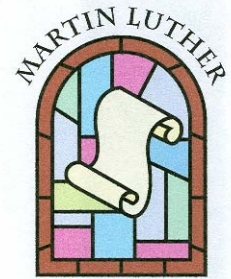


# Congregational newsletter



LUTHERAN CHURCH  
— Founded 1955 Gegründet —

April & May 2011

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## DEVOTION

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

In the Prophet Isaiah, in chapter 40, verse 15, the following word can be found: "Even the nations are like a drop from a bucket, and are accounted as dust on the scales; see, he takes up the isles like fine dust." We have seen this in the past week. We had to realize how tiny people and nations are. The images from Japan worry and upset us. First the huge earthquake, as it only happens once in 1000 years. Then the Tsunami, which tore everything away and destroyed houses, cars, ships, entire cities.

How tiny and vulnerable is human life, human achievement. And now the nuclear threat is added to this. People are being evacuated. Water and soil are poisoned. People are checked and treated for radiation. Because of a danger which is invisible but very real. Because of technology which can no longer be controlled.

**"Even the nations are like a drop from a bucket, and are accounted as dust on the scales; see, he takes up the isles like fine dust."** Tiny are we humans in this threatening world. Tiny are we humans before the God who is the creator of the entire world, of this great universe.

We are tiny, and yet, we are also valuable in God's eyes, our Creator's, Reconciler's and

Saviour's. This is promised to us by him, who comes in the name of this powerful God, and who, in his grace and tenderness speaks to us.

**Christ says, "In the world you face anxiety. But take courage; I have conquered the world."** In John 16, Jesus says this to his disciples during the last night when they realize that they are in great danger with their Master.



"In the world you face anxiety. But take courage; I have conquered the world." This is promised to us by the Lord who has experienced everything in his own body: weakness, illness, danger and death, evil and indifference from people. The disciples may remember the event with their Lord at the Sea of Galilee. At the time when the waves became very huge. So that they seemed to pull the small boat into the abyss. When they were full of fear of the power of the water, that was going to destroy their life. But then they saw the face of their Lord: calm and confident, safe in trust, even in the midst of the raging chaotic powers.

Jesus says, "In the world you face anxiety. But take courage; I have conquered the world." We are in the hand of the merciful Lord, who has conquered the world, in his death and in his resurrection. In his hand we will not be lost. Not one person in this tiny and vulnerable world will be lost to this merciful Lord.

And when this time of Lent takes on a special character, by becoming the “Time of Lent, Time of Suffering of the People of Japan” – let us do during this time this: Pray for all the people, for creation which is in great need, and help as much as we are able.

And let us direct our eyes to our crucified and resurrected Lord, to his face, his calm and

confident face, his face full of trust; so that we will be strengthened in faith and in hope for this world.

*Kind regards and blessings,  
Your Pastor Alexander Mielke*

*Xylograph "Daily I Call on You", by Habdank*

At the Annual Meeting, we were talking about that **Coordination of Ride Assistance in our Martin Luther Church** would be helpful. This is for church members who would like to attend our services, but do not have anyone who can drive them to our church. With great joy we learnt that **Dina Vanczar and Irene Zielke** are willing to be **Coordinators** for this kind of service. Please find more information below. On the one side you can **contact this address when you yourself need ride assistance** or if you know someone who needs this. On the other side we **need church members who are willing to give others a ride**. We are very thankful to Dina and Irene for their readiness to coordinate this. However, we cannot promise that such a ride will always be available. We thank you for your understanding in case that such an assistance – in spite of all our efforts – is not possible. If neighbours and friends help each other – without our assistance – this of course is very much appreciated also!

Kind regards, your Pastor Alexander Mielke

*Dear fellow Congregants,*

*We would like to try to coordinate rides for those individuals who would like to attend church, however are unable to due to lack of TTC in their area or riding the TTC is too difficult, etc. Please leave a message for me, Dina Vanczar at [mlcrides@yahoo.com](mailto:mlcrides@yahoo.com) or leave a message at 416-919-2432 (she has voice mail in English and French) with your name, telephone number, home address and how often you wish to attend church, weekly, bi-weekly, English or German or for Joint Services. Dina will call or email you to confirm your information and/or to provide you with your “RIDE” as soon as she can.*

*We also ask that those who would be willing to provide rides to contact Dina as outlined above. Please clearly state your name, telephone number and how often you would be willing to provide a ride, weekly, bi-weekly, English, German or Joint Services, etc.*

*We greatly appreciate your cooperation and patience as we try to put this initiative together.*

*Drive safe, Dina*

Easter is approaching fast, and so does our **Cleaning Day**. Our Martin Luther Church should be nice and neat and clean for the Holy Week. So we need lots of helpers on **Saturday, April 9, 10.00 a.m. till 1:00 p.m.!** Thank you so much to Heidi Jonuschies who is organizing this!

We can look forward to a couple of special **musical events around the Holy Week and Easter**. **Our Congregational Choir under the direction of Richard Heinzle will sing in the English Palm Sunday Service**. In the **German Palm Sunday Service the Male Voice Choir "Harfentoene" will sing**. **Our Congregational Choir will sing in the German Good Friday Service also, under direction of Linda Marcinkus**. For the **Concert "Gospel and More" on Saturday, April 23, 6:30 p.m., the Gospel Choir "Joyful Voices" is coming from**

Mannheim/Germany. They will be present in the Festive Joint Service on Easter Sunday, 10:00 a.m., too. Thank you so much to all who are willing to be hosts for the choir members!

***Youth and kids now have much fun in the new choir with Stephen Harmelink! Come and join them for singing and making music together! The Youth and Kids Choir meets on Sundays, 11:00 a.m. You can find the dates on our homepage [www.martinluther.ca](http://www.martinluther.ca)***

***And adults who like singing are very welcome in our congregational choir which meets on Tuesdays, 6:00-7:30 p.m., directed by Richard Heinzle. If you are interested and have questions, please feel free to contact Pastor Alexander Mielke (cellphone 416-567-2487). Or just come and sing with us!***

Welcome to our **English Lent Devotion on Thursday, April 14, 7:00 p.m.** Come and experience this as an spiritual preparation for the Holy Week !

German Lent Devotions are held on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.

On Good Friday, in both services, 9:45 a.m. English and 11:00 a.m. German, we celebrate Holy Communion.

**On Good Friday, at 10:30 a.m., an Ecumenical English Service will be held at the Wesley Mimico United Church.** Here Protestant churches in our neighbourhood are cooperating, and members of our church council will participate in the liturgy. So members of our congregation too are cordially invited to this worship.



A real highlight in the course of the year is our **EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE at the Lake Ontario.** Here we can celebrate Easter while experiencing how the sun rises majestically over the lake and the skyline of Toronto. This time, our curate Katarina Prosenjak is preparing the Easter Play together with our youth. After the service, all are invited to a lovely **Easter Breakfast in the church** – it's great to enjoy a good breakfast and have fellowship with many on this morning! For the Easter Sunrise Service, we are meeting at **5:45 a.m. at the last parking lot of Humber Bay Park West.** At 10:00 a.m. there is a festive Easter Celebration in our church too. A warm welcome!

Dear Congregation,

It is with great anticipation that the Council wishes to inform our Members and Friends about our upcoming **Mother's Day Luncheon**. We know how important this day is, given our busy lives, to celebrate this special occasion with family and loved ones. Inspired by the success of our Thanksgiving day pot-luck luncheon, whereby we celebrated in a festive community spirit the **week after the traditional holiday**, we extend an invitation to celebrate Mother's Day with us on the Sunday after:

You are, hereby, cordially invited to our **festive Joint Service on Sunday May 15th 2011 at 11am, followed by our Mother's Day Luncheon**. Please feel free to participate by bringing a favourite recipe that would make you or your mother proud. Not sure what to bring, let us inspire you! Come into Church and pick up our very own cookbook, with traditional and favourite recipes supplied by our own Church Members. Come and enjoy a delicious hot soup, prepared and served by our Youth Group and Confirmands. Ever wonder who can bake a better cake? Well the challenge is on! Calling all men in our Congregation to get cracking! Easter is over, time to put away the pancake flipper and bring out the egg beater. Surprise us with your wonderful creations. We look forward to seeing you there and hope you enjoy this culinary experience.

Yours Truly,

On behalf of the Council: Iris Schweiger and Dan Sommerfeld

## Because you say YES to me

We are all on a journey of life; all looking for something that's worth living for. In the Steps course we come together to think about our own life experiences and to discover how stories from the Bible can be relevant to the different stages of our lives.

We use three-dimensional floor pictures to consider the life issues relevant to a particular Bible story; and by talking and listening to one another we come to a new understanding.



Exploring life issues with the Bible

Each Steps course has four units. With German units I start in spring, on Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m.: May 11 & 25, June 8 & 22. English units are to follow in fall.

If you are interested, please contact me beforehand by giving me your name and phone number: [heike.block.mielke@rogers.com](mailto:heike.block.mielke@rogers.com)

*Pastor Heike Block-Mielke*

I very cordially invite to another event within our series "Getting to Know Neighbours – Understanding World Religions": **"Introduction to the Understanding of Sikhism", Monday, May 30, 7:00 p.m.** This is a preparation for the visit of a Sikh Temple which is to follow later on.

*Pastor Alexander Mielke*

Please mark your calendar:

This year the Martin Luther Church is hosting the Joint German Ascension Celebration of the Bilingual Lutheran Congregations of Toronto: June 2, Thursday, 7:00 p.m.

We will celebrate **Confirmation on Pentecost Sunday, June 12**, in the Joint Service at 11:00 p.m.

We cordially invite to the **Congregational Picknick in Camp Edgewood on June 26**. It's a lovely area, providing lots of space and facilities for fun for kids, families, all generations. We are starting with a Joint Service at 11:00 a.m.

A work group of pastors in Mimico to which Curate Katarina Prosenjak and Pastor Alexander Mielke belong invites to

**Etobicoke Lakeshore Community Dialogue**  
**Wednesday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2011; 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon.**  
**At Mimico Presbyterian Church, 119 Mimico Ave. at Royal York Rd.**

This is a good opportunity for discussing together urgent questions concerning social development in our local area.



*We celebrated the inauguration of the new church council on March 27.*

*From left to right – front row: Ulrich Timm, Karl-Ernst Kriese (Rendant), Darren Wilmer, Martin Haefele (Finances); 2nd row: Irene Zielke, Marlena Mueller, Iris Schweiger (President), Larissa Mattwich (Finances); 3rd row: Sylvia Kunde, Gisela Wilhelm, Keith Rabey; 4th row: Pastor Alexander Mielke, Dan Sommerfeld (Vice president); John Knopp (Secretary).*

*Not on this photo our Treasurer Anna Lisa Wienecke.*

News from the Church Office: In times when our church secretary Anita Ratz is on vacation, Heidi Jonuschies will be substitute once in a while. Welcome, Heide, and thank you so much for all helping and caring in the office!

Gunter Gall and Tana Zielke were able to visit our Sister Congregation in Brazil. On the left photo, you can see Gunter Gall among many children in Cabuçu where the congregation of Guarulhos runs this children's project. Tanya was with the family Tetzner when their second daughter Eduarda was born. All our best wishes for Edilson and Denise, God's blessings for their family!



Our Swim Party on March 26 was great fun. A big thank-you to all who prepared this, in particular to those who donated tons of delicious pizza!

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## FUNERALS

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Alfons Dimpflmeier, at the age of 72 years  
*on February 12, 2011*

Jesus Christ says,  
"In the world you face anxiety.  
But take courage; I have conquered the world!"  
*John 16:33*

Rudolf Frenz, at the age of 81 years  
*on February 12, 2011*

Jesus Christ says,  
"I am the resurrection and the life.  
Those who believe in me,  
even though they die, will live."  
*John 11:25*

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Radio Devotion (in German) every Sunday 9:30 a.m. on AM 530  
*Editor of MLC Newsletter: Pastor Alexander Mielke*  
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