

Martin Luther Ev. Lutheran Church

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Pastor Stefan Wolf

August/September 2005

**He is the living God, enduring forever;
His kingdom shall never be destroyed,
and his dominion shall be to the end.**

(Daniel 6, 26)

Meditation on the Verse of the Month for August

Dear Congregation,

The situation is not particularly positive: Someone is sitting in the lions' den. He has been betrayed, because he did not stop praying to his God, against the law of the king. But that is not the real reason. The true reason is that the two other rulers who have something to say in the land, do not want to tolerate someone else, who is smarter and besides, a foreigner on top of everything. They therefore try to put this rival away in a particularly perfidious way. They plot against him. Cunning is necessary. For the king would not permit his best subject to be simply eliminated. But it is not easy to pin something on Daniel. There is actually nothing of which one can accuse him. He does good work, he is well-renowned, favoured, diligent – but he is also religious. Therefore, if there is a weak point, then it is this, that his loyalty to the king does not go so far as to renounce his God. That is the solution: They must convince the king that all important people in the country think, a law must be come out that everyone who makes a request for something during the next thirty days, can only ask the king – otherwise he will be thrown to the lions to be devoured. – An ingenious plan: One claims that all want this, one flatters the king by emphasizing



the importance of his person and guarantees that everyone pays homage to him and must ask him humbly that he, the King Darius, will help them – that sounds great – and, besides, Darius can test who is loyal and who is not. Darius falls for it and does not see through the plan. And Daniel acts as is expected, of course he prays to his God, indeed, he can not do otherwise – and bang – the trap closes. “Daniel does not care for your laws, King!” – The king is shocked, but what should he do? He will be ridiculed and lose his power, if he does not take his own decrees and laws seriously. Of all people, it strikes one who has not planned anything evil. Praying is nothing bad, the king knows that, too. Darius, wringing his hands till evening, searches for a solution, but the fact weighs heavily on him, that up to that point, a law of the Medes and Persians has never been revoked. Therefore, it is executed – into the lions' den with Daniel. The king has one last, and surely, in all his desperation and helplessness one sincerely meant advice: “May your God, whom you serve

continually, deliver you!” – First, one is not allowed to pray, and now Darius urges Daniel to do this? Nothing but praying will help now. Darius has a sleepless night and is angry at his own decision. Early in the morning, he can stand it no longer. He hurries to the lions’ den. He calls. And – what miracle – Daniel answers. He is unhurt. An angel, he says, has protected him, as he is guiltless before God! Quickly he is lifted out, and now revenge is taken on the men who have plotted against him. They themselves land in the lions’ den, but without an angel who helps them. And then the king of a foreign people with a foreign religion confesses: *He is the living God, enduring forever; his kingdom shall never be destroyed, and his dominion shall be to the end.* – Happy end – everything is well. This story has always fascinated me. As a child, because there were lions in it, as an adult, because it is still relevant and unfortunately the strategy, to “mob” someone from his position and, in an ice-cold manner saw off his chair, is still practised today. I am disturbed by the fact in this story that laws can be terribly unjust when the individual case is no longer taken into consideration. The king occupies my thoughts, who, in spite of all naivety and attachment to power, has a heart. I am fascinated that God protects a person because he holds on to faith, even though the situation is hopeless. I see that Daniel remains faithful to his belief, although his life is at stake, and I ask myself, whether I could do that, too, in the same way? In any case, it is an exciting Bible story of Daniel in the lions’ den – about faith that proves itself, and God, who saves lives.

With best wishes for August and September,

I remain with kind regards, your Pastor

Stefan Wolf

Our Groups and Circles

The Groups and Circles of our Congregation meet regularly in September again! No meetings in August!

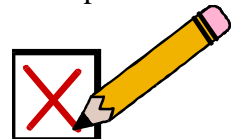
Board of Directors of the Nursery meets on **Tuesday, September 6**, at 6:00 p.m. at the Church.

Confirmation Instruction takes place on **Monday, September 12 and 19**, at the Parsonage

The Literary Circle takes place on **Tuesday, September 13**, 4:00 p.m., Parsonage, 3203 Gatliff Ave., Mississauga (east of Dixie Road, south of Bloor Street).

The English Bible Discussion Circle meets on **Tuesday, September 13**, at 7:30 p.m. at the Church.

The Women’s Group invites on **Wednesday, September 14**, at 7:00 p.m., at the Church.



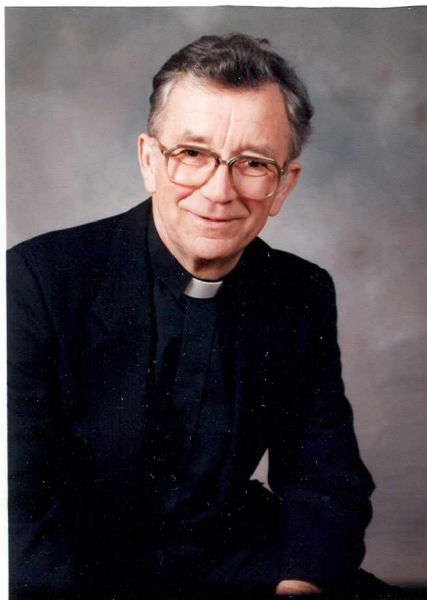
The Church Council meets on **Wednesday, September 14**, at 7:00 p.m., at the Church.

The Seniors’ Circle does not meet on the 3. Tuesday of the month this time, but on the **4. Tuesday(!), September 27**, at 11:00 a.m. at the Church.

The German Bible Discussion Group takes place on **Wednesday, September 28**, 7:00 p.m. at the Church.

The Visiting Service Circle meets on **Friday, September 30**, before choir practice at 6:00 p.m. at the Church.

We said Fare-Well to Pastor Schwantes



Unfortunately, we had to say fare-well to Pastor Schwantes on July 18th, who has served our congregation for 36 years as Pastor. Pastor Schwantes died on his birthday at the age of 76 years. He had been sick for an extended period of time, but he still took an active part in the life of the congregation as much as he could. A Thank-you goes out to all who helped in organizing (serving lunch, preparing the rooms etc.) and in actively participating in the Church Service to turn this sad occasion into a dignified fare-well. I am certain that the memory of Pastor Schwantes will continue to accompany us and that he would certainly have had joy in the caring which found expression in the sympathy. We will miss him. To his wife and his family, we want to express our sympathy once again and wish that God's be with them in the future. Our thanks also go to Pastor Günter Dahle and Bishop Bill Huras, who attended the Service as representatives of the Synod, as well as colleagues and friends, who accompanied these last steps.

We also buried...

Erika Koester

Jesus says: I am the way and the truth and the life.

John 14, 6

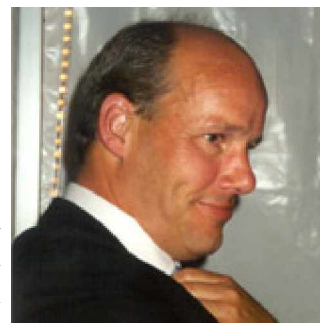
Anniversary of the Martin Luther Congregation in Ottawa

On October 16th, the Martin Luther Congregation in Ottawa celebrates its 40th anniversary. It would really be nice if we would visit the EKD sister-congregation of the same name. I want to ask here if anyone in the congregation is interested in accompanying us on that weekend to Ottawa. A small delegation of the congregation would indeed be a nice gesture, because the congregational members from Ottawa plan to attend our anniversary. Please contact me in time, so that the stay in Ottawa can be planned.

Stefan Wolf, Pastor

Sermon of Oberkirchenrat Dr. Thies Gundlach

On September 25th, Oberkirchenrat Dr. Thies Gundlach will preach in a joint Service, as the official representative of the Evangelical Church in Germany (EKD). Thies Gundlach is head of the department “Preaching, Services and Works of the Church”. Since September 1st, 2001, he leads department 22 and is, thereby, at the same time member of the College of the Church Office, therefor also a part of the “internal leadership”. Many of his specific duties have to do with the so-called “theological core business” of the Church; namely, with Church Service and Church music, with special pastoral care and missionary services, with the relationship between “Christians and Jews” and the encounters with the Catholic sister Church. He was born in Lübeck in 1956, is married and father of two children.



DELKINA Conference from September 20th to 26th in Ottawa

The conference of the Evangelical-Lutheran Congregations in North America meets every two years for sharing ideas. As official representatives of the congregation, Mr. Heinz Gutsch and Pastor Wolf will travel to Ottawa, where the conference takes place this time. The program includes reports from the congregations. The focal point of the working conference is: “Messengers of the Church – the Public Mission of our Congregations.”

Married were...

Andre Thomas Gutsch and Donna Ruth Palmer

**Complete my joy by being of the same mind,
having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.**

Philippians 2, 2



Thanksgiving on October 2nd

Pointing out already to mark down **October 2nd**. For that is the date of Thanksgiving, which we again want to celebrate with a Joint Service followed by a luncheon. The detailed program will await you in the next Bulletin!

Supply during the Vacation of Pastor Wolf

During my absence at Summer Camp and on vacation, in emergency cases please contact:
from July 31st to August 12th, Pastor Katharina Möller, Telephone: (905) 277-2631 and
from August 13th to September 5th, Pastor Joachim Knaack, Telephone (416) 243-5469.
 Furthermore, there will be someone at the Church office – except Wednesdays – during the week.
 Mrs. Kleinau can assist you at any time.

Andrea Wienecke in Mexico

Andrea visited Mexico with a group of her Bible College. Here is part of her report:

Mexico is not just another place but rather a whole different world. And this world cannot be experienced in a resort or a 5 star hotel. But this world can only be shown in the places and faces of the people in the heart of Mexico. When we planned our trip to Mexico it wasn't for a leisurely vacation. But to know, learn and understand the culture. As well as to see how God is working in the lives of others around the world. I don't

know whether Mexico is as all 'bad' as some of us think. I will tell you that the everyday Mexican people I did meet were so nice and welcoming. If they had nothing, they would give you the world and whether or not they ate ...it didn't matter...they were honoring their guest. The Food was amazing....I never once liked spicy foods before....I always thought it burned my mouth, but after a month in Mexico of eating a spicy dish, after spicy dish, I fell in love with the little extra zing. The Christians in Mexico are unlike most Christians in North America. When they go to worship, they go to WORSHIP. Not like the norm of just sitting in a pew listening to a sermon, but learning hands on in small groups, and beforehand giving everything, they have for the Glory of God. They raise their hands in the air...but not to show off; but to raise



their hands TO God our father in praise and thanksgiving. Women who can't carry a tune go up in front of a whole congregation, and sing their heart out; not to please the people, rather to bring a song to God. As the lyrics to one of my personal favorite songs goes: "I'll bring you more than a song, for a song in itself is not what you have required. You search much deeper with in through the ways things appear...your looking into my heart" And they sing for God, they praise God, they use their bodies, their laughter, everything. Just how they describe King David dancing on the streets for God that is what the Mexican Christians do for God as well. Mexico is a rich country poorly governed, yet rich with people. I went there to discover something so amazing: We as one world one nation, one people are all trying to do the same thing. Find the beauty of it all, find God, find Jesus in this world. In the second part of the trip, we did a drama 12 times on the streets, and over 200 adults became Christians and over 100 kids as well. And I thought just standing there watching these people come forward and receiving Christ for the first time.... I will always keep the best memories from Mexico for it was there that I saw the world come together through Christ. As Pastor Ezekiel said in one of the small-group sermons: "We don't need to go to other countries to become missionaries. But we can be missionaries to our own next door neighbor." So to my dear Canadian next door neighbor, whether you see it or not, you are a Child of God, one who is cherished and dearly loved. God has His hands outstretched waiting for you to take it. And I assure you, when you do, you will stop searching for the answers...because God is right for everybody! God bless you, and may the love of Christ fire a storm deep within your heart.

Andrea Wienecke

Our Church Services in August

07. August	11. Sunday after Trinity Pastor Stefan Wolf	English German	9:45 a.m. 11:00 a.m.
14. August	12. Sunday after Trinity The English Service will be conducted by Congregational Members Pastor Gerhard Hille	English German	9:45 a.m. 11:00 a.m.
21. August	13. Sunday after Trinity Pastor Herbert Harms	English German	9:45 a.m. 11:00 a.m.
28. August	14. Sunday after Trinity Pastor Peter Mikelic	English German	9:45 a.m. 11:00 a.m.

Our Church Services in September

04. September	15. Sunday after Trinity Pastor Erwin Lange	English German	9:45 a.m. 11:00 a.m.
11. September	16. Sunday after Trinity Pastor Stefan Wolf With the Celebration of Holy Communion in both Services!	English German	9:45 a.m. 11:00 a.m.
18. September	17. Sunday after Trinity Pastor Dr. Thies Gundlach / Pastor Stefan Wolf	Joint Service German and English	11:00 a.m.
25. September	18. Sunday after Trinity Pastor Stefan Wolf	English German	9:45 a.m. 11:00 a.m.

All Dates at a Glance

Mission Circle	every Wednesday morning	from 9:30 a.m. except 14.09.!	
Church Choir	every Friday,	7:30 p.m.,	Church.
Nursery Board of Directors	Tuesday, 06.09.,	6:00 p.m.,	Church.
Confirmation Instruction	Monday, 12.+19.09.,	7:00 p.m.,	Parsonage!
Literary Circle	Tuesday, 13.09.,	4:00 p.m.,	Parsonage!
English Bible Discussion Group	Tuesday, 13.09.,	7:30 p.m.,	Church.
Women's Group	Wednesday, 14.09.,	7:00 p.m.,	Church.
Church Council	Wednesday, 14.09.,	7:00 p.m.,	Church.
Seniors' Circle	Tuesday, 27.09.(!),	11:00 a.m.,	Church.
German Bible Discussion Group	Wednesday, 28.09.,	1:30 p.m.,	Church.
Visiting Service Circle	Friday, 30.09.,	6:00 p.m.,	Church.

The Last Word

Humility is the courage to count on God.
(Anke Maggauer-Kirsche)