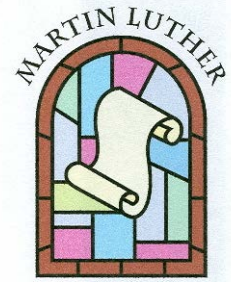


Congregational newsletter



LUTHERAN CHURCH
— Founded 1955 Gegründet —

September 2011

DEVOTION

*Dear Fellow Christians
in the Martin Luther Church !*

Heavy rain was pouring a couple of weeks ago when I went to the church to conduct the worship services that Sunday (August 7). The front entrance was blocked due to an incredible amount of water. So I was thinking: *Are we going to have a service at all?* I expected our organist Linda to be there along with the church council members who were on duty that day. *That will be awkward*, I thought. *Linda will be sitting at the organ and the council members as usual in the very back. They will be handing out worship bulletins to themselves, lighting the candles for themselves and collecting the offering from ... themselves.*

And then that famous bible verse came to my mind. You know - the one that we like to use in church a lot ever since the numbers of people attending the worship services have gone down. By chance it is also the biblical watchword for this month of September: **Jesus Christ says: Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them. (Matthew 18,20).** And suddenly it was clear to me: Of course we will have a worship service – even with only a couple of people; somebody else will be there with us, too. HE will be there when we light the candles and think of HIM: the light of the world; HE will be there, when we raise our voices to pray and sing to him: the one who promised to answer our prayers; and HE will be there when we give our offerings in HIS name.



With this thought in mind, I had made my peace with a very small congregation that Sunday. But as it turned out I had underestimated the persistency of our congregation members. There was a fair number of people worshipping that Sunday. And – let's face it – the more people sing and pray together the better the worship service will be. That is also the reason why in the Jewish tradition there are supposed to be at least 10 people in a congregation of worshippers (according to the tradition 10 male persons who are at least 14 years old). "There is nothing more powerful than the communion of praying people – it delights the Eternal One" (*quote from a German Jewish website: www.de.chabad.org*). And still - our worship won't be of less value when there are only two or three of us. The value doesn't come with the number. The value comes with the "in my name". Where ever people take to heart the words of Jesus and act according to them Jesus will be right there with them. Just to say the words *In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit* does not make us Christians. Discipleship requires more than that - as you can see from the following story:

A poor family from a foreign country moved into a wealthy area. They wore different clothing, had different names and spoke a different language than everybody else. Nevertheless they tried to connect to the people of the community. On Sunday they went to church. Nobody welcomed them, nobody talked to them, and nobody sat with them. But they were persistent. They kept on going to the church – maybe the people just needed time to warm up to them. But even after weeks and weeks nothing changed. So they finally gave up and stopped going to church.

They prayed alone at home. One night the boy of the family prayed to Jesus: *Jesus, I am so unhappy, because I am different from those people in the church. They don't let us in to their community. And Jesus answered and said to him: You know what – don't worry about it; they don't let me in either.*

Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them. (Matthew 18,20)

Blessings, Katarina Prosenjak (Curate)

For September 18, we very cordially invite to our "WELCOME BACK TO CHURCH"-Service. Welcome to meet again, after the summer break, in our worship! We will present photos of the Summer Camp. You can see how the renovation improved and beautified our church rooms. Please bring some nice food for the POTLUCK LUNCHEON. And after the summer break, Sunday School is starting again too, with fun activities for the kids! Very welcome to the Joint Service at 11:00 a.m., on Sunday, September 18, 2011.

We need volunteers to help with setting up the tables and preparing for the Potluck Luncheon. Thanks to all who can give a hand!



Here you can see and compare – before and after the renovation.

Many many thanks to all who helped during the renovation, as well as to everyone who supported us with donations!

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.

On Friday, September 23, 2011 at 6:30 p.m., we are meeting for the first Confirmation Class after the summer holidays. This will also be the **Information Unit for new confirmands and their parents**, for whoever might be interested!

Your Pastor Alexander Mielke

The Ladies' Group meets again on Wednesday, September 14, 2011 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

We will continue with our Congregational Choir, under the direction of Richard Heinze, on Tuesdays, 6:00 – 7.30 p.m. Our first practice will be on Tuesday, September 6, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. We will be preparing for our Thanksgiving services. Very welcome everyone who likes singing!

There will be another **seminar on the "Vulnerable Sector" on Sunday, September 25, 2011 at 12:00 p.m.** Please participate! Thanks to Tanya Zielke who will lead this seminar.

For the German Contact Circle on September 22, 2011 in the Lutheran Epiphany Church, the retired dean Helmut Edelmann will give a lecture on Martin Luther. Whoever is interested is very welcome! This event starts at 7:00 p.m.

On **September 25, 2011** we will celebrate **150 years** of our Lutheran Church in Toronto. This 150th anniversary of the **ELCIC Toronto Conference** will be celebrated with a festive worship at Maple Zion Lutheran Church at 3:00 p.m. (8795 Keele Street Box 576 Maple, ON L6A 1S5, (905) 669-9842, Dean Linda Douglas). Welcome!

On October 2, 2011 Friedrich Demke will be installed as the new EKD-pastor in the Martin Luther Church Ottawa, at 3:00 p.m. Pastor Mielke will participate in this event, on behalf of EKD.

On October 2, 2011 the First Lutheran Church in the Bond Street celebrates her 160th Anniversary with a festive Joint Service at 2:00 p.m. We are cordially invited!

It was a great Summer Camp in July 2011 !!! Thanks very much to all who helped and contributed, most of all to Dan Sommerfeld who again had the main responsibility! You can see many photos on our website www.martinluther.ca



On July 31, 2011 we could have Manfred Siebald and his wife Christine in our church, for a moving and encouraging concert.

Thank you so much, and may our Lord bless and guide these two in all what is ahead of them!

Go placidly amid the noise and the haste,
and remember what peace there may be in silence.

As far as possible, without surrender,
be on good terms with all persons.
Speak your truth quietly and clearly; and listen to others,
even to the dull and the ignorant; they too have their story.
Avoid loud and aggressive persons;
they are vexatious to the spirit.

If you compare yourself with others,
you may become vain or bitter,
for always there will be greater and lesser persons than yourself.
Enjoy your achievements as well as your plans.
Keep interested in your own career, however humble;
it is a real possession in the changing fortunes of time.

Exercise caution in your business affairs,
for the world is full of trickery.
But let this not blind you to what virtue there is;
many persons strive for high ideals,
and everywhere life is full of heroism.
Be yourself. Especially do not feign affection.
Neither be cynical about love,
for in the face of all aridity and disenchantment,
it is as perennial as the grass.

Take kindly the counsel of the years,
gracefully surrendering the things of youth.
Nurture strength of spirit to shield you in sudden misfortune.
But do not distress yourself with dark imaginings.
Many fears are born of fatigue and loneliness.

Beyond a wholesome discipline, be gentle with yourself.
You are a child of the universe
no less than the trees and the stars you have a right to be here.
And whether or not it is clear to you,
no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should.

Therefore be at peace with God,
whatever you conceive Him to be.
And whatever your labours and aspirations,
in the noisy confusion of life,
keep peace in your soul.

With all its sham, drudgery, and broken dreams,
it is still a beautiful world.
Be cheerful. Strive to be happy.
Desiderata -Max Ehrmann, 1927

FUNERALS

Ludwig Hendler, at the age of 75 years

on July 15, 2011

Jesus says, "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

John 20:29

Annemarie Dombrowe, at the age of 74 years

on August 9, 2011

Cast your burden on the Lord, and he will sustain you;
he will never permit the righteous to be moved.

Psalm 55:22

Judy Untermann, at the age of 90 years

on August 26, 2011

I lift up my eyes to the hills— from where will my help come?
My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

Psalm 121:1

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

Watchword for September 2011:

Jesus says, "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." Matthew 18:20

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
September 4 9:45 Engl. Service 11:00 German Service Pastor Mielke	5 August 29 – September 3 Pastor Mielke on vacation	6 P.Mielke in Church Office 9:30 – 12:30 6:00 p.m. Choir with Richard Heinzle	7	8	9	10
September 11 9:45 Engl. Service 11:00 German Service Both with Holy Communion Curate Katarina Prosenjak	12 18.00 Uhr Board of Directors / DC	13 P.Mielke in Church Office 9:30 – 12:30 12:30 p.m. Meeting of Mimico Pastors 6:00 p.m. Choir	14 11 a.m. -1 p.m. Ladies' Group	15 7:00 p.m. Church Council	16	17
September 18 11:00 Joint Service "Welcome Back to Church" followed by Potluck Luncheon Pastor Mielke	19	20 P.Mielke in Church Office 9:30 – 12:30 6:00 p.m. Choir	21	22 7:00 p.m. German Contact Circle in Epiphany with ret. Dean Helmut Edelmann	23 6:30 p.m. Confirmation Class & Information Unit for Newcomers	24 4 – 8 pm Loaves and Fishes Harvest Celebration at the Wienecke Farm
September 25 9:45 Engl. Service 11:00 German Pastor Mielke followed by Vulnerable Sector Seminar 3pm – 150 Years Toronto Conference Maple Zion Luth.Church	26	27 P.Mielke in Church Office 9:30 – 12:30 6:00 p.m. Choir			October 1 Saturday Toronto Fall Conference	October 2 German Erntedank 9:45 Engl. Service 11:00 German Service Pastor Heike Block- Mielke 2 pm – 160 Years First Lutheran Church

Sunday School and Open Nursery during both services !