

Congregational newsletter

October 2007

Martin Luther Lutheran Church

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LUTHERAN CHURCH
—Founded 1955 Gegründet—

Devotion

Dear Congregation

Thanksgiving in Canada – Thanksgiving in Africa. During these days, I have to reflect on how uncertain and difficult we have experienced Thanksgiving, when we were in Tanzania from 1993 to 1999. The photo can give you some impression. It shows Lea, the wife of my co-worker Matayo, as she and her child lead the donkeys back from fetching water. Everything was bone-dry, their Boma (settlement) happened to be situated in a very barren area; when I drove through it with the land cruiser, huge dust clouds enveloped the front of the car. But everywhere, people and animals, suffered under the dry season. There were years when it did not rain for eight or nine months! And how relieved were we, when the rain finally came, and how wonderful it was to see, how quickly the Massai Steppe awoke to life again; how quickly the dusty land was covered with green grass and white lilies.



Life is poor in the African steppe. It already takes one to two hours every day, just to fetch the necessary water for drinking and cooking. And the donkeys carry not only the water basins daily on their backs. When the family moves to an other area, the donkeys carry all their belongings, cooking utensils, animal hides for their beds, clothing. I must wonder with how little the people manage there— our moving container from Germany was as big as a small house, with its 40 feet high cube!

Not all are poor in Africa. A Massai, who owns 500 cattle, is actually rich, and in the meantime, quite a few of them traverse the Massai Steppe faster and

more comfortable in a rented truck. Yet everyday life means continuous hardship for many people. For us, receiving a good salary, the food on the daily market was still affordable, even during the dry season. But many Tanzanians had to go hungry, and for the aged, sick and small children, the dry season was a threatening time.

How well we are off! How rich our harvest is, every year and every day! The concerns of our family, that we now would have to eat only soft American white bread for years, have proven quite unfounded. We can savour Bavarian rolls here, Hungarian salami and Italian cheese. But, in every day life, harvest does not only mean the food that comes from the field. A minority of people work as farmers today. Harvest – this is also the monthly salary or pension, these are also interest income of investments, the many good social securities, which a strong country like Canada makes available to its citizens. It is a harvest of a special nature this October, as the Canadian Dollar is at par with the American Dollar.

Thanksgiving is cause for joy and gratitude towards God, who grants us daily many good things. Thanksgiving is also cause to perceive again our responsibility for other people, who are far worse off. In Proverbs 22, 9, it says: “He who has a bountiful eye will be blessed, for he shares his bread with the poor.” And Paul writes in 2. Corinthians 8, 14: “Your abundance should supply their want.” When God puts many things at our disposal, he thereby also places responsi-

bility upon us. He entrusts us with good things, so that we can do good to others.

In our kitchen, there hangs an oval, light brown tray from Africa above the kitchen table. On it, it says: "Mungu ni mpaji", which means in Kiswahili, the East African language: "God is the Giver." This is what Thanksgiving wants us to realize. Everything we have, we have received from God, and God is the giver of all good gifts. In Tanzania, there is a famous saying: "Mtu ni watu.", meaning roughly: "A person cannot

live without people." Every one of us lives as a person with and of other people. From whatever we pass on, many people can receive life, here, in front of our door, just as the people who suffer hardship in many parts of the world. Let us celebrate Thanksgiving in this double manner: by giving thanks and by sharing!

*With kind regards and blessings,
Your Pastor Alexander Mielke*

Installation on September 16th, 2007

The Church



The Church Council and the Assistant Bishop G.F. Dahle.



Else Weigelin, John Schmidt and Monika Schmidt were Congregation Representatives

Pastor Joachim Knaack and President Edmund Scholz with the MLC Shepherd Staff.



Many shared the Holy Communion.

Excerpt from the Commission of EKD, signed by Bishop Martin Schindehuette

We remind you of your ordination vows committing you to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ according to the testimony of the Holy Scriptures and without reduction as well as to administer the Holy Sacraments according to the institution of our Lord. In your service it will be your duty to guard the confessional status of the ELCIC and to abide by its rules. It will be your task to address the German-speaking and the English-speaking people in your community by way of preaching, teaching, and pastoral care leading them to a deeper understanding of the Holy Scriptures and to responsible participation in the mission entrusted by Jesus Christ to reach all nations. We expect you in your work to deepen the fellowship with the ELCIC, a church in partnership with the EKD, and with other Christian congregations and churches in Canada with the goal of intensifying their relations with the Protestant Christians in Germany.

Excerpt from a letter of greetings from the Deacon of Oettingen, Christoph Seyler

Our bond across borders and continents allows me to greet you on your day of celebration. It is part of our great experiences of our faith, to find, in all places of this world, people who celebrate church services in the same or similar manner, and gain strength from it to lead their lives by trusting in God. The pastors of the Deaconry of Oettingen and their families want to congratulate the Martin Luther Congregation – only with reluctance we saw the Mielkes leave, but later on we saw their joy to serve you. We are convinced that the bond which has grown over the years will not end now, but will widen also our horizons. I wish all of you much joy, strength, God’s accompaniment and blessing on your joint way. I can convey special greetings and blessings in the name of our Regional Bishop, Dr. Ernst Üffner from Augsburg.



The pastors, involved in the installation service: Lange Knaack Dahle, Mielke und Moeller.



Hermann Greiner from Pastor Mielke’s former congregation Holzkirchen brought greetings from Bavaria.



The new Consul General Holger Raasch talking to Pastor Mielke and his wife.

Family Mielke (with the children Franziska, Dorothee, Benedikt, Veronika) was blessed by Pastor Katharina Moeller.



Address of Pastor Alexander Mielke

What we celebrate today, why we are together, is the call of Jesus Christ into a new mission, into a new community, and I welcome this call, I trust in God's blessings and his accompaniment on this new path.

I wish to express my heartfelt thanks to all of you, also in the name of my wife and my entire family; to the Martin Luther Congregation, who has shown me trust and chose me as their new Pastor. Also to Pastor Dahle, the acting Bishop of the Eastern Synod, who has, with powerful Biblical words, put the new mission before me and has given me encouragement to trust in God's word. To Pastor Knaack, Pastor Moeller and other pastoral colleagues from the German Contact Circle, who have accepted me heartily into their community of the Ministry. To colleagues of neighbouring congregations, whose openness and friendliness I have been able to feel already at the first meeting of the Etobicoke Lakeshore Clergy Fellowship. To the Evangelical Church in Germany, which, by sending a Pastor, has again shown itself as a reliable partner of the MLK and the ELCIC.

I look forward to the work here at Martin Luther Church and in Toronto. I am willing to serve in preaching, in pastoral care in homes and families, in supporting all the various groups of our congregation, starting with the children and young people up to the age of the seniors. I am glad about the musical accompaniment of our church service by the organist and the church choir. I am glad about the many faces of children and all our team members of the Day Care, and I am convinced that the Martin Luther Church will continue to make important and essential contributions in serving the Etobicoke Community, totally in accordance with the proclamation of the holistic gospel.

We wish to express a heartfelt thank-you for the very friendly and warm welcome, which we experienced during the first days and weeks. As representative for everyone, I wish to mention here the President of the Church Council, Edmund Scholz, together with his wife Ursula., In so many small and large matters of the new beginning, we have received help. In a very positive way, I have been introduced to various fields of my work. Many have also taken care of our children and have helped them through joyful activities in play and swimming pools and many other things, to acquaint themselves with the foreign land. I am very happy that the parents and sister of my wife, who lives near Buffalo with her two small sons, can celebrate with us today. It is a special gift that the Greiner family can take part in the church service today and in this way can bring the greetings of our former Bavarian congregations Wechingen and Holzkirchen.

Again, our congregation is situated near water. It was the Main River during our vicariate, the Pangani River in the Massai steppe, the Woernitz in the deanery of Oettingen, and now the huge Lake Ontario, only meters away from our church. It was therefore fitting, when, at our fare-well to the congregation in Holzkirchen, a quote by **Gorch Fock**, a famous writer and representative of the German Navigation, was given to accompany us on our way: "**I do not know where God leads me. But I know that he leads me.**" We do not know at the beginning, what is awaiting us, there are new people, new tasks. But we can be certain, it is the same God who also leads us along new paths.

This certainty is also expressed in two Bible verses, which are very precious to my wife and me. **Isaiah 55, 12:** "**For you shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace.**" This verse was important to us when we became engaged and set out on a new path together. To our surprise and joy, it was this word that was given us as encouragement during church service when we were blessed and sent to serve in Tanzania. Therefore, we hope that God will this time, too, in spite of many outward changes, let us experience his inner piece time and time again. Our wedding verse was **John 15, 5: Jesus Christ says:** "**I am the vine, you are the branches; he that abides in me, and I in him, will bring forth much fruit; for without me you can do nothing**" This verse reminds us that we are dependent on God's grace in all things. Nowhere else do we feel this deeper than during Communion. Therefore, it is good that we celebrate Holy Communion together today. Herein we experience the deep community with Christ, which is the origin of our community as the body of Christ. In the small catechism, Martin Luther says: "These words; 'Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins' show us that in the Sacrament forgiveness of sins, life and salvation are given us through these words. For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation." We want to celebrate this new joy, this new life, when we receive the Holy Communion of our Lord Jesus Christ together.

Dear Congregation,

We feel very comfortable in our new home, in Canada and in the Martin Luther Congregation, and we express heartfelt thanks for the friendly reception and for all help, which we received in the beginning. Two points concerning the congregational work: Like Pastor Wolf, I will normally have my day-off on Saturday, when we can best undertake bigger family activities. And that my wife Mrs. Heike Block Mielke is also an ordained Pastor, you can experience on Sunday, October 21st. She will conduct the two Church Services then, while I will attend the conference of the DELKINA (German Evangelical Lutheran Churches in North America) in San Francisco.

With kind regards, Pastor Alexander Mielke

A Thankful Reflection on the Time with Pastor Stefan Wolf

...is contained in a poem by Otto Karthaus about the many gifts Pastor Wolf has, his well-known kindness, his knowledge about Martin Luther. That he wished to live in the New World and explore Ontario, and thus found a new field of service; new projects took shape, the work with groups and circles, confirmation classes are mentioned, as well as Sunday School and Day Care, camp and retreats. Not everything can be listed, however, thanks are expressed to all helpers, but particularly to Pastor Wolf.

Pastor Wolf hat manche Gaben,
Die nicht alle Menschen haben.
Wohl bekannt ist weit und breit
Seine Liebenswürdigeit,

Die hat Gott ihm mit dem Leben
Wie er wollte mitgegeben.
Schließlich sind des Gottes Sachen!
Niemand kann sie selber machen.

Martin Luthers viele Thesen
Hatte er schon bald gelesen.
Und der Wunsch hat sich ergeben
In der neuen Welt zu leben.

In Ontario's Bezirken
Mal zu forschen und zu wirken.
Und so wurde diese Welt
Nun sein neues Arbeitsfeld

Alles ruhte hier ja schon
Auf erprobter Tradition.
Manche Ziele und Projekte,
Offenbare und versteckte,

Kamen bald auch in Bewegung
Wie bei einer Grundsteinlegung.
Wie im Sommer, so im Winter,
Die Gemeinde stand dahinter.

Gottesdienst an erster Stelle,
Danach Kaffee auf die Schnelle.
Mit Gesprächs – und Bibelstunden
Ist das Lehramt auch verbunden.

Unterricht für Konfirmanden
Die auch jedes Jahr vorhanden,
Sonntagsschule, Kindergarten
Die auf ihren Pastor warten,

Mit dem Vorstand diskutieren
Und verbinden und kurieren.
Freizeit, Camp und Sommerfeste,
Bringt Verbindung und auch Gäste.

Alle Arbeit insgesamt
Ist enorm in diesem Amt.
Wenig ist hier aufgezählt,
Nicht gebührend ausgewählt

Auch die Helfer, die viel geben
Formen das Gemeindeleben
Allen danken wir zuvor
Und besonders dem Pastor.

Pastor Wolf hat manche Gaben
Die nicht alle Menschen haben;
Und bekannt ist weit und breit
Seine Liebenswürdigeit.

By Otto Karthaus June 24, 2007

Concert of German Songs on September 23, 2007

We enjoyed a wonderful concert with a guest choir from Rotenburg an der Wuehme which is located near to Bremen. Thanks to Manfred Petz, the Music Director of the Edelweiss Choir, and Helmut Gschoesser, the President of the same choir, for arranging this. Under the direction of René Clair, we had the opportunity of listening to a vivid and colourful choice of church hymns, traditional songs and international folk. The Edelweiss Choir and the Schola Cantorum contributed some beautiful songs, mainly from Austria. Many came and thanked the choirs with long enthusiastic applause. There was still a busy schedule ahead for the guest choir, even an invitation to sing within the parliament building of Ottawa. For their journey around Canada, and for all their future musical commitment, we wish them God's guidance and blessings!



Guests from the Parliament of Baden-Wuerttemberg in the Thanksgiving Service on October 7th, 2007

We expect special guests for our service on October 7. The Finance Committee of the Parliament of Baden-Wuerttemberg (which is the south-western part of Germany) would like to attend our thanksgiving worship. They are about 18 persons; their chairman is Ingo Rust. So come and celebrate Thanksgiving with our guests! We will have a Joint Service, and it will start at 10:00 a.m. Welcome!

Our New Confirmation Class



Starting on the right: Nadine Jong-sma, Nicholas Benseler, Katrina Kumpa, Nicholas Rosati, Jocelyn Sommerfeld, Franz Zultner, Benedikt Mielke.



Member of the group also is Lukas Frantzke.

Loaves and Fishes

Ten years ago, a group of South Simcoe farmers and community members met to discuss implementing a Canadian Foodgrains Bank project. The Loaves and Fishes Growing Project was born out of their vision to help support hungry people around the world. To date this growing project has raised cash and grains valued at over \$800,000. Matching funds from CIDA could increase this amount to \$4,000,000. Much of Loaves & Fishes' success can be attributed to the help of farmers, churches, organizations, agri-businesses and individuals who support the project. Farmers donate their time, crop inputs and machinery to prepare the land, plant and harvest the crops. The agri-business community donates crop inputs and marketing. Cash donations cover the remaining costs of land rent, crop insurance, seed, fertilizer, sprays, drying and trucking. In 2007, the Loaves & Fishes Growing Project will harvest wheat, oats, soybeans and corn. The harvested crops will be sold and the proceeds will be forwarded to the Canadian Foodgrains Bank and distributed amongst the member church organizations involved with Loaves and Fishes. Thanks to the generosity of members of your church, who annually plant 20 acres of crop for this project, Loaves and Fishes supports Canadian Lutheran World Relief.



Jean Keffer
Loaves & Fishes Growing Project
P. O. Box 239, Bond Head, ON L0G 1A0

We also cooperate with a Foodbank in Mimico. Please support us by providing donations of food. Needed is unperishable food such as cans, rice, beans etc. Thank you very much!

Collecting Stamps for Bethel

Over the period of nearly one year, congregation members have collected some 10.000 stamps. A warm thank you to all who have contributed! Family Wolf took three parcels to Germany when they moved back and gave it to the Stamp Collecting Department in Bethel. In this large church institution of social services in Germany, they collect stamps help to create and to sustain work for disabled people. Please continue to support this important commitment of our congregation!

Kind regards, Inge Koo Tze Mew

Day Care in San Paulo, Brazil

For many years our Church has formed a relationship with a Lutheran Church in Guarulhos, Brazil in an effort to assist them in the upkeep of a children's daycare centre with 72 very young children. This Church in Brazil has a new shepherd who was installed on July 18th, 2007. His name is Pastor Edilson Tetzner. Because he speaks only Portuguese all contact at the moment is through Gunter Gall, who will be happy to answer questions regarding this work. Email: gunterg@sympatico.ca



We will show a film relating to Brazil on October 28, after the services "Central Station". It lets us experience the most difficult life of orphans and street children. Gunter Gall will be ready to give further information on the day care in Sao Paulo.

From a cinema review

Behind the melodious name of "Central do Brasil" hides the main railway station of Rio de Janeiro. Thousands of people rush through its hall daily, and some earn their money there, among them is Dora. She writes letters for illiterate people. People dictate to her their secrets and personal feelings, but Dora hardly knows feelings, and she influences the fate of others by judging the letters and mails very few. One day, in the long line-up of her customers, there stands Ana with her son Josué. When she, shortly after, dies in an accident, Josué, who until then had lived in safety with his loving mother, is suddenly on his own.

"Central do Brasil" is a special film, for it shows Brazil without rosy glasses. This succeeds by bringing excerpts of the life of the poor so close to the viewer, that he can put himself into the position of these persons.

Through temporary documentary-like camera work, the film appears even more realistic. Femanda Montenegro (Dora) und Marilia Pera (Irene) are, furthermore, the only professional actors, all others stood in front of a camera for the first time. Vinicius Oliveira was accidentally discovered by director Salles at Rio's airport, when Vinicius begged for money to buy a sandwich.

Awards: Golden Bear (best film), Silver Bear (F. Montenegro), Berlinale 1998 with the predicate "particularly valuable".

Seniors' Circle "Health in Old Age"

Tuesday, October 16th, there will be a lecture by Dr. Thorsten Wietschel on the topic of "Health in Old Age" with emphasis on alternative medicine; he will also be available for questions and advice. Please let others know about this important event. It begins, as always, at 11:00 a.m. at the church.

Church Choir

Our Church Choir contributed wonderful songs to the services of the installation and Thanksgiving. Unfortunately, the number of members is small. Please join the choir! The choir welcomes new singers! The choir meets every Thursday at 7:25 p.m. in the church.

Toronto Conference Fall Meeting

Saturday, **October 27**, 9:00 a.m. – 3.00 p.m., St. Ansgar Lutheran Church, 1498 Avenue Road, Toronto

This year's Fall Conference Meeting follows the theme "**Greening the Church**". A number of speakers and workshop leaders will focus on various areas of this theme. The day's events will include worship, a question and answer period and lunch. The keynote speaker will be Rory O'Brien from Faith and the Common Good. He will also lead one of the workshops to be offered. Louise Malnachuk from Scarborough Missions will lead a workshop about her organization's experience green their building. We will also include information on the ELCIC's greening program, Stewardship of Creation. Cost for the day is \$10, which includes lunch and materials, payable at the door.

Please mark your calendars to attend the "**Second Annual Toronto Conference Concert**" on **Saturday, January 26**, 2008 at Agricola Lutheran Church, Toronto. The concert will feature Christmas/Epiphany music and soloists. Musicians and choirs from Toronto Conference congregations are invited to participate. For more information please contact Pastor Martti Hyhko at church 416 249 8851, home 416 244 5973, cell 416 708 5973 or email seija@sympatico.ca

We buried...

Julie Wagner née Schmidt

passed away on September 11, 2007, at the age of 96 years

The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and for evermore.

Psalm 121, 8

MLC Distribution List

The Martin Luther Lutheran Church Council ...

invites you to join our E-mail Distribution List

Stay informed of current events and meetings in the church community. Sign up today by sending you name and e-mail address to Mona Frantzke, List Administrator at mona.frantzke@rogers.com. The List is used to quickly disseminate information related to church activities by the pastor, members of church council, and other leaders in our church community. E-mail address will be blocked from view to safe-guard privacy.

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Radio Devotion (in German) every Sunday 9:30 a.m. on AM 530

October 2007

Children's Talk followed by Sunday School during both services!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
				7:25 Church Choir		
Canadian Thanksgiving 7	8	9	10	11	12	13
10:00 !! Joint Service, Pastor Mielke Guests from Baden- Wuerttemberg	Thanksgiving Monday	9:00 a.m. Mission Circle 6:00 p.m. Board MLC Day Care		7:25 Church Choir	6:00 p.m. Confirmation Instruction	Seminar „Taking It Home – In Mission For Others“ St Philip’s, Etobicoke, 9- 4:00
Sunday after Trinity 14	15	16	17	18	19	20
9:45 Engl. Service 11.00 German Service With Baptism Both with Holy Com- munion Pastor Mielke		9:00 a.m. Mission Circle 11:00 a.m. Seniors Circle 7:00 p.m. Church Council	7:00 p.m. Ladies Group	Pastor Mielke at DELKINA 7:25 Church Choir	Pastor Mielke at DELKINA	Pastor Mielke at DELKINA
Sunday after Trinity 21	22	23	24	25	26	27
9:45 Engl. Service; 11.00 German Service Pastor Block-Mielke	Pastor Mielke at DELKINA	9:00 a.m. Mission Circle Pastor Mielke at DELKINA		7:25 Church Choir	6:00 p.m. Confirmation Instruction	
Sunday after Trinity 28	29	30	31	November 2007		
9:45 Engl. Service with Baptism; 11:00 German Service Film “Central Station” Pastor Mielke		9:00 a.m. Mission Circle 1:30 p.m. German Bible Study	Reformation Day	Sunday, Nov. 4th Reformation Sunday Joint Service <u>10:00 a.m.</u>		