

# Congregational newsletter



LUTHERAN CHURCH  
— Founded 1955 Gegründet —

September 2012

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## DEVOTION

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

summer is gone, fall approaches, we sense how another year passes by. In this summer, during a hike along the Letchworth Waterfalls (not far away from the Allegheny State Park) my wife Heike and I discovered a park bench. It had been donated in memory of a "Mr Arcangel", combined with the maxim: "Life's Path Is Short – Let Love Be Your Guide."

What a good sign along the way! A maxim for our journey of life from an angel, yes, an "Archangel". There are situations when we become very aware of the fact that the time we can enjoy with others is limited. This can be very painful – when a farewell comes suddenly, comes much too early. As a family, we experience this right now as we had to bid farewell to my wife's sister. Here we would like to express our deep gratitude for all friendship and support which we received within our congregation. "Life's Path Is Short." Suddenly we become aware that the time we have together is so very precious. "Let Love Be Your Guide." And that it is so essential to lovingly care for each other and cherish memories.



In Psalm 31 we read: But I trust in you, O Lord; I say, "You are my God. My times are in your hand."

We may stumble over the "but" in this verse. It is like a painful hint that sometimes God's schedule time planning is different from that we wished and hoped for. However we can understand this as the "But of Faith", a symbol of the trust which carries us even through difficult paths. Yes, our times are

in God's hand, each year and each day we receive from God's hand, and never ever are we lost for God's hand, each year and each day returns into the hand of the Eternal God.

Some time ago I read this maxim: " We humans, as angels, each with one wing, must embrace so that we may fly." This message is very similar to that of the Archangel and the park bench. On our short paths, within the limitations which form an individual life – let us ask God for the strength we need, to care lovingly for each other. "Life's Path Is Short. Let Love Be Your Guide."

Kind regards and blessings,  
your Pastor Alexander Mielke

**September 16, 2012** will be special: "**Back To Church Sunday**" with the motto "**Your daily dose of vitamin G – trust in G-od**". The **Joint Service at 11:00 a.m.** will be a good opportunity to meet others again after the summer break. And it provides the chance to **invite friends, relatives, neighbours to our Martin Luther Church**. More than we may imagine, people can be open for the valuable and helpful experience of worship and church. It will be a welcoming, warm and vibrant service, prepared by a team. After the service, there will be time for a chat about our summer experiences with coffee, cake and cookies (Tanya's photos of the summer camp will be available in a presentation in a corner of our parish hall, for those who haven't seen them yet.) And a special request: Please bring something which is a kind of personal memory for you, of good helpful experiences with our church, a photo, a bible, a cross... You will be invited to place this on the "**Table of Memories and Experiences**", and if you like you can chat with others about this. Come to our "Back To Church Sunday" on September 16th and invite others to this too!

**Sunday School starts again on September 9, 2012!** Very welcome, kids and families!

**I cordially invite to a new confirmation course. The first meeting – which provides information for newcomers too – will be on Friday, September 21, 2012 at 6:30 p.m.** 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

### **Call Committee News**

What is new? First, it is the intention of the EKD to invite the possible Pastors for an interview on the 20th and 21st of September to Hannover. Then three candidates will be recommended to us. As during the previous Pastoral search, we requested a video in addition to the written application to get a more personal impression before inviting any potential candidate to Toronto. With the consent of the church council, the search committee wishes to invite two or three of the applicants on different weekends in November. Consequently, with a vote from the whole congregation in the beginning of December we will close the search process at the end of this year. Please keep the Sundays from the end of September to the beginning of December open that you may not miss any steps during the search process. I will inform you via the congregational newsletter or e-mail as soon as dates are fixed for viewing of the videos, the preview visits of potential candidates as well as the congregational meeting to vote. Please continue to pray for the pastoral search. Until we meet again, may our Lord hold you in the palm of his hand, Iris Schwieger.

*Let all that you do be done in love. 1 Corinthians 16:14*

**Our Congregational Choir meets again on September 18, 2012** for the first time after the summer break. In particular, we will practice for Thanksgiving, October 7th. **If you like singing you are very welcome!** To have more singers in our choir would be great, especially in the female voices. And coming together for choir practice, we enjoy our fellowship as well as the very good and friendly direction by our organist Linda Marcinkus. We usually meet on Tuesdays, 6:00 p.m.

Dear Congregation,

*The Youth Group will be starting up again in September!*

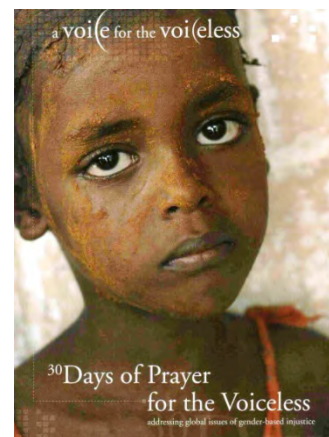
*As we had great success last year, we are going to be working on another Christmas Bazaar, along with holding regular meetings. If you are a young person and would like to join, you are always welcome to come and help! We also welcome congregation members who are not a part of the youth group to help us with the bazaar by making homemade foods and crafts to sell. Fruit to be made into jam or applesauce is also appreciated and can be given to Sonja or Iris Schweiger. Stay tuned for meeting dates, which can be found over Facebook (search MLC Youth Group) or by contacting Sonja Schweiger at [sonja.schweiger@sympatico.ca](mailto:sonja.schweiger@sympatico.ca)  
See you there!*

Thank you and see you soon,  
Sonja

A big thank-you to Pastor Gerhard Hille, for conducting services and providing pastoral care in August 2012!

On October 7, 2012 we will celebrate 2 festive services, both together with our Congregational Choir: the English **Thanksgiving** Service at 9:45, and the German Erntedank Service at 11:00 a.m. For the Potluck Luncheon, we will meet on October 28, 2012 after the Joint Service, when the photographer Susi Childers gives the presentation "A Voice for the Voiceless".

**Please mark the weekend of October 28, 2012 in your calendar!** Then the **photographer Susi Childers** will come to our church, here in Toronto. She will present "**A Voice for the Voiceless**", most impressive photos of people in difficult life situations, especially from Africa, Asia and Latin America. This she does from a distinctly Christian perspective. During the last months, she was in Nigeria, cooperating with churches which suffer under terroristic... attacks. Our council member Martin



Haefele has known her and her family for many years as they both grew up in Nagold, Wuerttemberg, Germany. Her Toronto stay will be part of a tour which leads her to Boston later on. She is fluent in English as well in German, and her enthusiasm is very fascinating for young people too. So come to this special event program and invite others too!

After only a few weeks, the huge glass bottle was full of coins which are going to support the project "Pennies for Mosquito Nets" of the Canadian Lutheran World Relief. Thanks a lot to all who donated!



Katarina Prosenjak who was our curate in 2011 and John Jenkins celebrated their wedding on June 30, 2012 in Altenstadt-Hoechst, Germany. Irene and Tanya Zielke as well as Pastor Mielke could attend this merry celebration.



During the EKD Conference in Wittenberg, in the beginning of July 2012, Bishop Martin Schindehütte welcomed Margot Kaessmann, the EKD Ambassador for the Reformation Decade.



It was sad that we had to say Good Bye to Doris Cheda who has moved to Calgary, together with her family. For many years, she has been a very faithful member of our Martin Luther Church, serving on the Church Council also. Best wishes, may our Lord guide and bless you!



## LABOUR OF LOVE

Many thanks to all those who helped maintain and beautify the outside of the Parsonage during the summer.

We have contracted Gerry Grotsch to replace the aging interlocking stone and rotting timbers at the side of the house with concrete.

He will also replace the worn out timbers down to the street with new concrete French curves along the driveway.

## SADNESS AND SORROW

Our thoughts and prayers are with the pastor's family who are mourning the death of Heike's sister. May God surround them and comfort them with his light!

Yours Truly, Dan Sommerfeld



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## BAPTISMS

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Caedon, Casra and Stella Afsharipour

with Golden Wedding Anniversary of Karin and Harry Gunther

*on August 5, 2012*

In Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith,  
as many of you as were baptized into Christ.

Galatians 3:26

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*Website and E-mail List Administrator: Mona Frantzke; Mailing List: Anita Ratz*

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**Watchword for September 2012:  
Am I only a God near by, says the Lord, and not also a God far off? Jeremiah 23,23**

Sonntag	Montag	Dienstag	Mittwoch	Donnerstag	Freitag	Samstag
<b>September 2</b> 9-45 Engl.Service 11.00 Germ. Serv. Pastor Mielke	3	4 <i>P.Mielke in Church Office 9:30 – 12:30</i>	5	6	7	8
<b>September 9</b> 9-45 Engl.Service 11.00 German Service <b>Sunday School Starts !!!</b> Pastor Knaack	10	11 <i>P.Mielke in Church Office 9:30 – 12:30</i>  7:00 p.m. Church Council	12  11 am – 1 pm Ladies' Group	13  6:00 p.m. Board of Directors/ Day Care	14	15
<b>September 16</b> <b>Back to Church Sunday</b> <b>11:00 a.m.</b> <b>Joint Service</b> Baptism of Logan Wilmer Pastor Mielke	17	18 <i>P.Mielke in Church Office 9:30 – 12:30</i>  <b>6:00 p.m.</b> <b>Congregational Choir Starts !!!</b>	19	20  7:00 p.m. German Contact Circle Christ-the- King/Bonhoeffer- Church	21  <b>6:30 p.m.</b> <b>Confirmation Class &amp; Info for Newcomers</b>	22
<b>September 23</b> 9-45 Engl.Service 11.00 Germ. Serv. <b>Both with Holy Communion</b> Pastor Mielke	24	25 <i>P.Mielke in Church Office 9:30 – 12:30</i>  <b>6:00 p.m.</b> <b>Congregational Choir</b>	26	27	28	29
<b>September 30</b> 9-45 Engl.Service 11.00 Germ. Serv. Pastor Mielke	October 1	October 2  <i>P.Mielke in Church Office 9:30 – 12:30</i>  <b>6:00 p.m.</b> <b>Congregational Choir</b>			<b>October 7</b> <b>Thanksgiving Festive Services with Congr. Choir</b> 9:45 Engl 11:00 German P.Mielke	

*Sunday School and Open Nursery During Each English Service*