

# Congregational newsletter



LUTHERAN CHURCH  
— Founded 1955 Gegründet —

October 2011

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## DEVOTION

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*Dear Fellow Christians  
in the Martin Luther Church !*

appropriate for Thanksgiving, we read in Psalm 104:

**All living beings look to you to give them their food in due season; <sup>28</sup>when you give to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.**

**May the glory of the Lord endure forever; may the Lord rejoice in his works.**

Let me share two little stories with you.

The theologian and poet Christoph Schmied (1768-1854) was walking through the fields where the wheat was ripe for harvest. There he saw a farmer who did not wear his hat in spite of the burning sun. When the pastor remarked he better take his hat in order to protect himself against the sun, the farmer replied, "At this time, when I see my field, I cannot wear a hat, because I am full of awe before the mysterious grace of God working quietly in nature."

This is true. Whenever we see a field ripe for harvest, a beautiful garden, a lovely flower or whenever we enjoy the bright sunshine and fresh wind – then we are amazed by the glory of God visible in creation, moving our heart to thanks and praise.

And the second story from Africa.

There was a terrible drought in a region south of the Sahara. The animals didn't find any water any more, the desert expanded, wells and rivers were dead, there was no harvest at all. Only one tiny flower survived this drought, kept alive by a tiny spring. But even this tiny spring was very desperate, "What sense does it make what I am trying to do? Everything around us has already starved!" But now an old tree bent down to the tiny spring and said, "Dear little spring, take courage! Nobody expects you to rescue all this huge region! Your task is just to help this one tiny flower, nothing more!"



We are God's work, and we have been given eyes, hearts and hands in order to do God's

work in this world. Whatever we have been given, it is our responsibility to use this for the benefit of others.

That we may celebrate Thanksgiving in this spirit, this is my wish for you,

*Kind regards and blessings,  
Your Pastor Alexander Mielke*

*Thank you to Inge Koo Tze Mew, Gisela Wilhelm, Helen Schmidt and the Wienecke Family who helped with decorating our church so beautifully for Thanksgiving!*

### **A short story: Renovations and the never ending care of building and grounds**

A tree has been felled, a roof newly covered, the basement been painted, floored and ceilinged, a new yet old door placed back in his hinges. However, all of this is not enough. The brickwork still needs doing. A contractor will be replacing bricks and filling cracks in the beginning of November at the front as well as the back of the church and at the façade of 5 Superior. In the meantime the row of windows at the bottom of the east side of the church will get new caulking, thermostats with battery backup installed and the second basement door to the council room stairs will undergo serious sanding and varnishing. But don't stop looking and wondering. You will not find everything perfect yet many busy hands are at work to update the library, clean out the basement rooms, decorate the church, plant the gardens, keep children busy at Sunday school, provide coffee and cake after the service and the list goes on and on. The Spirit of God is at the heart of our Martin Luther congregation giving us strength and courage to work hard and look into a bright future. Grateful for your continuing spiritual, physical and financial support is  
Iris Schweiger

### **Christmas Play:**

Who would like to be part of the Christmas Play this year? We need somebody to find good ideas for the Christmas Play, Actors, Directors, Lights, Music, Costum designer.

Don't be shy - be part of it

### **Youth group:**

Thank you to all participants who were busy making apple sauce and having a great time at our first youth group meeting.

Please plan to be at the joint service on the 23rd of October. We will be selling all 11 jars of home made apple sauce as a starting budget for our christmas crafts.

The next meetings will be as before on a Friday from 6:30 - 8pm (21st of October and 18th of November).

If you have friends, bring them. If you want to make friends, just show up.

Sonja

### **Youth Choir:**

Our first informal meeting will be on the 23rd of October after the joint service to sing a little, talk a bit and laugh a lot.

Christine

### **Christmas Bazar:**

We would like to have a Christmas Bazar again this year. If you would like to get creative and help out please start knitting, make jams or craft wonderful items for sale. Anybody is welcome to participate.

### **Please mark your calendar !**

On the **20th of November**, in the Joint Service at 11:00 a.m., we will **ask for God's blessings and good guidance for our curate Katarina Prosenjak**, as she will start in her own congregation in Germany in January 2012. In this service, Rev. Dr. Karen Hamilton, General Secretary of the Canadian Council of Churches, will be present also.

We can look forward to festive and reflective **Christmas Carols on the 1st Advent Sunday, presented by the Edelweiss Choir** under the direction of Dr. Manfred Petz.

A big celebration was the Loaves and Fishes Harvest Celebration at the Wienecke Farm on September 24. For some 14 years, farmers from 13 churches in the area of Schomberg, have contributed to this program of the Canadian Lutheran World Relief which supports farmers in Third World-Countries. Only in the year 2010, more than \$ 260,000 could be raised for this relief program, only in this area. The amount of donations nationwide was much higher, made possible by generous assistance of the Canadian government. Helen Mwambungu and Pastor Mielke talked about experiences in Tanzania, another Christian about the situation in Ethiopia.



Please remember during this Thanksgiving Season urgent needs in various projects which our Martin Luther Church supports: **Loaves and Fishes, our local Foodbank and the Children's Project in Brazil. Thank you for your help!**



In the end of September, Rev. Dr. Helmut Edelmann was visiting Toronto and our Martin Luther Church, together with his wife Christina. Being Assistant Bishop of the Northelbian Church and Oberkirchenrat at the VELKD, right now he is doing research on Lutheran pastors from North Germany who immigrated to the States and Canada. At first, he gave a lecture in the

German Contact Circle on in the Epiphany Church, later, on September 25, he was preaching in our church. Both were events within the Reformation Decade 2017.



The German-Canadian Congress (Ontario) would like to invite you to celebrate the German Pioneers Day on October 11, 2011, at 12 noon in front of the Legislative Building at Queen's Park.

The annual ceremony will start at 12 noon with a welcome from Karsten Mertens, President of the German Canadian Congress (Ontario)

Since this event is an important celebratory day recognizing the many achievements of Canadians of German cultural background we are looking forward to welcome you all to this special celebration.

German-Canadian Congress (Ontario) 2275 Lakeshore Blvd. West, Suite 512 Toronto, On M8V 3Y  
Tel. 416 642 0955 [www. Germancanadiancongress.com](http://www.Germancanadiancongress.com) [info@germancanadiancongress.com](mailto:info@germancanadiancongress.com)

From October 11 – 17, Pastor Mielke will be at the DELKINA-Conference in Philadelphia, together with Pastor Moeller, Pastor Schweter and our curate Prosenjak, all from Toronto.

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**FUNERALS**

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Ronald Wright, at the age of 61 years

*on October 5, 2011*

Do not cast me off, do not forsake me, O God of my salvation!  
If my father and mother forsake me, the Lord will take me up.

*Psalm 27:10*

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**Watchword for October 2011:**  
**How can mortals be righteous before God ? Job 4:17**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>October 2</b> <i>German Erntedank</i> 9:45 Engl. Service 11:00 German Service Pastor Block-Mielke	3	<i>P. Mielke in Church Office</i> 9:30 - 12:30  <b>6:00 p.m. Choir with Richard Heinzle</b>	5	6 3:45 p.m. Singing & Praying in Day Care	7 6:30 p.m. Confirmation Class	8
<b>October 9</b> <i>Thanksgiving</i> 9:45 Engl. Service 11:00 German Service Curate Katarina Prosenjak & Pastor Mielke	10	11 <i>P. Mielke at DELKINA Conference</i> Oct 11 - 17  <b>6:00 p.m. Choir</b>	12 <b>11 am - 1 pm Ladies' Group</b>	13	14	15
<b>October 16</b> 9:45 Engl. Service 11:00 German Service <b>Both with Holy Communion</b> Pastor Block-Mielke	17	18 <i>P. Mielke in Church Office</i> 9:30 - 12:30  <b>6:00 p.m. Choir</b>	19 6:00 p.m. Board of Directors, Day Care	20 7:00 p.m. Church Council	21 6:30 p.m. Confirmation Class	22
<b>October 23</b> <b>11:00 Joint Service</b> followed by <b>Potluck Luncheon</b> Pastor Mielke	24	25 <i>P. Mielke in Church Office</i> 9:30 - 12:30	<b>October 30 Reformation Sunday</b> 9:45 Engl. Service 11:00 German Service Pastor Mielke	<b>November 6</b> Sunday 9:45 Engl. Service 11:00 German Service Pastor Mielke	<b>November 13</b> Sunday 9:45 Engl. Service 11:00 German Service <b>Both with Holy Communion</b> Pastor Block-Mielke	<b>November 20</b> Sunday <b>11:00 Joint Service</b> <b>Farewell to Curate Katarina Prosenjak</b> Pastor Mielke & Rev. Dr. Karen Hamilton, CCC

Sunday School and Open Nursery during both services !