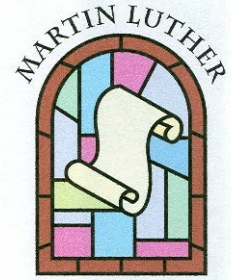


Congregational newsletter



LUTHERAN CHURCH
— Founded 1955 Gegründet —

April 2012

DEVOTION

Dear Fellow Christians,

the German author and poet Christian Morgenstern (1871 – 1914) has become internationally famous through his nonsense poetry. Only few might know that he was very deeply religious. When he was 10 years old, his mother died of tuberculosis – and he himself contracted this disease from her which weakened him throughout all his life and eventually caused his early death at the age of only 42 years. However, he was able to accept his disease and preserve hope by his deep trust in Christ. One of his poems which very much impresses me is "Washing of the Feet". It is a meditation upon John 13 where Jesus says, "So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet." Here is Morgenstern's poem:

In gratitude, silent stone,
I incline myself towards you:
I owe to you my life as plant.

In gratitude, soil and flower,
I stoop down towards you:
You helped me to attain animal life.

In gratitude, stone, plant and animal,
I bend down towards you:
Together you helped to make Me.



In gratitude we also, child of man,
We kneel in homage down to you:
For we are here because you are.

Divineness in the simple,
Divineness in the manifold
let echo forth their thanks.
In gratitude all being is entwined.

This is a fascinating interpretation of John 13, and while I am fully aware that there are far-reaching ideas involved in this poem, now I'd like to hint to one thought only.

Washing of the Feet – this is an act of thanksgiving as well as of serving. Thanking all those to whom I so much owe. And here

Morgenstern thanks animals and plants, even the so-called dead matter. Because man owes all his life, all his being to them. And since everything is rooted in God, the thanksgiving is finally directed to God. This leads Morgenstern to his respect and care for all creatures.

The archetype is Jesus who bows down deeply before his companions, who bows down to serve each creature. He does not misuse his power, but proves himself in loving service to all.

In this perspective Morgenstern sees the Washing of the Feet: The Son of God bows down deeply into the suffering of the world, debases himself into the lowliness of the creatures. Wherever humans suffer – the Son of God bows down and suffers with us and for us. Wherever this world is torn apart in war and annihilation – Christ himself suffers and is torn apart.

This is a grand divine act: In the Passion, God bows down into our world. And through Easter, God takes his creation up into his light. Here is Christ who debases himself into the suffering in the Washing of the Feet and the Cross. And Christ brings us to the Transfiguration of Easter, leads his creatures back

into the unity with God. And since God's Spirit is the origin of everything, nothing can ever get lost for God's love and light.

For me, this poem is most important during the Lent Season. Becoming thankful for everything which God created together with me. Developing empathy and sympathy for others' sufferings. And, guided by Christ, striving to remove the pains and sufferings of God's creation.

*Best wishes and blessings for Easter,
Your Pastor Alexander Mielke*

Sunday, **March 25**, 2012, is special, with a Festive Joint Service on the occasion of the **350th Anniversary of the Death of Johann Crueger**, a very famous German Lutheran composer and a friend of Paul Gerhardt. Part of this celebration will be **solos by the singer Herbert Brown**. (The joint service starts at 11:00 a.m.) A big Thank You to our organist Linda Marcinkus who has been organizing this.

On Good Friday and Easter Sunday, our Congregational Choir under the direction of Linda Marcinkus and our Youth Choir under the direction of Christine Rabey will sing. Our Congregational Choir still is rather small – so welcome to join and strengthen our choir! If you are interested, please contact Pastor Mielke (cellphone 416-567-2487). Welcome to our Youth Choir whoever likes singing! We meet on Sunday during the service. Contact: Christine Rabey, Phone 905-214-8095

This year, too, we want to begin our **Easter celebration on the shore of Lake Ontario**, with the great experience of the rising sun above the silhouette of Toronto. Our **Easter Sunrise Service begins at 6:15 a.m. near the last parking lot of Humber Bay Park West**. Afterwards, we meet for Easter breakfast of pancakes and maple syrup at the church. Celebrate with us the Easter Message in this way and invite your friends too! After that, at **10:00 a.m.**, the **Festive Joint Service** will take place in the church.



In this newsletter you'll find an envelope for the Easter Donation. Thank you for all the support you give to the Martin Luther Church!



We celebrated the inauguration of the new church council on March 18.
 From left to right – front row: Iris Schweiger (Chair of Pastor Call Committee), Martin Haefele (Treasurer), Irene Zielke (Vice President), Larissa Mattwich; 2nd row: Keith Rabey, Marlena Mueller (Secretary), Anna Lisa Wienecke, Gisela Wilhelm; 3rd row: Dan Sommerfeld (President), Karl-Ernst Kriese (Rendant), Pastor Alexander Mielke. Unfortunately not on this photo: John Knopp, Ulrich Timm, Darren Wilmer.

Now you will find in our monthly calendar information when – in preparation of bigger events – there will be a Set Up and who will be the contact person for preparing the basement and church for events like Easter Sunday or Pre Mother's Day Luncheon. Thank you for giving us a helping hand, please contact then beforehand the person in charge.

In our church, **Ride Assistance is offered**. This is for church members who would like to attend our services, but do not have anyone who can drive them to our church. With great joy we learnt that **Dina Vanczar and Irene Zielke** are willing to be **Coordinators** for this kind of service. Please find more information below. On the one side you can **contact this address when you yourself need ride assistance** or if you know someone who needs this. On the other side we **need church members who are willing to give others a ride**. We are very thankful to Dina and Irene for their readiness to coordinate this. However, we cannot promise that such a ride will always be available. We thank you for your understanding in case that such an assistance – in spite of all our efforts – is not possible. If neighbours and friends help each other – without our assistance – this of course is very much appreciated also!

Kind regards, your Pastor Alexander Mielke

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 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

Welcome to our Summer Camp – from July 21 / Saturday till July 27 / Friday, 2012.

A short notice about Camp Lutherlyn 2012

Oh, if only the magic of Christmas could happen twice a year. If only we could have Christmas in July! Marshmallows roasting by an open campfire...Golden Lake minnows nipping at your toes...that's it! Our theme at Summer Camp next year will be about Christmas. Hey kids, maybe you can convince your parents to bake your favourite Holiday treats...again! Sounds like a win-win situation if you ask me.

Best Regards, Dan Sommerfeld

Just like last year, we want to celebrate a merry Luncheon in connection with Mother Day, but not on the Mother Day Sunday because many families would not be able to be present. This year, since the following Sundays won't be possible, due to Victoria Day and Pentecost, we very cordially invite you to the **Pre Mother's Day Luncheon on May 6 already.**

As you may remember, we were planning at the Annual Meeting to have an Informational Meeting in our church in order to discuss the question of "**Sexual Orientation in the Church**". **So we invite you for Monday, May 7, 7:00 p.m.** Please sign in the list or contact Pastor Mielke (phone 416-567-2487) if you plan to attend.

Please mark your calendar: Congregational Picnic Day on June 17.

We are looking forward to a fine day in Camp Edgewood. We will start with a joint family service at 11:00 a.m., followed by potluck luncheon. And we will have a program suitable for young and old, suitable for all the family.

The Toronto Spring Conference is particularly important this year because the restructuring of the ELCIC and our conference will be discussed. The gathering will be on Saturday, May 5, in St Ansgar Lutheran Church.

The Joint German Celebration of Ascension will be in St George Lutheran Church, May 17, 7:00 p.m.

The Celebration of Confirmation will be on Pentecost Sunday again, on May 27, 2012.

We will continue with our program "Getting to Know Neighbours – Understanding World Faiths". Welcome to our **excursion to our neighbouring St Margaret Anglican Church on June 9, 4:00 p.m.** Before that, Pastor Mielke will explain a little bit concerning the history of the Anglican Church in the services on May 20.

With sadness, we received news from Brazil that Pastor Milton Schwantes has passed away at the age of 65 years, after many years of severe illness. By his friendship with our Pastor Eberhard Schwantes, he became the founder of our partnership with the Lutheran Congregation Guarulhos. Pastor Mielke sent condolences on behalf of the Martin Luther Church to this parish close to Sao Paulo.

Ordination of Katarina Prosenjak on Feb 12, 2012, in Niedernhausen, close to Wiesbaden.



Absolutely great was the German celebration of the World Day of Prayer in our church on March 2.

A Thank You Letter from Our Neighbours

Dear Friends: On behalf of the friends here at Wesley Mimico United Church, I would like to express our great appreciation for two generous gifts you gave us in the past week:

First, we were very grateful for the presence of your Youth Group with Iris Schweiger as leader at our Community Supper last Friday. We appreciated the music they sang for the dinner guests; their help in setting, serving and clearing the tables; and their welcome interest in this very basic but crucial ministry in the community. Second, we are very grateful for the cheque for \$275. the Youth Group offered as a gift to the Community Service Fund to sustain the Food Ministries (Food Bank and Community Supper) that serve the entire Mimico community at Wesley Mimico UC. We know that the young people worked hard in their Christmas event to gather this money together and so it is with gratitude that we say thanks for this partnership in the Gospel and the shared service to people we know well as "beloved of God."

And though time has passed, we are still grateful for the winter coats you collected and shared for distribution to people in need before Christmas.

May God continue to bless you and yours as you seek to live the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We value the partnership. Blessings,

*(Rev. Dr.) A.H. Harry Oussoren
Interim Ordained Minister
Wesley Mimico United Church.*

Our **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

BAPTISM

Olivia Simone Wiegers

on March 11, 2012

Teach me to do your will, for you are my God.
Let your gentle Spirit lead me in the right path.
Psalm 143:10

FUNERAL

John (Hans) Georg Englert, at the age of 88 years

on March 21, 2012

Since we have the Spirit of Faith, though
outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly
we are being renewed day by day.
2 Corinthians 4

Martin Luther Evangelical Lutheran Church
2379 Lake Shore Blvd. West, Toronto, ON M8V 1B7
Telephone: 416-251-8293, www.martinluther.ca

Pastor Alexander Mielke, cellphone 416-567-2487
Email: alexander.mielke@rogers.com

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

**Watchword for April 2012:
The Risen Lord says, "Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation."
Mark 16:15**

Sonntag	Montag	Dienstag	Mittwoch	Donnerstag	Freitag	Samstag
April 1 <i>Palm Sunday</i> 9.45 Engl.Service 11.00 Germ. Serv. Pastor Mielke	March 25 11.00 Uhr Festive Joint Service with Soloist Herbert Brown (350th Anniversary Johann Crueger)	6pm Congr.Choir	4	Maundy Thursday 7:00 p.m. German Service Communion Pastor Mielke	Good Friday 9-45 Engl.Serv. 11.00 Germ.S. Both Communion Pastor Mielke	7 12:30 p.m. Set Up for Easter Sunday Contact Person: Dan Sommerfeld
April 8 <i>Easter Sunday</i> 6.15 a.m. Easter Sunrise Serv HumberBayParkWest 10.00 am Festive Joint Serv <i>Engl & Germ</i> Pastor Mielke	9	P.Mielke in Church Office 9:30 - 12:30	11 11 am - 1 pm Ladies' Group	12	13	14
April 15 9.45 Engl.Service 11.00 German Service	16	P.Mielke in Church Office 9:30 - 12:30 6pm Congr.Choir	18	19	20	21
April 22 9.45 Engl.Service 11.00 German Service Pastor Mielke		April 29 9.45 Engl.Service 11.00 German Service Pastor Mielke	April 27 - 29 P.Mielke at Confirmands' Retreat - Camp Edgewood	May 6 11 am Joint Service with Pre Mother's Day Luncheon Set Up: 9 am Contact Person: Keith Rabey		May 7 Monday 7:00 p.m. Informational Meeting "Sexual Orientation"

Sunday School and Open Nursery During Each English Service