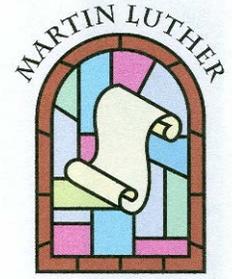


Congregational newsletter



LUTHERAN CHURCH
— Founded 1955 Gegründet —

July & August 2012

DEVOTION

Dear Fellow Christians,

Summer – what a wonderful season! We can enjoy the bright sunshine, the gentle breeze, the refreshing water. I have read that in a little church in the far South of Ireland every window but one is of stained glass, representing Christ and his Saints. Through the one window which is plain glass may be seen a breath-taking view: a lake of deepest blue, studded with green islets, and backed by range after range of purple hills. Under the window is the inscription from Psalm 19:1 -



The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

Yes, especially in summer, we can rediscover the goodness of God, the marvellous power of the Creator. There is this very popular poem "Tree", written by Joyce Kilmer:

*I think that I shall never see
A poem lovely as a tree.*

*A tree whose hungry mouth is prest
Against the sweet earth's flowing breast;*

*A tree that looks at God all day,
And lifts her leafy arms to pray;*

*A tree that may in summer wear
A nest of robins in her hair;*

*Upon whose bosom snow has lain;
Who intimately lives with rain.*

*Poems are made by fools like me,
But only God can make a tree.*

This is my wish for you – may you be able to enjoy the summertime. And may your faith be strengthened and your heart be filled with joy and hope as you enjoy all the beautiful marvels of nature. And as you can so easily see the goodness and power of God our Creator everywhere.

Kind regards and blessings,
your Pastor Alexander Mielke

Manitoulin Island, Photo by Pastor Mielke

Dear Congregation,

I am happy to report that our penny jar is filling up quite nicely. We have also met our praise appeal goal of \$1,000. Thank you for your support!

Sometimes I feel that I sound like a broken record, repeating the same thing over and over again. I recall standing in front of the microphone last year around this time, asking for your money and your children. Yet, here we are again in June, Summer Camp is fast approaching and the appeal for our Summer Collection, to carry us financially through the lean months of summer, is about to begin. God bless those of you that have already done this. As for the rest of us, I certainly hope that God blesses us too! I understand how you must feel, what with the unstable world economy, the financial markets lacking direction, and the youth employment opportunities looking bleak. How can we possibly afford to retire? These are troubling times, but guess what? We still have each other! Brothers and sisters united as one with Christ!

So here we are, sailing together on the MLC Divine, to quote a reference from last year's camp. We need your active participation to steer through the uncharted waters of our divine future. **Please consider enrolling in our Summer Camp (from July 21 / Saturday till July 27 / Friday, 2012).** I have been managing it for 14 years. This is a tradition going back 46 years now, and we need Congregational participation to continue on. Please fill out your forms (www.martinluther.ca/E/camp_lutherlyn.htm) and contact me if you require further clarification of the rate schedule posted in our front lobby. Keep in mind that this will presumably be Pastor Mielke's last camp with us, and remember, our Camp is for all ages, from babies to octogenarians, we will have them all! We offer a daily rate in case you can't make it for the whole week. If our camp was any more flexible, we would have to offer Yoga classes!

Summer collection rocks! What a novel way to raise funds and meet individually at the same time. Facebook, Twitter, Linked-In, it's all about making a connection and sharing thoughts and ideas. We want to re-ignite that connection, so the Church Council has decided to continue on with tradition. We are putting together a plan to reach out to as many Members as we can throughout the Summer. What does it take to intensify your connection to our Church, a good one-on-one conversation can foster a good exchange of thoughts, so please consider a visit if we call, or better yet, let us know that you want to be visited! If you want to help with calls and visits, please let us know, I believe that I am the only one on Council who has had any experience with this from years past.

Maintaining our building continues to be an ongoing concern, we love our Church, we love our Daycare, we love our Parsonage. We are blessed to have all three! They are all feeling their age though, much of the running equipment in our Church is 15 to 25 years old. The Central Vacuum Canisters are the latest that need replacing. Our Daycare needs lots of electricity during the summer, what with the full Nursery program and two tenants. Our current Hydro service to this building is struggling to keep up with demand. We need to upgrade this service to make it safe

and reliable, know any good contractors? Our Parsonage needs a new retaining wall, the old one is crumbling and sending interlocking stones into the neighbour's yard.

A congregational member recently sent me a wonderful power point slideshow entitled "The Positive Side of Life" and I quote: "Working for God on earth does not pay much, but His retirement plan is out of this world!" With God's guiding beacon of light, we can sail the **MLC** Divine straight and true with **Mercy**, **Love**, and **Compassion**.

God bless, Dan Sommerfeld, President

And here is some important information from Iris Schweiger:

Dear congregation, Pastor Mielke has asked me to assemble a team of laypersons to conduct the joint service on the 8th of July. He will be at the EKD World Conference. If you know how to pray, or sing, or read, and would like to participate in this service, please contact Iris at (905) 625-9174. With the support of everybody we will celebrate a beautiful service in praising our Lord with open hearts and joyful voices.

Call Committee News

The pastoral search has officially begun. Martin, Keith and Iris received lots of help from veteran search committee members Heinz, Joachim and Eddie to fill out the 15 page questionnaire and to return it to the EKD in a timely fashion. Potential candidates will be able to apply for the position until the 15th of July. Three candidates will be preselected by the EKD. We count on your prayers and special donations to make a preview trip possible for all 3 candidates. This will enable the whole congregation to have an opportunity to meet the potential pastor and to make an informed decision. More information on the pastoral search will be posted in the upcoming newsletter. Keep your eyes peeled.

Would you like to see young performers on stage?

The Mississauga Youth Theater will be at the Burnhamthorpe Library in Mississauga (Dixie & Burnhamthorpe) with two different shows this summer. Tickets cost \$20 per adult, Student/Seniors \$15, Patron \$ 40

The showtimes for "Spin: A musical myth" are Thurs., Fri., Saturday the 16 - 18th of August at 7:30, Sunday the 19th of August at 2pm.

Shakespeare's play "A Midsummer night's dream" takes place from Thurs. the 23 of August to Sunday the 26th of August. Again, the Thur, Fri, Saturday performances are at 7:30pm, on Sunday at 2pm.

If you would like to enjoy either one or both shows, please contact Iris Schweiger at 905 625-9174.

Have a wonderful week,

Iris

In May, Dan Sommerfeld and I were attending an evening seminar with Michael Harvey from Manchester presented the program "Back To Church Sunday". Here the basic idea is that we invite

a friend to our church. M. Harvey asked, "Are you just a welcoming church? Or are you already an inviting church?" Inviting, actively inviting a friend, that's a great chance. They know and like us, and friendship is a great gift from God, even in inviting people to the Christian faith and the church. That's why we will celebrate a **"Back To Church Sunday" on September 16.**

So please think about the following steps:

Think: Who has God been preparing in my life ? Whom could I invite ?

Practice the question: Would you like to come to church with me ?

Pray for courage to invite, and pray for those being invited.

Go and pick up your invited guest from their home.

Introduce them to friends over food and coffee.

Assume they are coming the following time you meet as a church and invite them again.

Yours, Pastor Alexander Mielke

I would like to thank those pastors who will help with worship and pastoral assistance when, during the summer, I will be at the EKD World Conference or on vacation: Pastor Gerhard Hille, Pastor Joachim Knaack and Pastor Herbert Harms. At the EKD World Conference, German pastors from all continents gather in order to discuss together "Reformatory Theology in the Ecumenical Context". A big thank-you to Iris Schweiger's team who are going to conduct the joint service on July 8! During this weekend, Dan Sommerfeld will be the MLC representative at the Eastern Synod Convention in Waterloo.

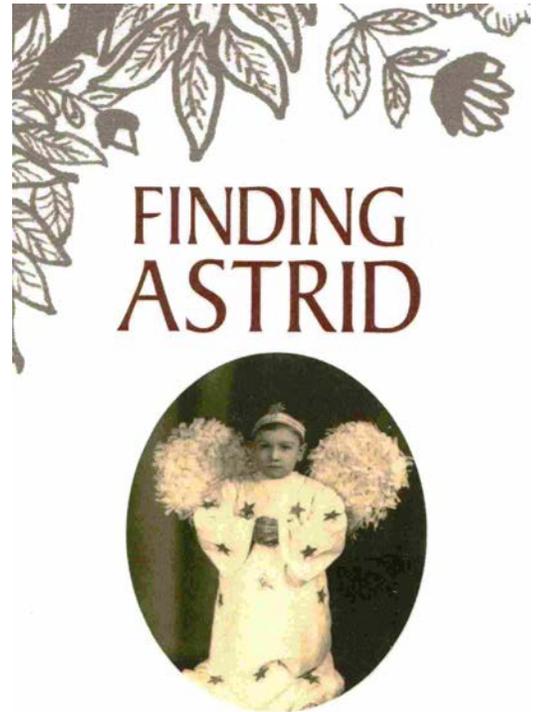
In case I am on vacation, you can find get information from the voicemail of our church office phone (416-251-8293) about which pastor is available for supply pastoral assistance.



On Pentecost Sunday, May 27, we celebrated confirmation.

I cordially invite to a new confirmation course. It leads to confirmation on Pentecost Sunday in 2014. 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. Your Pastor Alexander Mielke

Excursion to our neighbouring St Margaret Anglican Church on June 9, with Rev. Douglas Graydon and the council member Elizabeth who were our hosts – thank you so much for your kindness and hospitality !



World War II Memories
of a Ten-Year-Old
Julita Pieckenhagen

Julita Pieckenhagen has written a very impressive book about the history of her family during WWII: "Finding Astrid". This book with many photos, texts and poems (written in English) will be available in our library.

Memorial Service

Ewald Friederich Guschewski, at the age of 96 years
on June 2, 2012

Jesus said, "And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.
While you have the light, believe in the light, so that you may become children of light."
Gospel of John, Chapter 12

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 July 2012:

The measure you give will be the measure you get, and still more will be given you.
Gospel of Mark 4: 24

Watchword for August 2012:

God heals the brokenhearted, and binds up their wounds.
Psalm 147, 3

July 1, Sunday: 9:45 a.m. English Service, 11:00 a.m. German Service - Pastor Herbert Harms

July 8, Sunday, 11:00 a.m. Joint Service – Iris Schweiger and Team

July 3 – 9, EKD World Conference in Wittenberg, Germany

July 15, Sunday: 9:45 a.m. English Service, 11:00 a.m. German Service
Pastor Joachim Knaack

July 21 – 27, Saturday – Friday, Summer Camp at the Golden Lake

July 22, Sunday: 9:45 a.m. English Service, 11:00 a.m. German Service
Pastor Mielke

July 29, Sunday: 11:00 a.m. Joint Service – with contributions from the Summer Camp
– Pastor Alexander Mielke

August 5, Sunday: 9:45 a.m. English S., 11:00 a.m. German Service, both with Holy Communion -
Pastor Mielke

August 12, Sunday: 9:45 a.m. English Service, 11:00 a.m. German Service,
Pastor Gerhard Hille

August 19, Sunday: 9:45 a.m. English Service, 11:00 a.m. German Service,
Pastor Gerhard Hille

August 26, Sunday: 9:45 a.m. English Service, 11:00 a.m. German Service,
Pastor Gerhard Hille

September 2, Sunday: 9:45 a.m. English Service, 11:00 a.m. German Service,
Pastor Alexander Mielke