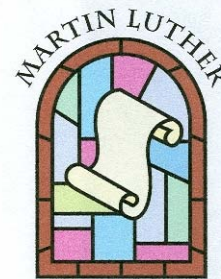


# Congregational newsletter



LUTHERAN CHURCH

— Founded 1955 Gegründet —

June 2011

## DEVOTION

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

What do I believe? And how is my faith related to what has been the belief of Christianity over many centuries? These were the questions our confirmands and other youth were asking during the Confirmands' Retreat in Camp Edgewood which had been prepared together with our curate Katarina Prosenjak as well as Tanya Zielke and Marlena Mueller.

Six confirmands will celebrate their confirmation on Pentecost Sunday. And here, in a solemn act, these youth will profess the Creed together with congregation. But is this Creed still meaningful for the youth? After we had studied the Apostels' Creed for a while, we invited the confirmands to write down in their own words what they believe. And we were amazed about these texts.

There were statements of confidence like this: "God watches over us, in our time of need. Jesus helped us to believe that he can guide and empower us." There were statements following the threefold structure of the Creed. "I believe in God who helps us carry our heavy burdens and sorrows. I believe in Jesus Christ who sacrificed himself to expel our sin. I believe the holy spirit teaches us, inspires us, and motivates us."

And there were more comprehensive texts: "I believe in the father, the epic creator of a carefully created universe that is his divine and unique idea. We see that he continually surprises us with the

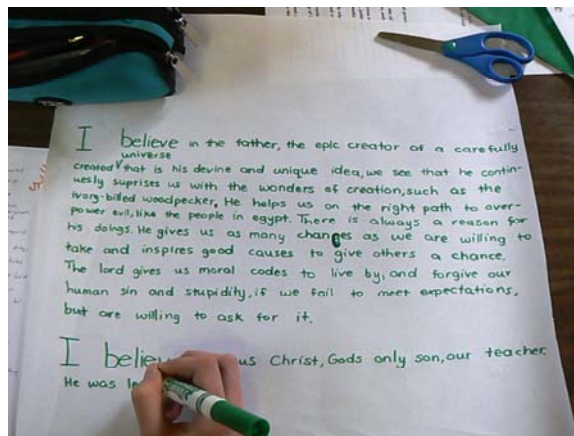
wonders of creation, such as the ivory-billed woodpecker. He helps us on the right path to overpower evil, like the people in Egypt. There is always a reason for his doings. He gives us as many chances as we are willing to take and inspires good causes to give others a chance.

"I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only son, our teacher. He was led to the cross like a lamb to the slaughter, but rose, showing us that there is hope. I believe in the Holy Spirit that brings us together. We cannot see it, but feel it every day. The Spirit welds us into one fellowship of the holy church that binds us in love as a global community.

Our impression actually was that the confirmands did not think the ancient Creed to be a burden or constraint, but to be a foundation and inspiration for their own faith. And this exactly is the purpose of the Creed.

The Creed which we profess in our weekly church service has been the symbol of the global Christian Community over many centuries. It summarizes what has been Christian Faith from the very beginnings. So many believers before us have trusted in these words. By these great words, we can feel supported and strengthened in our faith.

And then there are our personal formulations. Our own experiences will be relevant here, our reflections and observations will shape this personal creed – e.g. the Ivory Billed Woodpecker which helped one youth to rediscover the beauty and fragility of God's creation.



In Romans 10:9, Paul says, "if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."

This exercise which we were trying with the confirmands, it can encourage each of us to say from our hearts, to say with our own words what faith means for us. So we could tell others what is so

helpful for us. So they could hear the message that transforms and saves lives.

*Kind regards and blessings,  
Your Pastor Alexander Mielke*

### Special Collection 2011

As in every year, the special collection is under way again. If you would like a personal visit regarding the scope of this special collection, please leave your name and telephone number on the answering machine at the church office or speak with our church secretary in person at (416) 251-8293. Members of the Church Council and the congregation will contact you to arrange a convenient time for the visit. The aim of this special collection is, as you know, not only to collect money for the congregation, but also to expand the contact within the congregation and to foster an exchange of ideas. Of course, we are also very happy if you participate in celebrating our church services and remit your special donation during these church visits. A special donation envelope is enclosed. Regarding the new projects of the congregation, please also read the open letter of the President of the Church Council, Iris Schweiger.

Dear Members of the Martin Luther Church,

Warm greetings to all of you as we slowly approach the summer months. We are looking forward to an event-filled time in our congregational life and hope you will join us by participating in planned activities. It is also that time of year again where we ask for your kind consideration toward making a special contribution to our church finances.

As you may recall from our annual meeting, the Church Council addressed issues and expected new projects. The request for your support stems from the following plans:

1. The need to maintain sufficient operating income to cover general household expenses and costs during the generally more sparsely-attended summer months.
2. The expected partial renovation of our basement meeting room as a result of previous flooding damage and age. Currently, the project forecasts the retiling of the basement floor and upgrade of ceiling tiles during the first two weeks of July. Funds permitting, we hope to include a change in lighting as well. Total cost approx. \$16,000
3. The need to replace the flat roof at our 5 Superior building. While temporary fixes were undertaken last year as an interim measure by our maintenance committee; the roof is damaged, leaks in places and requires replacement. Total expected costs approx. \$11,000 also planned for July.
4. The exterior foundation of the church particularly front left and rear right requires upgrades due to some disintegrating stonework / masonry. The degree of repair depends on the extent of the problems discovered during excavation. Interim preliminary costs projected at \$18,000. Potential upgrades in the September / October timeframe.
- 5.

Our budget, presented in February, had included these figures and happily we have managed to collect about 20% of the total required. This includes a grant by the EKD in Germany (about \$11,000), a contribution from our Day Care and a private donation. In addition, a letter has been presented to the City of Toronto for water damages sustained in 2009 and 2010 and we hope to be reimbursed for expenses incurred.

Nevertheless, in order to realize these plans this year your kind support is requested and we would greatly appreciate your consideration. As in previous years, any donation may be marked as "Special Collection / New Projects" or "Sondersammlung / Bauvorhaben".

Furthermore, should you have contacts with the trades or can recommend contractors with preferred rates for non-profit institutions, (especially for our exterior plans), kindly contact the Church Council. Help is always encouraged and much appreciated! Finally, should you have questions or would like additional information, please contact the Church Council via email: [churchoffice@martinluther.ca](mailto:churchoffice@martinluther.ca) or (416) 251-8293. In confidence that God will lead us in the right direction,  
yours in Christ,

Iris Schweiger, President, MLC Church Council

*May God never let the source of your charity run dry.  
Irish Blessing*

## **A NOTICE ABOUT CAMP LUTHERLYN 2011**



### **Dear Congregational members and friends of Martin Luther Church (MLC).**

Summer camp is fast approaching and I urge you to submit your forms and payment by July 1st. If you are considering going or sending your children, please let me know of your intentions. I will be accepting campers till the start of camp as long as there is space available and I have enough counselors to properly care for your child.

#### **Date & Price:**

SATURDAY July 23rd to FRIDAY July 29th.

Camper: \$288 Group rate: \$250/person (families with 3 or more, aged 8 and up).

Contact me for special Family and Senior rates. All prices quoted herewith are for the full week and contain all applicable taxes. Daily camp rates are also available for those who cannot stay the week.

Bus rate is \$62/person or \$94/family, see more information below.

#### **Important Forms required:**

The registration form is required for *everyone* attending camp, including parents. The bus form is required if you are taking the bus to/from camp. Where payment for the above is required, please make a cheque payable to MLC.

Please sign the Multimedia Release Form, and attach with registration. This form lets us know if you consent to having your picture or video posted on our website or through other media. Failure to remit this form implies consent.

You will find copies of all in the Church, or at our website [www.martinluther.ca](http://www.martinluther.ca)

### **Bus ride to camp:**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Bruno and Trott Transit for their unbeatable pricing for the bus to/from camp this year. The bus is a safe, fun, and convenient means of sending the kids to camp. Without this special pricing we couldn't even dream of offering this to parents. Please arrive at the Church at 1pm, for a 1:30 DEPART on SATURDAY July 23rd. The bus will arrive at Camp at approx. 7pm. We will meet at the cul-de-sac on Superior Ave. (in front of the MLC daycare) south of Lakeshore. We plan to return on Friday July 29th, 6:00pm at the place of departure.

### **Events happening at camp:**

I would like to remind parents to refrain from sending their kids to camp with hand-held gaming devices, and encourage them to bring an active imagination! Attention ye scurvy sea dogs and young swashbuckler's!

This year I would like to work with the theme "PIRATES". I would like to explore this topic, through the eyes of the Bible, perhaps starting with JONAH! Anyone who has seen the VeggieTales movie knows the trouble Jonah has with the "Pirates who don't do anything". More recently we know about Jack Sparrow's quest for the fountain of youth. The Lord has given us Eternal Life, so what Treasures are we truly looking for? Well, get ready to swab the deck or even walk the plank as we set sail on the mighty Pirate ship MLC DIVINE and chart a course for the unknown Treasures that await!

Don't forget to decorate your cabins in a pirate theme and dress as a "PIRATE" for our dress-up dinner. Arghhhhhh!

### **Special request:**

We are seeking to expand our young boys and girls cabins. Attention all scallywags between the ages of 9 to 11:

Your help is needed to man the decks of the MLC DIVINE. Gold coin accommodations, awesome food from Daryl and his seaworthy Kitchen staff. Hop on board 'cause ye won't be bored! Bring a friend, and camp out for the week in shiver me timbers cabins of eight.

### **Exciting news:**

Stay tuned for more information about how you can order your very own **MLC Camp Lutherlyn T-shirt!**

### **Final remarks:**

Please make sure your child has money for treats and dinner on the way up. For those of you driving up, you are welcome to arrive anytime after 2pm, however must provide for your own dinner that evening. Lutherlyn camp is such a wonderful time of fellowship and Christian spirit (as many of you know). Please keep us in your prayers for the week that we are at camp.

Yours very truly, Dan Sommerfeld

(Captain: Loose Cannonball DAN)

P.S. Make sure to come up with your own edgy pirate name!

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. Our confirmands are: Graham Buceta, Derek Frantzke, Veronika Mielke, Samuel Rosati, Amy Schweiger, Marc Schwenteck. The youth choir under the direction of Stephen Harmelink will sing as well as our congregational choir.



**I cordially invite to a new confirmation course.**

It leads to confirmation on Pentecost Sunday in 2013, May 19. 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. Please tell others in your family or among friends about this! Please feel free to contact me, my cellphone no is 416-567-2487. Your Pastor Alexander Mielke

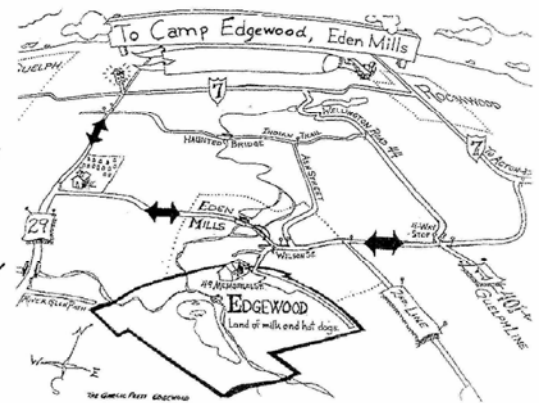
We cordially invite to the **Congregational Picknick in Camp Edgewood (close to Guelph) on June 26**. It's a lovely area, providing lots of space and facilities for fun for kids, families, all generations. **We are starting with a Joint Service at 11:00 a.m.**

**After the potluck luncheon, we will have a program suitable for young and old, suitable for all the family.** End will be around 4:00 p.m.

*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!!!*

Please bring your lunch, plate, dishes, cup. Very welcome!  
If you need help with transportation, please contact Pastor Alexander Mielke (416-567-2487)

In July, **Yvonne Karthaus and Brian Mackie** will marry – our best wishes, may our Lord Jesus Christ bless and guide them! In autumn, Brian will starting working for "Campus for Christ" in Nova Scotia. Brian will **present his work in our services on July 10**, for which he needs continuing support by Christians. So we cordially invite you to our services on July 10!

Welcome to an **excursion to a Sikh Temple on Saturday, July 16, 2011**, 4:00 p.m. at Ontario Khalsa Darbar, 7080 Dixie Rd, Mississauga (north of 401). This is an event within our series "Getting to Know Neighbours – Understanding World Religions". In the temple, a representative of the Sikh community will give us an introduction to their gurdwara and faith. If you like to learn more about why Sikhs wear turbans and carry daggers – just welcome! Please register beforehand with Pastor Mielke (416-567-2487 or alexander.mielke@rogers.com).

On **Tuesday, June 21, 2011**, there will be the **"Mimico Party in the Park"** again, 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. In the John English JMS, groups and organisations will be present, it's a very good opportunity to meet neighbours. Welcome!



*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*

We are very grateful for all good cooperation with **Rev. Dr. Karen Hamilton, the General Secretary of the Canadian Council of Churches**, of whose team our curate Katarina Prosenjak is a member.



We so much enjoyed having the German **Gospel Choir "Joyful Voices"** (under the direction of Friedemann Stihler) with us on the Easter weekend. A heartfelt thank-you to all our



members who were hosting our guests!

Even though, we were meeting one week later this year for the **Mother's Day Luncheon**, our basement was very crowded, because many wanted to celebrate in our church. The highlight were two cakes which had been baked by gentlemen in honour of this great event.



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## BAPTISM

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Mara Suntz

*on April 10, 2011*

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

*Gospel of Matthew 5:8*

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## WEDDING

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Sue Russwurm and Darren Wilmer

*on May 22, 2011*

Jesus Christ says, "I am the vine, and you are the branches.

If you stay joined to me, and I stay joined to you, then you will produce lots of fruit.

But you cannot do anything without me."

*Gospel of John 15:5*

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## FUNERALS

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August Schweiger, at the age of 82 years

*on April 9, 2011*

Jesus Christ says, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives.

Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid."

*John 14:27*

Erich Malcharek, at the age of 85 years

*on April 13, 2011*

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from

the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

*James 1:17*

Rudolf Wendland, at the age of 79 years

*on May 21, 2011*

It is he alone who has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen

or can see; to him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

*1 Timothy 6:16*

Wolfgang Schmidt-Ewald, at the age of 84 years

*on May 30, 2011*

Love never ends.

*1 Corinthians 13:8*

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**Martin Luther Evangelical Lutheran Church**

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