



Martin Luther
Evangelical
Lutheran
Church

Congregational Newsletter

May 2023

On the road together!

That's a good way to sum up life in our congregation this spring. Together we are on our way: with a new church council that is working with a lot of energy and motivation to make our congregation fit for the future – financially, in terms of renovations and with new ways to tell the Gospel.

We also have a "real" journey coming up in June: Our day trip the 1000 Islands, which, thanks to a generous donation, is now possible with a comfortable bus. Many of you are making your way, not only to church on Sunday, but also to other congregation members who can't come to church themselves. You keep in touch by phone, and pray with and for each other.



We are on the road together. This is what Jesus told us to do, and we are doing our best to make good on his promise to this world. But sometimes we run out of steam on the way and we don't understand why obstacles are put in our way or why situations seem sad and hopeless. This is what happened to the two disciples on the way to Emmaus. In the days after Easter, they leave the city of Jerusalem, where Jesus was cruelly murdered. They can no longer bear to be there, and the rumors of his resurrection seem too wonderful to be true. Unnoticed, however, Jesus then joins them on the road to Emmaus, talks to them, comforts them and accompanies them until they arrive at their destination. In the breaking of bread at supper, they finally recognize him - but then he disappears before their eyes! And they say to one another, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" (Luke 24:32)

I am looking forward to moments in the coming months when, as we journey together, we will feel God is with us! May He bless you as you travel - whether for business or pleasure, on your own, or with friends or family.

Pastor Annika Klappert



*Our Pastor Annika Klappert on the road
with Pastor Judith Kierschke, Martin
Luther Church Ottawa*

Messages & Updates

President's message

Dear congregation and friends,

We hope you all had a lovely Easter!

We are pleased to send you our spring congregational newsletter, with the latest events, news, and opportunities to be involved in Martin Luther Church!



Mona Frantzke

For those of you who don't know me, or my family, I am a long-time member of Martin Luther Church. Sixty years ago, my parents brought my brother Vern and me to Sunday School. It was 1961 and the congregation was still renting space at Redeemer Lutheran Church on Bloor & Indian Road. Newly immigrated from Germany, they were looking for —and found— a home in this congregation to practice their Lutheran faith in their mother tongue. At Sunday worship, they took solace from their day-to-day challenges while making long-lasting friendships that helped weather tough times.

My father, Celestin Eugen Kakoschke, was church council president in the 1960s/1970s while my mother, Stella, sang in the choir and was a leader of the "Frauenkreis". Their commitment, like that of many others in the post-WWII German-speaking diaspora — carpenters, teachers, bakers, and many other professions— all contributed with their varied talents to finance, build, and nurture Martin Luther Church!

I grew up in this church. I attended Sunday School, was confirmed, married, and raised my two boys here —from baptism to confirmation. Sadly, there were also many funerals along the way. Those were the times when I particularly felt the bond amongst our members and the power of faith. My church commitments grew: singing in —and even conducting— the choir, building the website and social media, joining the Seniors Group, the Visiting Ministry team and most recently, Church Council.

It may sound drastic, but, we are at a critical survival crossroads with many of our German churches and institutions; ultimately, it comes down to: use them or lose them! On the present trajectory, a day may well come, when as persons of faith: you, your children and/or your grandchildren may wish to gather again in a German church to sing and pray, and have the empathetic ear of a German pastor; but, none is left...

Still living nearby with my two sons, I feel a calling to help this church thrive and keep the legacy of my parents alive for the next generation, and, so that the German-speaking diaspora in the GTA --as well as its culture and traditions-- will not fade into oblivion.

Of course, it is equally important for us to welcome people of all backgrounds —not just people of German background— and to get to know our neighbourhood better, to endeavour to build the Kingdom of God together, creatively, focusing on Christian education, pastoral care and working together for a vision of justice and integrity in the world.



If you are new, please let us know about you.

Recently, I noticed that new people, arriving on our doorstep, are indeed interested to find out more about our church history, the people who made it what it is today, etc. So, I invite you to read the history pages of our website!

In 2023, it's time to turn our attention to the latest renovation (of many over the years)! This one, which will be completed this summer by contractors (not volunteers, as in the past), seeks to expand Martin Luther Church's revenue streams to reduce financial risk —a necessary step to become a more sustainable Church. In Canada - unlike Germany - we rely heavily on donations for our operational budget, and so renting out our space will help defray our costs. I invite you to visit our webpage "2023 Renovation Project", read the FAQs and attend the town hall at 1:00 pm on Sunday, May 28.

I am also looking forward to our church trip on June 4 to the 1000 Islands (with a boat cruise from Rockport)!

As we keep doing God's work here on the Lakeshore, we appreciate everyone's commitment!

I especially thank my predecessor Iris Schweiger for helping during the transition and continuing to lend a friendly face to our congregation, as well as outgoing treasurer Martin Haefele for his solid support of our church over the years. Thank you, Iris and Martin!



Looking forward to a warm summer!

Your (new) President Mona Frantzke (née Kakoschke)

Our 2023-2024 Church Council, installed on March 26, 2023

Mona Frantzke, President
Andrea Dannecker, Co-Vice-President
Jocelyn Sommerfeld, Co-Vice-President
Kai Herrmann, Treasurer
Tanya Zielke, Secretary
Andreas Boettcher, Interim Secretary



Please support your Council members who volunteer their time, working hard on your behalf to ensure our three buildings are well managed and well maintained, even when –and especially when– they must make difficult decisions to safeguard the ongoing sustainability of these properties and our church as a whole.

Family Services for Everyone

We were happy to see so many children at our Easter Sunday Service on April 9, 2023!

A special invitation to our upcoming family services on May 7 (theme: Earth Day) and June 25 (theme: travelling with God- go with a blessing into the summer holidays).



Church Choir

The choir will sing again in English and German on Pentecost, May 28, 2023. Please contact choir director Linda Marcinkus to join. Practices are on Tuesdays at 6 pm beginning May 9.

Watch the YouTube video of their Easter Sunday performance at <https://youtu.be/KeOijDpqufc>



Discovery of the Bible - Online Bible Reading Circle

As a self-proclaimed Lutheran by heart, I really have been enjoying Pastor Annika's and Pastor Judith's (from Martin Luther Church in Ottawa) online bible study. Both pastors are very knowledgeable with respect to the contents of the bible and always seem to have engaging activities to do. The group is currently small; however, I feel as though I've made meaningful connections with some of the members of this group, and really appreciate the unique perspectives each person offers. I've been looking for a forum for quite some time to share my faith and feel blessed that there are groups such as these available. If you are looking for

engaging conversation on faith-related matters and to delve into scripture with friendly people, then this is the place for you! - Participant

Are you interested in the history behind the Old and New Testaments? Do you find it difficult interpreting what is written in the Bible? How does the Bible written thousands of years ago prove relevant today? You may find the answers attending the monthly Bible study on Thursdays at 7pm. Pastor Annika Klappert along with Pastor Judith Kierschke lead a group from both congregations once a month on Zoom (except in July and August). It is interesting hearing different points of view from the participants and pastors. Discussions can be held in both English and German.

So, grab a cup of coffee or a glass of wine and join us:

Thursday May 11, 2023 at 7:00 pm: Psalms and Wisdom Texts

Thursday June 8, 2023 at 7:00 pm: Conclusion Old Testament

If interested, contact the church office for the Zoom link.

-Annette Rowles

Mother's Day Bake Sale on May 14, 2023

Donate pre-packaged goodies like cookies and squares and purchase some for the mothers in your life before and after the English and German worship services on May 14! \$5 per package.

Contact Jocelyn Sommerfeld at vicepresident@martinluther.ca if you can help.

Let's grow some good in our community gardens

There will be a **Gardening Kick-Off on Sat May 27 at 1 pm** for the community vegetable & herb raised beds and pollinator gardens at the church and 5 Superior Ave in Mimico by the Lake. Let us know you're coming: yourcommunitygardenskickoff.eventbrite.ca

Plant some, share some! These gardens are for everyone. All volunteers & donations welcome: builders, gardeners, supplies/tools, native pollinator & vegetable plants/seeds. Bring your own tools if possible. No min. commitment. A lot can be done when we all do a little together.



Sign up with office@martinluther.ca or 416-251-8293 to join the team.

Join us on Pentecost, May 28, 2023

We will celebrate the birthday of the Christian Church and the people who help build it! In the German-English service at 11:00 am, we will celebrate Holy Communion and listen to the church choir. There will also be a blessing of people who have moved into new roles and of new members. Please contact Pastor Annika or the church office if you would like to be welcomed as a new member or in a new role during the service!

Stay to enjoy a treat and fellowship in the backyard (weather permitting). A town hall about the renovation project will start around 1:00 pm.

Church Trip, Sunday June 4, 2023

Join us for another outing with Martin Luther Church Ottawa – including a return bus trip from our church, a 1000 Islands cruise, and a walk through Rockport - this is sure to be a fun adventure. The cost is \$60/ person. We thank the Seniors Group for subsidizing the cost of the bus!



Altar Art

Several years ago, a congregation member made a donation towards the creation of altar art for our sanctuary. This donation was the catalyst for larger renovation plans into which this project was absorbed, until the beginning of 2022, when a dedicated Altar Art committee was formed specifically to commission a piece of art to be placed behind the altar. Over the last several months, the committee has created an expression of interest document which includes the parameters of the project (size, budget, considerations, types of acceptable media) and details about the selection process.

Originally, the art was to be created in tandem with the renovation of the sanctuary. However, in light of budget constraints that no longer allow for these renovations at present, the expression of interest document describes the space as it currently exists as well as provides artists with enough information to take the potential future renovation into consideration.

The call for submissions was put out in April 2023, and the opportunity to submit expressions of interest will remain open until October 15, 2023. The committee will select and contact several candidates before the end of November 2023 to ask them to participate in an interview and create a more detailed proposal. Their time and work will be compensated with an honorarium. The proposals and results of the interviews will be evaluated by the committee, and their findings will be put to a vote by the congregation in



early 2024, at which point the final candidate will be selected to work together with the committee and congregation on this project.

Design, construction, and installation should take no longer than 6 months. The budget for this project is \$8000, part of the original donation, which will include artist fees, materials, and installation cost. The artwork will be ready to be displayed in late 2024.

Any questions can be directed to Sonja Schweiger at project@martinluther.ca

Our Altar Art Committee comprises: Leanne Grammenz, Larissa Mattwich, and Kristine Stuef, with Sonja Schweiger as project manager.

Church Band

We have had two successful performances at church services so far! Right now the band consists of a bass guitar player, the Pastor on piano, the past president on drums, and a choir member on guitar. Final practices take place at church early Sunday mornings.

We are building a repertoire and still need a few more band members and backup singers. If you would like to add your musical talents to our band, please contact Pastor Annika for details and sheet music!

Confirmation Classes 2023-24

We traditionally celebrate Confirmation on Pentecost. Since we don't have any Confirmands this year, we look forward to next year and invite children 11-16 years old to sign up with the church office for classes beginning in September.



Confirmation 2022

Translation Team

After the tragic passing of Manya Brunzema, one of the mainstays of the Martin Luther Church translation team (current members: Andy Boettcher, Helmut Herrmann), we are urgently seeking bi-lingual reinforcements to help out with translating (primarily English to German with the help of the website <https://deepl.com>) and/or editing texts for our website, quarterly newsletter and social media posts in both languages.

Contact Marlena in the church office if you can help.

Reflections

Recap of our 67th Annual General Meeting on February 26, 2023

38 Members attended in person. Our annual report package in German and English, which shared highlights from the previous year, was made available. It was an opportunity to look at last year's finances, comparing them year-over-year, and approve the next budget. Two new council members were appointed (four initially elected, but, two declined). A building renovation project update was presented by Dan Sommerfeld.



A Thank You from Student Iris Mak

Dear friends at Martin Luther Church,

Thank you for your hospitality in the past 8 months! I appreciate the opportunity I had here to grow and learn. Thank you, especially to Pastor Annika, for your patience and openness in letting me learn alongside you. I am truly blessed to be placed at this church as my first placement. You all have given me the skill and courage to continue my learning journey. May God bless you as you continue to shine His light in the community!



- Student Iris Mak, Martin Luther University College, Waterloo ON (pictured far left)

We celebrated!

A German service and reception for **World Day of Prayer featuring Taiwan** for German-speaking congregations took place at our church on March 7, 2023.

Easter 2023

Special thanks to our Easter breakfast team, coordinated by Jocelyn Sommerfeld, Annette Rowles on our altar guild, and our tech team for recording the services!



We mourn...

Annemarie Schmitt passed away on March 23, 2023 at the age of 99 years.



We congratulate...

Oliver and Lena Sohns will be baptized during the German-English service on June 11, 2023 at 11:00 am. Come welcome them into God's family!



Upcoming Worship Services

May 7, 2023, 5th Sun of Easter

11:00 am German-English Family Service

May 14, 2023, 6th Sun of Easter

9:45 am English Service

11:00 am German Service

Tues May 16, 2023

7:15 pm Dinner Church - All are welcome!

We extend a special invitation to group leaders (in place of a roundtable meeting).

Thurs May 18, 2023, Ascension

11:00 am German Service at St. George's Ev. Lutheran Church, 410 College St, for German-speaking congregations in the GTA. Contact the office if you can offer a ride or need a ride.

May 21, 2023, 7th Sun of Easter

9:45 am English Service

11:00 am German Service

May 28, 2023, Pentecost

11:00 am German-English Service with Holy Communion, our church choir, blessing & volunteer appreciation; 1:00 pm Town Hall about the Renovation Project

June 4, 2023, Trinity

Trip to 1000 Islands

No service at our church.

June 11, 2023, 2nd Sun after Pentecost

11:00 am German-English Service with Baptism of Oliver and Lena Sohns

June 18, 2023, 3rd Sun after Pentecost

9:45 am English Service

11:00 am German Service

Both with Holy Communion

June 25, 2023, 4th Sun after Pentecost

11:00 am German-English Family Service

July 2, 2023, 5th Sun after Pentecost

9:45 am English Service

11:00 am German Service

July 9, 2023, 6th Sun after Pentecost

11:00 am German-English Service

July 16, 2023, 7th Sun after Pentecost

9:45 am English Service

11:00 am German Service

July 23, 2023, 8th Sun after Pentecost

11:00 am German-English Service with Holy Communion

July 30, 2023, 9th Sun after Pentecost

9:45 am English Service

11:00 am German Service

Aug 6, 2023, 10th Sun after Pentecost

11:00 am German-English Service

Aug 13, 2023, 11th Sun after Pentecost

9:45 am English Service

11:00 am German Service

Aug 20, 2023, 12th Sun after Pentecost

11:00 am German-English Service

Aug 27, 2023, 13th Sun after Pentecost

9:45 am English Service

11:00 am German Service

Both with Holy Communion

German Radio Devotion

Sundays at 9:30 am on AM 530
and on our website