



The Courier
The English Language Newsletter of Martin Luther Church Ottawa
Summer (June –August) 2018

Pastor's Message - Habits

Dear parishioners,

Where do you sit during the worship service? Even though there are no nameplates, we have habits, places where we always sit. This must have started somehow at some point, and after that it simply stays like that. Just a habit. One of very many habits, which ease one's life, because we don't have to think about it any more or even have to make any decisions. We have chosen a certain procedure – sometimes with good reason, sometimes without a logical explanation – but either way, a procedure we continually repeat. Often, it makes life a lot easier and safer. We stop before we cross a street, we look to the left and to the right. But we don't have to think about it, it is an almost automated process. We also know that children first have to learn this. It is surprising, how many similar routines we learn and keep in the course of our life. If we can't comply with these routines, if we have to change ourselves, we start to get nervous. We don't like that at all. If you have ever been visiting Great Britain or another country, where cars drive on the left - and where we, before crossing the road, therefore first have to look to the right and then to the left – then you will understand, what I mean speaking about the effort of having to change oneself.

In church, however, you can also notice that habits are kept, even when this does not make a lot of sense. We have installed stronger lights, so that it's easier to see. The seats directly beneath these lamps, the brightest places, often remain empty. Instead, some prefer to sit in a dark corner. The only explanation for this that I can come up with, is that they've always sat in this specific, special, place. The power of habit is obviously stronger than the insight that you can see by far better where you have more light.

If I am right with these observations, for many in our congregation it must be quite a stressful time at the moment, because quite a few habits and rituals, connected with the church and the worship service, had to be changed. Last Sunday for example somebody came to church shortly before 10 am. With surprised eyes he noticed that the worship service had already started and that currently an English hymn was sung. He almost did not recognize the pastor (myself), because he was used to seeing him in a black robe. Most of the members of our congregation, it does not matter whether they prefer English or German, got used to the necessary time change in the meantime. But I can imagine anyway, how it might happen

again and again that the old habit „wins“ and you think for a few seconds... „there is still a lot of time till 10 am“, and then you have to hurry up to arrive in time for the 9.30 am worship service. Or somebody leaves the house already with the car key in her hands and locks the door (another convenient routine) and then suddenly she realizes, „ah, it is still much too early, the worship service is starting only at 11 am“. But even when we finally make it to church on time, the stress does not stop. You look to the front and you start to feel nervous right away. One might think: „There is the familiar cross hanging on the wall but beside it are these colourful curtains, what might they be good for?“

Anybody pondering about this question and approaching the curtains closely, will discover that they are made out of a fabric which contains religious symbols. Our member of congregation, Nancy Schoenherr admirably sewed them. You will find crosses on them and the letters IC XC, the abbreviation for „Jesus Christ!“. If you have a closer look at the order of the colours, you will see that the curtains contain all the common liturgical colours. As you probably know, the liturgical colours are changing throughout the ecclesiastical year. You will find White for the major observances like Easter, Trinity, Christmas. The Red colour is for Pentecost and Reformation Day. Green is for the time after Trinity. Previously, the curtains were adjusted in their full length accordingly to the time of the ecclesiastical year, i.e. during Advent and during the other Lenten season, the time before Easter, the curtains were completely purple. The current curtains now can stay as they are on the wall for the whole year and they also set a colourful accent. But one liturgical colour is missing, that is to say Black, the colour for Good Friday and All Saints Sunday. You will find this colour on the back side of the curtains. Those, who came to the worship service on Good Friday, will have seen, that we used them, just according to habit.

Somebody else might come to church, happy to have gotten up in time, look to the front and think to herself: „I do miss the statue of Christ a lot. It is not taken away, but I was so used to face it during the worship service! Instead there is this new cross now. It has different colours. I wonder whether this is similar to the curtains?“ Then she remembers, „Hadh't there been a huge black cross in the past?“ With the latter the thoughtful questioner is right, and it still exists. At the moment the old black wooden cross is at Preston Street, as we did not want to rent out the church building without a cross. It is hanging now at the very same place where the cross was hanging which moved here, to Smyth Road. This one was self made by a member of the German speaking congregation, by George Pretli sr. If you look at it precisely, it is composed of three crosses, which are arranged on top of each other. A very special way to represent the trinity of God.

I anticipate, that over time the power of habit will again gain the upper hand and that everybody will feel home in the church with each their stories. For sure it will again be exciting and stressful, when, once we have sold the Preston Street building, the colourful lead glass windows will move here and when we will have to decide where and how to include them in the ensemble of the church.

I myself have the idea to establish a place, where you can light a candle and can come to rest for a silent prayer, at the left side in the front, where the statue of Christ is hanging now. I know places like that from some churches and cathedrals in Germany, often Catholic churches, but not exclusively. Eventually, we will discuss this in the church council, but I am also very keen to hear the opinions of all members of our congregation on this matter. But this will not happen in the near future, so that the stress of change will be kept within a limit.

By the way, my family doctor told me, that a bit of stress and the break-up of routines is wholesome and helps to reduce the risk of calcification if everything is in moderation. With this in mind, we should be prepared for further changes even if this will not always be easy. I hope that we will succeed to shape them in a way that we can all feel at home here and will get used to what has already changed and what will still change in the future.

Best wishes,

Pastor Friedrich Demke

Report of the Council Co-Chairs

Dear parishioners,

Spring is here and summer is approaching. Many of us will be enjoying the warmth and sunshine either at home or at cottages. For those who enjoy gardening, please share your talents on our garden at Martin Luther Church. While you are there, take a moment or two to meditate at our Labyrinth.

These past months have not been without challenges but none too difficult to resolve. We have engaged the services of Hansen Lawn & Garden Ltd to maintain our large property. A spring cleaning of the grounds has been completed, the fertilizing and mowing of the grass are progressing.

We should soon have a photo directory of our joint congregation thanks to the efforts of Nancy Schoenherr who coordinated this project.

The participation in our Foot Clinic continues with great success; however, we are losing the leadership of Rev Joanne Lam. We are currently seeking new leadership for this very worthwhile project. Anyone willing to take on this job, kindly speak to us or Pastor Demke.

Some of you have asked questions about the changes in the church and we have been remiss in providing explanations. So let us do so now somewhat belatedly.

1. The pictures of all previous pastors from both churches now hang in the foyer to show our joint heritage.
2. The triune cross from the Preston St church now hangs over the altar. The Christ figure is in the last niche to the left of the altar. As a Lutheran church it is only appropriate that we have a triune cross as our centerpiece. By the way, the old wooden cross that was originally over the altar before the Christ figure was placed there, now hangs in the Preston St church and serves the Calvary Fellowship of Ottawa (which is temporarily leasing the building from us).
3. The memorial plates from Preston St, honouring our deceased members of the Martin Luther Church are now hanging in the front on both sides of the nave. On one of the inscriptions reads "den Opfern der beiden Weltkriege" or in English 'the victims of both wars'. This inscription was chosen many years ago as most of the members of the founding Martin Luther Church were victims of the war and only came to Canada as a consequence of the war. We will continue to honour former members of the church and annually add names of the recent deceased.
4. In the basement on the left hand side of the stage are all documents from the pastor's office in the Preston St church (other than those we threw away). As we rented Preston St out, it was necessary to clear the Pastor's office there.
5. The portrait of Martin Luther will be hung in the foyer of the church, given the church bears his name.

The sale of the Preston Street site continues . As you know we have a conditional offer but with the purchasers requiring a Phase 2 Environmental study. This necessitated an extension to the deadline of waiving the condition from May 31 to June 30. By July 1 we will know whether we have a final deal with closing on December 31. If not in the interim we have daily interest from other parties and thus the sale should not be a problem. Pending the final sale, a working committee is in place to plan and organize the move from the Preston Street building to Smyth Road.

It was great to see a large attendance at our Congregational Annual General Meeting (AGM). The meeting was successful with all agenda items approved. Your feedback to the AGM has been noted and improvements will be effected in future AGMs. Particularly we will allow

more time for discussions and raising of issues troubling the members of the congregation.

Our work on a Mission Statement and long range planning continues with a working session scheduled for July 14.

Our annual fundraiser, awkwardly called 'Fruehlingsfest' took June 2 at the Maple Leaf Almrausch Club on 3928 Farmers Way, Carlsbad Springs.

That's all for now, we wish you all a very safe and enjoyable summer.

Your co-presidents

Sonny Lapointe & Konrad von Finckenstein

Lutheran's Guide to Gardening



Here we are at the launch of the gardening season and the weather is lovely. May is a great time to do gardening, when the temperature is not too hot.

On Saturday May 19 there were 4 member of MLK rolled up their sleeves and put on their hats to assess the garden. We were able to clear out much of the winter debris from 5 of the 7 gardens in the space west of the parking lot. While Heidi and Marianne worked on the flower beds many dandelions were pulled up thank you to Betty and Steve. The garden is in good shape and the spring flowers (daffodils, trilliums and others) are making a nice start to the year. Each garden has a theme including that is to be like a forest floor, so not a lot of care is needed.

What is planned? There are 3 times to help with a few specific tasks at each. The spring clean up is well underway, trimming any dead stems and raking leaves from winter. In summer, there is a need for some weeding and watering as well as dead-heading and thinning of some plants. In the fall there will be raking, some trimming and planting of tulips for the spring.

You are invited to participate throughout the year. Pick a Saturday morning or a time through the week and help with watering, weeding or edging one or more of the beds. Sometimes there is a bit of garbage to pick up or a bench to repair. The bird feeders need some attention as well.

Gardening provides a great opportunity to meet fellow members and also our neighbors from Smyth road. People often walk by, sometimes stopping for a rest with their groceries, their children and/or their dogs (water bowls are appreciated). It is a wonderful chance to have a conversation, meet someone new. Watch for a potential ice cream Sunday opportunity, and 😊 check out the peace pole next time you are at church. It was a gift to the congregation from a former pastor.

Please also check out the labyrinth* on a Sunday or any day of the week. It could always use some maintenance, weeding, clearing of the pathway. A few tips for walking the labyrinth: go slow and think about the twists and turns of life.

Walk to the centre thinking about your life, pray for fellow members and friends. It can be walked as a meditation, just for fun or to relax. In the centre pause to see where you have come and spend a few minutes with God before retracing your steps to return to life. It can be a powerful prayer time. Check out some resources at the

following website. Watch for opportunities for some guided walks to learn more.

You are welcome to come out to help with the garden or labyrinth. Please contact Marianne Thornton at marthornton@rogers.com if you have any questions.

Farewell to Friends



This spring, we said farewell to old friends, Frank and Lil Kropp. Lil died on February 10 and Frank 30 days later on March 12 after almost seventy years of marriage. They were charter members of Mount Calvary and members of that congregation for its entire existence. It is difficult to think of any area of congregational life where they were not involved: council, worship leadership, choir, Sunday School, Bible Study, Refugee Committee work, property maintenance, and much more. Our condolences to their children, David, Bonnie, Marilyn and Ron, who grew up with our congregation, and to their five grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Alfred Popp – Member of the Order of Canada



Last year we already had occasion to report that Alfred Popp had been appointed to

the Order of Canada. Now, a year later, the investiture took place at Rideau Hall on 25 January. Along with over forty other new recipients installed at that ceremony Alfred Popp had his photo taken with Governor General Julie Payette.

The citation read out at the investiture is in part as follows: "Alfred Popp was heavily involved in the International Maritime Organisation, an agency of the United Nations, chairing numerous diplomatic conferences adopting conventions designed to prevent accidents and negligence at sea and providing compensation to individuals affected by oil contamination."

Congratulations, Alfred!

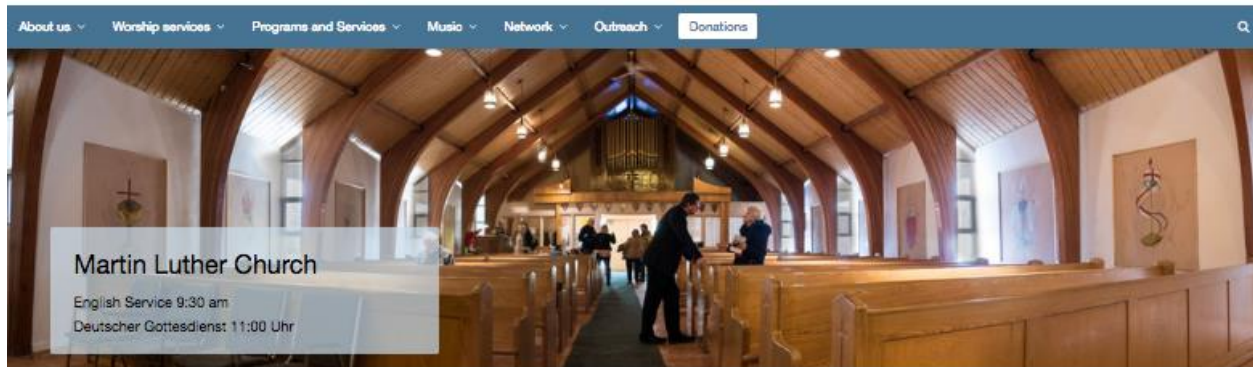
It is wonderful to have a member of the Order of Canada in our congregation.

Our new website!



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Deutsch



Welcome

We are glad that you found our webpage. We are a bilingual German and English congregation in Canada's capital, made of a diverse community of families, elders, and young people... [Read more](#)



Newsletter

Our two newsletters, the German "Ruf" and the English "Courier" are issued four times a year in March, June, September and December. If you would like to receive the "Courier" or the "Ruf" by e-mail... [Read more](#)



We are here for you

Your church congregation is with you your whole life long. Essential stages of life are observed with special ceremonies: birth and baptism, confirmation, wedding, death... [Read more](#)



Kindergarten

We are a German-Speaking Preschool in Ottawa with a German Immersion Early Education Program for children aged 30 months to 5 years. With us children learn German through play... [Read more](#)



<https://glco.org/en/donations/>

Calendar

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www.glco.org

Launched at Easter, we - Martin Luther Church - are found at www.glco.org - bilingually. Click top right on 'English' and away you go.

Our Webdesigner - Connie Davidson - asked me at the outset of our collaboration for our LOGO. - Hm, well, a 'logo.' - There was a drawing of the church building, the creation of a youthful Martin Damus. Too complex for a simple logo, we thought. But talking to Signhild Damus came a solution. Just hours later she sent me a first draft and ere long our logo was done.

Clearly recognisable, the special shape of the nave and the triangular attic window. Alongside the symbol of our faith and distinct feature of the roof: the cross, beneath which we gather as a congregation at service. The name of our congregation serves as the logo's foundational base. Many thanks, Signhild!

The expansively inviting panorama photo, the work of Paul Demke, reflects the ever eye-catching width of our nave as a haven. We greatly thank you, Paul!

The menu bar provides these categories: "About us," "Worship services," "Programs and Services," "Music," "Network" and "Outreach." To be found is extensive information about our congregation, about pastoral care and various church ceremonies, references to our own events and our contacts. Something new to discover for everyone.

Also, via this website you can find options to financially support our congregation with a onetime donation or regular monthly contributions. Simply click on "Donations" in the menu, then activate the "Donate now" button, which provides access to the CanadaHelps donation form.

If you would like to become a member of our congregation, simply download the membership form from the website under the heading "we are here for you", right at the front on the home page in the blog "Become a member."

Should you simply wish to check particulars of a coming event, click on "calendar" and click on the date in question for location and time. Under "News" we post all manner of additional information or provide updates on events, such as photos and further details. As our newsletter is only published on a three month quarterly basis, you should always check our "Calendar" and "News" blogs to stay abreast of changing developments.

A big 'Thank you' goes to Martin Damus, who wrote an account of the history of the Mt. Calvary Congregation. Further thanks to Marianne Thornton for her details on the gardening project and to Joachim Moskau, who wrote about "Church and Culture" (on the German language site.) Big thanks also to Signhild and Sylvester Damus for delivering proof reading and editing of my translations from the original German on the double. And still further thanks to all who offered their help and provided critical feedback, first and foremost of course to Martin Damus and Steve Thornton, who belong to the 'Task Force Media' and who have provided much advice and support on the creation of the website from the very outset.

Enjoy an exploratory walk of our website!

Summer substitutions

In coming summer weeks I will be away from Ottawa on several Sundays. On 26 June, the synod of the Eastern Conference will gather in Toronto. On that day, a joint worship service will be held at 9.30 in English. The sermon for this service has already been submitted by Bishop Michael Pryse. In this way, our congregation will be especially connected with the synod, to which we belong.

On the last two Sundays of July I will be in Germany, attending a conference of clergy of the German EKD at Bad Boll. Upon return and an intermezzo on 5 August I will leave again and be on vacation. I am very glad and grateful how quickly we succeeded in finding lectors for the worship services. On 19 August Rev. Ted Heinze will celebrate a joint worship service in English with Holy Communion. You will find the names of the lectors in the events calendar. Updates and possible changes will be posted on our website in the calendar.

Pastor Friedrich Demke

The Spring in Pictures at Martin Luther Church.



Wheels to Meals February. The big 95. Happy Birthday, Dan

Photo: Heather Ladouceur



The April Foot Care Clinic

Photo: David Robison



Wheels to Meals April Birthday Party for our Oldest Member, Marion Pederson, at 103

Photo by Marilyn Donison



Palm Sunday, The Procession of the Palms

Photo: Alexandra Demke



Easter Sunday:Easter light with butterflies
Photo: Alexandra Demke



Easter Sunday:Easter Butterfly Chain
Photo: David Robison



The fundraiser for the Ottawa Lutheran Refugee Sponsorship Committee, May 26, Great Glebe Garage Sale
All together \$ 1500. About \$ 400 through our bake sale (all the cookies, muffins and cakes came from members of our congregation, big thank you!!)
Photo; Alexandra Demke



Spring Festival Dinner Dance June 2, 2018
Photo; Alexandra Demke



Farewell Service June 3 at Preston Street
with Concordia Choir
Photo; Alexandra Demke

Confirmation Class in September

Come September we will – I am glad to see – have a new confirmation class in our congregation. At this point we already have two registrants. This year, we will not enjoy a partnership arrangement with 'Faith Lutheran Church' as their instruction sessions are held on weekdays. Our two prospective confirmands live a considerable distance away from Ottawa. Hence, we will only meet once a month on Saturdays for four hours, making the long drive to town worthwhile.

Anyone interested in joining us is most welcome! There are no pre-conditions to participate.

Please call me or send an e-mail to register or if you have questions.

I look forward to seeing the new confirmands. **Pastor Friedrich Demke**

Looking Ahead

Sunday Worship

English Language Service 09:30

German Language Service 11:00

EXCEPT June 24 (synod Assembly)

Joint Service 09:30

Note: Pastor Demke will be absent on several Sundays and services will be led by lectors from the congregation. Pastor Ted Heinze will lead the English service on August 19.

Thursdays, June 21 and July 19

"Wheels to Meals" luncheon.

There will be no "Wheels" in August.

Mondays, Foot Clinics have suspended for the July and August.

It is hoped to resume in September
Consult our website calendar for up-to-date information

Have a Great Summer!

Courier is the English language newsletter of Martin Luther Church, Ottawa

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