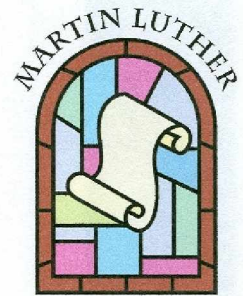


Congregational newsletter



LUTHERAN CHURCH
— Founded 1955 Gegründet —

July and August 2006

Devotion on the Verse of the Month for July

*Dear Members and Friends of
Martin Luther Church,*

just as the soccer match reaches its high point and tension is unbearable, the doorbell rings. I open the door. A man from the telephone company is there and wants to recommend a new service to me. I do something which actually even surprises me; I tell him that I really have not time for him and shut the door. When I, a little while later, after the end of the game – unfortunately, the German team lost – read the verse of the month for this newsletter, I reflect on how this young man must have felt. Many soccer fans live in my neighbourhood, and I can well imagine that either nobody opened the door or that he faced more rejections “No time!” – “Come back another day!” – For his and my consolation, I tell myself that I already have what he intended to offer me. In any case, there was no business here for him. Furthermore, I hesitate to sign a contract at the door. – Still, in retrospect I feel somewhat sorry for him. It is not nice to have a door closed in one’s face. After all, everybody who rings a

**Jesus Christ says:
Him who comes to me
I will not cast out.**

John 6, 37

doorbell has at least the expectation that the door will be opened. Who likes to be turned away? – People are looking for Jesus. Finally, they find him at the shore of the lake, and he talks to them about the “bread of life”. In this paragraph it is about following him and about finding in him everything that we need. In the middle of that, then this sentence, our verse of the month “Him who comes to me I will not cast out”. What this means is that Jesus is always there for us. No matter when we come – it can be in the middle of the night – at a time

when we need comfort or at the end of our life, when we finally deal with our death and our faith. It is a certainty that Jesus will not slam the door in our face or ask “What do you want here?” Jesus turns no one away and excludes no one. He has always time for us. Jesus does not know a sign like the one seen here. He is continually “open”.

With best regards
for the months of July and
August,
your Pastor



"Inspiration"

As we walk along the path of life, we often only see the necessities of the day until something crosses our way to inspire us. This is what happened to me last fall when a friend said: Let's run a marathon together.

I had been training my regular 5km, 3 or 4 times a week and thought: It just might work! Weeks and many additional training hours later my friend hurt herself and couldn't run anymore. I wasn't sure if I should continue by myself. In the midst of my struggle for an answer our congregation had the annual meeting and I got inspired for the second time on my way to run a marathon.

The old age home has been on our congregation's wish list for a long time and since a marathon takes a long time, I figured it could symbolically stand for achieving this goal. This is where you entered the picture. The run wasn't about me anymore, it became "us". During the past 6 weeks I've noticed how much you all carried me with your prayers, well wishes and belief. You were with me in spirit, and you were my inspiration.



The race is behind me. Your cheers heard over the phone are engraved in my memory and so are many lessons learned along the way. Just to mention a few:

- 1) Get inspired, you never know where it might lead to.
- 2) For inspiration, one should really attend the annual meeting, it works.
- 3) It doesn't matter how fast or slow you are, - keep moving towards the finish line.
- 4) There are obstacles along the way. Don't give up!

To finish on a funny note, this is what a good friend wrote:

How is our Marathon SURVIVOR?
I'm sure it took a lot of WILL & GRACE
to complete this AMAZING RACE!

My answer: Pain is temporary, finishing is forever.

Thank you for your support and for carrying me when the knees buckled.
In spirit,

Iris Schweiger

Note:

Iris has "run-up" the sum of almost \$2,000 for the seniors' home fund of the congregation – what a great idea and what a great achievement! She deserves our recognition and congratulations.

What will happen now?

...some of you may have asked, after you received the letter in which it said that Pastor Wolf and his family will return to Germany in August of next year, that is in 2007(!). There is now one year left to find a suitable Pastor for the congregation.

In detail, the following steps have been taken so far:

- In May Pastor Wolf has informed per letter, besides the Church Council and the congregation, also the Bishop of the Eastern Synod, Michael Pryse, and the „Außenamt der Evangelischen Kirche“ in Germany, EKD, of his decision to leave the congregation.
- A committee was formed of Church Council members, which will look after all necessary formal steps, (writing letters, providing general information regarding the congregation, telephone conversations with church offices.) Edmund Scholz, Ernst-August Wienecke, Hans-Joachim Arndt and Heinz Gutsch belong to this committee. The Church Council and the congregation will be kept continually informed of all developments.
- Members of this committee have met with Bishop Pryse in Kitchener on June 8th, to find out how he views the filling of the vacancy and if there may be suggestions for candidates from the Synod. Bishop Pryse has clearly indicated that the Synod cannot, at the moment, recommend suitable candidates. Due to the bilingualism of the congregation, he advised to introduce the application process through the EKD in Germany.
- The Church Council has in its meeting on June 14th discussed letters, which were then sent to the EKD and the Eastern Synod, to introduce the application process.
- Oberkirchenrat Weigand has per telephone confirmed the receipt of the letters from Pastor Wolf and the Church Council. He has forwarded the application to fill the vacancy in the pastoral office by the EKD to the Council of the EKD.
- The next step is to remit a congregational profile with pictures of the church and the parsonage to the EKD.

The following is important:

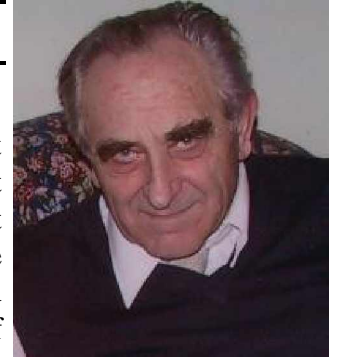
- The committee will immediately invite to a congregational meeting as soon as decisions concerning the congregation must be made.
- The congregation will receive information of the progress of events through announcements and the newsletter.
- It is a transparent process following a defined procedure.
- So far, it was about contacting the involved church offices.
- Pastor Wolf will assist in the compiling of information and producing of a congregational profile, but will not participate in the decision regarding the successor. He has made it clear that this is the business of the congregation.

In case you have questions, please contact the members of the Church Council and the above mentioned committee.

For the Church Council and the Search Committee
Edmund Scholz, President

Mourning for Karl-Ernst Kriese

He was a long-standing member of the congregation and the Church Choir, furthermore for decades responsible for the flowers on the altar and the Advent wreath in the church. Mr. Kriese died suddenly and unexpectedly on June 23rd at the age of 78 years, just a few months after the death of his wife Erna. It is a great loss for the family and the congregation. The funeral service took place at the church on June 27th. Many congregational members said farewell to a friend and fellow member. We mourn for him and wish the family comfort and assure them of our support.



Congregational Picnic in Retrospect



The weather was wonderful for our congregational picnic at Camp Edgewood. The Sunday School children have once again presented a Biblical story „The Conversion of Paul“ in an impressive way. The guests enjoyed their lunch and felt invigorated. After that, four groups portrayed scenes from Biblical stories for all picnic participants. This was informative and funny. Then there were activities for children, a puppet show and the obligatory soccer match. Many thanks to all who were involved in the preparations.

Mona Frantzke took official leave after leading the Choir for 23 years

Mona Frantzke has now put down her conductor's baton. After directing the Church Choir for 23 years, she was officially recognized in the church service at Pentecost. The President of the Church Council thanked her for her many years of faithful work, and a gift from the choir and the congregation was presented to her. Mona, once again we thank you cordially for your service and wish you the best and God's blessing for the future!



Thank-you to the „Edelweiß“ Choir

On June 11th, the “Edelweiß” Choir, who regularly practices in our church, has presented to us a beautiful concert with homely melodies from Austria. The program was livened up by humorous stories and poems, which the choir leader Manfred Petz recited. After the hour-long program, the president of the choir, Helmut Gschoesser, thanked the congregation. It was a successful afternoon. Once again, our cordial thanks to the choir!

Thank You!

My family and I want to thank the congregation for the completely sympathetic reaction to our leaving the congregation. The decision, to leave the congregation, was not easy. We knew that we would disappoint expectations. But many have accepted this step, which is not to be meant against the work and decidedly not against the people here, but which, in spite of the decrease in positions in the church in Germany, opens a professional perspective. As some people have not completely understood what my exact duties will actually be in future, I want to explain this briefly here. I will continue to be active as Pastor in the „Lippische Landeskirche“, however, on a voluntary basis, conduct church services and be able to contribute my experience to the work in the regional church. In what way this may happen, has not yet been established. As manager of the foundation, I earn our livelihood and will initiate programs for students in the region of Eastern Westphalia and be responsible for awarding stipends and prizes to university students. This work is concerned with the creation of educational projects and the development of occupational perspectives for youth and young adults. The foundation will place more importance on social projects in 2007. I will be able to take advantage of the various contacts to persons in responsible positions, which have already existed before. That means, that I can help in doing good as before and to move people.

Young Woman in Need!

A Friend in Need...



As many of you know, on May 6th our friend and co-worker Amanda suffered a brain aneurysm and subsequent stroke leaving her with temporary paralysis on her left side. While Amanda is expected to make a full recovery, it will be a long hard road.

During her difficult recovery Amanda will have various ongoing medical expenses. To help offset these costs, her friends and colleagues from **The UPS Store** are organizing a fundraiser.

Please join us at
The Rose & Thorne
on **Friday, July 21st**
at **6:30 p.m.**

(located at 264 Browns Line)

Buffet • Music • Draws • Prizes
and of course... **FUN!draising**

→ Tickets are available through the UPS Store.
Stop by and purchase one today!

Can't make it? You can still win prizes!
Call us for details at 416. 626. 2401

I want to ask for your help. Our newsletter is printed in a UPS store. A young woman who works there, and who has taken special care of our printing, has become very ill. Her name is Amanda, she is in her early twenties and has suffered a stroke caused by a blood clot in the brain. Her family cannot support her financially. The treatment is expensive, and the road to recuperation is still long. Would it not be nice if we could help? I would enjoy presenting our donations personally. Every dollar helps. We could collect money for this purpose till the end of August. Please help!

In advance I say: **Heartfelt Thanks!**

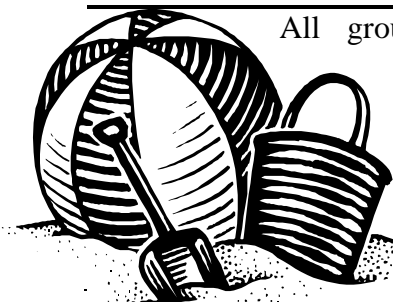
*Joint
Remembrance Service
followed by Lunch*

On July 23rd, we want to remember our former Pastor Eberhard Schwantes who died a year ago, and invite to a joint church service at 11:00 a.m., followed by lunch at the church.

*Summer Camp –
Last Opportunity!*

The summer camp takes place from July 30th to August 5th. Please register with Dan Sommerfeld (905-274-6602 or with Pastor Wolf (Email: fralupus@rogers.com; 416-456-2487). As in the past years, we will hire a bus for the trip there and back.

Summer Vacation



All groups and circles are on summer vacation. Activities and meetings will be resumed in September.

**We wish you all a
good and
relaxing summer!**

*Pastor Wolf to attend the EKD-
Pastors' Meeting in New York
City*

From August 17th to 19th, I will be at a meeting of the EKD Pastors in New York City. Before and

The last Word:

**Summer is the time, when it is too
hot to do the things, for which it
was too cold in winter.
(Mark Twain)**

after, I take a few vacation days. During this time, Pastor Katharina Möller will fill in for me during emergencies. Pastor Joachim Knaack conducts the church service on August 20th.

We baptized

**Charlotte Pieckenhagen
Cailen Pieckenhagen
Nicholas Eble-Scott
Evan Leo Scheibelt**

**The Lord is my light and my salvation.
Psalm 27:1**

Married were

**Monica Budnik and Paul Costello
Britta Jessen and Jay Charbonneau**

**So faith, hope and love abide, these three; but
the greatest of these is love.
1. Corinthians 13, 13**

We buried

**Karl-Ernst Kriese
Gunter Nolte**

**Even though I walk through the valley of the
shadow of death, I fear no evil,
for you are with me
Psalm 23, 4**

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July 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3. Trinitatis 2 09:45 Engl.Service 11:00 German Service Pastor Wolf	3	4	5	6	7	8
			Synod Conference of the Eastern Synod	Synod Conference of the Eastern Synod	Synod Conference of the Eastern Synod	Synod Conference of the Eastern Synod
4. Trinitatis 9 09:45 Engl.Service 11:00 German Service Holy Communion in both Pastor Wolf	10	11	12	13	14	15
		10.00 a.m.Service at Moll Berczy House 11.00 a.m. Committee "History of Martin Luther Church"				
5. Trinitatis 16 09:45 Engl.Service 11:00 German Service Pastor Wolf	17	18	19	20	21	22
6. Trinitatis 23 Joint Remembrance Service With Baptism Lunch 11:00 Service Pastor Wolf (see article)	24	25	26	27	28	29
				17.00 – 19.00 p.m. South Etobicoke Affordable Housing Project		
7. Trinitatis 30 09:45 Engl.Service 11:00 German Service Pastor Wolf Summer Camp	31					
	Summer camp					

No Sunday School during Summer Holidays

August 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
		Summer Camp	Summer Camp	Summer Camp	Summer Camp	Summer Camp
8. Trinitatis 6 09:45 Engl.Service 11:00 German Service Pastor Wolf	7	8	9	10	11	12
9. Trinitatis 13 09:45 Engl.Service 11:00 German Service Pastor Wolf	14 Pastor Wolf Vacation	15 Pastor Wolf Vacation	16 Pastor Wolf Vacation	17 Regional Meeting of EKD-Pastors in North America in New York City	18 Regional Meeting of EKD-Pastors in North America in New York City	19 Regional Meeting of EKD-Pastors in North America in New York City
10. Trinitatis 20 09:45 Engl.Service 11:00 German Service Pastor Joachim Knaack	21 Pastor Wolf Vacation	22 Pastor Wolf Vacation	23	24	25	26
11. Trinitatis 25 09:45 Engl.Service 11:00 German Service Pastor Wolf	26	27	28	29	30	

No Sunday School during Summer Holidays

Notes: