTOR & family.

Martin Luther Lutheran Church has been confirmed for arrival Sunday, July 27th and departure Friday, August 1st, 2008. The prices are the same as last year.

Dan Sommerfeld, Camp Counsellor, Martin Luther Church

We buried...

Irma Kolewe née Schmidtgall

February 13, 2008

When they call to me, I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble.

Psalm 91:15

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;

Homepage and List Administrator: Mona Frantzke; Mailing List: Anita Ratz