



# Congregational newsletter

September 2006

LUTHERAN CHURCH  
— Founded 1955 Gegründet —

## Devotion on the Verse of the Month for September

*Dear Congregational Members and Friends of Martin Luther Church,*

If you now look for the verse of the month in the Bible, you will only succeed if you have a Bible with the so-called „Apocrypha“. These are the scriptures which have not been taken into the canon of the Bible, however, are similar in form and content to the well-known books of the Bible. The apocryphal book where the verse of the month is written, reminds us of the “Proverbs of Solomon“, (these are written in your Bible). Both books want

people to grow wise. A pious wish! But what is actually wisdom? It is more than to be knowledgeable.

There is a saying that you can meet a hundred clever men before you come across one wise man. Wisdom, however, has something to do with knowledge, but wisdom

searches for truly important matters, for the fundamental questions of human life. Wisdom searches for the fundamental questions in human life. What gives my life purpose? How can I become a good person? How can I succeed in becoming gracious, true, patient, merciful? Wisdom has something to do with experience, in so far that one not only understands something,

**But you, our God,  
are gracious, true and  
enduring; you conduct the  
universe full of mercy.**

Wisdom 15, 1

but also acts accordingly. In Biblical testimony this is connected with the recognition of God. Job is a wise man, because he trusts in God even though he is miserable. Salomon is a wise man, because he is aware that, ultimately, all his might as a king and his riches cannot give him total contentment. Wise is, says the Bible, who accepts advice and who has patience. One becomes wise by searching out the company of wise people. Thus far the theory. Now, what does the practice look like? The

American author Truman Capote has said: “The misery of mankind is that the clever are cowardly, the courageous stupid and the able are impatient. The ideal would be the courageous clever person with the necessary patience.” Apparently, there are not enough wise people. It appears as if either stupidity or arrogance triumphs in this world. For otherwise, the misery of many people

could not be explained. This seems to have nothing to do with God. Namely, our verse of the month says of him that he is gracious, true and enduring and full of mercy. It is a pity that we are still so far removed from the wisdom of the Bible now-a-days and the imitation of God’s character. With the best wishes for the month of September, I remain with kind regards, your Pastor

*Stefan Wolf*



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## *Sailing Course the Highlight of the Summer!*

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We ultimately have to thank someone from our congregation, that 11 children of our day care could take part in a sailing course of the “Marine del Ray”-Yacht clubs. He had spoken our nursery a conversation with a presiding member of the club. For the club is supposed, according to its regulations, to teach children from this vicinity sailing without cost. The contact with the day care was quickly established and the children registered. According to the parents, these were the most eventful summer days for the children, who already at the very beginning of the course sailed out into the lake with their boats. Professional teachers have indeed brought the children in a two-week course to a point, where they could, on August 30<sup>th</sup>, on the occasion of a festive banquet, receive, with much pride, their sailing



certificates. The children reciprocated with a thank-you speech and handed out letters they had written themselves, in which they expressed their thanks for this remarkable offer and the hospitality of the club. A continuation is planned for next year. There are four different sailing certificates in order to reach the regatta stage. Here we join the children and also express our heartfelt ‘Thank You’ to the Yacht Club and to our congregational member!

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## *Another Step Towards Beautification*

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In case you have visited our church recently, you have certainly seen it: Our parking lot which serves, at the same time, as a playground to the day care centre, has finally received a new tar covering. Furthermore, robust and good-looking sheds have been erected for toys and equipment. Once again, we owe thanks to the considerable grants given to the day care centre and the busy helpers, who, with skilled craftsmanship have constructed sandboxes, platforms and erected small houses. I believe we

cannot thank enough, that there are always congregational members who contribute to the day care. As congregational members, too, we can be thankful, that our day care work has again profited from beautification – this time the playgrounds.



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## *Presentation of Award with Surprise Visit*

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At the end of the Synod Meeting, a presentation of awards took place by the Synod. Besides Ordination and Service Anniversaries, four award winners were also honoured for their merits in church and community. One of those four prizes, the so-called “Community Leadership Award” went to Pastor Wolf for his work in the district and for social work. The award is designed by the artist Shirley Elford, who has also designed the “Juno Awards”.



A glass flame symbolizes the light according to Matthew 5, verse 16, which one ought to light before the people “so that they see your good works and praise your Father in heaven.” It was a special surprise, because a few congregational members attended the award presentation. Pastor Wolf acknowledged in his thank-you speech the people, with whom and for whom he works. “It is important that we apply the abilities, which God gives us, for those who do not have a voice and lack attention.



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## *Sunday School resumes again*

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### **It's the most wonderful time of the year!!**

Sunday school starts again on Sunday September 10 for both the English service at 9:45 and the German service at 11:00.

It's been a terrific summer and we're planning all kinds of fun adventures for the fall. We look forward to seeing everyone soon!!



If you'd like to help out teaching one Sunday per month, please contact Monika Schmidt by phone (416-760-7082) or email ([mschmidt@workbrain.com](mailto:mschmidt@workbrain.com)).



Christina, Marlana, Tanya, Merlin, Monika

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## *EKD's Prospects to fill the new Pastor's Position by August 1, 2007*

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In September, through the Evangelical Church in Germany (EKD), our Pastor's position will be posted. A questionnaire, which is the same for all foreign congregations, is presently being in the hands of the church council members, who function as contacts. This questionnaire is not yet about concrete details regarding expectations of the new Pastor, but solely about the description of the situation of the congregation and the work in Canada. The EKD assumes that several applicants will step forward and apply for the position. The hope is that before Christmas a selection of three applicants will be proposed to the congregation. The applicants should be invited for interviews at a later date to Toronto, probably in January or February. In a letter to the church council, the EKD promises to provide our congregation with a successor.

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### *Brief Report on the Conference of the EKD-Pastors in New Jersey*

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At the request of the EKD, the five Pastors and their families, sent to North America, shall meet once a year to an exchange of experiences. This time, the Conference took place at Liberty Corner, New Jersey, about one hour drive from Manhattan, from August 17 to 20<sup>th</sup>. The families who serve in Washington D.C., New York, Ottawa and Toronto, gathered in a conference house, built by German Deaconesses. Despite certain situations, which are



connected with building and congregations – for instance, the congregation in Washington does not own a church and turns more than all other congregation to German temporary immigrants (Expatriates); some things are similar, for instance, that all the congregations make a great effort to preserve the German

language and have offer various programs for extending the congregational structure. There, we have also informed ourselves about a very exclusive, but also very attractive Old Age Home. Furthermore, we undertook a trip to Manhattan. On Sunday, the church service in the St. Paul's Church in New York took place. All five Pastors have spoken briefly on the sermon text of the Sunday. Pastor Wilfried Wasserman and Mrs. Barbara deserve praise for the organization of the conference. To this, my family and I have added a three-day vacation in New York.



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*The Time has Come! The Congregational Chronicles  
are published on 1<sup>st</sup> of October!*

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After 18 months of work, the book on 50 Years Martin Luther Church, Toronto, is going into print now. The coloured, informative Book contains 128 pages, presents the events between the years 1955 to 2005, clearly arranged and graphically, and shows documents, photos, which give a good insight into the events of the history of the congregation. The team of authors is satisfied with the result and now hopes, that the congregation will accept the book with interest and enthusiasm. The sale takes place after the joint service on Thanksgiving on October 1st. 150 Books are ordered. The exact sale price will be made public.

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*We invite everyone cordially to our  
Thanksgiving Service  
on 1. of October at 11:00 a.m.!*

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As in the past years, we will celebrate a joint Thanksgiving in the German and English languages. **PLEASE bring along donations for the Food bank!**

I have just been notified that the two Food banks in our vicinity are totally depleted. Therefore the request to bring **imperishable foods** (Cans, fruit, tuna, noodles, rice etc.) and put them into the baskets at the entrance of the church. We thank you for your donations!

On that day, we will introduce our book “50 Years Martin Luther Church”.

<b>11.00 a.m.</b>	<b>JOINT SERVICE</b>
<b>ca. 12.00 noon</b>	<b>LUNCH FOLLOWED BY COFFEE HOUR</b>
<b>ca. 13.30 p.m.</b>	<b>CONCLUSION</b>

**We look forward to your coming!!**



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## *Coming: Brass band from Germany!*

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On September 12, an eleven person brass band from Germany visits Pastor Hille (at the front right), whom many have met, and will give concerts in churches with some professional wind players. Among other things, are planned a Matinee on Friday, September 15th from 6:00 p.m. on the the Wienecke Farm, planned by Peter Wienecke. The congregation is cordially invited to this event. Varied wind music and a BBQ will be offered. Food and drink donations are welcomed. Transportation will be arranged, please register as soon as possible with Pastor Wolf. On

Sunday, September 17th, there will be a joint service at 11:00 a.m., during which the wind players will present chorales and music from the renaissance, classics and modern. We ask for active participation and hope to be able to pick up the costs of the wind players through donations. I can promise you that this music will be a true delight for the ears.

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## *Who will donate Flowers for the Altar?*

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As you know, Mr. Karl-Ernst Kriese has arranged the flower decorations for Sunday Services for several decades. After his passing away, we now realize very clearly, that this task is not so easy to take over as we thought. Therefore we are looking for donours, who give flowers or money, so that we can arrange the flower decorations on the altar as is fitting. Please inform the Pastor.



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## *Letters of the Bishops in their Original Text*

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On the following page you will find first of all a letter of our Bishop Michael Pryse, who comments on the Synod's majority decision in view of the so-called „local option“ regarding the blessing of same sex couples, and a letter of the National Bishop, Raymond Schulz. The church council will deal with the contents of these letters after the summer break.

Dear Synod Family,

July 9, 2006

Grace and peace be unto you!

I am writing to you having just concluded the closing worship service of our Eleventh Biennial Convention – Synod Assembly 2006. The service was wonderfully inspiring and uplifting and now our delegates are returning to their homes having participated in a full and challenging five days of inspired work on behalf of our church.

In the coming weeks, your delegates will provide you with their individual reports on our total convention experience. Several, however, have requested that I communicate with you regarding our synod's significant action concerning the blessing of same gender unions.

On Thursday July 6, 2006, 72.4% of our registered delegates voted in support of the following resolution:  
*That the Eastern Synod of the ELCIC recognizes that the blessing of same-gender couples who want to make a life-long commitment to one another in the presence of God and their community of faith is a matter of pastoral and congregational discretion. Authorization to perform such blessings shall require the consent of the pastor and the consent of the congregation or calling agency, as expressed by a 2/3 majority vote at a duly called meeting of the congregation or calling agency, and in consultation with the bishop.*

By virtue of this action, same gender couples may now have their unions blessed within the context of those Eastern Synod ministries which are willing and able to meet the conditions specified within this motion. This action is, of course, quite controversial and will be received with both happiness and distress by individual members of our synodical family. While I am mindful of this reality, I am very supportive of the action taken by our synod. In my view, it represents a reasonable accommodation that allows for a diversity of pastoral practice.

Those congregations who wish to offer prayerful support to persons in committed same-gender partnerships now have a responsible means of doing so. At the same time, this resolution protects the rights of pastors and congregations who do not wish to be partnered in actions that they cannot, in good conscience, support. While this action does not answer the broader questions before us, it does provide a responsible process that allows pastoral decisions to be made by those who will be most affected by them.

In my report to the convention, I made the following observation. "In some ways, the witness we provide while engaging our differences is more compelling than that of the decisions we will make." In this regard, I am pleased to tell you how proud I am of the way in which our delegates – regardless of position – prayerfully and respectfully engaged one another around this challenging issue. It was, I think, a compelling witness; a witness which I trust to be similarly evident as our conversations continue throughout the synod in the months ahead.

Remember, those who would claim the greatest truth must always seek to demonstrate the greatest love!

May God grant each of you a blessed and restorative summer season!

With all best wishes,  
*Bishop Michael J. Pryse*

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**NEWS RELEASE**

**From the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC)**

**LETTER TO THE CHURCH FROM NATIONAL BISHOP RAYMOND SCHULTZ**

Winnipeg, 17 July 2006--The following is the text from a letter to the Church from National Bishop Raymond Schultz:

Dear Friends,

Many members of the ELCIC are aware that the Eastern Synod, meeting in convention Thursday, July 6, 2006, voted by a 72% majority, the following resolution:

*That the Eastern Synod of the ELCIC recognizes that the blessing of same-gender couples who want to make a life-long commitment to one another in the presence of God and their community of faith is a matter of pastoral and congregational discretion. Authorization to perform such blessings shall require the consent of the pastor and the consent of the congregation or calling agency, as expressed by a 2/3 majority vote at a duly called meeting of the congregation or calling agency, and in consultation with the bishop.*

Some delegates to the Eastern Synod convention questioned whether the synod has the jurisdiction to adopt such an action, particularly in view of the fact that the 2005 National Convention rejected a resolution very similar in wording. However, a motion to refer the matter to National Church Council (NCC) and/or the Court of Adjudication for a ruling was defeated.

In a pastoral letter dated July 9, 2006, Bishop Pryse wrote:

*By virtue of this action, same gender couples may now have their unions blessed within the context of those Eastern Synod ministries which are willing and able to meet the conditions specified within this motion.*

The Officers of this church will bring a recommendation to NCC regarding the legality of the Eastern Synod resolution at the September 15-16, 2006 meeting to be held in Winnipeg. The Constitution, Bylaws and National/Synodical Responsibilities policy of the ELCIC will form the basis on which the decision is made. The question will not be referred to the Court of Adjudication unless an appeal of the NCC's decision is filed.

It would be advisable for congregations considering the blessing of same gender couples to wait until NCC has made a ruling on this matter before proceeding further.

I would hope that members and ministers of this church will refrain from speculating on possible outcomes before NCC has opportunity to issue its ruling. Rather than call an immediate meeting without sufficient preparation, I have urged NCC to take the time between now and the next meeting to review the action of the Eastern Synod in light of this church's documents and prepare itself for a jurisdictional ruling.

A number of members have written letters to NCC expressing their concern over this matter. They have been assured that their letters have been received and that the matter has been placed on NCC's agenda. Due to staff vacations in the national office, it may not be possible to reply to subsequent correspondence in a timely manner.

National Bishop Raymond Schultz  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC)

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## *Visit of Mr. & Mrs. Reichel*

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From September 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> Pastor Siegmarr Reichel and his wife Gertrud will come for a short visit. Unfortunately, there is no time for a date in our congregation, for Reichels are on their way to visit their daughters in Edmonton and Atlanta.

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## *Thanks to Pastor Knaack*

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We thank Pastor Knaack for conducting the church service on August 20th.

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## *Confirmation Instruction On Tuesdays now!*

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On account of growing demand and other appointment difficulties, confirmation instruction will take place, as of September 19th, every two weeks at the church, Pastor's office.

### *The last Word:*

**Wisdom is the ability to realize,  
when one's intelligence  
is at its end.  
(Author unknown)**

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## *Summer Break Ends*

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All Groups and Circles begin their Meetings and Activities again as of September. Please note the dates on the attached calendar.

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## *German Contact Circle*

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The German Contact Circle meets on September 21. September at 7:00 p.m. at the First Lutheran Church, Bondstreet, Toronto.

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## *We baptized*

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**Jack Schaeffer  
Fiona Hennecke**

**For he will give his angels charge of you to  
guard you in all your ways.  
(Psalm 91, 11)**

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## *Married were*

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**Elke Gutsch and Frank Seidel**

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

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### Contact information:

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## September und Beginning of October 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>12. Trinity 3</b> 9:45 Engl. Service 11:00 German Service Pastor Wolf	4	5	6 9.00 Mission Circle	7	8	9
<b>13. Trinity 10</b> 9:45 Engl. Service 11:00 German Service Hl. Communion in both Services, Pastor Wolf <b>Sunday School                      begins again!</b>	11 4:00 p.m. Literary Circle	12 4:00 p.m. Arrival of the Brass Band	13 19.00 Ladies' Group	14	15 6:00 p.m. Wind Ensemble Matinee on Peter Wienecke's Farm (Potluck! Bring a lawn chair!)	16
<b>14. Trinity 17</b> 11:00 Joint Service With Brass Band from Germany and Baptism Pastor Wolf	18 <b>Note:</b> 6:00 p.m. Nursery Board Meeting	19 7:00 p.m. Confirmation Instruction	20 9:00 a.m. Mission Circle  1:30 p.m. German Bible Study  7:00 Church Council	21 7:00 p.m. German Contact Circle at the First Lutheran Church	22	23
<b>15. Trinity 24</b> 9:45 Engl. Service 11:00 German Service Pastor Wolf	25	26 Exception 4th Tuesday: 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Seniors' Circle (Please bring your own Lunch!)  Departure of Brass Band	27 9:00a.m. Mission Circle  6:30 p.m. Board Moll Berczy Haus	28	29	30
<b>Erntedank 1</b> 11:00 Joint Service With Introduction of the History Book and Lunch Pastor Wolf	2	3 7:00 p.m. Confirmation Instruction	4 9:00 a.m. Mission Circle	5	6	7

# Notizen