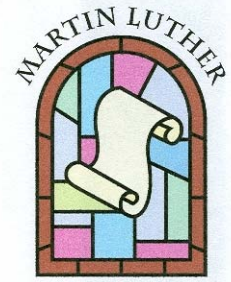


Congregational newsletter



LUTHERAN CHURCH
— Founded 1955 Gegründet —

February & March 2011

DEVOTION

Dear Members and Friends of the Martin Luther Church!

Some time ago we were meeting in a circle of pastors and discussing "What builds a Congregation?" The basic situation mostly is the same: a decreasing number of members and a big difficulty to find new ones who are willing to continually devote themselves to the congregational life. "How can we bear witness to and live the Gospel today, in a way people understand and are attracted by it? What builds a Congregation?"

I found an old Jewish story which I'd like to share with you. At the dispersion of the Jews, the "three pillars" of Judaism, "Torah" (Holy Scripture), "Avodah" (Worship), and "Gemilus Hasadim" (Kind Deeds) came before God and cried that they would now be forgotten. 'No', said God, 'I am going to tell the believers to build synagogues, houses of God, wherever they go. The rabbi will teach the Holy Scripture, and the cantor will lead the worship.' 'What about me', asked "Kind Deeds". 'Ah', said the Lord, 'during the service each believer will turn to his neighbour and offer him a pinch from his snuffbox.'

It's an amusing little story, and at first sight it may be surprising that this tiny bit of snuff could perform such a miracle. But let us understand it as an amiable hint. The thoughtfulness and helpfulness of one for another is the secret of a

well developing congregation. It is so mundane and inconspicuous. Whenever we come together for worship, let us be thoughtful of others, be interested in their joys and sorrows. Let us greet those who are new and cordially welcome them. Let us share the good we have with others

"Let all things be done for building up", Paul says in 1 Corinthians 14:26. Let us always consider what helps for building up the congregation, for building up others. Let us not only stick to our own ideas and wishes, but let us be open for others and serve the community.



And let us celebrate the secret of Christ's great love. Right in the previous chapter, Paul praises Christ's love. We could read 1 Corinthians 13 as a catalogue of Christian virtues. But more than that, it bears witness to what God in Christ is and does for us.

"Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things." Each of us lives from the Love and Compassion of our Lord, each and every day. So this Bible verse invites us to let this Love of Christ touch and transform us. And so Congregation is being built.

*Kind regards and blessings,
Your Pastor Alexander Mielke*

Our Annual Meeting will be on February 27, after the Joint Service which starts at 11:00 a.m. Please bring some sandwiches for the short break between service and gathering.

Dear Congregation!

On behalf of the Church Council of the Martin Luther Church, we very cordially invite you to our Annual Meeting on February 27, 2011. This gathering is most important and meaningful, as it provides an excellent opportunity for you to participate in important decisions for our congregation.

We should be aware that You and I and each of us constitute this congregation and everyone is responsible for the continuance and wellbeing of our Martin Luther Church.

Please mark Feb 27 in your calendar! Please come and take part in our meeting! Your commitment is essential for the development of our congregation!

One big point will be the budget for the year 2011. Only your continuing support can assure a good development of our Martin Luther Church.

So on behalf of the Church Council and on behalf of myself, I wish you a blessed new year 2011, may our heavenly Father guide you and bless you!

With kind regards,

Edmund Scholz, President of the Martin Luther Church

We have started our CHILDREN & YOUTH CHOIR! The basic idea is that the kids meet **every second Sunday**, during the German service **from 11:00 until 11:45 a.m.** Here Stephen Harmelink takes responsibility, he is a young schoolteacher from the neighbourhood and a musically very talented Lutheran (he worked as an organist in St Mark's Lutheran, Port Credit, e.g.) Parents who are attending the English service can enjoy coffee and cake while their kids are singing; German parents can attend the service during the practising. The choir is open to kids of various ages, Stephen is willing to work with children of various ages, so teenies who like singing are welcome too. **Meetings will be on Feb 13 & 27, March 13 & 27** (and then basically every second Sunday).

And we have started with the **CHURCH CHOIR IN NEW SHAPE**. We can be glad that **Richard Heinzle** is our new choir director, wellknown to our congregation through his activities with "Harfentoene" and "Edelweiss Choir". Richard Heinzle has an own music school, so he loves to work with young people and wants to try with us a new repertoire, also English songs and contemporary music. We meet on **Tuesdays, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. Welcome everyone who likes singing!**

We are glad that now Katarina Prosenjak is curate in our congregation. On February 6, in the Joint Service at 11:00 a.m., she is introduced in her twofold responsibility in the MLC and in the CCC, with Karen Hamilton being present, the General Secretary of the Canadian Council of Churches.

On Feb 9, 2011, Edward Lischewski has his 101st birthday. We wish him all the best, God's blessings and caring guidance!

For **Sunday Feb 13, 2011**, we very cordially invite to another **German Family Service** which will be starting at 11:00 a.m., a lively service with contemporary songs for young and old. The new children&youth choir will sing. Before that, there is a regular English service at 9:45 a.m.

In the near future, we can welcome guests in our Martin Luther Church.

Friederike Pohl comes from the home area of Pastor Stefan Wolf, for a three week internship in our Day Care. A big Thank You to Gisela Wilhelm who is hosting Friederike. Here Friederike introduces herself.

Hello!

My name is Friederike Pohl. I'm 17 years old and from Bielefeld, Germany. I will spend three weeks working as an intern in the day care (from March 28th to April 15th).

In Germany I attend the 12th grade of a gymnasium and I will graduate in 2012 and my major is in English. In my free time, I like to play volleyball and soccer and I like to draw.

I spent ten months as an exchange student in Fort Wayne, IN, last year and so I'm looking forward to get to know Canada as well. I hope to meet new people and improve my English skills. This is a great opportunity for me and I thank everybody who made this possible for me.



For **Easter**, we can look forward to a **Gospel Choir from Mannheim/Germany**. They will perform a **concert** in our church on Saturday, April 23, in the early evening. And on Easter Sunday they will sing in our Easter Celebration. For this, **we urgently need hosts who are willing to provide beds for them**. The 23 members of the Gospel Choir will be in our congregation from Saturday evening until Tuesday morning. They need a bed and a breakfast, during the day they will pursue their own activities with rented cars. Please help us to welcome and host these guests. If you are willing to be a host, please contact me (Pastor Mielke's cellphone 416-567-2487).

On Feb 20, there will be again a cooperation and exchange between our five Lutheran Bilingual congregations in the GTA. Pastor Peter Mikelic from Epiphany Lutheran Church will come to the Martin Luther Church, and Pastor Alexander Mielke will conduct the services in the Christ the King – Bonhoeffer Church.

On Ash Wednesday, we start with German Lent Devotions which will be regularly on Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.

The **GREAT BIG SWIM PARTY** of the Sunday School will be on **Saturday, March 26**, in the Norseman Community Pool, 105 Norseman Street, from 4 – 6 p.m. Come and have fun!

This year, the First Lutheran Church invites to the German Celebration of the World Day of Prayer, Friday, March 4. The service starts at **11:00 a.m.** 116 Bond Street (close to the corner Yonge/Dundas). You will get much information about the churches in Chile. Welcome!

On Palm Sunday, April 17, we will be able to enjoy again the Male Choir "Harfentoene"!

Some have installed safety rails at all the stairs of our church, a big Thank You to Edmund Scholz, Ernst Carl and Mel Zabel! Thank you so much also to many more helpers, in particular for the Advent wreath, the Christmas trees and the window decoration, which were a great joy during the Christmas season!

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.

Each Steps course has four units. We want to invite you to our first course starting after Easter.

Pastor Heike Block-Mielke



Exploring life issues with the Bible

At the Adult Retreat in the Mount Alverno Centre, we especially remembered Else and Olaf Weigelin who always had taken part in this, but were taken out of our midst one respectively 1 ½ years ago.



BAPTISM

Ben Wienecke
on January 2, 2011

How precious is your steadfast love, O God!
All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings.
Psalm 36:8

FUNERALS

Ruth Langdale, née Tittelmeier, at the age of 86 years
on December 9, 2010
St Paul's Lutheran Church, Richmond Hill
For God alone my soul waits in silence, for my hope is from him.
Psalm 62:5

Lotti Scheibelt, née Dieckmann, at the age of 88 years
on December 17, 2010
Let us fix our eyes on Jesus,
the author and perfecter of our faith.
Hebrews 12:2

Christa Guschewski, at the age of 85 years
on December 18, 2010
Jesus says, "I am the light of the world.
Whoever follows me, will never walk
in darkness, but will have
the light of life."
Gospel of John 8:12

Pastor Alfred Böttcher, at the age of 81 years
on January 19, 2011
Humbervale Park Baptist Church
I kept my faith, even when I said, "I am greatly afflicted".
Psalm 116:10

Trudy Rast, at the age of 72 years
on January 31, 2011
When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you
from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf.
Gospel of John 15:26

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
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
Homepage and List Administrator: Mona Frantzke; Mailing List: Anita Ratz
