

Congregational newsletter



LUTHERAN CHURCH
— Founded 1955 Gegründet —

May 2010

DEVOTION

Dear Fellow Christians !

When worries and fears hold us captive, how can we experience liberation from it? What power in the world is strong enough to get us out of these black holes?

In Mark 5, the story is told of the woman who has been suffering from hemorrhages. She has one great concern in her life, for several years now she has had very heavy bleeding. In the crowd that surrounds Jesus, she does everything possible to get close to him. Finally, she manages to touch his cloak. And the miracle she hoped for happens: She feels Jesus' healing power, she feels she is cured of this long-standing nuisance. Jesus noticed that. He stops and asks into the crowd, who touched me? Now the woman reports what happened to her. And Jesus says to her: Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease.



What happened here? How has this woman experienced help and liberation? The whole thing reminds me of an incident that I found in an older book, a true, dramatic story.

A crippled woman left her crutches and ran up a flight of stairs to rescue her three-year-old daughter when fire threatened to trap the child in an upstairs bedroom. The mother, injured in a car crash two years previously, had been unable to walk without crutches ever since the accident. She was in the kitchen when she suddenly discovered that the house was on fire. Realising that the life of her little

daughter was at stake, she momentarily forgot her own physical handicap. She rushed to the upper floor, grabbed the sleeping child and carried her to safety.

How has this woman experienced relief of her concern? Up to this moment, certainly their greatest concern had been the physical disability, which weakened and restricted her. Now she saw a bigger problem. And because of the bigger problem, she forgot about the smaller problem. When it was most urgent that she immediately ran to her child, this woman completely forgot her own problem.

With the woman in Mark 5, it was different: She did not see a bigger problem. She saw the greater God. The woman who suffered from hemorrhage experienced relief from her illness by the discovery of Jesus, by the discovery that Jesus is the Son of God, and God is greater than all my worries and troubles. This freed them from fear, this cured her of their disease. In Deuteronomy 30, it says: When you return to the Lord your God, then the Lord your God will restore you from captivity, and have compassion on you. God will save us from captivity in worries and fears.

In a reflective text, it says:

*I asked God for strength that I might achieve;
I was made weak that I might learn humbly to obey.*

*I asked for help that I might do greater things;
I was given infirmity that I might do better things.
I asked for riches that I might be happy;
I was given poverty that I might be wise.*

*I asked for all things that I might enjoy life;
I was given life that I might enjoy all things.
I was given nothing that I asked for;
But everything that I had hoped for.
Despite myself, my prayers were answered;
I am among all men most richly blessed.*

The crucial point is to discover God, God is greater than our problems, greater than our lives, greater than this world. Through this trust we will experience liberation.

*Kind regards and blessings,
Your Pastor Alexander Mielke*

A warm welcome to the Mother's Day Luncheon !

Please note that on Mothers Day (**May 9**) 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.**

On **May 13**, Thursday, **First Lutheran Church** invites us us a **Celebration of Ascension** at 7:30 p.m. Here we can enjoy a beautiful concert given by the **Concordia College Choir from New York.**

On **Pentecost Sunday, May 23**, we celebrate the **Confirmation** of:
Rhys Buceta, Tonya Horn, Christine Rabey, Ben & Nicole Schwarz und Sonja Schweiger.
The festive Joint Service will start at 11:00 a.m.

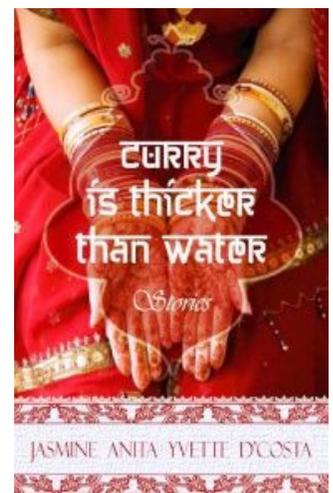
On **Friday, June 4, 6:30 p.m.**, we will have a **confirmation class reunion** in the church. This is an opportunity for looking back at the class and the celebration together. **Tanya & Marlena are going to present photos of their gigantic Asian trip.** Other interested youth are very welcome too!

For **Saturday, May 29**, we invite you to a **lantern workshop**. This crafting workshop will be held from 11.00 a.m. bis 2:00 p.m. in our church. Melissa from Lake Shore Arts (straight across from our church) will conduct this workshop, which also serves to prepare for the opening ceremony of the new Mimico Square, which will take place on June 5 at 8:00 p.m. **We very cordially invite children and families for this!**

As a starter for the 40th Anniversary of our nursery, we can look forward to a **reading event** with Jasmine D'Costa. On **Tuesday, June 1**, she will read from her book **"Curry Is Thicker Than Water"**. **Jasmine D'Costa** is a board member of the Canadian Council of Churches (CCC) and from India. In her short stories, she gives a wonderful impression of today's life in this great Asian country.

"A cobra flies in through an open window. Wives form a pact against their bigamous, abusive husband. A mother and son battle over eagles' eggs. A homeless guest with a secret. An elephant protests on a highway. A woman marries a pumpkin. Diverse people - one country! This is the teeming, hectic world of India. It is also the vivid, startling world that Jasmine D's Costa gives us in *Curry is Thicker than Water.*"

A warm welcome to this Reading Event on Tuesday, 1 June, 7:30 p.m. in our Martin Luther Church. Admission is free.



Congregational Picknick in Camp Edgewood

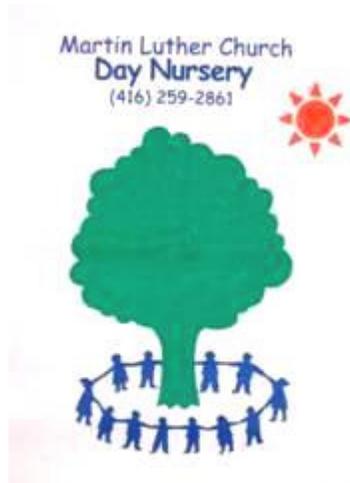
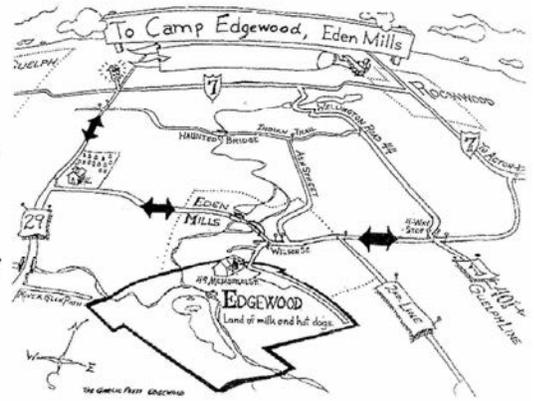
We are looking forward to a fine day in Camp Edgewood. On **June 6**, we will start with a joint family service at 11:00 a.m., followed by potluck luncheon. And we will have a program suitable for young and old, suitable for all the family. End will be around 4:00 p.m. Please bring your lunch, plate, dishes, cup. Very welcome! If you need help with transportation, please contact Pastor Alexander Mielke (416-567-2487)

How you reach the Camp:

From Toronto:

- Highway 401 West
- Guelph Line1, 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!!!



On **13 June**, we celebrate the **40th anniversary of our Martin Luther Church Day Care!** This will be a colourful, lively, happy celebration. In the Joint Service at 11:00 a.m. **Bishop Michael Pryse** will deliver the sermon. There will be many **fun activities for children** (face painting, henna, painting contest, flower planting, and much more). A warm welcome to all for the **Open House**. We are grateful if you can **help as a volunteer** – please have a look at our list, placed in the church!

From **June 24th to 27th**, the **Biennial Convention of the Eastern Synod** takes place in Toronto (Double Tree Hilton Hotel). The congregations of Toronto have a special responsibility in preparing for it. **Our congregation, too, is asked for two-fold assistance.** First of all, many **volunteers** are needed for this event (Stewards, Ballot Counters, Hosts, Greeters, Hospitality Desk & Transportation Volunteers). On the other side, the Synod is asking for **sponsorship** (for instance, for 5 breakfasts@ \$ 1,000 each). Please assist and support this meeting of many church delegates from all parts of the large Eastern Synod! If you are interested, please contact Pastor Alexander Mielke (416-567-2487) or Keith Rabey!

GOOD NEWS ABOUT CAMP LUTHERLYN: WE'VE ADDED A DAY!

Our annual *Summer Camp at beautiful Golden Lake* will begin Saturday evening JULY 24th till Friday morning JULY 30th.

Our Camper rate will be \$255. Qualify for our Group rate with 3 family members and save \$100. Ask about our Family rates if you are staying with kids 7 and under, and save even more! The Family rooms fill up fast so book early to avoid disappointment. We also offer a Senior's rate with the best accommodations.

Please pay by June 1st and guarantee your place in our amazing space! BUS transportation is also available, we like to thank Bruno and Trott Transit for making this a safe and affordable option.

NOTE: Final Camp & Bus rates are subject to the implementation of the HST on July 1, 2010.
We have not yet received information on how the HST will affect our week at Camp.
We apologize for any inconvenience this might cause, and endeavor to inform as soon as this information becomes available.

Contact Dan Sommerfeld at 905 274-6602

Attention Parents:

Has your child attended Camp Lutherlyn and loved it? Is your child at least 15 years old and responsible? Do you believe your child can be a caring and positive role model? If you think you're child is qualified to be a Counsellor-in-training, please call me to discuss his/her role in this years camp!

Flowers on the altar make our church beautiful for the Sunday. Flower donations which can be made in memory of loved ones are very much appreciated. Please sign up in the the list which you find in the entrance hall, for a Sunday which is still free and convenient for you. For coordination it might be helpful if you leave your phone number on a card.

*Please have a look at the **Coffee Duty List** – thank you for your volunteering on a Sunday!*



Christine Couturier reported in the service of her bearing the **Olympic Torch** on Sunday, February 7, in Chilliwack, BC. The kids were amazed and thrilled!

A greeting from **Nancy Rahn**, who was student of internship in the MLC from March 5 to April 9:

Hello all!

For some time now I have been back in Germany. I have started again with my every day university life. The first bottle of Maple Syrup is empty, thanks to the help of my apartment-sharing-community, and I enjoy the warm weather in Tuebingen.

Above my bed there is now a giant flag of Canada and a map of Down Town Toronto. Still very, very often I think of the great time with you and so many beautiful and valuable experiences.

Only gradually I realize what I have actually experienced. And then I am pleased with how little flashlights come up every now and again in my mind's eye. The Easter Sunrise Service, followed by that huge breakfast, the swimming pool party, presenting Africa photos, Sunday School, day care, home visits, enjoying delicious food, meeting nice people and much, much more.

Your love and your hospitality have impressed me and make me happy when I look back again. I received a lot from those five weeks, new impressions and thoughts, motivation, many beautiful memories and most of all I have met many people who have become dear to me. I felt much richer when I climbed off the plane in Frankfurt.

THANK YOU!

I wish you all the best and God's blessing - for each of you personally and for all congregational work. You are great and I would love to come back at any time.
Warm greetings from Tuebingen, your Nancy



Nancy Rahn and Gisela Wilhelm who hosted her in her house for five weeks – thank you so much!

Together with the youth, Nancy had prepared the play for the Easter Sunrise Service.



From April 15 to 23 **Pastor Edilson Tetzner from Brazil** was our guest. He told us much about his congregation Guarulhos / Sao Paulo and its mission in Cabucu. In the festive service, we were able to present him as a gift for the church work a projector, which a church member had donated generously. A very special thank you to Gunter Gall, who had prepared and organized this trip. A big thank you to Clécio and the many other interpreters, who helped out sometimes very spontaneously. May God bless and guide Edilson, his wife Denise and daughter Natalie Sophia, and all sisters and brothers of our Lutheran sister congregation in Guarulhos!



Pastor Mielke presented to Mr. Gunter Gall a certificate with which he, on behalf of the Martin Luther Church, warmly thanked him for his ten years of commitment and dedication to the partnership with Guarulhos.

Pastor Edilson together with our church council (on the left the brand new members Larissa Mattwich and Martin Häfele; right our diligent and busy interpreter Clécio).





Pastor Edilson with the English Bible Study group (right our hostess Florine Nolte, left the Day Care teacher Amparo, who could help through their knowledge of Spanish when translating from Portuguese)



Edilson and his hostess had a good time together - a big thanks to Henriette Swistunowicz who hosted Edilson in her house - and spoiled him with delicious food!

I cordially invite to a new confirmation course. It leads to confirmation on Pentecost Sunday in 2012, May 27. By meeting every second week, the burden of transport for parents is not as heavy. Children are welcome to be registered also at a younger age, even shortly before they reach the age of 12. **A first meeting will be on Friday, September 17, 6:30 p.m.** in the church. Please inform me per telephone (my cell phone 416-567-2487) or e-mail, if your child is eligible. And please tell others in your family or among friends about this!

Stay in Germany of Pastor Alexander Mielke, according to the contract with EKD

This summer we will be in Toronto and the MLC for three years already. According to the contract between EKD, MLC and Eastern Synod, the EKD (Evangelical Church in Germany) finances a stay in Germany for me and my family (with a length of 8 weeks, following this contract). So I will be in Germany from June 18 until August 10, and during this time attend an EKD-Overseas-Conference, as well as continuing education courses. Furthermore this vacation, of course, presents a good opportunity to visit family and friends. I am very pleased that Pastor Gerhard Hille will be available as substitute pastor for the greater part of this time. He is the father of Anna Lisa Wienecke and, therefore, quite familiar with the MLC, and I think it is optimal to have permanent substitute pastor to turn to in matters of church services and pastoral care. Through a continuing education course in preaching, which he has attended in Chicago for some time now, he is also well acquainted with the English language. A heartfelt Thank-You to Pastor Hille for his readiness to help!

Here a first greeting from Pastor Gerhard Hille:

*Dear members of the Martin-Luther-Church,
Pastor Mielke has asked me to serve as a substitute pastor during his stay in Germany this summer. I was very pleased and have accepted this invitation with a thankful heart. So I'm going to live in the parsonage from July 11 to August 11 and be available for you in all pastoral matters. May it be a blessed time!*

FUNERALS

Herbert Kolewe, at the age of 77 years
March 15, 2010

I lift up my eyes to the hills— from where will my help come?
My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.
Psalm 121

Hugo Redmann, at the age of 83 years
April 26, 2010

Very truly, I tell you, anyone who hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life,
and does not come under judgment, but has passed from death to life.
John 5:24

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*

Email-Distribution List:

Please add my name and my email address to the MLC-distribution list:

Name: _____

Email-Address: _____

*Please send to: Mona Frantzke, List Administrator, mona.frantzke@rogers.com, or:
Martin Luther Church, 2379 Lakeshore Blvd West, Toronto, ON M8V 1B7*