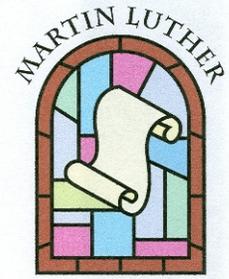


Congregational newsletter



LUTHERAN CHURCH
— Founded 1955 Gegründet —

May 2009

DEVOTION

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

There is fear going around. Daily and hourly, we hear news of people having been infected by the swine flu. The National and International Health Organizations warn of the danger of a pandemic. It is a fearsome situation, everyone should employ the necessary precautionary measures; let us hope that it will not turn out to be very bad.

These days, other news has attracted my attention, which has not made such big headlines. The Belinda-Stronach-Foundation had invited Tony Blair to Toronto, and the former British Prime Minister spoke about his new project. He has founded the "Tony Blair Faith Foundation", which combines two goals; to further the openness between world religions and to improve the health situation in Third-World countries. One of the large goals here is the fight against Malaria. We should realize this: At the moment, we become fearful because of a pandemic, which reminds us of the international SARS crisis of 6 years ago. Actually, 44 people died of this illness in Canada. While in the course of every year, worldwide one million people die of Malaria.

My family and I could experience this in Tanzania. The main project in my church congregation in the Massai steppe was a small health centre, where many people received the urgently needed health care, and continue to do so. Being situated at the

Ruvu River, Malaria was a constant danger. We saw how often people took ill from Malaria and how weakened they became in daily life. We were ashamed because the doctors had to try to help with comparatively simple means. The new effective medications were not affordable and hardly obtainable to the average population. While every tourist traveled through the famous Nature Parks, supplied with super remedies, the age-old remedy Chloroquin had to be sufficient for the ordinary Tanzanian people, somewhat enhanced in its effectiveness by applying it through injection and the combination of antibiotics. The "Tony Blair Faith Foundation"



wants to make mosquito nets available on a grand scale in rural areas in Africa, where Malaria is cause Nr. 1 of death among children. A mosquito net is relatively cheap, the costs amount to only \$ 10, and research has shown that one can, through widespread distribution of nets, reduce Malaria by 50% and the regional mortality

among children up to 25%.

Tony Blair calls his foundation "Faith Foundation" and sees a necessary connection between faith and action for healing. This is, indeed, truly Biblical. Among the very first things, which the Gospel of Mark reports on the work of Jesus, we find the healing of a fever. In Mark 1, we hear that Jesus, after he has called his first disciples away from their fishing nets in Capernaum, is invited by Simon into his house. There Simon's mother-in-law lies sick in bed, she suffers from a high fever. Jesus goes to her, takes her hand and lifts her up. She feels then that

the fever is leaving her, that she is well again. This relieving of the tormenting fever is Jesus' very first act of healing, of which is told in the Gospel of Mark. And when in Luke 9 the sending forth of the 12 disciples is told, then we hear that the healing of the sick is the central point of Jesus' mission: "Jesus sent them out to preach the Kingdom of God and to heal the sick". The church is called to the holistic service of people, the whole person with soul and body shall experience God's salvation.

Tony Blair understands the term "Faith" in a wider sense. His hope is, to bring people of different faith persuasions together, so that they can work in unison for the healing of their society. Therefore, the Tony-Blair-Foundation wants to attempt to organize the distribution of mosquito nets through churches just as through mosques. Together, Christians and Muslims shall help in the fight against Malaria.

I consider this a very real possibility. Unfortunately, mainly problems and conflicts make headlines in the press. When something is going well, then there is very little reported about it. But in the Massai steppe

I experienced, it was quite normal that Muslims and Christians united in helping. When a committee was founded to take on a local problem, then Muslims as well as Christians were members. And repeatedly, I have experienced working together with Muslims as constructive and positive, for instance, when we received hunger relief during a tense period of a long-lasting drought, together we took care of a just distribution of corn supply among the needy.

Muslims and Christians as neighbours, who respect each other and are open towards each other – this is possible. I experienced this during my six years of working in Africa. And I find it very good, when a former British Prime Minister or a former Canadian Minister like Belinda Stronach is supporting this, the healing of human society, the problems that are at least as dangerous as Malaria.

*With kind greetings and blessings,
yours,
Pastor Alexander Mielke*

A warm welcome to the Mother's Day Luncheon !

Please note that on Mothers Day (**May 10**) the men of the council and additional helpers will prepare, like always, a Mothersday Luncheon, starting right after the **Joint Family Service** which is starting at **11.00 a.m.** During this service, the German **Consul General Holger Raasch** will be present, say a word of greeting and be with us even 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.

On May 21, Thursday, St George Lutheran Church invites us to a Celebration of Ascension of the German speaking ELCIC congregations in Toronto.

On **Pentecost Sunday, May 31, 2009, Lukas Frantzke and Benedikt Mielke** will celebrate their **confirmation** in the festive Joint Service at 11.00 a.m.

In September, young people can again join Confirmation Class at Martin Luther Church.

Confirmation instruction takes place every two weeks on Friday evenings, and for the new-beginners, this then leads to Confirmation on Pentecost Sunday, June 12th, 2011. Please bring this instruction to the attention of your family and circle of friends. You can contact Alexander Mielke concerning this matter: 416-567-2487.



*Confirmands' Weekend
in Camp Edgewood
April 24 – 26, 2009*

On June 7, we will be able to welcome the EKD-North-American Conference in our midst. Oberkirchenrat Paul Oppenheim of the EKD/Hannover and four other pastor colleagues from Miami, New York, Ottawa and Washington will attend our joint service at 11:00 a.m. Before that Sunday, this conference, organized by Pastor Mielke, will take place as of June 4th, at the Retreat Centre of the Franciscan Sisters in Lewiston/State of New York, near Niagara Falls.

Congregational Picnic in Camp Edgewood, Sunday, June 28

Please mark down also **July 5, 2009**. On this Sunday, we expect to have the 30 member **Brass Band from Ganderkesee near Bremen** as guests in our congregation. First they will offer musical contributions during the joint service, and then, at 2:00 p.m., will give a **Concert** in the Martin Luther Church.

We invite you to our annual summer camp at **Camp Lutherlyn, Golden Lake, Ontario near Pembroke - from Sunday July 26th to Friday July 31st (5 nights)**. The cost is the same as last year: \$225 person, plus the bus \$50 single or \$75 family. You can go to our website www.martinluther.ca to download the Registration Form, the Bus Transportation Form and the Owl Rafting Waiver Form. All three forms need to be filled out for complete camp participation. Please submit forms and payment by July 3rd, 2009. The day trip to Owl Rafting is an additional cost at \$15-\$20. While you are at our website, please read ahead of time the *Supply Check List* for what to bring and the *Rules of Camp Lutherlyn*.

The camp is also open to families with young children and also to seniors; discounted rates apply. For many years the Martin Luther Lutheran Church has invited its youth for a one-week-camp to the Golden Lake. The Camp gives children and youth in the ages between 8 and 18 the opportunity to have a good time together and to enjoy the beautiful landscape around the lake, The counselors are experienced youth leaders of the church who take good care of the needs of the campers and provide an interesting program with creative games and sports. Part of the program are the bible-studies which combine biblical stories with outdoor activities. The campers sleep in cabins in groups of 10. Meals are cooked by the staff of the Camp Lutherlyn.

For more information contact: Dan Sommerfeld: feld-of-dreams@sympatico.ca, or Pastor Alexander Mielke: alexander.mielke@rogers.com

For some time now we have been working to establish the required standards in regards to the so-called "**Vulnerable Sector**" for Martin Luther Church. This is very important in order to receive the

support of the insurance to the full extent in case there is a conflict. Part of this is for all employees and volunteers, who are in frequent contact with children, women and the elderly (these are the three main groups which belong under the title "Vulnerable Sector") to submit their Police Record Checks to the church office. Furthermore, an **Information Session is mandatory, where information will be given concerning fundamental rules of conduct.** Tanya Zielke will conduct this session at our church **on Sunday, May 24**, after the service. I am asking you very cordially, to take advantage of this very important information session, if you have, in the framework of Martin Luther Church, frequent responsibilities regarding contact with and care of children, women and the elderly. If you have questions, you are welcome to contact me. Your Pastor Alexander Mielke



*Joint Celebration
with Wesley Mimico United
Church
on March 15, 2009
with their wonderful gift of
tambourines for our Sunday
School*



Do you wish to be visited?

By the Pastor? By Church Council Members?

Do you know somebody who would gladly receive a visitor?

Do you know somebody who would like to visit our church services and needs transportation?

Pastor Mielke and the Church Council Members are willing to provide this.

Please let us know by calling the church office (416-251-8293) or Pastor Mielke (416-567-2487) or by sending this form to us by mail.

To receive a visit

- by Pastor Mielke
- by Church Council members
- I would be very glad

would _____ be very glad.

Address und Telephone Nr.:

Concert of Male-Voice Choir "Harfentoene" on Palm Sunday, April 5, 2009, with Franz Schubert's "German Mass"

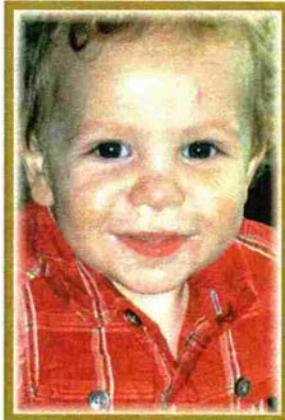


A cordial invitation to the big **Celebration Concert of "Harfentöne" on May 9th, 2009**. In celebration of their 80th founding anniversary, five other choirs will join them (Edelweiss, Germania, Hansa, Loreley, Transsylvania). Do not miss this wonderful musical experience! Saturday, May 9th, 2:00 p.m. at St. Patricks Church, 131 McCaul Street/Toronto.

Easter Sunrise Service on April 12 by the Lake Ontario (Humber Bay Park West), followed by pancake breakfast in the church



It is a very sad time for our Day Care, as Dylan Leach, the second child of our co-worker Jill, died in a tragic accident. In our prayers we remember Dylan, Jill, and the entire family, and wish them strength to bear this great pain and to have faith in God's eternal love and hope beyond death.



Dylan Leach

***July 24, 2007, + April 11, 2009**

Jesus says, "In Heaven their angels do
always behold the face of my Father in Heaven."

Matthew 18:10

*Guardian Angel from heaven so bright,
Watching beside me to lead me aright,
Fold thy wings round me, and guard me with love,
Softly sing songs to me of heaven above.*

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Radio Devotion (in German) every Sunday 9:30 a.m. on AM 530
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*Please send to: Mona Frantzke, List Administrator, mona.frantzke@rogers.com, or:
Martin Luther Church, 2379 Lakeshore Blvd West, Toronto, ON M8V 1B7*