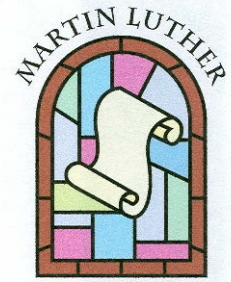


# Congregational newsletter



LUTHERAN CHURCH  
— Founded 1955 Gegründet —

November 2011

## DEVOTION

*Dear Fellow Christians  
in the Martin Luther Church !*

October 11 -17, there was the **DELKINA Conference in Philadelphia**. For this "German Evangelical Lutheran Conference in North America", delegates gathered from many congregations. Pastor Soenke Schmidt-Lange and his wife Anne Schmidt-Lange together with the Immanuel Lutheran were our very friendly hosts. (In the 80-ies, they had been in the Dietrich-Bonhoeffer-Lutheran Church in Thornhill). We explored Amish Country. And we celebrated the **300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Pastor Henry Melchior Muehlenberg's birthday**, together with the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod of which Bishop Claire Schenot Burkat was with us in our Sunday Worship. I found Muehlenberg's life was exciting and thrilling.

Muehlenberg was born in 1711. A part of his theological studies was in Halle, in the Francke Foundations. Then Muehlenberg was commissioned to serve German immigrants in the North American colonies, this was also by order

of the English King George II, who was a German from Hanover and reigned from 1727 – 1760.

Unfortunately Muehlenberg found that there were already pastors in the 3 congregations in Philadelphia which had been assigned to him, but they were drunkards and unorderly. So the very first thing he had to do was fighting for his right to serve these congregations. He also discovered soon that congregational work was very different between Europe and North America. Now the church members themselves governed

the affairs of the congregation.

With patience, prudence and perseverance, Muehlenberg achieved amazing things. When we visited the Oldest Unchanged Lutheran Church in Trappe/Philadelphia, we saw many memorial plaques in front of the plain church, each having the name of a Lutheran congregation which was in connection with Muehlenberg as he organized the synodal structure which became essential to Lutheranism in North America.

In the last decade of Muehlenberg's life (he died in 1787), his family became involved in the founding



of the independent United States. Actually, Muehlenberg himself was rather reluctant, but his sons were enthusiastically dedicated to this cause, one son was a general, another became the first speaker of Congress and his statue can be seen nowadays in the Capitol. On Muehlenberg's gravestone, there's a Latin inscription meaning: Who and what he was, future ages will know without a stone.

Muehlenberg was very diligent in writing a diary. There he noted one Latin quote: "**Ecclesia plantanda est**", which means "**The Church Has to Be Planted**". It's according to Paul in 1

Corinthians 3:6: "I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth."

Congregational Development is a natural process which needs our permanent care. The planting of a congregation does not happen only once, as for the MLC in 1955. "Ecclesia plantanda est – the church has to be planted again and again." She needs our care again and again, each year, each week. May God give us the loving and hoping care of a good gardener for our congregational work!

*Kind regards and blessings,  
Your Pastor Alexander Mielke*

We had to postpone the **Farewell Service of our Curate Katarina Prosenjak**. It will be held on **December 4, 2011**. This is because she is travelling to Germany in mid November in order to introduce herself to her new congregation. In the Joint Service at 11:00 a.m. on the Second Advent Sunday, Rev. Dr. Karen Hamilton, General Secretary of the Canadian Council of Churches will be with us.

We can look forward to a fine **concert on the 1<sup>st</sup> Advent Sunday** which is the anniversary of the founding of the Martin Luther Church also. We will be able to enjoy carols sung by the **Edelweiss Choir** under the direction of Dr. Manfred Petz. This time Gunther Kunzelmann (former member of the German Theatre Toronto) can be with us again and read reflective texts and stories. The concert begins at 1:00 p.m. on November 27.

Our new **Youth Group** meets once a month on Friday, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. Very welcome to join us! Contact: Sonja Schweiger Phone 905-625-9174; Email: sonja.schweiger@sympatico.ca

Our **Youth Choir** is preparing songs for Christmas. Whoever likes singing – very welcome! We meet on Sunday during the service. Contact: Christine Rabey, Phone 905-214-8095

Our **Congregational Choir** under the direction of Richard Heinzle meets on Tuesdays, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. We are practising for Advent Season. Whoever likes singing, is very welcome! Contact: Pastor Alexander Mielke, Phone 416-567-2487

As there are not many children in our German Sunday School usually, the Sunday School Team has decided to offer

### **German Sunday School on the First Sunday in a Month**

Here there will be a good program, being a special fun for kids, as there might more children come especially on this particular Sunday. Very welcome!

In the Joint Service on October 23, the **new confirmation class** introduced themselves: Arvind Haefele, Peter Heerklotz, Erika Murray, Natalie & Sebastian Schill, Philip Schwentek, Felix Senencke, Jana Walkowski, Lukas Wintersperger.

### **Coat/Jacket Drive – Now**

Winter will soon be upon us and we would like to do a COAT/JACKET DRIVE for the Community. If you can go through your closets and bring in any coats/jackets (**especially children**, men and women too) that you no longer wear, then we will donate them to the Martin Luther Daycare for dispersal to those truly in need.

**Starting now until December 4th please bring in your coats/jackets that you no longer wear.**

**Thank you for helping provide Warm Coats & Jackets !!**

*Christmas Candlelight Service of Hope and Remembrance*

*Wednesday, December 14, 7:30 p.m., Wesley Mimico United Church*

*...for those who are finding the Christmas season difficult and are grieving the loss of a loved one  
with Pastors Mielke, Oussoren, Sanderson and Howard cooperating in the liturgy*



*Pastor Soenke Schmidt-Lange from Immanuel Lutheran Church/Philadelphia, dressed up as Pastor Muehlenberg*



*The DELKINA-group in front of the Muehlenberg Monument  
of the Lutheran Theological Seminary Philadelphia, in October 2011*

---

**Martin Luther Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
2379 Lake Shore Blvd. West, Toronto, ON M8V 1B7  
Telephone: 416-251-8293, [www.martinluther.ca](http://www.martinluther.ca)

**Pastor Alexander Mielke, cellphone 416-567-2487**  
**Email: [alexander.mielke@rogers.com](mailto:alexander.mielke@rogers.com)**

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

