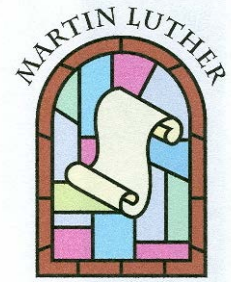


Congregational newsletter



LUTHERAN CHURCH
— Founded 1955 Gegründet —

February 2012

DEVOTION

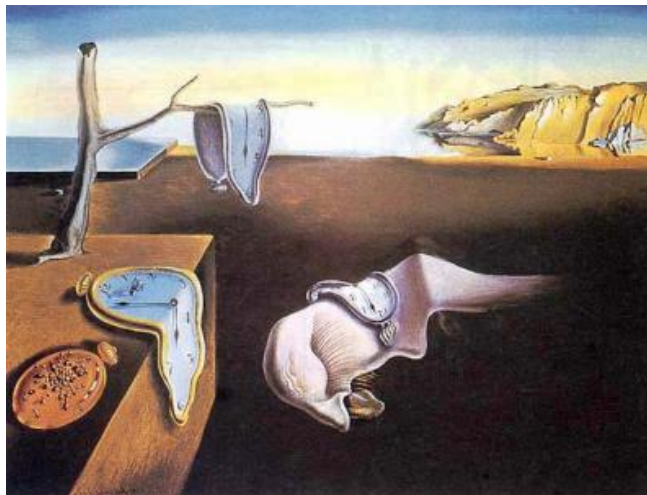
*Dear Members and Friends
of the Martin Luther Church,*

at the beginning of this year 2012, we may be aware how relative time is. We already got a hint at the end of last year when we read in the news that there would be no 30th of December in Samoa. Just imagine: a year without the 30th of December! Thursday abruptly followed by Saturday! Those who would have had their birthday on Friday, missing this special date. How strange!

The reason of course was that the Pacific island state of Samoa switched the time zone. Now it seems more important to them to be in harmony with Australia and East Asia than with the west coast of North America (which they had joined in 1892). But what an amazing change: this country which used to be the last internationally to see the sunset of the past year, now will be the first globally to see the sunrise of the new year!

How relative is time and our experience of time! Here in Toronto, we permanently notice it because of so many new year celebrations. Sometimes during the calendar year familiar to us, we suddenly see that the Chinese celebrate their new year date, or the Indians, or some other nation. Thus we become aware how relative time is, how changeable and erratic. We sense that in our daily life too. A child experiences time – a day, a week – very differently from a senior.

There are times when our life is so busy and stressful that we are under permanent pressure of the clock. There are other times when the clock hand creeps incredibly slowly. It makes a big difference if we are full of joy and hope or if we are despondent and anxious. Our experience of time differs very much then. For me, a verse in Psalm 31 is very helpful.



I trust in you, O Lord; I say, "You are my God." My times are in your hand.

Whenever we are perplexed by changeable times of our life, we still may find an eternal refuge in God. In the midst of distress and turmoil, we still may be in contact with the unchanging, eternal God. We receive all our time out of God's hand. Our time –

our tiny and changeable life time, filled with hope and fear – is held and surrounded by the eternal God.

Recently I found a story. A man is very despondent. But he knows his pastor very well and confides his depressive thoughts to him: how he has disappointed his dear ones and himself has been disappointed by others; that he thinks his life is like an empty and broken bucket, with cracks and holes; himself not being able to reach or hold fast what is so dear and important to him.

The pastor responds, "Maybe your life is like a broken bucket, with cracks and holes. But God is like the ocean! Place the broken bucket of your life into the ocean of God's love! You will see, God's

eternal compassion surrounds your life, from beneath, from above, from all sides."

I trust in you, O Lord; I say, "You are my God."
My times are in your hand.

We can hold fast to this truth. Even the empty and broken bucket of our life is still held and surrounded by the ocean of God's love.

*Kind regards and blessings,
your Pastor Alexander Mielke*

Welcome to Our Annual Meeting on February 26, 2012 !

We will begin after the Joint Service, so please bring sandwiches etc. for the short break after the service. Please read here the invitation by our president Iris Schweiger:

Do you believe that you are important? Do you believe that you are put in a certain place at a certain time for a reason?

Every Sunday when I come to church I'm greeted by two rows of beautifully detailed stained glass windows. Sitting down to reflect on the past year I noticed a remarkable resemblance in the beauty and detail of the glass carefully held together by fine lines of lead and the make-up of our congregation. We are very colourful, tossed together from all walks of life into some kind of a stained glass window. If one piece is missing, it leaves a hole in the window, an opinion that is not voiced, an opportunity lost. Please take your place at the annual meeting on the 26th of February 2012 to decide on very important issues such as the future of our pastor in our congregation and the future of our congregation.

With you, everything is possible. Every friendly word you share, every smile you smile, every time you lend a hand you ease the burden of the cross and help strengthen our vision for the future.

*Yours, Iris Schweiger
President, Church Council*

On December 4, 2011 we said farewell to our curate Katarina Prosenjak.

Rev. Dr. Karen Hamilton, the General Secretary of the Canadian Council of Churches, as well as Pastor Mielke and Iris Schweiger expressed their gratitude for all her commitment and dedication, for her competence and cheerfulness with which she contributed so much to our congregational life. They wished Katarina and John all the best for their future joint journey. In January, Katarina began her ministry in the parish of Niedernhausen (close to Wiesbaden). On February 12, she will be ordained and installed there. In her farewell sermon, she said, " The point is: God can only work for us if we await him - if we make room for him – if we fling wide the door and unbar the gate." So this is our wish for her that she may be guided and strengthened by this confidence in her ministry!



On December 4, 2011 we also said **farewell to Helen Mwambungu**. She had very faithfully taken part in our congregational life for half a year, together with her daughter Keren. Highlights were her participation in the summer camp as well as her presentation during the Canadian Food Grain Bank Jubilee at the Wienecke farm. As she has returned to her home in South Tanzania, we wish her "baraka za Bwana na Mwokozi wetu", the blessings of our Lord and Saviour!

We are very glad that **Linda Marcinkus will be the new director of our congregational choir**. During the last year, we very often cooperated with her because she assisted Richard Heinzle during the practices as well as performances. We are **very grateful to**



Richard Heinzle that he helped so much restart our choir, with his competence and cheerfulness. Now Linda will take on both responsibilities, being our organist as well as choir director. She is



already very wellknown in our church with her competence, diligence and faithfulness. So we wish her God's blessings for her work. **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).

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

Welcome to our **Youth Choir** whoever likes singing! We meet on Sunday during the service. Contact: Christine Rabey, Phone 905-214-8095

Welcome to Our Swim Party on Saturday, March 24, 2012 !

We are again having the Swim Party of our Sunday School, a big fun for kids and families. We will be meeting at 5:00 p.m. at the Norseman Community Pool, 105 Norseman Street, first for enjoying the water then for pizza. Please mark your calendar and invite also friends to this fun event!

We can look forward to a very **special Family Joint Service on February 12, 2012**. Kids and families will enjoy the **animation film "Hoggie and Snip" by Magnus Hjerpe**. Magnus is wellknown in our church as the guitarist in the New Year jazz services. He produced a children film which was well received at several film festivals. **Come and experience the fascinating story of the friendship between a hedgehog and a snake and their adventures!**

On **March 2, 2012** the **Martin Luther Church will be hosting the World Day of Prayer of German congregations in Toronto**. The liturgy has been provided by women from Malaysai, the motto is "Stand Up for Justice". Please notice that the service starts early at 12:00 p.m., followed by coffee and cake in the basement of our church.

On Ash Wednesday, Feb 22, 2012 the series of German Lent Devotions starts, each Wednesday, 7:00 p.m., during the Lent Season.

On **February 19, 2012** there will be a **"Pulpit Exchange"** between the 5 congregations of the German Contact Circle Toronto. Therefore Pastor Katharina Moeller will conduct the services in

the Martin Luther Church, while Pastor Alexander Mielke will be in the Epiphany Church, and Pastor Heike Block-Mielke in St George.

And there will be a special German Service on March 18, 2012 at 11:00 a.m." "Nachgelesen bei CHRISTIAN MORGENSTERN (1871 – 1914)" within the series: "Reflecting about God and the World, Inspired by Famous German Authors".



It was so sad that we had to say farewell to **Anna and John Schmidt**. As the new year began, they moved to another city. Iris Schweiger, Edmund Scholz and Pastor Mielke thanked them for their membership of many years and their faithful and continuing support of our Martin Luther Church. We wished them all the best, God's blessing and guidance at their new place of residence.

In February **Edward Lischewski** has his **102nd birthday**. So the family invites to an **Open House** on Sunday, Feb 12, 2012 at 3:00 p.m., in "Leisure World" Caregiving Centre, 170 Red Maple Rd, Richmond Hill.

A Thank You Letter from Our Neighbours

*Dear Friends in the Martin Luther Church,
thank you so much for all your donations which you brought to our church during the Christmas season. The food and money donations helped many families enjoy Christmas more happily. The jackets and coats will help many people during the cold and wet season. Your partnership in spreading the Good News means very much to us, gives us more joy and confidence in our work, as we are joined in the call of our Lord to make this world a bit more friendly and just. Peace and Joy for all of you in the New Year! Yours in Christ,
Pastor Harry Oussoren, Wesley Mimico United Church*



Several of our parishioners participated in the Ecursion to the Ukrainian Orthodox St Demetrius Church on the Lake Shore Blvd W on January 21 (within our program "Getting to Know Neighbours – Understanding World Faiths"). Rev Walter Makarenko gave a very informative presentation. Thank you so much for all their hospitality and friendliness!

FUNERALS

Karl Braunstein, at the age of 78 years
on December 23, 2011

Ursula Davison, née Richter, at the age of 72 years
on January 6, 2012

Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence?
If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in the darkness of death, you are there.
Psalm 139

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 February 2012

“All things are lawful,” but not all things are beneficial. “All things are lawful,” but not all things build up.
Do not seek your own advantage, but that of the other. 1 Corinthians 10:23-24

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
February 5 9:45 Engl. Service 11:00 German Service (with German Sunday School) Pastor Mielke	6	7 P. Mielke in Church Office 9:30 – 12:30 6 pm Meeting with Linda Marcinkus 7:00 Ch. Council	8 11 am – 1 pm Ladies' Group 5:30 p.m. Annual Meeting of Day Care	9 3:45 pm Singing & Praying in Day Care	10	11
February 12 11:00 Joint Family Service with Film "Hoggie & Snip" Pastor Mielke 3pm Open House 102nd Birthday of Edward Lischewski	13	14 P. Mielke in Church Office 9:30 – 12:30	15 5:30 p.m. Annual Meeting of Day Care	16	17 6:30 p.m. Confirmation Class	18
February 19 9:45 Engl. Service 11:00 German Service Both with Holy Communion Pulpit Exchange Pastor K. Moeller	20	21 P. Mielke in Church Office 9:30 – 11:00	22 Ash Wednesday 7:00 p.m. German Lent Devotion	23	24	25
February 26 Lent 11:00 Joint Service Pastor Mielke followed by Annual Meeting	27	28 P. Mielke in Church Office 9:30 – 12:30	29 10:00 am Worship in Moll Berczy House 7:00 pm German Lent Devotion	March 1	March 2 Friday 12.00 pm German World Day of Prayer 6:30 pm Confirmation Class	3
March 4 Lent 9:45 Engl. Service 11:00 German Service Pastor Mielke	5	6 P. Mielke in Church Office 9:30 – 12:30	7 9:30 am Etob. Lak. Faith Network 7:00 pm German Lent Devotion		March 11 Lent 9:45 Engl. Service 11:00 German Service Both with Holy Communion Pastor Mielke	March 18 Lent 9:45 Engl. Service 11:00 German Service "Nachgelesen bei Christian Morgenstern"

Sunday School and Open Nursery During Each English Service