



---

**The Courier**  
**The English Language Newsletter of Martin Luther Church Ottawa**  
**Autumn (September - November) 2018**

---

**Pastor's Message**  
**Silence**

Dear Parishioners,

The summer is over, and daily life has started once again. This can be heard very well from the parsonage at Beaverhill Dr, where the humming of the traffic streaming from the East into the city, is getting louder in the morning again. Also, the announcements of the active, neighboring highschool are hard to miss. Only the birds in the garden have not changed their volume in the mornings, and it is joyful to be woken up by them in the early hours.

After canoeing for three weeks in the unfrequented waters of Wabakimi Provincial Park, all this noise, of course, is particularly striking. Memories of a lake in the morning light, calm and smooth as a mirror, where you hardly dare to disturb the silence with the strokes of your paddle, seem to be almost unreal. Rather than disturb it, the occasional cry of a faraway loon is really what makes you conscious of the uniqueness of this silence.



How seldom this still occurs! We are constantly surrounded by the noises of our civilization, by cars, lawnmowers, radios, sirens of police cars or ambulances. But, as I have been told, for some people the constant level of noise to which we are exposed, is not a threat but rather a consolation. They'd rather not have silence. To them silence feels rather unsettling. Quite a few people associate silence with solitude- which is true in most cases and to a lot of people, solitude seems unbearable.

That is why, at home, the radio or the TV is always on, because this way, the disturbing feeling of being alone is drowned out with noise.

I perceive silence as something beautiful. Silence helps me focus, and, as silence seldomly lasts long, I don't experience it as worrisome.

I also remember that it was said about Jesus that he would often retreat into the desert, into solitude and silence. To him this was always a place of prayer. A time to talk to God undisturbed. A time to gain new strength, and a time to focus on the essence of his task among the many questions. By the way, Jesus did not invent this idea of listening to the silence, which for him was also always a place to talk (to pray) to God. We hear about the Prophet Elia, who once emphatically voiced the desire to encounter God. It is astounding, what Elia reports. God was neither in the storm which came first, nor in the earthquake which followed, but only at last, in a gentle wisp of wind did the Prophet Elia recognize him. Apparently, silence is a special opportunity to encounter God.

The silence of a lake in the morning, about which I wrote in the beginning, let me marvel most of all about the greatness and beauty of God's wonderful creation. Again and again, in history there have been people seeking silence because they wanted to experience God's presence.

## **Report of the Council Co-Chairs**

Dear parishioners,

Here we are, the summer is nearly over and we are nearing the date of our first anniversary as a united congregation. A lot has happened .

We had a successful Frühlingsfest (spring feast) at the Maple Leaf Almrausch club on June 2nd organized by Heidi Rausch. It was a great success. Excellent food was prepared by Pastor Demke and

There were and there are monastic orders who take a vow of silence and use their voices only for chanting and praying during the several daily times of prayer. This is something so extraordinary that somebody even took the pains to shoot a film about such an order and the monks who were almost always silent. In November, we will show this German documentary, which won quite a number of important film awards (it is in French, with German subtitles). By the way, when, in 1984, the film director proposed the idea of shooting a film about them to the monks, they answered that they would think about it. 15 years later, the film director received the message that he could now come (alone), if he would still be interested. Obviously, time also flows at a different speed in the silence.

I wish you moments of silence in the hustle and bustle of the coming weeks. Notice and embrace them, and, wherever you might encounter silence, let it have an effect on you. It contains the marvelous, and even the promise that God talks to us there, in particular.

Best greetings,

your **Pastor Friedrich Demke**

Sheri Pendlebury and her husband Ted. Esther Shoemaker put on a wonderful program for the kids. Pastor Demke invited everybody to participate in a competition for a new bilingual name for the „Frühlingsfest/Spring feast“. The winner is Friederike Weizenbach who came up with „Mayfest“. So next year our annual fundraiser with dinner and dance will be called Mayfest.

We said goodbye to the Preston Street Church building through a special service held on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. It was very moving and all attending found the affair bitter sweet. It was a great building that evokes many memories. On the other hand the ongoing construction, the dirt, the obscurity and the difficulty to find parking spaces made it clear that there is no future for that building as a church.

As you all know our worship services are musically enriched by the talents of our organist MaryAnn Foley and her brother Peter. We all love his voice and the way it beautifies our service. We have therefore by a council resolution appointed him Tenor of the Martin Luther Church.

Then in June we had a council retreat at Konrad's cottage which proved very successful. We agreed:

- ⤴ on a mission statement for the church, which is undergoing some last minute polishing from Pastor Demke
- ⤴ to hold one joint service on the first Sunday of each month at 9:30, using alternatively the English and German order of services.
- ⤴ on rough priorities regarding the use of the proceeds from the Preston Street church – roof repair, kitchen renovation, spruce up of basement, fixing the heating system, repairing the organ, planning a new kindergarten
- ⤴ we adopted a policy on Harassment in the workplace. Parenthetically we are the first congregation in the Synod to do so. Not to blow our own horn too much, it was the insurance company that requires such a policy and the enforcement thereof. You can find a copy of the policy on our website. it is also reproduced in the

attached annex A

- ⤴ we decided to hire sexton/janitor, part-time to look after our church building. Jonathan Ladouceur will be entrusted with this task.

The sale of the Preston Street is proceeding on schedule. The purchasers have waived all conditions. The congregation on August 5, at a Special Congregational Meeting approved the sale for 1 Million dollars by a vote of 51 to 2 (including proxies). The Purchasers deposited another \$ 25 000 with our solicitor on August 7 and a final deposit of a further \$ 25 000 will follow in October. Closing of the transaction will take place on January 9, 2019.

As mentioned in the last Ruf/Courier, we have made a good start to blend the congregations together. The many administrative tasks associated with the new community have already been largely overcome. The human integration just takes longer. The retreat showed that at the council level there is an astounding amount of consensus on most issues. Let's hope we can develop that throughout the congregation. Hopefully our joint monthly services will contribute to that goal.

Thanks to the efforts of Alexandra Demke and Steve Thornton and Martin Damus we now have a wonderful new bilingual website. It proudly displays our new logo (designed by Signhild Damus!) and contains a wealth of information. Using this website proactively will further advance the integration of the former two congregations.

Wishing you all a wonderful fall and Indian summer we remain

**Konrad and Sonny**

## **Our confirmands**

Confirmation classes have started in September. This time, two confirmands have registered, which means we will definitely have a confirmation class. There are even rumours that one of the two confirmands will participate in the construction of flower boxes which will decorate our main entrance on both sides.

As both confirmands don't live in Ottawa, confirmation classes are likely to happen on Saturdays, once a month. At the moment we are setting a date which suits both confirmands. This is a perfect time for anybody who would also like to be a part of the confirmation classes to register. There are no conditions for

## **Peter Foley –**

### **Official Cantor of the Parish**

Peter Anthony Foley, although a native of St. John's, Newfoundland, has lived in Ottawa for many years.

In January of this year Peter began to participate as Cantor or Precentor in the celebration of the English-language Service at the Martin Luther Church. Shortly after Easter he began to participate in the German-language Service as well.

In June he was honoured by the Parish Council's conferring upon him the title of 'Official Cantor of the Parish'.

An experienced cantor in communities of which the liturgies have been celebrated variously in Latin, French and English, Peter has been interested in vocal music, both religious and secular, for a long time. In his study of singing technique he has been greatly helped by such excellent vocal coaches as Cantor Stephen Chaiet of Agudath Israel

participating in these classes.

Please, contact me by phone or email if there are any questions.

Looking forward to meeting the new confirmands,

**your Pastor Friedrich Demke**

## **Farewell, Dr. Hilmar Lorenz**

We say farewell to Hilmar Lorenz, former member at Mount Calvary Lutheran Church and long-time member of German Martin Luther Church. During the summer past, Hilmar has returned to Germany.

Synagogue and Heather Dufault.

Then too, the opportunity provided by his participation at the Martin Luther Church to improve his knowledge of the German language is most welcome to him inasmuch as he is not only an admirer of Germany and German culture, but also an enthusiastic student of language generally.

For many years Peter has had the distinct pleasure of teaching Latin and Classical Greek to long-suffering students of all ages.



## **Canadian Lutheran Anglican Youth Gathering (CLAY)**

### **From The Lutheran Youth Ottawa leadership**

Our youth group is home safe and sound after our trip to CLAY, the Canadian Lutheran Anglican Youth gathering that was held in Thunder Bay, Ontario in August. We began our pilgrimage with a two day van ride, sleeping over in Sault Ste Marie with Pastor Brad Mittleholtz and his family. Once we arrived, we had some time to explore Thunder Bay. We faced our fears on a 150 foot high suspension bridge, hiked in Sleeping Giant Provincial Park, and viewed the beautiful Kakabeka Falls. As other teams arrived from all over Canada, the youth were able to rekindle old friendships with people they had met two years ago in PEI, as well as make new relationships.



The gathering theme was "Threads", an analogy for our lives as one small part of the bigger tapestry that is the body of Christ. We focused on telling our unique stories and listening to the stories of others. We heard some incredible stories of sadness, loss, rejection, joy, healing, and renewal from the brave keynote speakers, who dared to speak their truth in front of over 500 youth. The youth were then given the opportunity to practice sharing and listening in different ways. We

all participated in the second largest 'blanket exercise' ([www.kairosblanketexercise.org](http://www.kairosblanketexercise.org)) in history, as well as a project that involves the offering of a huge donation of socks and encouraging notes to an organization that works with homeless and hurting people in Thunder Bay.

We would like to extend a huge thank you for everyone's support, both financial and prayerful. The experiences of our youth in worship and word was incredibly enriching, and their growth in faith was far beyond any expectations. We hope to attend the next CLAY again in Calgary in 2020!

Blessings in Christ

### **From out Martin Luther Youth Attendees**

This year's CLAY (Canadian Lutheran Anglican Youth) in Thunderbay had a theme all about Threads, which was about telling stories. We had 3 lessons: Tangled threads, Unraveling threads, and Patterns. The story weaver, Steve Green, guided the youth to become better story tellers, story listeners, and better at helping others with their own stories. The Ottawa Luthran youth also had a blast at getting to know new people, meeting new and old friends, also experiencing and seeing new places that Thunderbay had to offer. We also got to see where the next Clay will be held in two years in 2020, in ALBERTA!

Thank you ALL so much for helping to make clay possible for the youth in your church.

**Taylor & Ashley Nichols**

## **Eastern Synod Assembly 2018**

The 2018 biennial gathering of the ELCIC Eastern Synod took place in Toronto from June 21-24. Almost 300 representatives of the various ministries from across the synod gathered to worship, sing, vote on the issues and learn about each other and the ministries they aspire to.

As with all such assemblies, one highlight is worship. We used the Inshallah songbook as our hymn book, and experienced worships that were inspirational, worshipful, stirring and challenging – sometimes all at the same time .

We also used some of the time of the assembly to address the theme of “Neighbourliness” – who is our neighbour, what do they look like, and how do we as God’s people best serve our neighbours – how do we be good neighbours to others. We discussed, prayed about, and cried over issues of racial justice, reconciliation, gender, and religious diversity, grappling with the questions of what form our ministries and church should take to best address these challenges.

There is always a business aspect to these gatherings. This assembly saw the re-election of Bishop Mike Pryse, Synod vice-chair Laurie Knott, secretary Wendell Grahlman and Treasurer Keith Myra (who is something of a budgetary genius) to six-year terms. We

selected delegates from the Synod for the upcoming National Convention in 2019. We discussed the renaming and renewal of ministry for Waterloo Lutheran Seminary, now known as “Martin Luther University College”. We grappled, as always, with financial matters such as the Synod’s budgets for the next 3 years, and the disbursement of proceeds from the sale of assets of ministries that are concluding, such as that of Camp Edgewood .

The assembly wound up with a celebratory banquet that included the recognition of ministry landmarks, including the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ordination of our member Ted Heinz .

If you want more detailed information about all of this, the Synod web site has a complete set of minutes available, or you can feel free to talk with Pastor or myself. I thank you for the opportunity to represent Martin Luther Church at the Assembly.

### **Steve Thornton**



## **Conference for pastors of German-language congregations outside of Germany**

Two years already past by again, I thought, when, in July, I took up quarters in the Protestant Academy in Bad Boll. There was the venue of the conference for all pastors who'd been sent abroad by the Evangelical Church in Germany (EKD). This time I participated in a special training for "homecomers". Even though that is still two years in the future, this was nevertheless the last conference for me, because by the time of the next one, I will already be back in Germany. To tell the truth, it was a strange feeling because I am incapable of imagining that my time in Ottawa will be truly over by then. But, despite not being able to imagine it as of yet, I learned how to apply correctly for a vacant pastorate, and what kind of support for resettlement there is in Germany. The binder with all of these papers was safely stowed on a shelf as soon as I got back, because for the time being, I will not be needing it.

During this meeting, Claudia Ostarek from the Evangelical Church in Germany (EKD) who is in charge of supervising and facilitating the process of calling a new pastor, has announced that she will visit our congregation in October in order to get acquainted with the changes in our church, so that she will be able to propose the most qualified person for our congregation at the preselection.

Of course, I re-encountered some old acquaintances, for example Christoph

Ernst, my predecessor here, who sends his warmest regards to everybody. Besides working through themes, such as when we dealt with the relation of church and state in lectures and had some heated discussions, I was most of all impressed by the changes at the conference centre. There were absolutely no plastic or styrofoam cups for all the coffee which people were drinking; the toilets were flushed with rainwater, which was collected in an external cistern; the hallways were lit with the power of the solar collectors that covered all the roofs; the kitchen only used locally bought products; the parking spots in close vicinity to the Academy were reserved either for people with disabilities or for electric cars ( for which, of course, there were power outlets available to charge the battery). The heating for the whole big complex was done with wood pellets. Of course, we did not need the latter, since we had temperatures well over 30 degrees Celsius. Because of the heat, wide automatic shutters covered the windows on the sunny side, whereas during the night, when the temperature sank to under 20 degrees, the windows in the conference rooms automatically opened to let fresh and cool air stream into the rooms.

I, at least, marvelled at all the things you can do to treat the precious resources of our environment more attentively and carefully than we usually do.

**Pastor Friedrich Demke**

## Brass Orchestra from Germany

**Note:** This article has been overtaken by time but still contains some interesting information.

From the 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 10<sup>th</sup> of October, the Brass Orchestra of Berlin-Brandenburg, Germany, is coming for a visit. Five years ago, they were here during a concert tour under the artistic direction of Barbara Barsch. Back then, they had announced that they would come back – and here they are.

In our congregation they will perform twice. First, they will play on Sunday, October 7<sup>th</sup> at 9.30 am in the english-speaking Thanksgiving worship service in our church at 933 Smyth Road. The second time they will in the afternoon, in the german-speaking Thanksgiving worship service, which will take place at 2 pm in the garden of the German ambassador's residence (290 Coltrin Road).

In and around Ottawa, the Brass Orchestra will give the following concerts:

- Friday, October 5<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm in Montreal, St John's Lutheran Church (3594 Jeanne Mance)

- Saturday, October 6<sup>th</sup> at 3 pm in Ottawa, Faith Lutheran Church (43 Meadowlands) at a prayer meeting before Thanksgiving („brass and bratwurst“ - but NOT an Oktoberfest!)
- Tuesday, October 9<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm in Brockville, St. Lawrence Anglican Church (80 Pine St, Brockville)

From the 10<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup> of October, the Brass Orchestra will be in Toronto, where they will perform in the Martin Luther Church (2379 Lake Shore Blvd West).

The members of the brass orchestra come from different congregations in Berlin and the surrounding regions. They meet every week for rehearsals, play in worship services in the big city churches like Berlin Cathedral, Church of St Mary or Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church, and at events of the regional church. They also tour the countryside with musical worship services and go to places where there normally isn't a lot of church music. They form special choirs for the big worship services on Advent and Christmas, and perform at nationwide events.

## Our Church Gardens

The Martin Luther Church garden is at its peak - please check it out. The neighbors are! Whilst gardening on Labor day Monday, the volunteer gardeners were visited by 4 of our neighbors, regular visitors to the experimental farm gardens who were quite intrigued by the many plants and lovely colours in our garden. The garden looks great right now, but we could use help with fall clean up, deadheading daisies at the appropriate time, and planting fall bulbs like tulips.

Thank you to those who have joined the gardening team - Cody, Leslie, Faven, Steve, Vic, Heather Bent, Jonathan, Becca, Nancy and Ken as well as all those who have contributed in their own way. To those who may wish to offer their own help and wish to join our regular Saturday morning gardening sessions, please check with us to ensure that there will be people there.

**Marianne Thornton (marthornton@rogers.com)**



## **RSVP Ministries (Christian Women) Film & Discussions**

Generally last Thursday of the month at 9:30 a.m.

Marilyn Donison

Once a month several of us come together at Martin Luther Church on Smyth (in the Mount Calvary Fellowship Hall) to watch a short 10 minute film together: some ladies from our church as well as from other denominations. The films are usually anecdotal ... a look at one person's personal struggle and how through acceptance of Christ in his/her life that person is able to move forward with the love and support of God. These films feature real life Canadian people sharing stories of how God has intersected their lives. Following the video, we grab a snack and delve into a discussion based on questions as well as Bible references set out in our guidebook. The discussion helps us to personalize the video content – we listen to each other, but more importantly, we listen to God to speak to us. We invite you to join us at future video days.

### **Footcare**

There will not be a footcare clinic this fall. Sadly, we do not have the resources to continue. Some of the people who were involved have gone on to other things, and we do not currently have the people to replace them.

### **Wheels**

This Fall we will be changing the Wheels monthly lunch to WEDNESDAYS. We will hold this meal on the third Wednesday of the month at noon. This change was made so there would not be a conflict with the German seniors group „Frohe Runde“ that meets on Thursdays in St. Albertus Church.

All are welcome to join us for this meal and fellowship. If you need help with transportation let the office know and we will do our best to get you there. This is always a fun gathering.

### **Sunday Morning Fellowship**

We are in need of more people to help with Sunday morning fellowship. It is important to have the opportunity to visit with each other. Before the 9:30 service a pot of coffee needs to be started, and cups put out. Some tables and chairs are nice, but not essential. And dishes between services need to get washed and put back out for the second group of people. After the 11:00 service fellowship time everything needs to get cleaned and put away. If you are not able to help with setup or cleanup, maybe you could donate some goodies for the cupboard or freezer that we could put out when nobody has brought anything.

## Upcoming Events

**Reformation Day** On Sunday, October 28, there will be a joint Reformation-Worship-Service for all Lutheran Churches in Ottawa at St Peter's Lutheran Church (400 Sparks St) at 4:00 p.m. Please check our website (glco.org) for updates.

**St Martin's Day, November 9<sup>th</sup>** On Friday, November 9<sup>th</sup> we invite children to our St Martin's lantern walk. We will meet at 5 pm in the church at 933 Smyth Road where the children of the Kindergarten will put on a small german performance of the St Martin tale. From there we will start our lantern walk. Following the walk, we will reconvene in the church for a potluck with hot fruit tea.

**Crafting for Advent and for our Christmas Bazaar** On the last two Thursdays before our Christmas Basar, on November 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, we invite everybody to join us for several craft nights. We will make straw stars and fold intricate, but beginner-friendly bright, silk paper stars to hang in windows. Sitting together and doing handicrafts is also a great way to get in the right mood for Advent – away from all the rush, noise and restlessness. Taking your time and spending it together, being a bit creative and appreciating the moment in the slow and beautiful process of crafting.

If anyone has an idea for their own craft which they would like to offer, please, contact the office or Pastor Demke. We would be glad to help with the gathering of the crafting material.

**Fundraiser Christmas Bazaar** On Saturday afternoon, December 1<sup>st</sup>, right before the first of Advent, we invite everybody to our Christmas Bazaar at 933 Smyth Road in the Mt. Calvary Hall. Besides booths with all kinds of attractions for Advent and Christmas, there will be coffee, cake and glühwein (hot wine punch) as it is a tradition on German Christmas Bazaars.

If anyone would like to rent a booth, please contact Pastor Demke to learn more.

All other details will come up in the next weeks and will be announced in the church and published on posters, on the website and in emails.

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

**Contacts:**

Martin Luther Church

933 Smyth Road, Ottawa, ON K1G 1P5 Telephone: 613-733-5804

**Pastor:** Rev. Friedrich Demke,

[pastor@glco.org](mailto:pastor@glco.org)

**Council Co-Chairs:**

Konrad von Finckenstein, [finckenstein@gmail.com](mailto:finckenstein@gmail.com)

Sonny Lapointe, [rolland.lapointe@sympatico.ca](mailto:rolland.lapointe@sympatico.ca)

**Parish Secretary:**

Gail Smith,