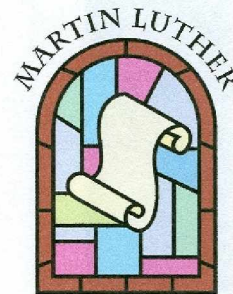


Congregational newsletter



October 2006

LUTHERAN CHURCH

— Founded 1955 Gegründet —

Devotion on the Verse for the Month of October

Dear Members and Friends of Martin Luther Church!

To live in abundance, who would not want that?! I hardly know anyone today, who does not want to be rich. People like us growing up in such a materialistic society, are already oriented as children towards being rich as the life goal. – When we were in one of the rebuilt pioneer villages recently, it became clear to us once again, how many things have been in short supplies 100 years ago. At that time, one had to be content to have enough to eat. One had to live off whatever one grew oneself. Sweets, for instance, were rare and education was a luxury. Nowadays, we can hardly imagine any more what it was like. Though I have nothing against rich people, per se, but often, there are terrible excesses. Cars costing millions, wedding gowns studded with diamonds, water faucets covered with 18 carat gold – is that necessary? –Certainly, these are extreme examples, but I believe that

it is our biggest problem, that we have completely lost the connection. In the Bible, riches has a very different meaning. In the verse for the month, God gives riches to the land, the field, so that it will yield a good crop. He who prays this psalm knows that, indeed, not everything depends on his own achievements, but on God's blessing. In the prayer

**You visit the earth
and water it,
you greatly enrich it.**

Psalm 65, 9



he acknowledges that it is God who cares for people and chooses them, it is God who lets it rain and ensures their livelihood. The difference between then and today is, that the person who prays the psalm feels gratitude. Through his faith he knows that he truly cannot take everything for

granted. – In October, we even celebrate Thanksgiving twice, the German and the English holiday. Thereby we attempt to establish a connection with the Biblical foundation and the

lifestyle of days gone by, and to win back a perspective which we have lost. We have realized that money does not make us happy and abundance does not satisfy our hunger. The

hunger for meaning and love cannot be stilled by riches as we define it. Through faith we discover God's love anew. We perceive how well God takes care of us and, hopefully, we also feel gratitude towards him.

In communion with God we will also discover that we can be content with few things, and that material things do not count, but the security which he gives to each person. We

recognize that we are richer than we ever thought, not because we can afford many things, but because we are blest.

With best wishes and kind regards for the month of October, I remain

Your Pastor
Stefan Wolf

Thanksgiving Service in Retrospect on October 1st!

In a festively decorated and fully occupied church we celebrated our joint Thanksgiving Service on October 1st. At this occasion, we thanked the committee which has put together the book “50 Years Martin Luther Church”. We also thanked Mr. Otto Karthaus, who has written a booklet of poems and donated 150 editions to the church. Everyone who buys a book receives this booklet free of charge. The visit of Amanda was touching; this is the young woman who was bedridden for some weeks because of bleeding of the brain and a stroke, and who was supported financially by our congregation. She had come to give personal thanks for the donations, the prayers and the sympathy of the congregational members. However, she was unable to present her prepared speech herself, because she was overcome emotionally and her tears welled up. Pastor Wolf took over the reading of her thank-you speech. – After the service, the long-awaited book was offered for sale and lunch was served. Sam and Nicky Lades took care of a tasty menu, Mr. Wieggers donated the cake. We thank the ladies and Mrs Weigelin for the help in the kitchen. Once again, we reflect thankfully on a beautiful Thanksgiving feast.

The Sale of the Book has begun!



The book “50 Years Martin Luther Church” is for sale from now on after the church services. It is coloured, informative and comprised of 128 pages. The events of the years 1955 to 2005 are presented vividly and clearly arranged. It contains documents and photos, which give insight into the events of the congregational history. The text is in German and English. The sale price amounts to \$ 40, including a valuable bookmark with the emblem of the church and a reference

to the 50th anniversary. Do not miss your chance to acquire a beautiful memento. It is only available as long as the supply lasts. Here, we also ask for donations, as the total production costs of the book and the bookmark amount to \$ 54.28. We would very much appreciate contributions towards the printing costs. In case you wish to contribute, please mark the amount on your donation envelope.

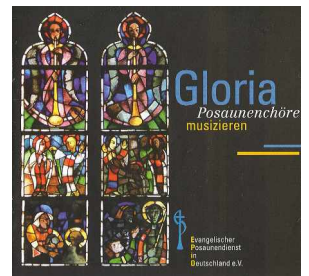
A Big Thank-You to the Wind Ensemble from Germany and their Hosts!



The wind ensemble from Germany has offered us truly high-classical music. Particularly impressive was the concert in our church. The wind ensemble has, besides a cross section of their repertoire, also played the piece “Like a feast after long mourning”, to which the sermon also took reference. Other concerts have taken place at the Mimico Baptist Church, the First Lutheran Church, as well as on Friday evening at the farm of Peter and Anna Lisa Wienecke in a comfortable atmosphere. We once again thank the twelve wind players from Bremen and Nordrhein-Westfalen, that they have undertaken the long journey. A big thank-you also to the host families, especially Daina, Ernie, Anna Lisa and Peter Wienecke, and a few neighbours who were kind enough to accommodate musicians.

CD of Wind Ensembles

As a thank-you gift from the wind players, we have received a CD, which offers a good overview of church music of German wind ensembles. There are 27 titles on the CD, which can be purchased immediately at the church for \$ 5 each.



Pastor Reichel and his wife Gertrud visited briefly



Pastor Reichel and his wife Gertrud have paid a brief visit to us on their way from Edmonton to Atlanta. It was nice to see them again. The situation in the day care of the congregation in Brazil is now such that there are public contributions and several Kindergarten teachers could be hired. The church has received an addition, which is, however, not yet completed because of lack of funds. The rooms are designated for Sunday School. The situation is particularly difficult in Guarulhos. Prison revolts and organized crime are extremely bad. Recently, during revolts, 52 busses were set on fire. Time and again, shots of rivalling groups can be heard. One asks oneself, how a person can live and work quietly under such conditions. – On the occasion of this visit, we were able to pass on donations from our congregation in the amount of almost \$ 2,500, which had been collected for Brazil. There is no doubt, Pastor Reichel and his congregation do great work. There is an enormous amount of work to be done. The opportunities to help people are nearly limitless. It is good that we can, through our donations, make an important and meaningful contribution.

*Who takes care of the
Flowers
on the Altar?*

We are still wringing our hands in desperation while looking for someone who will take care of the flower decorations on the altar. In the meantime, we have a list for flower donations, where you can enter your name. Yet, we still need someone who co-ordinates the purchase or the picking up of flowers. Would that not be something for YOU?

Trip to the Shaw Festival

Those who have tickets for the theatre visit on October 21st, will meet at 10:20 a.m. at the beer store, across from the subway parking lot at Bloor Street and Islington Ave. Please bring your own lunch. On the way there, we will stop at a winery. The play ends at 4:20 p.m. Hans Vetter assumes that the bus will arrive back at the starting point at approx. 7:00 p.m. Please read the information sheet at the church!

*Needed:
Help to prepare Coffee*

We are looking for help to prepare coffee after the church service. Please contact the church (Telephone 416-251-8293)

The last Word:

**The good deed is a stately
plant, its rarest blossom
is gratitude.**
(from Persia)

Trip of the Seniors' Circle

At the moment, the Seniors' Circle plans a trip to the Farmer's Market in St. Jacobs on October 26th. Departure is from church at 9:30 a.m. Further information through announcements..

We baptized

Evan Alfred Grammenz

**Have I not commanded you: Be strong and of
good courage; be not frightened nor dismayed!
For the LORD your God is with you
wherever you go.
(Joshua 1, 9)**

Married were

Marcia Dick and Jason Stephens

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

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October und Beginning of November 2006

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|----------------------------------|--|--|---|---|----------------------------------|
| Thanksgivingt 1 11:00 Joint Thanksgiving Service, followed by Luncheon Pastor Wolf | 2 | 3 | 4 9.00 a.m. Mission Circle | 5 7:00 p.m. Confirmands, Church | 6 15:30 Thanksgiving celebration for Day Care Church | 7 |
| Cdn. Thanksgiving 17. Trinitatis 8 9:45 Engl.Service 11:00 German Service Holy Communion Pastor Wolf 2:00 p.m. Service at Lakeshore Lodge | 9 Thanksgiving Day | 10 4.:00 p.m Literary Circle 6:00 p.m. Nursery Board | 11 9.00 a.m. Mission Circle 7.:00 p.m. Ladies' Group 7.:00 Church Council | 12 7:00 Confirmands, Church | 13 | 14 |
| 18. Trinitatis 15 9:45 Engl.Service 11:00 German Service With Baptism Pastor Wolf | 16 Pastor Wolf in Germany | 17 Pastor Wolf in Germany | 18 Pastor Wolf in Germany | 19 Pastor Wolf in Germany | 20 Pastor Wolf in Germany | 21 Pastor Wolf in Germany |
| 19. Trinitatis 22 9:45 Engl.Service 11:00 German Service Pastor J. Knaack | 23 | 24 | 25 9.00 a.m. Mission Circle 18.30 Board Moll Berczy House | 26 9.30 Uhr Trip of Seniors' Circle to St. Jacobs | 27 | 28 |
| Reformation 20. Trinitatis 29 9:45 Engl.Service 11:00 German Service With Baptism Pastor Wolf | 30 | 31 | 1 9.00a.m. Mission Circle | 2 7:00 Confirmands, Church | 3 | 4 |

Notes