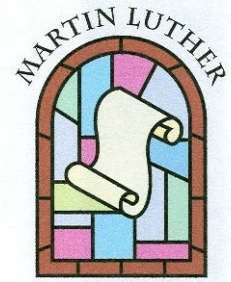


Congregational newsletter



LUTHERAN CHURCH
— Founded 1955 Gegründet —

May & June 2012

DEVOTION

Dear Fellow Christians,

The watchword 1 Timothy 4:4 is a very good word for May, the month of spring and Pentecost, the month in which we can enjoy all the beauty of nature again. But let me ask you one question: Are we aware that this verse from 1 Timothy is a very essential statement of the New Testament, even a revolutionary statement?!

For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected, provided it is received with thanksgiving; for it is sanctified by God's word and by prayer.

Here in Canada, every day, we can see that this openness and freedom is everything but self-evident. In many cultures and religions, there are so many taboos.

I remember how I was experiencing this in the Massai steppe, in Tanzania. We had guests from Germany, a group of 12 youth from Augsburg who enthusiastically helped build a little stone church. Finally, we wanted to celebrate our achievement with a grand feast, with tasty goat roast.

But our guests were so stunned when they were placed all alone under an acacia tree. Far away from the women with the children, far away from the young men, far away also from the old men who

were responsible for the slaughtering as well as the distributing of the meat. We as Europeans had taken it for granted that we all would sit together and celebrate together. This however was impossible within the culture of the Massai (which still was relevant for the Christians among them too), the traditional taboos separated these groups and resulted in various regulations concerning food and meals.



For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected, provided it is received with thanksgiving; for it is sanctified by God's word and by prayer.

Many times when we get to know neighbours here in Canada, with their many different cultural backgrounds, we can immediately understand how revolutionary this statement of the New Testament is, that it opens up a great freedom for humans to use and enjoy without inhibition whatever we perceive in this world, God's creation.

This means a liberation to joy, vis-a-vis all the good and beautiful in creation. We celebrate this joy with Pentecost. I think Pentecost could be the most beautiful of all church festivals, situated in May, right in the middle of spring time, when the earth blossoms and shines in the blaze of colours of all the flowers. As we celebrate confirmation on Pentecost, we may experience a little bit of the spring time's blaze of colour in our Martin Luther Church.

Bishop Wolfgang Huber, the former chair person of the Evangelical Church in Germany, said, "Pentecost is the festival of God's beauty. God robes himself in the splendour of his Spirit, this is a reason to jubilate. The Spirit makes present what God thought before he shaped the creation; in the beauty which cannot be surpassed, which can only be emulated. The Spirit promises the perfection in which beauty

and truth will be in complete harmony. God robes himself in the splendour of his Spirit; through his Spirit, God nourishes the hope in us that this splendour will prevail in the entire creation."

*Best wishes and blessings for May and Pentecost,
Your Pastor Alexander Mielke*

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

It is a big fun for kids and families. Please find more information on our website www.martinluther.ca

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

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. Rev. Douglas Graydon will be our host. Before that, Pastor Mielke will explain a little bit concerning the history of the Anglican Church in the services on May 20.

At the Mimico Summer Festival in the Park on June 19, our MLC together with our Day Care will be present with a table. Welcome to attend this party where you can meet our neighbours!

On June 30, our former curate Kataria Prosenjak and John Jenkins will marry in the Evang. Church Altenstadt-Hoechst in Germany/Hesse. Our best wishes and God's blessings!

Dear Congregation,

May is finally upon us and with that I would like to share with you several initiatives on the go.

CHANGE IS GOOD

We've taken on the "give a penny, save a life" appeal by the Canadian Lutheran World Relief. We would like to support the "PENNIES FOR MOSQUITO NETS" project to help families in countries where malaria is prevalent. So come on Families and friends! Dare to fill our huge jar and make a huge difference!

DIVERSIFY YOUR HOLDINGS *Anyone interested in the Ministry of Camp Edgewood can choose to be an individual member by submitting a registration form and fee of \$10. A membership allows you to be more informed and also gives you voting rights at their upcoming annual meeting. Register by early June, you will find more information in the front foyer. P.S. They don't take pennies!*

SUPPORT THE 1%

The National Church Council has issued their 2012 Praise Appeal, and our own Bishop Michael Pryse has challenged all members of the Eastern Synod to raise \$100,000 for the national church which faces very serious financial problems. You can find more information in the lobby or at

www.elcic.ca. Dare I say challenged! MLC is always up to the task at hand, you can count your pennies on that one (just remember to fill the huge jar first). Your Church Council would like to raise \$1,000 (or 1% of \$100,000). We will be accepting donations until Pentecost Sunday, May 27 2012. If only 50 people donate an extra \$20, we are there! So dare to share because we care!

STRUCTURAL RENEWAL

We are continuing with our renovation efforts this year by focusing on our exterior. No I am not asking for any money. New security lighting is being installed and ongoing renewal of brick joints to repair cracks and loose mortar will help deter further erosion. Michael, our caretaker, is very knowledgeable and is working diligently in this regard. When you see him, stop, say hello and thank him for a job well done.

Another type of structural renewal is happening with our own ELCIC. After analyzing the current finances and projected demographic trends, it was agreed (by them) that major changes to the organizational structure of the Church are required. This could mean larger Synods, with cost savings reinvested back into the system. This could mean the grouping of Congregations based on geography or other related criteria. Working with other congregations has the prospect of maximizing the Ministry potential we can do. I will be attending the Eastern Synod Assembly this July to learn more about how this restructuring might affect us, so stay tuned, be prepared for change and start counting your pennies! (you don't have to count them, just bring them in). With your support and understanding, great accomplishments are possible!

Yours Truly, Dan Sommerfeld (President)

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

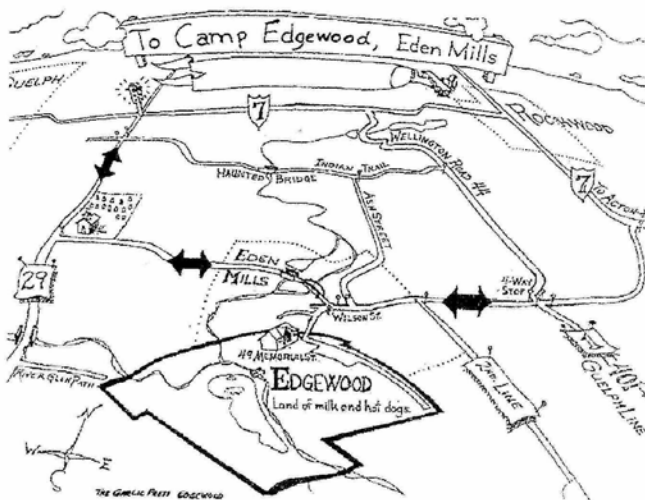
We are looking forward to a fine day in Camp Edgewood. We will start with a joint family service at 11:00 a.m., followed by potluck luncheon. And we will have a program suitable for young and old, suitable for all the family (the swimming-pool will be open!). Please bring food, cutlery and plates for the potluck luncheon. If you need help with transportation, you can contact Pastor Mielke (cellphone 416-567-2487).

How you reach the Camp:

From Toronto:

- Highway 401 West
- Guelph Line1, exit northbound
- Through town of Brookville
- Stay on Guelph Line until you come to a 4 way stop (huge stop-sign)
- Turn left to Eden Mills and follow signs to the Camp

Please come and bring along your Family!!!





Confirmands' Retreat in Camp Edgewood, April 27 - 29

On Pentecost Sunday, May 27, these will celebrate their confirmation:

Arvind Häfele, Sebastian Schill, Philip Schwentek, Felix Sennecke, Jana Walkowski, Lukas Wintersperger.

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

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

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. **Dina Vanczar and Irene Zielke** are willing to be **Coordinators** for this kind of service. On the one side you can **contact this address mlcrides@yahoo.com or 416-919-2432 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. 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!

With great sadness we learnt that Reno Indriksons, Daina Wienecke's brother, wellknown in our Martin Luther Lutheran Church, has passed away on March 11, 2012 at the age of only 56 years. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and all who mourn this sudden loss. The funeral service was held on March 15 in Coburg, ON. May all those who grieve find help and consolation through the Word of our Eternal and Living God!



Sunday, **March 25**, 2012, was special, with a Festive Joint Service on the occasion of the **350th Anniversary of the Death of Johann Crueger**. Part of this celebration were **solos by the singer Herbert Brown**. A big Thank You to our organist Linda Marcinkus who had been organizing this.

On Pentecost Sunday, in the Joint Service, 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

**Martin Luther Evangelical Lutheran Church
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**Pastor Alexander Mielke, cellphone 416-567-2487
Email: alexander.mielke@rogers.com**

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

Watchword for May 2012:

For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected, provided it is received with thanksgiving.

1 Timothy 4:4

| Sonntag | Montag | Dienstag | Mittwoch | Donnerstag | Freitag | Samstag |
|--|--|--|------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| | | 1 <i>P. Mielke in Church Office</i> 9:30 – 12:30 6:00 p.m. Congr. Choir | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 <i>Toronto Spring Conference</i> |
| May 6 11 am Joint Service with Pre Mother's Day Luncheon Set Up: 9 am Contact Person: <i>Keith Rabey</i> | 7 Monday 7:00 p.m. Informational Meeting "Sexual Orientation" | 8 <i>P. Mielke in Church Office</i> 9:30 – 12:30 6:00 p.m. Congr. Choir | 9 11 am – 1 pm Ladies' Group | 10 | 11 6:30 pm Confirmation Class | 12 |
| May 13 9.45 Engl. Service 11.00 German Service Both with Holy Communion Pastor Mielke | 14 14 <i>P. Mielke in Church Office</i> 9:30 – 12:30 6pm Congr. Choir | 15 15 <i>P. Mielke in Church Office</i> 9:30 – 12:30 6pm Congr. Choir | 16 | 17 7:00 p.m. Joint Ascension Celebration of German Congregations in St George Lutheran | 18 | 19 |
| May 20 9.45 Engl. Service 11.00 German Service Both with "Introduction Anglican History" by Pastor Mielke | 21 21 <i>P. Mielke in Church Office</i> 9:30 – 12:30 6pm Congr. Choir | 22 22 <i>P. Mielke in Church Office</i> 9:30 – 12:30 6pm Congr. Choir | 23 | 24 | 25 6:30 pm Confirmation Class | 26 |
| May 27 Pentecost Sunday 11:00 a.m. Joint Service with Confirmation Pastor Mielke | 28 28 | 29 29 <i>P. Mielke in Church Office</i> 9:30 – 12:30 | 30 | 31 | | |

Sunday School and Open Nursery During Each English Service

Watchword for June 2012:
By the grace of God I am what I am. 1 Corinthians 15:10

| Sonntag | Montag | Dienstag | Mittwoch | Donnerstag | Freitag | Samstag |
|--|--------|--|--|-----------------------------------|--|---|
| June 3 <i>Holy Trinity</i> 9.45 Engl. Service 11.00 Germ. Serv. with German Sunday School Pastor Mielke | 4 | P. Mielke in Church Office 9:30 – 12:30 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 4:00 p.m. Excursion to St Margaret Anglican Church |
| June 10 9.45 Engl. Service 11.00 German Service Both with Holy Communion Pastor Mielke | 11 | P. Mielke in Church Office 9:30 – 12:30 | 13 11 am – 1 pm Ladies' Group | 14 7:00 p.m. Church Council | 15 | 16 |
| June 17 Picnic Day in Camp Edgewood 11:00 a.m. Joint Service Pastor Mielke | 18 | P. Mielke in Church Office 9:30 – 12:30 Mimico Summer Festival in the Park | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| June 24 9.45 Engl. Service 11.00 German Service Pastor Mielke | 25 | | July 3 – 9 EKD World Conference in Wittenberg | | July 5 - 8 Eastern Synod Assembly in Waterloo | July 21 - 27 Summer Camp at the Golden Lake |

Sunday School and Open Nursery During Each English Service