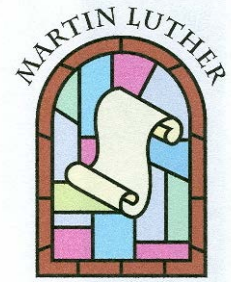


Congregational newsletter



LUTHERAN CHURCH
— Founded 1955 Gegründet —

December 2011 & January 2012

DEVOTION

Dear Friends in the Martin Luther Church,

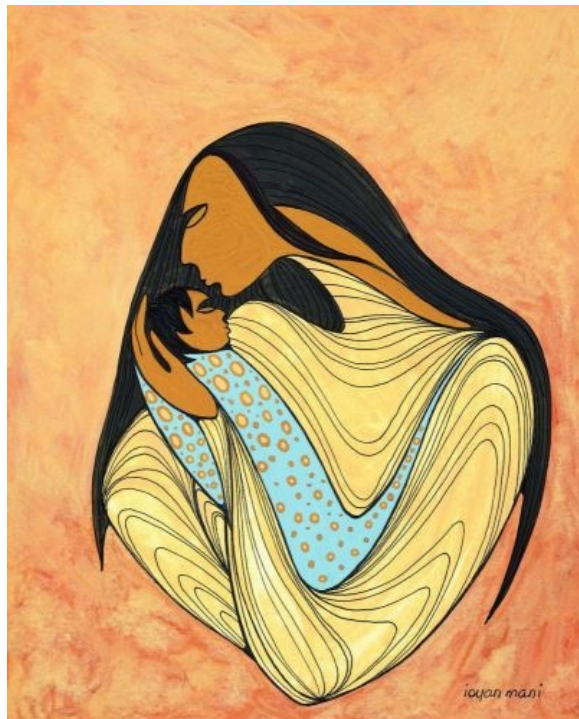
This is a day of new beginnings. This phrase will always remind me of that beautiful Easter Sunrise Service that we celebrated earlier this year at Lake Ontario. With this phrase we contemplated Easter as a day of new life, new opportunities and new beginnings that God continues to give us.

A new beginning is also what we are entering now. The old church-year is past, and Advent invites us to start all over again. *Advent* – we are awaiting the coming of God into the world. *Advent* – a time to prepare ourselves for that joy. *Advent* – traditionally a time of repentance and fasting: a time to think about our life, what is important to us, how we want to live as Christians in this world.

A new beginning: That is also the title of the picture you see here. It was designed by the artist Maxine Noel, who was born in Manitoba of Santee Ogla-la Sioux parents. Her Sioux name, which she signs her artwork with, is IOYAN MANI, which means “Walk Beyond”. What strikes me most about this picture is the sense of comfort and protection that I get from it. There is a new life – fragile and sweet, innocent with its baby-blue mantle and yet stained

with earthy-brown marks, which reveal a shimmer of light in their centre – the same light that the mother carries. The baby and the mother almost meld. However fragile this new life is – it is protected in the loving arms of its mother. Infinite lines cover her

body. The baby is put into the circle of time and life – there is a sense of eternity.



In a couple of weeks we will again celebrate God coming into this world as a vulnerable baby – being born in a simple stable, lying in a manger among dirt and animals. There is no doubt: This baby is very much a part of this world. And yet this baby brings a sense of eternity, of God’s greatness to our lives. Mary is overwhelmed with that greatness, when the angel Gabriel announces her that she is the

chosen one who is supposed to give life to this baby – to this Emmanuel – “God is with us”. The angel says to her: *Do not be afraid! ...Nothing will be impossible with God.*

A new beginning: The picture by Maxine Noel was given to me as a Goodbye-gift from the Etobicoke-Community-Dialogue-Group that I helped to start and worked with during my time here. This gift touches me for various reasons: For one thing, I came to appreciate native art very much while being

here and so this picture will be a special reminder of my time in Canada. Secondly, I feel that God has given me a great opportunity to “Walk Beyond” (IOYAN MANI) – walk beyond the borders of my country and continent, of my church, of my language, of my horizon. Like I wrote in my very first introduction in this newsletter one year ago: *God has set my feet in a broad place* (Ps 31,8). And last but not least: A new beginning - I am starting a new phase in my life – as a pastor in a congregation in Germany. That is exciting, and at the same time it is also a bit scary – like every new beginning is. This picture gives me a strong feeling of comfort. It says

to me: With every new beginning – however frightening and fragile it may be – we have the promise that God surrounds us with his loving arms.

A new beginning: For this Advent and Christmas-Season I wish you a sense of a new beginning that is always possible with the God of comfort and love.

Thank you very much for the time that I spent with you in the Martin Luther Church.

And until we meet again may God hold you in the palm of his hand!

Yours sincerely, Katarina Prosenjak (Curate).

The **Farewell Service of our Curate Katarina Prosenjak** will be held on **Sunday, December 4, 2011**. In the Joint Service at 11:00 a.m. on the Second Advent Sunday, Rev. Dr. Karen Hamilton, General Secretary of the Canadian Council of Churches will be with us. After the service there will be a **Potluck Luncheon**. Very welcome and please bring delicious food for the Potluck Luncheon!

We can look forward to a fine **concert on the 1st Advent Sunday** which is the anniversary of the founding of the Martin Luther Church also. We will be able to enjoy carols sung by the **Edelweiss Choir** under the direction of Dr. Manfred Petz. This time Gunther Kunzelmann (former member of the German Theatre Toronto) can be with us again and read reflective texts and stories. The concert begins at 1:00 p.m. on November 27.

Our **Youth Group** meets once a month on Friday, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. Very welcome to join us!

Contact: Sonja Schweiger Phone 905-625-9174; Email: sonja.schweiger@sympatico.ca

Our **Youth Choir** is preparing songs for Christmas. Whoever likes singing – very welcome! We meet on Sunday during the service. Contact: Christine Rabey, Phone 905-214-8095



Our youth have done very well with crafting and baking. So come on the **1st Advent Sunday** and enjoy and explore their **Christmas Bazaar!**

On the **3rd Advent Sunday**, December 11, we will be able to enjoy the **Christmas Play of our Sunday School**. After that, there will be a **Ten-Thousand-Villages-Table**, with Fair-Trade-products which are very nice as Christmas presents too.

As there are not many children in our German Sunday School usually, the Sunday School Team has decided to offer

German Sunday School on the First Sunday in a Month

Here there will be a good program, being a special fun for kids, as there might more children come especially on this particular Sunday. Very welcome!

Welcome to an **Excursion to the Ukrainian Orthodox St Demetrius Church**. This will be within our program "**Getting to Know Neighbours – Understanding World Faiths**". This event starts on **Saturday, Jan 14, 2012, 4:00 p.m.** at the St Demetrius Church where Rev. Walter Makarenko introduces us to the history of his congregation as well as the Orthodox faith tradition. If you like, after the introduction, you can also attend a short vesper prayer which starts at 5:00 p.m. The Ukrainian Orthodox St Demetrius is located not far from our MLC: 3338 Lake Shore Blvd W (between Kipling and Brown's Line). If you are interested, you can contact Pastor Mielke (cellphone 416-567-2487). Before that, on Sunday, Jan 8, in his sermons, Pastor Mielke will provide some short basic information about the Orthodox Christianity of which the main areas are in East Europe and the Middle East.



*Christmas Candlelight Service of Hope and Remembrance
Wednesday, December 14, 7:30 p.m., Wesley Mimico United Church*

...for those who are finding the Christmas season difficult and are grieving the loss of a loved one To help people who have experienced loss, four Mimico churches in cooperation with G.H.Hogle Funeral Homes will hold a special worship service on Wednesday, December 14th, 7:30 p.m. at Wesley Mimico United Church, 2 Station Road at Mimico Avenue. All are invited and welcome to be part of this pre-Christmas worship experience.

The service of Remembrance and Hope has been created especially for those who have lost loved ones or experienced other life-changing loss. To assist people in moving through tears of grief to the joy of the holy season is the purpose. Opportunity to remember through lighting of remembrance candles will be provided. Hymns and music, readings and reflections are intended to comfort and strengthen participants to enter into what can be an emotionally demanding festive season.

Refreshments will be served following the service.

The hosting churches are Martin Luther Evangelical Lutheran, Mimico Baptist, Mimico Presbyterian, and Wesley Mimico United, collaborating with the Hogle Funeral Homes, to serve community residents.

Contacts:

Rev. Harry Dussoren, Wesley Mimico United Church, 416- 251 5811; Rev. Alexander Mielke, Martin Luther Ev.-Lutheran Church, 416 251 8293; Rev. Jim Sanderson, Mimico Baptist Church, 416-251 2855; Pastor Rob Howard, Mimico Presbyterian Church, 416 255 0213.

Please mark your calendar:

Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 26, after the Joint Service.

There will be another **Adult (Bible) Retreat** in the end of January. Once more, we will meet for this in the cozy **Mount Alverno Centre**. It is going to start with supper on Jan 27 and end with lunch on Jan 29. Join us for this weekend of good fellowship in having time together, singing and Bible reading. The topic will be: "**A Culture of Peace. God's Vision for the Church**" (inspired by the book of the Mennonite theologians Alan & Eleanor Kreider & Paulus Widjaja).



Price is probably about the same as last year: \$ 120.00 for the weekend, accomodation and food included. Please contact Pastor Mielke if you like to participate (see the registration form at the end of this newsletter). The address is: 20704 Heart Lake Road, Caledon, Ontario L7K 2A2, (Close to Orangeville) - Carpooling Will Be Provided.

A short notice about Camp Lutherlyn 2012:

The Christmas season will soon be upon us faster than you can say "Jack Frost nipping at your nose". In fact, sometimes it feels like it's here and gone in a blink of an eye. **Oh, if only the magic of Christmas could happen twice a year.** If only we could have Christmas in July! Marshmallows roasting by an open campfire...Golden Lake minnows nipping at your toes...that's it! Our theme at Summer Camp next year will be about Christmas. Hey kids, maybe you can convince your parents to bake your favourite Holiday treats...again! Sounds like a win-win situation if you ask me. **Remember not to pack away all of your seasonal decorations in January** if you want to win a cabin inspection award!

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas.....twice!

Best Regards, Dan Sommerfeld

Coat/Jacket Drive – Now

Winter will soon be upon us and we would like to do a COAT/JACKET DRIVE for the Community. If you can go through your closets and bring in any coats/jackets (**especially children**, men and women too) that you no longer wear, then we will donate them to the Martin Luther Daycare for dispersal to those truly in need.

Starting now until December 4th please bring in your coats/jackets that you no longer wear.

Thank you for helping provide Warm Coats & Jackets !!

In this newsletter, you also find special Christmas Envelopes. A big Thank You for all support you can give to the Martin Luther Church!

WATCHWORD FOR THE YEAR 2012

**“My grace is sufficient for you,
for power is made perfect in weakness.”**

2 Corinthians 12:9

We very cordially invite to our services in the Christmas Season:

4th Advent Sunday, December 18, 5:00 p.m.: English Candlelight Service for the Young and Young at Heart

December 24, Saturday, 5:00 p.m.: German Service on Christmas Eve (with some English translation)

6:30 p.m., English Candle Light Service

December 25, Sunday, 9:45 a.m. Festive English Service;

11:00 a.m.: Festive German Service on Christmas Day

December 31, Saturday: 5:00 p.m. German Service on New Year's Eve with Holy Communion

With Jazz and Swing, we will have a good start into the New Year. Very welcome to our Joint Service on January 1, 2012, Sunday, 11:00 a.m. Magnus and friends will play saxophone, guitar and bass.

Registration Form

Erwachsenenfreizeit der Martin-Luther-Kirche 2012

Adult (Bible) Retreat of the Martin Luther Church 2012

January 27 – 29, 2012, Mount Alverno Retreat Centre, Friday 7:00 p.m. – Sunday 2:00 p.m.

Price per Person probably about: \$ 120.00 (for Food and Accommodation)

Please send this form to Pastor Alexander Mielke until December 18, 2011

I / we want to participate in the Bible Retreat of the Martin Luther Church, Jan 27-29, 2012.

My name / our names

Address

Phone

Email

I am attaching a cheque (payable to "Martin Luther Church", Memo "Adult Retreat"):

Yes/ No.

Special dietary and other needs:

Date and Signature

**Martin Luther Evangelical Lutheran Church
2379 Lake Shore Blvd. West, Toronto, ON M8V 1B7**

Telephone: 416-251-8293, www.martinluther.ca

Pastor Alexander Mielke, cellphone 416-567-2487

Email: alexander.mielke@rogers.com

Homepage and List Administrator: Mona Frantzke; Mailing List: Anita Ratz

Watchword for December 2011

God says, "For a brief moment I abandoned you, but with great compassion I will gather you." Isaiah 54:7

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
December 4 <i>2nd Advent</i> 11:00 Joint Service Farewell to Curate Katarina Prosenjak Pastor Mielke & Rev. Dr. Karen Hamilton, CCC Potluck Luncheon	5 7:00 p.m. Church Council	6 <i>P.Mielke in Church Office</i> 9:30 - 12:30 6:00 p.m. Congregational Choir	7 11am - 1pm Ladies' Group	8 3:45 pm Singing & Praying Day Care 7:00 p.m. German Contact Circle St George Luth	9 6:30 p.m. Confirmation Class	10
December 11 <i>3rd Advent</i> 11:00 Joint Service with Christmas Play of Sunday School Pastor Mielke <i>followed by "Ten Thousand Villages Fair Trade Table"</i>	12	13 <i>P.Mielke in Church Office</i> 9:30 - 12:30 6:00 p.m. Congregational Choir	14 Wednesday 7:30 p.m. Christmas Candle Light Service of Remembrance, Wesley Mimico United Church, with Pastors Mielke, Oussoren, Sander- son & Howard	15	16	17
December 18 <i>4th Advent</i> 11:00 am German Service Pastor Mielke 5:00 pm English Candle Light Service for the Young at Heart	19	20 <i>P.Mielke in Church Office</i> 9:30 - 12:30	21	22	23	December 24 Christmas' Eve 5:00 p.m. German Service (with Engl. translation) Pastor Mielke 6:30 p.m. Engl.Candle Light Service
December 25 Christmas 9:45 Engl.Festive Service 11:00 German Festive Service Pastor Mielke	26	27	28	29	30	December 31 5:00 p.m. German Service with Holy Communion Pastor Mielke

Watchword for January 2012

Teach me your way, O Lord, that I may walk in your truth.

Psalm 86:11

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
January 1 <i>New Year</i> 11:00 a.m. Joint Service New Year Celebration with Jazz and Swing Pastor Mielke	2	P. Mielke in Church Office 9:30 – 12:30	4	5	6	7
January 8 <i>Epiphany Sunday</i> 9:45 Engl. Service 11:00 German Service Pastor Mielke	9	P. Mielke in Church Office 9:30 – 12:30	9:30 Etobicoke Community Dialogue 11 am – 1pm Ladies' Group in the church	12	13	4:00 p.m. Excursion to Ukrainian Orthodox St Demetrius Church on Lake Shore Blvd w
January 15 <i>After Epiphany</i> 9:45 Engl. Service 11:00 German Service Both with Holy Communion Pastor Mielke	16	P. Mielke in Church Office 9:30 – 11:00	18	19	6:30 pm Confirmation Class	21
January 22 <i>After Epiphany</i> 9:45 Engl. Service 11:00 German Service	23	P. Mielke in Church Office 9:30 – 12:30	25	26	Bible Retreat Mount Alverno Centre Jan 27-29	28
January 29 <i>Last after Epiph.</i> 9:45 Engl. Service 11:00 German Service	30	P. Mielke in Church Office 9:30 – 12:30	31	February 5 Sunday 9:45 Engl. Service 11:00 German Service Pastor Mielke	February 22 Ash Wednesday 7pm First German Lent Devotion	February 26 11:00 Joint Service followed by Annual Meeting