

Martin Luther Ev. Lutheran Church

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Pastor Stefan Wolf

October 2005

**Trust in him at all times, O people;
pour out you heart before him; God is a refuge for us.**

(Psalm 62, 8)

Devotion on the Verse for the Month of October

Dear Congregation,

Do you, too, like cartoons? Sometimes, they truly hit the nail on the head, as the one in the picture that I have chosen for this devotion. In reality we know that, when we marry, we actually cannot choose what suits us out of various possibilities. It could be wrapped as pleasing as possible, but ultimately the exact point is that people say Yes to swearing eternal love and faithfulness. Marriage is about faithfulness and trust. Both these words in German, by the way, stem from one word, which means “strong” or “firm”. Without faithfulness, without trust, marriage will not last. We know that. Marriages do not break down because of differences of opinion now and then, but because one leaves the common foundation, becomes unfaithful, loses trust in the relationship and in one another. – Trust is something decisively important, if one wants to live in harmony. Albert Schweitzer, the doctor and theologian, once wrote, that trust is like a pledge which is given us by God. He said the most precious thing in life is, that we do not live for ourselves, but for that, which must happen for people, for truth and for the good. These are great words and mean that trust lives from being directed towards



Please listen carefully to the following options...

others, that I must give to others an advance portion of trust, so that living together will work and good things will come of it. Trust is giving and taking. I read recently, how someone compared trust with a bank account, from which one cannot just withdraw money continuously. Money must also be deposited into the account, otherwise, the money is used up quickly and one gets into the red. – In large firms, one has therefore distanced oneself from Lenin’s statement, trust is good, control is better. It is said, trust is more important than control. Sometimes, this goes too far and trust is misused, bosses enrich themselves or co-workers embezzle money. Blind trust is, supposedly, just as damaging as no trust at all. – Perhaps these thoughts help us to understand anew that concurrence counts, that trust must grow and needs common, good experiences, so that we can truly trust, that understanding and communication are important, so that one – in marriage, for example – does not grow apart and then, instead of trust, mistrust suddenly grows. Trust has to be nourished and cared for, one has to spend time together and find out that one can depend on each other, even though things can become tight and problems exist. – When the

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Psalm says: Trust in him...Pour out your heart before him...God is a refuge for us... then this is a result of many experiences of the people of God, that God has not forsaken them, but has always stood faithfully by the people. Someone who has not had any experiences with God, will not find a sentence like this convincing. One cannot say to a person: Trust in God, as it was mentioned before, trust must grow and trust comes from certain experiences. But it is already convincing, when we are reminded through this verse of the experiences of many people throughout the millennia. People who have experienced that God has carried them through hard times and given them joy and comfort. And perhaps we can understand that there is only one thing which is more important than trust – trust in God!

With best wishes for October,
I remain with kind regards
your Pastor

Our Groups and Circles

The Literary Circle takes place on **Tuesday, October 4th**, 4:00 p.m., at the parsonage. This is more or less a Book Club, where we introduce our favourite books. This time, we also want to discuss our trip to “Books in the Bloom. **Please do come!**

Confirmation Instruction takes place on **October 17th and 24th**, at 7:00 p.m. at the parsonage.

The Board of Directors of the Nursery meets on **Tuesday, October 11th**, 6:00 p.m. at the Church.

The Ladies' Group invites on **Wednesday, October 12th**, at 7.00 p.m. at the Church.

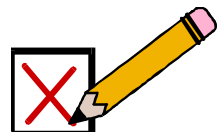
The Church Council meets on **Wednesday October 12th**, at 7:00 p.m. at the Church.

The Seniors' Circle meets one **October 18th**, from **11:00 a.m.** at the Church.

The English Bible Discussion Group meets on **Tuesday, October 18th**, at 7:30 p.m. at the Church.

The German Bible Discussion Group takes place on **Wednesday, October 26th**, in the afternoon at 1:30 p.m., at the Church.

The Visiting Service Circle meets as agreed upon.

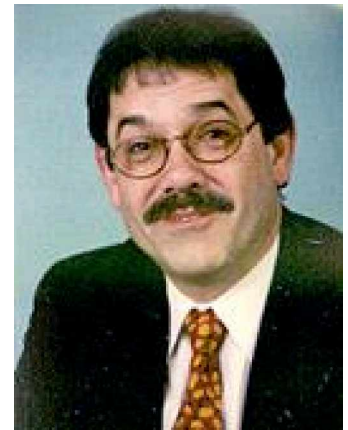


Visit from the Evangelical Church in Germany



In connection with our Anniversary Year, we have already had two esteemed visitors from Germany. On September 18th, Oberkirchenrat Thies Gundlach and his wife Brigitte were guests in our Church Service. And on September 26th, Oberkirchenrat Peter Weigand, who is responsible for sending Pastors to North America, has visited us for an exchange of ideas – Through both visits it became apparent, that there are both, much common ground and great differences between the Church in Germany and North America. Here as there, predominantly elderly people visit the Church Service. On both sides of the Atlantic, the Church fights for public

recognition and must come up with a lot of things to reach the younger generation. In the meantime, so OKR Weigand related, one also knows situations on the other side, where congregations have to deal with different traditions through the immigration of Germans from Russia. The Church landscape has become more varied, even though, in contrast to Canada, one hardly has to deal with other religions and a multicultural society as ours. – One difference is now as before, that in our congregation, very clearly the Church Service is the meeting point and the centre. In Germany, one acknowledges other forms of congregational work and meetings of the congregation as equal. – The relations between our congregation and the Evangelical Church in Germany and also the Lutheran Church in Canada were repeatedly the topic of these encounters. Here it became clear, how excellent the relationship is with the Evangelical Church in Germany and how well our congregation is regarded. It is recognized in Germany, that the Martin Luther Church has accomplished much through its own vigour. The solid labour of Pastor Schwantes and the Church Councils of the past and present, has led to a congregational work which has also become, during recent years, a firm entity in this district. Peter Weigand pointed out clearly, how important it is for the continuation of the congregation, to offer social services, as the Day Care Centre, and to show in this way, that we are there for the people around us as a Church on the spot. He indicated it to be the right step to take care of the people within and without the congregation in the future. The pastoral care and the Church Service in the German language have not lost anything of their meaning through this, and are indispensable as a piece of home country. According to a statement, the German speaking congregations have a good reputation at the local synod. Bishop Michael Pryse praises the work of the congregation and is happy with the good education and the commitment of the German Pastors. – Both visitors praise the hospitality of our congregation and have felt very much at home with congregational members. – It was interesting to hear first-hand experiences and a sermon on the comparison of crime novels and the Gospel. Although it was unusual for some, it became clear that the Gospel points far beyond the partially cruel reality of the world in which we live. Nothing comforts people as much as the knowledge of God's nearness. – Perhaps it is difficult for some congregational members to understand the value of the relationship with Germany. The attendance on the 26th of September, first of all, could have been better. We are a congregation, and that was shown through the two visits, which has two connections: Here in this country and the local Church, and, indeed, also in Germany, where the roots of many of our members are. The Evangelical Church in Germany is



the only Church in the world that supports the work abroad through the sending of Pastors and Church partnerships, as, for instance, the ELCIC. This gives our congregational work a very special meaning, because the experiences in the congregations of foreign countries can also help the Church in Germany, for instance, to better understand the consequences of globalisation and to shape the congregational work according to models from elsewhere in the world. – On the other hand, we can see ourselves as Church of the world and be stimulated in view of our own work by the exchange of experiences. We are not just any congregation in Canada, but partners in a world-wide network. Peter Weigand has pointed this out in his address to the congregation: “Christians understand themselves not only as a group in a place, but as a part of a large, world-wide congregation.”

Our own Postal Stamp!

For our Anniversary, we will offer stamps with the motif of our Church. A photo of the inside and one of the outside will be available in sheets. These stamps have the value of the present postage and can be used for sending mail. It is a special service of the post office that one can have one's own stamps printed. They are somewhat more expensive than the ordinary stamps, but the Martin Luther Church Stamp is certainly something special and a unique idea for your Christmas mail!



News from the Sunday School



Vacation time is over and Sunday School is already in high gear again. The program is directed to all children who take part in the Church Service with their parents. The instruction is in English and starts immediately after the Children's Time at the beginning of the main Service. The specially furnished room in the basement of the Church is now really recognizable as the Sunday School Room. Recently, the children have painted a very beautiful ark on the wall. Belonging to the Team are Monika Schmidt as the leader, Tanya Zielke, Iris Schweiger, Peggy Seifert-Rabey, Christina Wienecke, Jan-Lukas and Merlin Wolf.

A Thank-You from the Nursery

Once again, the Nursery has received beautiful toys and money donations. This makes the staff and children especially happy. We extend to all donors a very heartfelt “**Thank You!**”

*We cordially invite everyone to our
Thanksgiving Service
On October 2nd at 11.00 a.m. !*



As in the past years, we celebrate a joint Thanksgiving in the German and English language. The topic is “**Gathering and Sharing**”.

**PLEASE bring along food donations
for the Foodbank!**

The number of people who are served by foodbanks of other Churches in our area is constantly on the rise. The Pastors of these Churches have again asked for food donations. Therefore, we ask you to bring **unperishable foods** (canned fruit, tuna, noodles, rice etc.) and put them in the baskets at the entrance to the Church. We thank you for your gifts!

PROGRAM:

11:00 a.m.	JOINT SERVICE with Sunday School and Church Choir
app. 12:00	LUNCH, FOLLOWED BY COFFEE TIME
app.1:30 p.m.	CONCLUSION



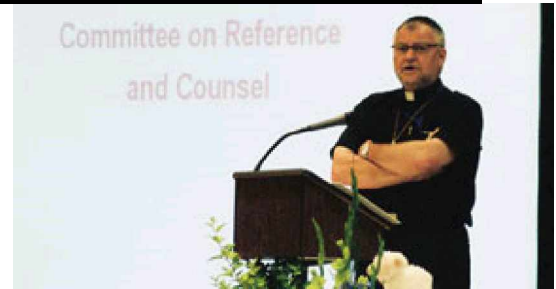
We are looking forward to your coming!!



We ask for voluntary money donations for the lunch, which costs about \$ 5 per portion / per adult. The surplus shall go to a social project.

Brief Announcement: Synod Conference in Winnipeg

The Synod Conference of the Lutheran Church in Canada, the ELCIC, has the introduction of the so-called 'local option' for the blessing of homosexual couples with 183 Yes- and 220 No-votes rejected. Bishop Raymund Schultz (photo) has been confirmed in his office as Bishop. You can read detailed reports on the website of the ELCIC (www.elcic.ca).



DELKINA-Conference in Ottawa, September 20th to 26th



From September 20th to 26th, the Conference of the German Evangelical-Lutheran Conference in North America (DELKINA) took place. The council under the president Holger Roggelin (Baltimore) and Vice-President Katharina Moeller (St. Georg's Church, Toronto) has been voted in again unchanged. The topic: "The Public Mission of the Church", was addressed in detail and from various points through lectures by Thies Gundlach, Peter Weigand und Michael Pryse. The Martin Luther Congregation in Ottawa has taken great pains with the 40 guests of the DELKINA and spoiled them every day with German meals. There was even a "Luther Evening" with food,

costumes and music from Luther's time. It was a well-prepared and informative conference, where our congregation was not short-changed in terms of suggestions for the work and exchange of ideas with others.

Our Church was represented by Heinz Gutsch, Erich Feyerabend and Pastor Wolf.

A new Generation

Two children were born recently, whom we want to introduce to you:

Verena Elisabeth Homann,
 Daughter of Pastor Susanne Hofmann
 and husband Andreas



and **Nikolas Alexander Eble-Scott,**
 son of Heike Eble-Scott and
 husband Russ

**Our Congratulations to the
 parents and we very delighted
 about their offspring.
 God bless these Families!**



An early Masterpiece in Politics

450 years ago, an event of world-political importance took place in Augsburg: The Imperial- and Religious Peace Treaty of September 25th 1555 guaranteed the confessional coexistence of Catholics and Lutherans and is considered the foundations of a modern intercultural tolerance. On Sunday, September 25th 2005, this event was remembered in a special function in the St. Anna-Church in Augsburg (photo) in an ecumenical Church Service.

As representative of the Evangelical Church, EKD-Council Chairman Bishop Wolfgang Huber paid tribute to the Augsburg Religious Peace Treaty as the “Magna Charta” of the Ecumenical Movement; the Chairman of the German Bishops-Conference, Cardinal Karl Lehmann, said, the modern fundamental right of religious freedom is “a lasting achievement”. The Church Representatives demanded “this religious freedom not only in their own country.” Moreover, it is demanded “also in countries where Christians are a minority today and where political protection and personal freedom are missing”, according to Wolfgang Huber.



President of the Federal Republic Horst Köhler, who also attended the festivities, as did the Bavarian Prime Minister Edmund Stoiber, warned against a “approximation of all values and attitudes” and spoke for the retention of the religious instruction in schools, given by the Churches. He regards attempts problematic, “which push the Church out of the areas, in which they have, throughout centuries and beyond confessional borders, made their successful contributions”. As the World Youth Day in Cologne had shown, people tend to search more and more for spiritual orientation.

Background: The Augsburg Religious Peace Treaty



Urkunde des
Augsburger
Religionsfriedens

Exactly 450 years ago, on September 25th, 1555, the Augsburg Religious Peace Treaty ended the armed conflict that lasted years, between the Catholic Emperor Karl V. and the Protestant Prince of the so-called Schmalkaldische Union. For the first time since the beginning of the Reformation, through this peace treaty the Lutheran Confession was recognized to have equal rights. The rulers could freely choose their confession, they determined the religion of their subjects, whereby these could withdraw by emigrating. Central points of the Augsburg Religious Peace Treaty were a general “country peace” (“that no one, of whatever dignity, rank or character he may be, shall feud, make war, catch, cheat, besiege others”) and the recognition of the Evangelical faith (“to leave this religion in calm and peace”). Furthermore, the Religious Jurisdiction (“Heretic Right”) against the Lutherans was abolished. After all, 70 years of peace were ensured by the Peace

treaty of Augsburg to the states of the German empire. And although, for instance, the Reformed were given equality with the Catholics and the Protestants in the Westphalia Peace Treaty in 1648, the Augsburg Peace Treaty is considered the conclusion of the disputes generated by the Reformation. The city of Augsburg remained to be the focal point for the drawing nearer of the Churches. 1999, the “Joint Declaration to the Teachings of Justification” was signed in the evangelical St. Anna Church, which, however, in the end effect, was unfortunately not recognized by the Catholic Church.

Our Church Services in October

02. October	Thanksgiving Pastor Stefan Wolf With Church Choir, Sunday School and Lunch thereafter!	Joint Service English and German 11:00a.m.!	
09. October	20. Sunday after Trinity Pastor Stefan Wolf	Canadian Thanksgiving! English 9:45 a.m. German 11:00 a.m.	
With the Celebration of Holy Communion in both Services!			
16. October	21. Sunday after Trinity Pastor Stefan Wolf	English 9:45 a.m. German 11:00 a.m.	
23. October	22. Sunday after Trinity Pastor Stefan Wolf	English 9:45 a.m. German 11:00 a.m.	
30. October	Reformation Sunday Pastor Stefan Wolf	Joint Service German and English	11:00 a.m. !
With Baptism and Participation of the Church Choir			

We express our thanks for all donations and for the active attendance of our Church Services, and we cordially invite you to stay a while for coffee time after the Services!

All Dates at a Glance

Flute Ensemble			as per arrangement!
Visiting Service Circle			as per arrangement!
Mission Circle	every Wednesday	from 9.30 a.m.,	except on 12.10.!
Church Choir	every Friday,	7:30 p.m.,	Church.
Radio Devotion in German	every Sunday	9:30a.m.,	Radio Ciao AM 530.
Literary Circle	Tuesday, 04.10.,	4:00p.m.	Parsonage.
Board of Directors, Nursery	Tuesday, 11.10.,	6:00 p.m.	Church.
Ladies' Group	Wednesday, 12.10.,	7:00 p.m.	Church.
Church Council	Wednesday 12.10.,	7:00 p.m.	Church.
Confirmation Instruction	Monday, 17. and 24.,	7:00 p.m.	Parsonage.
Seniors' Circle	Tuesday, 18.10.,	11:00 a.m.	Church.
English Bible Discussion Group	Tuesday, 18.10.,	1:30 p.m.	Church.
German Bible Discussion Group	Wednesday, 26.10.,,	1:30 p.m.	Church.

The Last Word

**Trust is an oasis of the heart,
which is never reached by the caravan of reasoning.**
(Khalis Gibran)