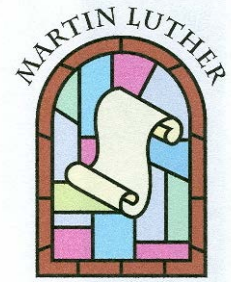


# Congregational newsletter



LUTHERAN CHURCH  
— Founded 1955 Gegründet —

December 2012 & January 2013

## DEVOTION

*Dear Fellow Christians  
in the Martin Luther Church,*

"For here we have no lasting city, but we are looking for the city that is to come." This Bible verse from Hebrews 13:14 is the Watchword for the Year 2013. It is a meaningful word for Christmas also.

"God rarely is there where we would expect him." I found this statement in the watchword edition from Herrnhut. This is true, we can experience this at Christmas. We may have got so used to celebrating the Child in the Stable of Bethlehem. But let us take just a moment to think about it – and immediately we get stunned by the extraordinariness of this event. The Son of God – in a miserable stable, side by side with the poor hardworking animals, together with beggars and refugees.

Indeed, several big angels are needed, together with a multitude of the heavenly host, so that we humans are able to believe this: the brightness of God's love in a miserable stable. Then the cross. Outside the huge rich city. The Son of God, accused, condemned, side by side with the guilty.



"God rarely is there where we would expect him." The story of Jesus contradicts our expectations and wishes in so many aspects. The Watchword of 2013 challenges us not to be satisfied with what we are and what we have. It challenges us to be mobile. To be open to go into situations, to go

to humans, just as God sends us. "Expect the Unexpected." Let us be open for God's unexpected guidance, a new Word of God, a new experience with God and this world.

*Peace and blessings, for Christmas and the  
New Year,  
your Pastor Alexander Mielke*

Dear Congregation,

you have elected 2 separate groups of people to serve you. First of all the church council and second the search committee with 3 members of church council and 4 trusted members of the congregation. We are putting in countless hours of work before you step into this church and long after you have gone home from a service.

In recent weeks we've met harsh criticism when we've outlined the voting process. However, we are governed by our constitution and a strict outline for a call process by our Synod which help us "the officers of this church" to stay honest and focused from the beginning to the end of this difficult task. By following our governing laws, we ensure that we make this process legal and binding and indisputable.

I am thankful for each conversation that took and takes place in regards to the search. You as individuals and as a congregation have shown great interest and offered assistance along the way and through your questions have continued to challenge each member of the search committee and church council to do their very best and continue to learn along the way. After last week's conversations I went back through the synod manual once again where it clearly states in section 4 D 6:

**While listening to your own heart and impressions, go beyond asking "Which candidate do I favour?" to ask "Which pastor can best serve our congregation?"**

Believe me when I say that not one of the steps along the way is taken lightly but always with great consideration of the needs of our congregation. We have made lists of pro's and con's from the first contact with the candidates until we dropped them off at the airport and then analysed them first individually then within the group of the call committee. On Monday night the call committee voted unanimously for one Pastor. The church council in turn supported the suggestion unanimously.

At the end of the long search you might not find your favourite candidate on the ballot. However, the call committee and the church council are in agreement that this Pastor is the best suited for the needs and well being of our congregation. I know, once you have heard the reasons for this choice you will wholeheartedly support this decision.

Kindly

Iris Schweiger (call committee chair person)

Relevant parts of our constitution:

(Art. VII, Sec.2): The Authority to call a pastor shall rest in the congregation. Such Authority to call shall be exercised by not less than a two-third majority vote of members present and voting at a meeting legally called for that purpose. Throughout the call process the congregational council, a committee authorized by the congregation(s), shall seek the advice and counsel of the bishop of the synod.

(Art. IV, Sec.2b) Voting members are those confirmed or otherwise designated members who are active members in good standing and have attained the age of 18 years. (Art. VIII, Sec. 4): Congregational Meeting: 10% of membership shall constitute a quorum.

Synod Manual

5 B. The motion to call a pastor, including the compensation package is presented to the congregation..... The congregation should then be invited to address questions about the proposed candidate or the compensation package to representatives of the Congregational Council and Call Committee.

The vote to call a pastor will be by secret ballot. Proxy or absentee ballots are not permitted. A two-thirds majority of votes cast is necessary for election.

**"A Pastoral Search is like a Marathon. You run on uneven paths for what seems like forever. Then, suddenly it is time for the final sprint to the finish line and you realize every single step was worth it."**

This year, the **Edelweiss Choir** under the direction of Manfred Petz, will sing in and after the German Sunday on the Second Advent Sunday, December 9, 11:00 a.m. Welcome!

On the **3rd Advent Sunday**, December 16, 2012 we will be able to enjoy the **Christmas Play of our Sunday School**.

Again, our **youth group** has helped at the Friday Community Dinner of the Wesley Mimico United Church. The new pastor Paul Shepherd has created a lovely **Youtube Video** about this. You can find it here: <http://www.wesleymimicounitedchurch.org/archives/380>

### *Christmas Candlelight Service of Hope and Remembrance*

*Wednesday, December 19, 7:00 p.m., Wesley Mimico United Church*

*...for those who are finding the Christmas season difficult and are grieving the loss of a loved one*

*To help people who have experienced loss, four Mimico churches in cooperation with G.H.Hogbe Funeral Homes will hold a special worship service on Wednesday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m. at Wesley Mimico United Church, 2 Station Road at Mimico Avenue. All are invited and welcome to be part of this pre-Christmas worship experience.*

*The hosting churches are Martin Luther Evangelical Lutheran, Mimico Baptist, Mimico Presbyterian, and Wesley Mimico United, collaborating with the Hogbe Funeral Homes, to serve community residents.*

Please mark your calendar:

**Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 24, 2013** after the Joint Service.

**In this newsletter, you also find special Christmas Envelopes. A big Thank You for all support you can give to the Martin Luther Church!**

There will be another **Weekend Retreat** in the beginning of February. Once more, we will meet for this in the cozy **Mount Alverno Centre**. It is going to start with supper on Feb 1 2013 and end with lunch on Feb 3. Join us for this weekend of good fellowship. The topic will be: "**Great Teachers of the Reformation**" (Luther, Melanchthon, Calvin and others). This time it is open for families too.



The price is probably about the same as last year: \$ 120.00 for the weekend, accomodation and food included. Please contact Pastor Mielke if you like to participate (see the registration form at the end of this newsletter). The address is: 20704 Heart Lake Road, Caledon, Ontario L7K 2A2, (Close to Orangeville) - Carpooling Will Be Provided.

Welcome to our services during the Christmas Season 2012 !

**1st Advent Sunday, December 2,** 11:00 a.m. Joint Service, with our Congregational Choir, followed by the **Election of the New Pastor** (and the Christmas Bazaar of our Youth Group)

**2nd Advent Sunday, December 9,** 9:45 a.m. Engl. Service; 11:00 a.m. **German Service with the Edelweiss Choir**

**3rd Advent Sunday, December 16,** 11:00 a.m. , **Christmas Play of the Sunday School**

**4th Advent Sunday, December 23,** 11:00 a.m. German Service, **5:00 p.m. English Candlelight Service for the Young at Heart**

**December 24, Monday:** 5:00 p.m. **German Service on Christmas Eve** (with some English translation)  
6:30 p.m. **English Candlelight Service**

**December 25,** Tuesday: 11:00 a.m. Festive German Christmas Service

**December 31,** Monday: 5:00 p.m. German Service on New Year's Eve with Holy Communion

**With Jazz and Swing,** we will have a **good start into the New Year.** Very welcome to our Joint Service on **Tuesday, January 1, 2013, 5:00 p.m.:** **Magnus and friends will play saxophone, guitar and bass.**

---

**MEMORIAL SERVICE**

---

Werner Ganzhuebner, at the age of 82 years

*on November 26, 2012*

Teach me to do your will, for you are my God.

Let your good spirit lead me on a level path.

*Psalm 143:10*

---

**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*

---

*Registration Form*

**Wochenendfreizeit der Martin-Luther-Kirche 2013  
Weekend Retreat of the Martin Luther Church 2013**

**February 1 - 3, 2013, Mount Alverno Retreat Centre, Friday 7:00 p.m. - Sunday 2:00 p.m.**

Price per Person probably about: \$ 120.00 (for Food and Accomodation)

**Please send this form to Pastor Alexander Mielke until December 31, 2012**

---

I / we want to participate in the Retreat of the Martin Luther Church, Feb 1 - 3, 2013.  
My name / our names \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

I am attaching a cheque (payable to "Martin Luther Church", Memo "Retreat"):

Yes/ No.                                      Special dietary and other needs: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date and Signature

---

**Watchword for December 2012:**  
*Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you Isaiah 60:1*

<b>Sonntag</b>	<b>Montag</b>	<b>Dienstag</b>	<b>Mittwoch</b>	<b>Donnerstag</b>	<b>Freitag</b>	<b>Samstag</b>
<b>December 2</b> <i>1st Advent</i> 11:00 Joint Service with Choir and Bazaar Pastor Mielke <b>Followed by</b> <b>Election of New</b> <b>Pastor</b>	Nov 29 3:45 p.m. <i>Singing &amp; Praying</i> in Day Care	<i>P. Mielke in</i> Church Office 9:30 – 12:30 6:00 p.m. Congregational Choir		7:00 p.m. German Contact Circle in the Martin Luther Church	6:30 p.m. Confirmation Class	
<b>December 9</b> <i>2nd Advent</i> 9:45 Engl. Service 11:00 Germ. Serv. <b>with Edelweiss</b> <b>Choir</b> Pastor Mielke	7:00 p.m. Church Council	<i>P. Mielke in</i> Church Office 9:30 – 12:30 6:00 p.m. Congregational Choir	11 am – 1 pm Ladies' Group			
<b>December 16</b> <i>3rd Advent</i> Joint Service with <b>Christmas</b> <b>Play of Sunday</b> <b>School</b> Pastor Mielke	17	6:00 p.m. Congregational Choir	7:00 p.m. Candlelight Service of Remembrance, Wesley Mimeo United Church			
<b>December 23</b> <i>4th Advent</i> 11:00 am German Service Pastor Mielke	<b>December 24</b> <b>Christmas Eve</b> 5:00 p.m. German Service (with Engl. translation) Pastor Mielke 6:30 p.m. Engl. Candle Light Service	<b>Christmas</b> <b>25</b> 11:00 German Festive Service Pastor Mielke	<b>December 30</b> Sunday 11:00 Joint Service Pastor Mielke	<b>December 31</b> New Year's Eve 5:00 p.m. German Service with Holy Communion Pastor Mielke	<b>January 1</b> New Year 5:00 p.m. Joint Service New Year Celebration with Jazz and Singing Pastor Mielke	

*Sunday School and Open Nursery During Each English Service*



**Watchword for January 2013:**  
**You show me the path of life. In your presence there is fullness of joy;**  
**in your right hand are pleasures forevermore. Psalm 16:11**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>January 6</b> Epiphany 9:45 Engl. Service 11:00 German Service with Baptism in Family Gutsch		<b>January 1</b> <i>New Year</i> 5:00 p.m. <i>Joint Service</i> <i>New Year Celebration with Jazz and Swing</i> Pastor Mielke	9 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. Ladies' Group in the church	10	11 6:30 p.m. Confirmation Class in the church	12
<b>January 13</b> 9:45 Engl. Service 11:00 German Service <b>Both with Holy Communion</b> Pastor Mielke	14	15 <i>P. Mielke in Church Office</i> 9:30 - 12:30	16	17	18	19
<b>January 20</b> 11:00 Joint Service Pastor Mielke	21	22 <i>P. Mielke in Church Office</i> 9:30 - 11:00 6:00 p.m. Congregational Choir	23	24	25 6:30 p.m. Confirmation Class in the church	26
<b>January 27</b> 9:45 Engl. Service 11:00 German Service Pastor Mielke	28	29 <i>P. Mielke in Church Office</i> 9:30 - 12:30 6:00 p.m. Congregational Choir	30	31	February 1 <i>Retreat in Mount Aberno Center</i> Feb 1 - 3	Feb 2
<b>February 3</b> 9:45 Engl. Service 11:00 German Service Pastor Heike Block-Mielke			<b>February 10</b> 9:45 Engl. Service 11:00 German Service <b>Both with Holy Communion</b> Pastor Mielke	<b>February 13</b> Ash Wednesday		<b>February 24</b> 11:00 <b>Joint Service</b> followed by <b>Annual Meeting</b> Pastor Mielke

Sunday School and Open Nursery during both services !