



Martin Luther
Evangelical
Lutheran
Church

**Lutherans
by the
Lake:
Celebrating
Faith,
Serving &
Inspiring
People**

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Member of the Evangelical Lutheran
Church in Canada (ELCIC) and Partnered
with the Evangelical Church in Germany
(EKD)

Our Forest of Faith

August 2026 Congregational Newsletter

Dear Reader,

I've always had a love for trees. As long as I can remember I feel calm beneath their branches. Apparently that's a sentiment I share with the creator of the psalter. In Psalm 1 we read:



"¹ Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, ²but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night. ³That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither—whatever they do prospers."

I always liked the third verse but struggled with the first two. It sounds like someone is wagging their finger at me, scaring me into obedience. But is this really what's going on here?

If you look at the verbs in Verse 1 you see a decline from walking to standing to sitting. This is what happens when you constantly surround yourself with negative energy: The wickedness of people who have lost their moral compass, the "I don't care" of people deliberately missing the mark of what it means to be decent. And the cynicism of the mockers, who whose only delight is to bring others down. We can find examples for that kind of energy in world politics as well as our own neighbourhoods and social circles. It's so easy to get stuck in it, isn't it?

Verse 2 proposes an alternative: "Meditating on the law of the Lord day and night". This might not sound appealing at first, but it's a technique as ancient as humanity. For as long as we can remember we have memorized and taught each other what is holy and worth holding on to when everything around us seems to crumble. The bible is exactly that.

If we ruminate on its words of wisdom, if we chew on them continuously, they will release their juices into our daily lives, they will bring focus and help us see our lives through a different lense. They bring a healing energy to our souls and the world.

We here at Martin Luther Church are God's nursery of the woods at the waters of the Lakeshore. Trees of different ages and stages and seasons, feeding off the same source which is God's love for all creation and growing towards the light which is his eternal mercy. May our fruits speak of the purpose we feel. May we feel blessed as a community that shares the same soil to find peace of heart and mind.

- Pastor Annika Klappert

Upcoming services and events

We warmly invite you to participate in the variety of worship services and group activities in the coming months!

We offer opportunities for English, German, and bilingual worship on Sunday mornings and welcome everyone to gather after each service. Holy Communion will be celebrated twice a month beginning in the fall. We encourage you to join us for our monthly multi-generational creative services, as well as any receptions and special events.

Our building is also full of life during the week! Recurring and special events are listed in the calender below, and you can learn more about our weekly activities on page 4!

August 2026

August 9, 2026 Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

11:00 am Bilingual Service (Pastor Annika Klappert) and Lay-preacher Tanya Zielke

August 16, 2026 Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

11:00 am Bilingual Service (Pastor Annika Klappert) and **visit from Pastor Christian Ceconi followed by coffee and cake gathering.**

August 23, 2026 Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

9:45 am English Devotion and 11:00 am German Service (Pastor Annika Klappert)

August 30, 2026 Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

11:00 am Bilingual with **Holy Communion** (Pastor Annika Klappert)

September 2026

September 6, 2026 Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

11:00 am Bilingual Service (Pastor Annika Klappert)

Wed Sept 9 - SENIORS GATHERING

11:00 am gathering in the Church sanctuary, with topic to be determined. Please let the office know if you require or are able to provide a ride.

September 13, 2026 Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

11:00 am Bilingual **Back-to-Church Creative Service** (Pastor Annika Klappert). **Planned Giving Session in the sanctuary will follow the service.** Kathryn Smith from Charitus will lead an informational workshop on how your will can support your family and loved ones, as well as causes that matter to you.

September 20, 2026 Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

9:45 am English Devotion and 11:00 am German Service, **both with Holy Communion** (Pastor Annika Klappert)

Wed Sept 23, 2026 - DINNER CHURCH

7:00 pm with Guest Speaker Annie Katsura Rollins, the Executive Director of Lakeshore Arts. Join us for conversation, music, prayer, and a potluck meal!

September 27, 2026 Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

11:00 am Bilingual Service with **Holy Communion** (Pastor Annika Klappert). **Mark your calendars for a tentative Part 2 of our Annual General Meeting after the service** to discuss and vote on the 2026 budget and financial reports. These documents are still pending final review by our accounting firm.

Wed Sept 30, 2026 - PUBLIC GATHERING National Day of Truth and Reconciliation

We will gather with the community at the Campfire Sculpture in Humber Bay Shores Park at 12:00 pm



October 2026

THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE

Our annual Thanksgiving Food Drive in support of our outdoor food ministry and Wesley Mimico United Church Food Bank will be held in October until Canadian Thanksgiving. Please consider donating non-perishable food or making a financial contribution.



October 4, 2026 German Thanksgiving

9:45 am English Devotion and 11:00 am German Service **both with Holy Communion** (Pastor Annika Klappert) **and each followed by a reception in the church basement.** All are welcome to enjoy and contribute refreshments!

October 11, 2026 Canadian Thanksgiving

11:00 am Bilingual Service with **Holy Communion** (Pastor Annika Klappert)

October 18, 2026 Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

9:45 am English Devotion and 11:00 am German Service (Pastor Annika Klappert)

Wed Oct 21, 2026 - DINNER CHURCH

7:00 pm with Guest Speaker Tabea Mayer, who will introduce us to Christian Yoga practice. Join us for conversation, music, prayer, a potluck meal. and movement for all abilities!



October 25, 2026 Reformation Sunday

11:00 am Bilingual **Creative Service** featuring **Christian Yoga trained Pastor Tabea Mayer** and led together with Pastor Annika Klappert

November 2026

November 1, 2026 All Saints Day

11:00 am Bilingual Service with **Holy Communion** (Pastor Annika Klappert) **to remember those who have passed away.**

Wed in November - SENIORS GATHERING

11:00 am gathering in the Church sanctuary with date TBD.

November 8, 2026 Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

9:45 am English Devotion and 11:00 am German Service w/ Pastor Annika Klappert

Wed Nov 18, 2026 - DINNER CHURCH

7:00 pm gathering with topic TBD. Join us for conversation, music, prayer, and a potluck meal!

November 15, 2026 Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

11:00 am Bilingual Service (Pastor Annika Klappert)

CALLING ALL CRAFTERS AND ACTORS!

The Christmas season is full of opportunities to be creative! Would you like to create handmade gifts or help organize the annual Christmas Market, or participate in the Christmas Play? Please contact the office to contribute your talents!



November 22, 2026 Christ the King Sunday

9:45 am English Devotion and 11:00 am German Service **both with Holy Communion** (Pastor Annika Klappert)

November 29, 2026 First Sunday of Advent

11:00 am Bilingual **Creative Service** (Pastor Annika Klappert). **Our annual Christmas Market will be held in the church basement after the service.** Get your Christmas shopping done and grab a hot glühwein and a meal!

December 2026

December 6, 2026 Second Sunday of Advent

9:45 am English Devotion and 11:00 am German Service **both with Holy Communion** (Pastor Annika Klappert)

December 13, 2026 Third Sunday of Advent

11:00 am Bilingual Service with **Holy Communion** (Pastor Annika Klappert)

December 20, 2026 Fourth Sunday of Advent

11:00 am Bilingual Service **with Christmas Play** (Pastor Annika Klappert)

Thursday December 24, 2026 Christmas Eve

German Service at 5:00 pm (Pastor Annika Klappert)

English Service at 6:30 pm (Pastor Annika Klappert)

Friday December 25, 2026 Christmas Day | Christfest

No Service

December 27, 2026 First Sunday after Christmas

11:00 am Bilingual Service

Join our mailing list, check our website, and follow us on Instagram at @lutheransbythelake to get the latest updates to the calendar as they become available!

Weekly programming

BOWLS & BLESSINGS:

Volunteer to serve, sign up to bring soup, or grab a bowl **between 12:00 am and 1:00 pm every Tuesday and Friday** year-round, rain or shine.



DRUM CIRCLE: Join the circle on **Tuesdays at 11:00 am**

RADIO DEVOTION: Tune in every **Sunday at 9:30 am** for a German devotion on AM 530 or visit the link on our website.

WEEKLY E-MAIL: Check your inbox on **Friday evenings** for a weekly roundup and important invitations and updates, including this newsletter. Please contact the office to be added to the mailing list.

COMMUNICATIONS TEAM: Do you have experience with website or social media management, content creation, or English/German translation? Get in touch with the office to join the communications team.

Remembering...

Barbara von Keller passed away on **June 3rd, 2026**, at age 99

Gunter Gall passed away on **May 20th, 2026**, at age 91

Theodore (Teddy) Navar was baptized in our church on **June 7th, 2026** (see photo right)

