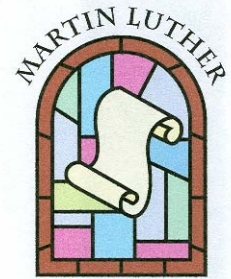


Congregational newsletter



LUTHERAN CHURCH
— Founded 1955 Gegründet —

September 2010

DEVOTION

Dear Fellow Christians !

"Found any who belonged to the Way". "The Way", that was one name for the Christian life in the beginnings of Christianity. "The Way" – this can never be static or just intellectual. This name right away indicates, when we get in touch with the Christian message, God meets us in the midst of our journey of life, God wants to transform our lives and lead us a new way. "Follow me", says Jesus, "Let your life be renewed, let me lead you the new way, in the light of God, by the hand of your Saviour!"

The paramount example of this is Paul. What a terrific change in his life! This truly is a miracle. There is a fervent persecutor of the Christians, people he detests and hates, people he is even willing to put to death. But later on he has been transformed to a follower of Christ, he proclaims Jesus as the Lord and Saviour!

So what was the name of this man? Was his name "Saul" as we are told here in Acts 9? That would be the name of the very first king of Israel. Or was it



Summary of Acts 9

*Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there **who belonged to the Way**, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. As he neared Damascus on his journey, **suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him**. He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" "Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked. "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied. "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do." Three days he was blind. In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, "Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying." Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. **Placing his hands on Saul**, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit." He got up and was baptized, and regained his strength. At once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God.*

"Paul" as we mostly like to call him? This would be a Latin name, meaning "The Little One".

In chapter 13, Acts changes from "Saul" to "Paul". Therefore the understanding often has been that Saul after he became a Christian changed his name to

Paul, a proof of his new humbleness because he felt himself "little" before the grace of Christ.

Nowadays most scholars understand that in a different way. Obviously Paul grew up in a pretty wealthy family of the Jewish diaspora. There it was the habit of using different names, one within family and friends of the own nation, another in the contacts with other people. We can see the same today in Toronto, even today immigrants often would do the same. So "Saul" could have been his Jewish name, indicating the national pride of this family. "Paul" could have been the name for external contacts, a latinized name, convenient for contacts with Romans and Greeks.

There is even another possible explanation. In Acts 13 we also are told that Paul became friend with the Roman proconsul on Cyprus whose name was Sergius Paulus. This proconsul might have been a kind of patron for the young preacher, and Paul might have chosen to use the name of this patron for himself. I myself think the second explanation to be appropriate (two names used in the family).

In 2 Cor 4, Paul himself testifies, "It is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."

Let's be open to this wonderful message. There is the light of Christ, shining brightly, which can touch our hearts and transform our lives. Open yourself to this light, today, every morning, let it change your life and guide you through the new day!

First: God's grace has the power to change people.

That's mighty hope for any of us. Sometimes we suffer from other people. There can be a colleague at the workplace. This colleague doesn't like you, and you don't like this colleague. But you cannot avoid each other. Actually it can be a fight sometimes. This also could be a neighbour, a relative, even your spouse.

Certainly the most important thing to do is to pray you would have the strength and patience to deal with this difficult situation. To ask God daily to give you all the strength and wisdom you need in this difficult relationship.

But Acts 9 encourages you to also pray for a change of this person. God's grace can do that. Changing an enemy into a friend. We've seen that with Paul, we might see it with other persons today. But never forget to pray for yourself too! Maybe you yourself need to change also in order to improve this difficult relationship!

Second: Be open and willing to be guided by God's Spirit.

We see this amazing example of Ananias. When he was praying, he heard God's voice and was led to assist somebody else. Perhaps in our prayers, we should talk less and listen more. Perhaps in our prayers, we don't need to tell God so much what he actually already knows, but we need to listen more to that what we don't know yet. When you pray, be willing to listen to God, be prepared to get surprised by God, be prepared to be shown a new way which you never thought of, but which God wants to surprise you with, today, here!

Third: Be open for the healing touch of hands.

Ananias was touching Paul with his hands and so Paul became healed. Perhaps nowadays this is somehow embarrassing. We get so many terrible news about abuse and misuse. We have to establish so many detailed policies about not touching anyone because this could mean danger for this person and ourselves.

Yet, we should not lose this spiritual truth. A friendly and tender touch can be so helpful. Imagine the tender touch of a child by its mom during the Good Night Prayer. Imagine the touch on the forehead of a dying person during the last blessing. This can be so helpful, so blessing, so healing. We should try this more and practice this more, as Christians.

"The Way" was an early name for the Christian life style. So let us be open to be led a new way by God, to follow in the footsteps of Jesus, to be touched and transformed by the light of Christ.

*Kind regards and God's blessings,
Your Pastor Alexander Mielke*

***You are very cordially invited to our
Congregational Bus Trip for Young and Old
with Grand River Boat Cruise
on Saturday, September 25***

Schedule:

Departure 10:00 a.m. at Cawthra Community Centre with Bruno's bus
12:00-3:00 p.m. Grand River Dinner Cruise, starting at Caledonia, south
of Hamilton, with Lunch, and Explanations about 6 Nations Reserve
Followed by Visit at St John's Lutheran Church in Hamilton, Learning
about the History and having a Devotion together

Return until 5:30 p.m.

Price per person \$ 55 \$, children younger than 12 years \$ 30
Families can get a better fee, please contact the pastor.

**We definitely need at least 35 participants,
so please join us and bring others too!**

Please contact Pastor Alexander Mielke:
416-567-2487 or alexander.mielke@rogers.com

***You are very cordially invited to a **SPECIAL JOINT SERVICE** on
September 19, 11:00 a.m.***

***"God the Creator and the Universe –
How to Correlate the Biblical Message and Modern Science"***

*And there will be a **special German Service** on September 26, 11:00 a.m."*

"Nachgelesen bei JEAN PAUL"

This is the start of a new series:

"Reflecting about God and the World,

Inspired by Famous German Authors"

***Sunday School is starting again on September 12, with great activities –
come and enjoy!***

The Seniors' Circle is meeting on October 5, 11:00 a.m., with a photo presentation about
"Melanchthon – friend and combatant of Luther in the Reformation"

October 3, 11:00 a.m. German Festive Service on "Erntedankfest"

October 10 – Canadian Thanksgiving – Joint Service 11:00 a.m. with Potluck Luncheon



Our Brazilian sister congregation in Guarulhos has renovated their parish hall in Cabucu with love and dedication. Here you see Pastor Edilson in the midst of children who take part in the musical programme. Welcome to our services on "Thanksgiving" and "Erntedank" where you will be given more information about this!

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 tell others in your family or among friends about this!**

Celebrating the 40th Anniversary of Martin Luther Church Day Care and the 55th Anniversary of MLC on June 13, 2010



From left to right: Bishop Michael Pryse, Pastor Stefan Wolf, Iris Schweiger (Vice President), Ulrich Karthaus (President of the Board of Directors), Teresa Kurek (Supervisor), Pastor Alexander Mielke, Heidi Jonuschies, Inge Koo Tze Mew (Members of the Board of Directors), Karen Thuernau (German Consulate) und Helen Schmidt (Administrator)

Jan-Lukas, Miriam, Fynn and Pastor Stefan Wolf



Left: John Gibson who gave a speech on behalf of the parents





Lukas, the son of our supervisor Teresa Kurek, produced a wonderful DVD of the 40th Anniversary Celebration. It's available for \$ 5 in the day care office. Please contact 416-259-2861



A BIG THANK YOU to Dan Sommerfeld, Pastor Gerhard Hille, Tanya Zielke, Iris Schweiger, the councillors and all who helped and made the SUMMER CAMP a great and wonderful event!



You can find more photos of the anniversary as well as of the summer camp on our web site: www.martinluther.ca

Here We Need Your Help !

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 also have a look at the **Coffee Duty List** – thank you for helping on a Sunday!*

Unfortunately, we received two very sad news:

In Sao Paulo, Clecio's mother Rozette passed away at the age of 51 years. Clecio had helped us lots as an interpreter when Pastor Edilson visited the MLC after Easter. Pastor Edilson was able to assist in the funeral on August 27.

And shortly, after Pastor Gerhard Hille and his wife Margret had returned to Germany, his father Herbert Hille passed away at the age of 83 years, on August 29.

Our heartfelt sympathies for all those who mourn these losses, as well to other families in our congregation which do grieve. We wish all of them comfort and strength by trusting in the promises of our eternal God.

FUNERALS

Ernst-Burckhardt von Möller, at the age of 88 years

July 17, 2010

The time to search for God is this life.

The time to find God is the death.

The time to enjoy God is the eternity.

Elfriede Elisabeth Schmidt, née Schütze, at the age of 95 years

August 24, 2010

Thus says the Lord: Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love;

Therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you.

Jeremiah 31:3

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9:30 am - 12:30 pm, Friday 9:30 am - 12:00 pm

Pastor Alexander Mielke

Email: alexander.mielke@rogers.com

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

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