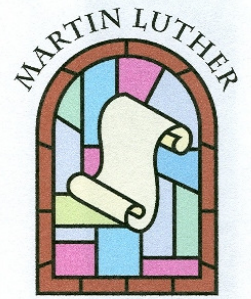


# Congregational newsletter



LUTHERAN CHURCH  
— Founded 1955 Gegründet —

May 2008

## DEVOTION

*Dear Members and Friends  
of the Martin Luther Church!*

This (originally mainly red) picture is significant for the time between Easter and Pentecost. In the centre, you see the Easter Candle. The light of this candle still is small as it shines above and against all the darkness below, where humans suffer under crosses of various kinds. But as you see, the main light of the picture are the flames which blaze through this house, the flames of Pentecost which open up the house to all the world, which change the house into the dwelling of God's burning love.

The picture has been painted by Sieger Koeder who is very famous in Germany nowadays. Born in 1925, he first studied art and educational science and was high school teacher. Only when he was 40 years old, he studied Theology and became a R.C. priest. He lives in the Southwest of Germany, a few years ago we could visit his congregation near to Ulm.

There are two words of Jesus which encourage us and send us forth. First the Easter word in John 20, which the disciples heard when they hid themselves, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear. Jesus came and stood

among them and said, "Peace be with you."<sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. "Peace – which is Shalom in Hebrew – peace be with you!"



Second the Pentecost word in Acts 1: "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." And in the next chapter, we see what this does mean: When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place.<sup>2</sup> And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting.<sup>3</sup> Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them.<sup>4</sup> All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit

gave them ability. The peace is the burning love of Christ in their hearts, and the blaze of God's spirit opens up their closed house that the peace of God, Shalom, may reach out to all the people in the world.

**A very special event in our church: The Rocky Mountain College Choir – among the singers: Andrea Wienecke ! – will come on Tuesday, May 6, 7:00 p.m.**

We see this in Sieger Koeder's picture. Below we read, in the midst of darkness, in the midst of distress and despair, where humans suffer, and Jesus on the cross amidst of them, below we read the word "euangelion", the Gospel, the Good News, which has been heard and received, by Peter, an ordinary fisherman together with all the other disciples of Jesus. And this light has been preserved and resuscitated by Easter. Many have joined the disciples, from all times and places. On the next level of the house, on the left side, we discover Pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer as the representative of the Protestant Christianity, Bonhoeffer the martyr in his resistance to Hitler and the Nazi regime, Bonhoeffer who nowadays is visible as a witness to the Gospel in the midst of London, at the main entrance of Westminster Abbey where his statue was erected in July 1998. On the right side, we recognize Pope John XXIII, who called the Second Vaticanum in order to open the windows of the R.C.Church for that what he saw as the "Spring" of the church and of humanity.

On the next level, we see humans from all parts of the world, men and women, who experience the peace of Christ in their life and bring forth God's Shalom into the world. There are some more open windows above, windows open into the future where we can only guess what might happen there, what might expect us as Christians, us as the church, there. The painting shows the church as a very special house. As this house has been filled by the Pentecostal blaze of the Holy Spirit, this house has been entirely changed. The house has become open at all sides, the house of the church has been

transformed in a blazing flame, the love of God which wants to illuminate and change all the world. The terrible red of the world's sufferings has been transformed by Good Friday and Easter into the Red of love, hope and faith as we experience it on Pentecost.

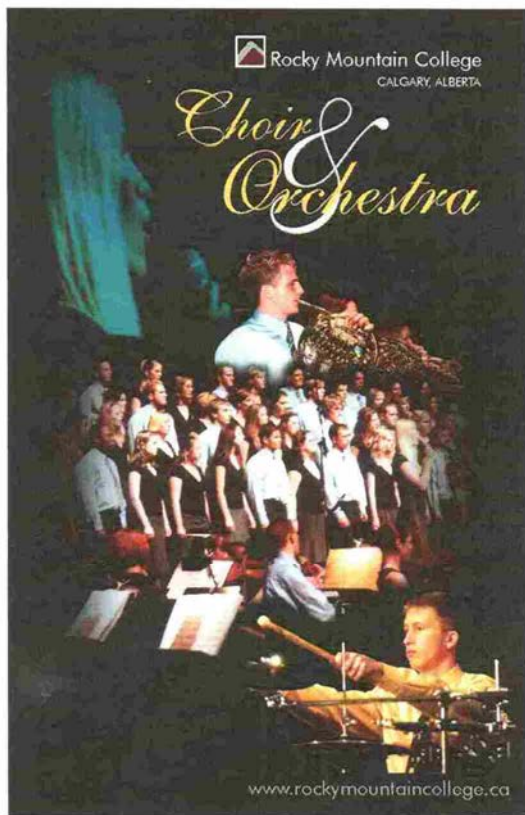
On April 4, there was the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the terrible assassination of Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. He is the famous preacher and teacher of Christianity in North America. In August 1963, Martin Luther King had expressed his hope: "I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made straight and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all flesh shall see it together." This is the hope of the Euangelion, of the Good News, that God's Shalom brings people together and makes them one family of God, sisters and brothers at the table of our Lord Jesus Christ. We here, in the Martin Luther Church, we can live this hope and live up to this dream. Martin Luther King jr. also said: "Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that." Sieger Koeder's picture shows this: God's light is stronger than the world's darkness. The flame of Easter and Pentecost changes the hearts and lives of humans. Let us ask Jesus Christ that his light may guide us so that our Martin Luther Church may live and pass on the peace of God, Shalom for the world.

*With kind regards,  
Your Pastor Alexander Mielke*

**A very special event in our church: The Rocky Mountain College Choir – among the singers: Andrea Wienecke ! – will come on Tuesday, May 6, 7:00 p.m.**

**The Rocky Mountain College Choir & Orchestra from Calgary, under the direction of Andrew Love, will minister in the MLC. Their inspirational music incorporates a variety of musical styles, ranging from classical and sacred to spirituals and contemporary Christian works. A love offering will be received to support their ministry.**

**Come and enjoy!**



The 52-member Rocky Mountain College Choir & Orchestra has toured extensively throughout North America, has appeared on "100 Huntley Street"-Canada's nationally syndicated Christian TV program -- and has performed at our nation's parliament building for foremost Canadian government officials, and in New York City at St. Paul's Chapel-the site of George Washington's Inauguration Prayer Service. Their ministry has been very well-received by large Canadian and U.S. churches and many people have been blessed by their 5 CD recordings. The RMC Choir & Orchestra's large repertoire enables them to lead worship in both contemporary and traditional church settings. This year the group received two awards from The Canadian Peoples Gospel Music Awards (SHAI Music awards). They won in the category of Best Choral Album for their CD entitled, Bow Down and the Best Seasonal

A **film afternoon** will be taking place on **Sunday, May 4**, at Club Heidelberg in St. Catherines at 2:00 p.m. Presented will be "Visions of Germany" and "Magic Moments with Andre Rieux". **The bus will be leaving at 12:30 noon at the Martin Luther Church.** The event is free of charge, just have some money with you for coffee and cake. A cordial thank-you to Mr. Gerhard Sauer, who organizes and supports this trip!

### **Special Collection 2008**

Please support our Martin Luther Church through the Special Collection which is **very important for our congregation during the summer months**. That's why you find a donation envelope in the newsletter which you can put on the offering plate in the service or mail to the church office. If you like to get in contact with the pastor or members of the church council, please tell us, a day when we come to your house may easily be arranged. As you may know, the intention of this Special Collection is not only to raise money for the church, but also to intensify the contact and exchange ideas about the church.

*With a heartfelt thank you for all the support you give to our church and kind regards,*

*Ernst Wienecke, President, and Hans-Joachim Arndt, Treasurer*



The **confirmands** enjoyed a weekend retreat at Camp Edgewood (you also see on the photo: Dan Sommerfeld, Franziska Mielke and Andreas Zultner), afterwards they presented themselves to the congregation in the Joint Service on April 27. On **May 11**, six confirmands are going to celebrate their confirmation: **Niklas Benseler, Nadine Jongsma, Katrina Kumpa, Nicholas Rosati, Jocelyn Sommerfeld, Franz Zultner**. The evening before, on Saturday in the service at 5:00 p.m., they will receive the Holy Communion together with their families. Welcome to accompany our confirmands at this celebration!

### **Mother's Day Luncheon**

Please note that on Mothers Day (May 11, also Pentecost Sunday) the men of the council and additional helpers will prepare, like always, a Mothersday Luncheon, starting right after the Service. The costs for this luncheon will be for Adults \$ 6.50 and for children 4-12 years \$ 3.50, 3 years and under are free. All the proceeds will go to our Brazil Fund to help our Sao Paulo Congregation to provide food for the Kindergarten.

*Thanks and best regards*

*Hans-Joachim Arndt - Organisator/Coordinator for this Luncheon*

We are happy to announce a special outing will take place on **May 24, 2008**

The Martin Luther Church has organised a trip to the **Royal Botanical Gardens, Lilac Festival**. We will travel by bus at 08:45, sharp, from Islington subway. We will be participating in a garden tour, enjoy a catered lunch, shop at the gift store and depart for Dundurn Castle. At Dundurn Castle a tour has been organised along with free time to tour the grounds or the gift shop. The all inclusive price for our lovely day at RBG, lunch & dundurn Castle is \$ 28.95 for all ages. The cost for the bus is minimum \$ 7.25 per person providing the bus is full. We should return at approximately 5 p.m. to Islington Subway.



There is a sign up sheet at church OR you can contact Dina at the number below. Upon signing up, please remit your payment to Dina Wancar or Heidi Jonuschies as soon as possible. Thank you!

Questions? Call Dina in the evening, after 7 p.m. at 416-919-2432 Dina will return your call within 48 hours

### **Congregational Picknick in Camp Edgewood**

We are looking forward to a fine day in Camp Edgewood. On **June 1**, we will start with a family service at 11:00 a.m., followed by potluck luncheon. And we will have a program suitable for young and old, suitable for all the family. End will be around 4:00 p.m. Transportation by bus will be provided by the church. Please bring your lunch, plate, dishes, cup. Very welcome! (See map last page)

We cordially invite you to the **English Bible Study**. Once a month we meet, now on **May 20** in Ollie Gilker's condo. We want to read Gospel texts and exchange our experiences

and thoughts, helping each other to live our faith in every day life. If you are interested, very welcome, just contact Pastor Alexander Mielke (Cellphone 416-567-2487).

Before Easter we started a **Family Choir**. Children and young people are also welcome in this circle and people who enjoy singing new, mainly English songs. The circle meets once a month for practice. **We gladly welcome people to sing with us. If you are interested, contact Iris Schweiger, 905-625-9174, or Heike Block-Mielke, Tel. 289-232-3034.**

The Biannual Assembly of the **Eastern Synod** is going to meet July 9 through 13 in London / Ontario.

At the Spring Meeting of the Lutheran Toronto Conference, the delegates of MLC were Pastor Alexander Mielke as well as the members of the church council Heinz Gutsch and Gordon Weber. **Reverend David Tin (Rhenish Church Markham) was reelected to be our Dean.**

A big Thank You to all who helped with the **Spring Cleaning!**. Now we can enjoy our beautiful and clean Martin Luther Church again. A special thanks to Heidi Jonuschies who organized this day!

**I cordially invite to a new confirmation course.** This will be held over a longer time. It is to begin in the second half of September of this year and lead to confirmation on Pentecost in 2010. Confirmation instruction is a very important opportunity to become familiar with the foundation of the Christian faith and to experience community with other young people. By meeting every second week, the burden of transport for parents is not as heavy, but over a longer period of time, more trust can develop within the group and the congregation. Children are welcome to be registered also at a younger age, even shortly before they reach the age of 12. I invite to a first **information meeting on Friday, June 6<sup>th</sup>, at the church**, at 7:00 p.m. Please inform me per telephone or e-mail, if your child is eligible. **Please invite also other families you know, thank you.**

Many came to our Open House in Mississauga. We like to thank everyone for their coming and sharing our joy at our new home!

We also were surprised by many many contributions of delicious food which helped a lot, thank you so much!

Your pastor family Heike, Franziska, Dorothee, Benedikt, Veronika und Alexander Mielke

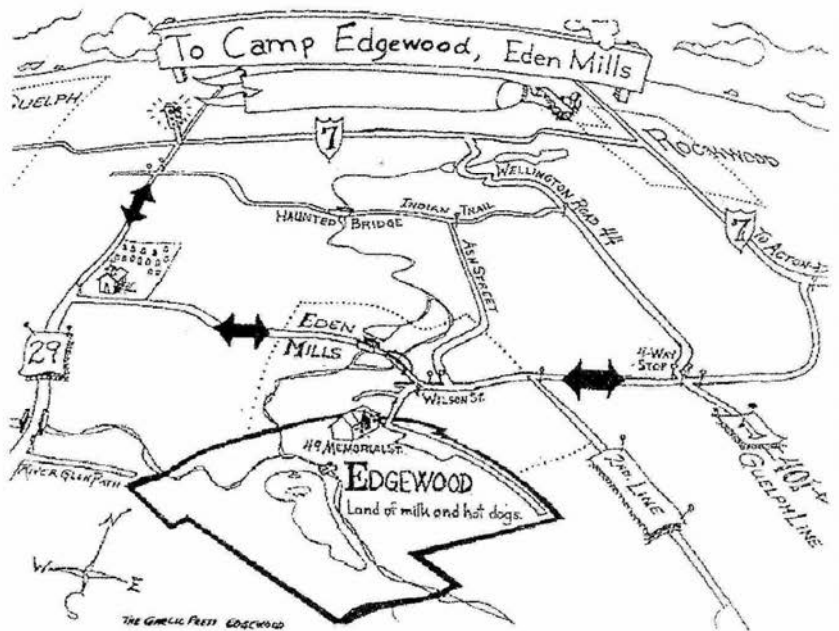


### *How you reach the Camp:*

#### **From Toronto:**

- Highway 401 West
- Guelph Line 1, exit northbound
- Through town of Brookville
- Stay on Guelph Line until you come to a 4 way stop (huge stop-sign)
- Turn left to Eden Mills and follow signs to the Camp

*Please come and bring along your Family!!!*



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**[www.martinluther.ca](http://www.martinluther.ca)**

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

**Email: [alexander.mielke@rogers.com](mailto:alexander.mielke@rogers.com)**

**Radio Devotion (in**

**German) every Sunday 9:30 a.m. on AM 530**

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