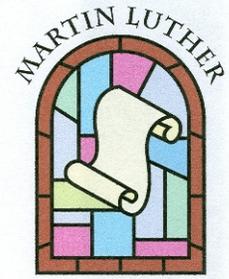


Congregational newsletter



LUTHERAN CHURCH
— Founded 1955 Gegründet —

October 2009

DEVOTION

Dear Fellow Christians !

During a devotion at the DELKINA-Conference we could see a big labyrinth, formed by well-tended lawns in the centre of a garden. We saw the blue sky above us and heard the birds twitter at this morning hour.

In this morning devotion, Pastor Patricia Giannelia said, "Take the time to find your way through the labyrinth sometime. Everyone can take this path by himself only, as in real life."

As in real life – yes, life sometimes appears to us like a labyrinth. Puzzling, and enigmatic. We had our hopes – they were shattered. We had our wishes and goals – everything has turned out differently.

One can experience this, when one takes the time to wander slowly through such a labyrinth. In the centre, there awaits a beautiful ornamental structure as the destination, like a rosette. And in the beginning, the path leads straight ahead in that direction. Then the path turns left, one does not come closer to the destination, one knows however, it is not far away. Then the path leads again directly towards the destination, one is almost there, yet suddenly the path turns back. One is led far away, and now endless turns and twists begin. With effort one trots along seemingly random loops, discouraged, because the original destination only appears in the distance like a mirage.



There are famous places of Christendom, where you can find labyrinths. Most well-known is probably Chartres. In this cathedral, there can be found a labyrinth from the 12th century, inlaid into the floor like a mosaic.

A labyrinth laid out in a church carries within a great message and hope. For it is not a maze, not a garden with misleading paths of twists and turns. In such a garden there are impasses, wrong paths, dead end paths; a life path can perish here in despondency and hopelessness.

The special feature of a church labyrinth, however, is: As long and as laborious the path may seem, it does lead to the destination. After countless turns, one finally does arrive at the destination, at this beautiful rosette, which, in many medieval Cathedrals, indicates the mystery and the abundance of God.

In this way, the labyrinth symbolizes Christian confidence. Even when I do not understand the path, even then God leads me. Even where hope and strength have left me, I am never alone on my path. God who knows about the destination of my life, yes, who himself represents the destination of my life, guides and rescues me in his mysterious and yet loving and merciful way; never can I be lost to his grace and love.

This reminds me of a famous word of Paul in Romans 5:

Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation works patience; and patience, experience; and experience, hope. And hope makes not ashamed; because the love of God has been poured in our hearts by the Holy Spirit which is given unto us.

Sometimes we despair because of the troubles and dead-end streets of our life, but let us have trust in this: God still guides us in a mysterious way towards his destination for our life.

There is a word from the Brazilian Bishop Dom Helder Camara, which encourages us in a similar way:

“No, do not stand still!

It is a godly grace to begin well.

It is a greater grace to remain on the good path.

But the grace of graces is, not to bend down

And, though broken and exhausted,
to go forward unto the destination.“

Kind regards, God's blessings for you!

Your Pastor Alexander Mielke

On **Sunday, October 4th**, there is a **film and book presentation** at Martin Luther Church in Toronto. At **2:00 p.m.**, the **German movie "Lilly unter den Linden"** will be shown. We are very glad

that the **author Anne Vorhoeve herself will be present** at this occasion.

"Lilly unter den Linden" was, as a film produced by Arte as well as a book published by the Ravensburger Verlag, very successful. It describes the fictitious fate of a 13 year-old girl, who moves to an aunt from Hamburg to Jena in 1988, and then experiences the fall of the wall and the enormous changes that were brought about. The film can help **older children and youth** to understand the event of the German Reunification, and is, therefore, well suited for **families**. At the same time, it is also moving and highly recommended for adults, because of the personal exchange with the author, for **Anne Vorhoeve is looking forward to the conversation with the audience.**



Anne Vorhoeve speaks English very well, but, unfortunately, film and book are only available in the German text. All this is part of a reading tour, which brings her also to Ottawa, Montreal and Washington. A heartfelt Thank You to the German Embassy in Ottawa, the Consulate General and the Goethe-Institute in Toronto for supporting this reading tour! Therefore, a cordial welcome to this special presentation on October 4th, at 2:00 p.m.

Before that, an **German Thanksgiving Service** will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. If you wish to come to both, the Thanksgiving Service and the film, you may like to bring something to eat.

We celebrate the **Canadian Thanksgiving on October 11th, in a joint service**. Following the service, we come together for a joyful **Potluck Luncheon**. A warm welcome!

Enclosed with the church bulletin are the donation envelopes for Thanksgiving.

Please support our church community at this occasion in our manifold tasks.

Many Thanks!



The "Martin Luther Social Committee" extends a cordial invitation:

Presently, there is a **sensational exhibition** at the Royal Ontario Museum. **The world renowned Dead Sea Scrolls** can be viewed. When they were discovered in 1947, this was the most important discovery of Bible research in the 20th century. They represent the oldest manuscripts we have of the Old Testament (the Hebrew Bible). You are cordially invited to our **congregational excursion to the ROM**. Our guided tour begins at **1:30 p.m. on Saturday, November 7th**. The entrance fee is \$22 for adults, \$19 for seniors and students. Please register with Pastor Alexander Mielke (cellphone 416-567-2487, email alexander.mielke@rogers.com). If you need transportation, please speak to Pastor Mielke.

On **December 12th at 1:30 p.m.**, "**Fiddler on the Roof**" is staged at the Canon Theatre, 244 Victoria Street, Toronto. The role of Tevje is played by the original actor of the classic film.

The price pro ticket is \$ 110.00; in case we can make up a group of 20, it is reduced to \$ 90.00. Please register with Dina Wancar, Gisela Wilhelm or Heidi Jonuschies.

Many may have noticed it already: In front of the Martin Luther Church there is a new show-case installed, with conspicuous digital announcements. Karen and Bob Hiscott have designed the layout. A heartfelt Thank You to all the donors and to those who have supported us in this project. The financial support of the EKD in the amount of nearly \$ 5,000 was a very helpful contribution, which reduced the burden for the Martin Luther Church. **On November 8th, we will celebrate a Joint Service at 11:00 o'clock**, when we will also officially place **the showcase and the thank-you plaque for the church stained glass windows under God's blessing**. You are cordially invited to this celebration!

In the **Seniors' Circle on October 20th** at 11:00 a.m. at the church, Pastor Alexander Mielke will show photos in connection with his participation in DELKINA in British Columbia (Kelowna – Vancouver – Rocky Mountains) A cordial welcome!

A warm welcome to the **English Bible Study on Oct 13, 7:30 p.m.**, at Ollie Gilker's condo.

On **October 25th**, the annual **pulpit exchange** among the German ELCIC-Congregations in Toronto will take place again. Pastor Katharina Moeller will come to us, the Martin Luther Church, and Pastor Alexander Mielke will conduct the church services at the First Lutheran Church.

On the **First Advent Sunday**, November 29th, the **Edelweiss-Choir** will present an Advent Concert, which begins at 2:00 p.m. Please mark this date on your calendar!

Now 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. An **Information Session** which is the **first meeting of the confirmation class after the summer** break too will be held on **Friday, October 2, 6:30 p.m.**, in the church. You can contact Alexander Mielke concerning this matter: 416-567-2487.



A large and joyous group got together at the Summer Camp.

A heartfelt Thank You to Dan Sommerfeld who prepared and organized the summer camp in a very diligent and caring way, as well as to the counselors Nadine Jongsma, Andrea Pohlmann, Christina Tiu, Andreas Zultner and Tanya Zielke (who helped lots with the Bible Instructions). Here you see Dan, a little fatigued, but very happy, at the jubilee of his 100th blood donation!



Bruno's Bus was brand new and absolutely super!

In spite of the not always sunny weather, everyone had much fun during swimming and canoeing, white water rafting and sports activities.

Hello everyone! Just inviting you to our Camp Lutherlyn Reunion!

Where: The church; When: Saturday, October 17th 2009; What time: 1-4pm

Who: everyone who came to camp (and anyone else you would like to bring)

Why: Because it would be fun to see friends, share favourite camp moments, get pumped for next summer, see the camp photo slide show and have a good time!

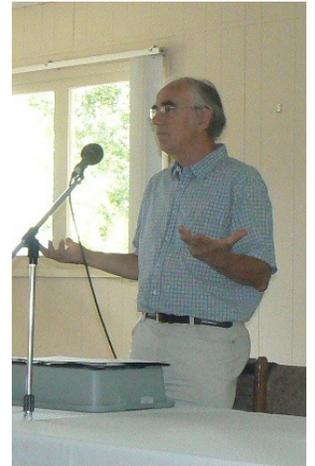
Hope to see you there! Tanya
 PS. Any questions, email me!
 (tanya_zielke@yahoo.ca)





53 participants met at the General Meeting of the DELKINA (German Evangelical-Lutheran Church Conference in North America) in Kelowna.

Professor Dittmar Muendel of the University of Alberta spoke about the main topic "Paradise and Desert – God's promises and our arduous daily life"



The former and new President of the DELKINA, Pastor Katharina Moeller, presented Pastor Patricia Giannelia with a gift as a Thank You for the exceptionally warm reception at the Christ Lutheran Church.



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Kind regards from Pastor Siegmar Reichel and his wife, who are very familiar to our congregation, because they were, for a long time, responsible for the day care in Sao Paulo which we support. Here they can be seen at the dreamlike beautiful Lake Okanagan.



Unfortunately, during one of the heavy downpours this summer, there was **flooding in the basements of the church as well as the nursery** at 5 Superior. In spite of all the complications which were caused by this, the day care and church activities could continue. A heartfelt Thank You to Helen, Teresa and Ali, as well as Edmund Scholz and all the others who have tirelessly taken care of the clean up and the insurance negotiations!

Joy and Grief in Our Congregation

The couple **Irene and Hans-Peter Runge** was able to celebrate their **50th wedding anniversary** on September 26, 2009. We congratulate and wish all the best, God's blessing, for them, together with all their family!

Our heartfelt **sympathies to the families Brozach and Schwarz** who lost their beloved husband, father, grandfather and dear relative **Reimar Brozach** on August 13, 2009, only shortly before his 80th birthday. May they find strength and consolation by trusting in the promises of our eternal and caring God!

On behalf of my family I would like to express my **gratitude** to the members and friends of our Martin Luther-Congregation for all the love and attention brought to us during the short illness and the death of my husband Olaf. The many cards, flowers, and phone-calls showed us, how thankful we can be to be surrounded by our Church-family. May the donations to the Church in Olaf's memory help that God's Word can be preached and heard in our church for a long time to come.

Else Weigelin

BAPTISM

Maya Wienecke
August 2, 2009

For he will command his angels concerning you, to guard you in all your ways.
On their hands, they will bear you up.

Psalm 91:11

FUNERALS

Ewald Berndt, at the age of 81 years
September 21, 2009

The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want.
Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff— they comfort me.

Psalm 23

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

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