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**The Courier**  
**The English Language Newsletter of Martin Luther Church Ottawa**  
**Winter (December - February) 2018/2019**

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## **Pastor's Message**

### **Crystal Ball**

Dear Parishoners,

Suspended they hung, on a thin red thread. No, it was not the proverbial silken thread, but one of thin red wool. Three round transparent spheres, made of glass, suspended on the family Christmas tree. Not only were they a matter of curiosity and fascination because it was forbidden to touch them, but also because they featured small burly naps, which created the illusion of stars shining in candlelight. These glass balls were objects of inheritance and hence quite old, but I can't quite remember whence they came. Just that they were part of the special mystery that comes with Christmas time.

Advent and Christmas will, for all of us, determine what the month of December is all about and, hence, it is not surprising that the glass balls cross my mind. My research shows that these transparent glass balls are an invention of Germany, more precisely of Thuringia and still more precisely of the town of Lauscha, which to this day is renowned



for its blown glass artistry. They were the invention of a poor glass-blower. All because he could not afford the expensive walnuts in their coat of gold or the apples which around 1840 adorned Christmas trees. Hence he applied what means he could afford. The year was 1846 and just a year later surviving business records show that a first order for six glass balls had trundled in. He had no idea that his hour of need had inspired an enduring invention.

Wherever in the world Christmas trees are adorned, colorful glass balls will be seen. Nowadays they are, for the most part, no longer transparent but colorful. At the outset, a mix of silver and colors were used. Today, most are made of plastic. Handblown globes or balls are mostly unaffordable. Much like apples suspended from the tree they are reminders of paradise, the Garden of Eden. Even if the bible makes no explicit mention of exactly which fruit hangs so seductively from the tree, the apple has clearly won the race, shiny red if possible.

It is at and with the birth of Christ – so theological background has it – that the door to paradise, which had been shut after Adam and Eve reached for the fruit of knowledge, is re-opened. God forgives and becomes man in Jesus Christ. The love of God, God's proximity to mankind can be experienced. The birth of Christ doesn't simply make God's forgiving love apparent, the child in the cradle will – in its life on earth – demonstrate how God conceived notions of humanity and community.

As I look at the sphere of glass, which is ever so brittle, it occurs to me that our earth too is circular. And on its thinly brittle surface we live. Ask those, who

have been privileged to view this wondrous globe from distant space. Almost unanimously they speak of the miracle that is this planet, its beauty and its fragility. Alexander Gerst, the first German to serve aboard the international space station, might be cited: "out there, if one is honest, one cannot but see how fragile the earth's ecology is, with its waferthin atmosphere."

Earth, circular and fascinatingly beautiful, does not hang suspended like a Christmas tree ball on a silken thread, but it is just as brittle. This year, as we adorn our Christmas trees with glassy globes and enjoy the spectacle, let's use how we take care of it as an example of how we should manage our planet earth. Earth is something very special, it is beautiful, there to bring joy and happiness to many generations yet to come. At the beginning God gave us the task of tilling and nurturing it. We have made much progress in making it serve our needs, but safeguarding it still looms as a great challenge.

It is in this sense that I wish you a blessed Christmas and a healthy and happy New Year.

*Your Pastor Friedrich Demke*

### **Motto for the year 2019**

Make a search for peace, desiring it with all your heart.

*Psalms 34,15*

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

Dear parishioners,

Here we are, the fall is over and we are eagerly awaiting Christmas. Let us report on what has happened since our last report.

### **Move from Preston**

The move from Preston is imminent. The coloured glass windows have been taken down by Karl Meinert, put into specially constructed plywood containers. They and the furniture we want to keep have been moved to Smyth Rd. Many thanks to Karl. Gunther Bauer has arranged for the bell to be taken down by a special bell mover and placed in the foyer of our church on Smyth Rd. The piano and organ are scheduled to be moved on Jan 2/2019 as they are presently used by some of our licensees. Speaking of licensees, Mount Hebron and Calvary Fellowship Ottawa will move out during December. The Seventh Day Adventist Church will move to Smyth Road in December and hold its worship services on Saturdays in our building. Christina Wendorff and Heather Ladouceur will determine which kitchen utensils and dishes we want to keep and will move them to Smyth. Surplus furniture and chairs will be given to charity. Closing will take place on January 8 and Sonny will sign the requisite documents

### **Smyth Rd Developments**

We have a new user of our facilities, the Mennonite South East Community Church who are using our premises on Sunday afternoons. Jonathan Ladouceur, our building custodian has replaced defective

locks and fixed the elevator. We are blessed to have a man who knows the building and carries out repairs promptly. The council is busy planning how to use the funds from the sale of Preston: to spruce up the building, carry out necessary repairs and determine the feasibility of adding a Kindergarten wing. As soon as we have concrete plans regarding the Kindergarten we will consult the congregation. A contract to fix the organ has been let and hopefully it can be refurbished by Easter. We have signed a contract to have the second half of our roof resingled. The work is in progress and subject to weather will be completed before Christmas.

### **Finding a replacement for Pastor Demke as of July 2020**

We had a visit from Oberkirchenraetin Ostarek of the EKD (German Lutheran Church). She is responsible for sending German speaking pastors to North America. She met with the council and explained the process to find a replacement for Pastor Demke once his term expires. Basically the EKD will issue a call for expressions of interest based on the requirements we specify. It will then interview candidates and pre select three candidates. We will then invite the three qualifying candidates to come to Ottawa, meet with council and hold a Sunday service. Out of this pool of three we then select the most appropriate candidate. The successful candidate, once formally designated by the EKD and by the ELCIC, then gets a 6 week pre posting training, together with other candidates selected for other foreign postings, and before coming to Ottawa. The whole process

takes considerable time and we therefore have to send the EKD by spring 2019 our initial request for a replacement together with our list of requirements. As a first step the council at its October meeting decided to notify the EKD of its desire to use the EKD process to find a replacement for Pastor Demke.

So all in all we are ending our first year as a bilingual church on a healthy note.

## **Our confirmands**

The number of our confirmands has increased to three. Not only do we have a new confirmand, Deborah Sitorius, but as of now I am also planning the classes together with Jo and Barton Beglo. Pastor Barton has been the pastor at St. Peter's Church on Sparks Street in the center of the city for many years. His wife Jo, he and I have revised the curriculum for the confirmation classes together.

In addition to the classes there will be a number of practical experiences. On Sunday, November 18<sup>th</sup> the confirmands observed a traditional catholic service held according to the oldest rites. We will, of course discuss the practical experiences together. During our next

## **News from the Kindergarten**

The small ones of the congregation, the kindergarten kids sang "Inside my little apple". They had come with their parents and other members of the congregation to the garden of the German Embassy. Grateful for the invitation, we were fortunate to be able to celebrate Thanksgiving together with the congregation of the St. Albertus Church.

Hopefully Bishop Pryce when he visits us in January to gauge our progress will come to same conclusion.

Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas and a great slide into the new year

your co-presidents

Konrad von Finckenstein  
Sonny Lapointe

meeting in December we will talk about the baptism and the holy communion. In January, in honour of the day of remembrance for Martin Luther King, we will visit the United Church on Parkdale Ave which is home to one of the biggest African Canadian congregations in Ottawa. We will learn about Dr. Martin Luther King jr. and reflect on the topic of social justice and the engagement of the churches related to this.

The date for the confirmation has been determined: it will take place on Pentecost Sunday, June 9, 2019.

Your Pastor Friedrich Demke



The performance by the kids had been planned very well by Vasylyna and Angelika and was a great success.

We still have spaces available in the new kindergarten year. The main reason for this is that we are unable to provide full day programs. Many parents inquire about spots in the kindergarten and are disappointed to hear that we can provide only half day care. But those who do attend are very happy and thankful and are already looking forward to Nicholas Day, a highly anticipated highlight in the kindergarten year.

The end of November, just as we celebrated 2 children's birthdays, an

unannounced inspection by the Ministry of Education occurred. They examine the program, control how the work is documented and investigate that all regulations are adhered to. This time there were absolutely no complaints, everything was 100%. We can only say "excellent" and thank Vasylyna and Angelika very much for their dedication which goes way beyond their paid hours. We are "small" compared to other institutions but we are very very good. What a pity that not all these spaces are filled.

Your Pastor Friedrich

## **Our Combined English/ German Church Choir**

Since October a few singers from our English and German speaking members are meeting weekly. Mary Ann Foley's idea was to form a combined church choir



to lead us in the worship service on special Sundays. The choir sang at the English service on Christ the King and followed with the choral prelude for the service of the German Eternity Sunday (Sunday commemorating the Dead).

The practices began in October Tuesday mornings. However, many singers cannot come during the day, so the rehearsals have been moved to Saturday mornings downstairs in the Mt. Calvary Hall.

We always welcome new members. If you like to join the choir, please contact our music director Mary Ann at

[macfoley@rogers.com](mailto:macfoley@rogers.com)

## Move of the Leaded Windows and the Bell

ALEXANDRA DEMKE

Already at the end of October Karl Meinert had removed the first two leaded windows from the Preston Street building. This process was eagerly followed by Gerhard Neumann from his sick bed in hospital. As one of the founders of our congregation he was instrumental in the purchase of the Preston street building, signed the mortgage and also helped build the bell tower. The bell was a gift from Germany and it took 4 people to raise it up. Gerhard Neumann was also construction manager for the big remodelling job in 1983.



Now, at the end of October he was happy to see the photos of the first two cleanly removed leaded windows and the 'empty' windows left behind. Gerhard Neumann recounted how the leaded windows were transported to the church and installed. He was very involved in the renewed move of these windows. and it was a blessing that Pastor Demke was able to tell him shortly before his death that all windows made it safely to the new Martin Luther Church.

Thank you to Karl Meinert for the careful handling – and also especially for keeping Gerhard Neumann informed about the work progress.



Moving the bell was achieved on Friday, November 23. When looking at the small bell on the red pedestal at the church entrance, it is hard to believe it took a crane and a long flatbed carrier to move it, fortunately without any problems.



Next year Council will discuss how to incorporate the leaded windows and the bell into the Smyth Road building, and of course, the whole congregation will be consulted.

## **Volunteers Wanted**

Congregations live from the commitment of their members. The church council is virtually the basis on which the parish life can take place. We are blessed with many talents and enthusiastic members

- who for example help lead our worship in song and with instruments,
- who read the lessons in the service,
- who help maintaining our garden
- who visit the people in our congregation who are sick or unable to attend church, in their home, retirement home or hospital,
- who organize meetings like the monthly film discussions of the RSVP Ministries, or the 'Wheels to Meals' congregational luncheons,
- who help with children's events like the 'Vorlesenacht' (read aloud night) or Sunday schools,
- who lead the discussions in the book club meetings,
- who translate the texts for the parish news and website,
- who are engaged with the refugees,
- etc. etc. etc.

## **News from the Ottawa Lutheran Refugee Sponsorship Committee**

The Ottawa Lutheran Refugee Sponsorship Committee, in short the OLRSC would like to wish you all a blessed and faith-filled Christmas season and New Year and thank you for all the help and support you have provided.

The OLRSC is pleased to announce that the latest sponsored newcomer arrived on November 28. He is Oromo (Ethiopian),

We have many beautiful extra offers that make our community life interesting and colourful and help us to get to know each other better outside the worship service, to make a difference as Christians, or to offer our German-speaking community in Ottawa an identity-providing place.

We are always looking for more volunteers who would like to support us in our many offers. There is something to do for everyone.

- For example right now we are trying to set up a small team to organize the Sunday fellowship. If you want to join in, please contact Heather Ladouceur or Heidi Rausch or speak to our pastor.
- We are looking for someone to manage the flower list so that the altar is decorated with flowers on Sundays.
- We are also always looking for people who can help drive members who would otherwise not be able to attend church.

Very simple: we are looking for you! Please talk to Pastor Demke if you would like to take a more active role in our congregation.

but came to Canada from South Africa, where he had been awaiting acceptance. The OLRSC was requested by his cousins, who live in Ottawa, to act as a co-sponsor for him. They are providing financial support and accommodations; the OLRSC will provide assistance as required. He speaks English well, which will be a benefit as he adjusts to his new life in Canada.

The Committee will also be a co-sponsor for a family with three children (Eritreans living in Ethiopia). In the next few weeks they will be interviewed. Their relatives attend St Peter's Lutheran and are co-sponsoring the family with us. They could be here in the spring of 2019.

The OLRSC is co-sponsoring two more people, one Syrian, one Eritrean. They have not yet been contacted by the Canadian government.

There are good news from the sponsored families who are already here. The kids of the Al Mosna family are happy in school, and the parents are attending English classes. The Simon family moved to the Kitchener area at the end of October. The older children are in school, and their father has found employment in the area; we just got the news that they also found an apartment. The Simon's cousin, Lidya, is close to finishing her PSW studies (Personal Support Work). In addition to her studies, she has a part-time job. Lidya's father, Musa, continues to enjoy working at his part-time job. The Al Assaf family are well; the girls enjoy

school, both parents are working, and have gained a significant amount of fluency in English.

Gerda Kraft, chair of the OLRSC, cordially invites you to consider volunteering. There is for example always a need of volunteers who can be called upon to help move furniture, or to help the families practice their English, to take them to appointments and to serve as emergency contacts for the families. If you are interested in any of these areas please let the OLRSC know and contact Gerda Kraft at [olrsc@bell.net](mailto:olrsc@bell.net).

Because of the changes the government has made to the sponsorship system the OLRSC can no longer submit applications and raise the funds while waiting for the family to be processed. We are required to have funds in hand when we put the application in place. The OLRSC is thankful and happy about all donations to help sponsor other families.

Please, find the full report of the OLRSC in Mt Calvary Hall at the bill-board.

## **Our Legacies Remembrance 1918 – Pogrom 1938**

J. JOACHIM MOSKAU

*"Like a cursed house, the house of a murderer, from which the villagers avert their gaze and which is yet in their midst, so stands the Third Reich in the memory of Germans. There it stands, like a wall between the present and all earlier history."*

*- Historian Golo Mann*

A year of major memorial dates draws to a close. World War I ended one hundred

years ago. And now, almost exactly eighty years ago events occurred which are recalled not only among the older among us very much in the sense of the Golo Mann quote. Events, which were also marked in Ottawa.

Between 6 and 15 July 1938 a League of Nations conference was held in the French city of Evian-les-Bains. Its outcome was already characterised by observers at the time as a 'moral catastrophe.' The family of nations had

managed but tiny steps in attempts to save and protect hundreds of thousands, even millions of immediately threatened European Jews.

To aid our fuller understanding of those calamitous years it helps to see the links between the German capitulation of November 1918, Hitler's assumption of power of January 1933 and all consequential ramifications. If the end of the war in November 1918 was largely regarded with relief and viewed as a hopeful and positive step, there followed sobering years of economic and social misery and – in Germany – a corrosive search for the causes of defeat. Following on the initial blame dumped on the so-called 'Traitors of November,' liberal politicians and supposedly 'weak' military leaders, subsequently, wide circles in Germany saw the country as victimised by suppression policies imposed by the victorious powers and all this culminated in a carefully designed vengeful chase of a defenceless Jewish minority.

Now, on 7 November 2018 Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau used a long statement in the House of Commons to address one important aspect of the then chain of events as it applied to this country. He spoke of the deep regret of his government for the failure of an earlier federal government, to rescue at least the nine hundred Jewish passengers of the liner 'St. Louis' in May 1939.

Wedge between the Evian conference and the events surrounding the 'St. Louis' is the 9 November 1938 Nazi German Reichpogromnacht, with the torching of many synagogues, destruction of many Jewish commercial establishments, the arrest of many thousands of Jews, the deaths of hundreds.

During these weeks and dreadfully short months prior to the beginning of World War II, as a seemingly uncaring outside world largely looked on, there were also the quite frantic and ultimately mostly successful efforts of a handful of Britons and Dutch and a few courageous Germans to organise transportation to safe new homes in Britain of about ten thousand Jewish children and youths from Germany, Austria and Bohemia. About four thousand of these 'Kindertransport' children survived the Second World War in Canada. Many of them to make outstanding contributions to the cultural, scientific and social development of this country. What would the artistic and cultural life of Canada have been but for the contributions of such as Helmut Kallmann, Franz Krämer, Gregory Baum, Heinz Heinemann, Helmut Blume, Otto and Walter Joachim, Walter Roome, Walter Homburger, Max Stern, Emil Fackenheim and Charles Wassermann?

How powerfully memories of those times resonate today was very evident in Ottawa in November. The Jewish Reconstructionist Or Haneshamah congregation at First Unitarian Church on Cleary Avenue was forced to move from one hall to the larger sanctuary because of an overflow audience. Similarly, a memorial event on 7 November at Kehillat Beth Israel Synagogue featured not one empty chair. Standing Room Only everywhere. And there were very moving musical moments such as on 25 November at Temple Israel at a recital of Leah Roseman, violin and Dina Namer, piano, with outstanding works of Karl Goldmark and Robert Kahn.

In the same context, the end of World War One, the persecution of Jews in Nazi Germany and the courageous action to

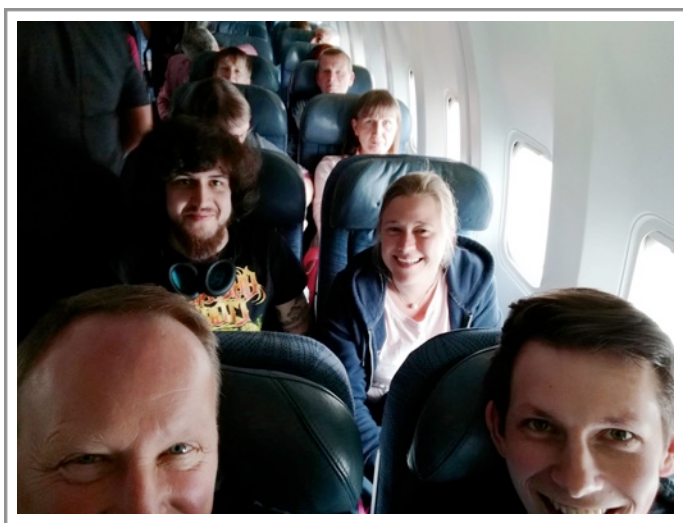
save the lives of young Jews by British and Canadian families, a number of memorable ecumenical events were held on British and German soil in recent weeks. Anglican Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby, the head of the German Lutheran Church, Bishop Heinrich Bedford-Strohm and Council chair Irmgard Schwätzer appealed in a joint declaration to all political decision makers to strive for and serve the peace among all people and to protect the dignity of all human beings.

And in intercessions at a Remembrance Day service at Ripon Cathedral on 11 November, the anniversary of German capitulation in 1918, the past and our

## Visit of the Brass Ensemble from Germany

ALEXANDRA DEMKE

On October 3, a group of 8 brass players came from Germany. One from Wiesbaden, one from Dresden and 6 from the Berlin/Brandenburg area. They had never played together, but all were active in the 'trombone duty'.



Four were hosted at the manse, and four were put up at the house of Susanne Rausch who was in hospital but enjoyed

present day world were linked in an appeal to the God of peace, of hope and of reconciliation. In these words:

*"We lament that wars and suffering worldwide have never ceased. Daily, thousands of women, men and children die. Speak, O God, that the hearts of the powerful of this world be transformed to the possibility of peaceful co-existence among all people."*

These numerous memorial days serve us today as means to a fuller and more refined perception as we register what most immediately affects our global development.

the fact that her house was so useful despite her being away. Neighbours questioned how she managed to have such a lively home while being away. She laughed and smiled when telling me about that. And I am very touched by her way of rejoicing at helping others, supporting her church community - and knowing that she herself would not return home at all. She died a month later on November 9. I am always deeply moved when people think of others before themselves and do so radiating joy. Susanne Rausch was such a person and I am thankful to have known her.

The Brass Ensemble stayed with us until October 10. "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of Creation" served as their motto for several concerts, in St. John's Lutheran Church, Montreal, in Faith Lutheran Church, Ottawa, in the United Church in Cassburn and in St. Lawrence Anglican Church, Brockville. These



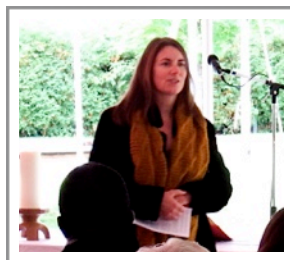
concerts encompassed brass music from 5 centuries. Pastor Friedrich Demke accompanied the ensemble on their tour and acted as moderator. He introduced the musicians, the pieces they played and talked about the

'trombone duty' in Germany, a service that does not exist in Canada.

The group played extensively for us in Ottawa, at our English Thanksgiving service and in the afternoon at the German ecumenical family service in the garden of the German ambassador's

## Thanksgiving family service in the garden of the Residence of the German Embassy

ALEXANDRA DEMKE



On this beautiful Thanksgiving Sunday which was a cool but sunny fall day with blue skies and no wind we were warmly welcomed by Franziska

Hagedorn, the Deputy Head of Mission. The service had a country feel to it as it took place inside a big tent in the garden of the residence with a great view of the greenery surrounding it. All very suitable to say thanks for the harvest in a direct and figurative sense. Or through the flower respectively rather through the harvesting.

residence. *(More about the Thanksgiving service in the article below.)*



On October 10 the brass ensemble went on to Toronto from where they flew home on October 15.

A big THANK YOU for this wonderful visit!!!



The children were given the task of finding fruit that started with the letter "D" among the harvest gifts at the altar. When somebody discovered a bag with dates it was hung together with the letter



"D" on a rope tied across the altar. Fruit by fruit, we finally spelled out the greath thanks that shaped this service on a rope with **t o m a t o e s ,** **honey, ananas** (pineapple), **nuts, kiwi** and **sweet potato** (or in German „Danke" with



dates, ananas, nuts, kiwi and ‚Erbisen‘ - peas).



We also had to say a very big thank you for the musical gifts we received that Sunday. The brass ensemble from Berlin-Brandenburg played at one end



of the tent while the Quodlibet Choir sang from the other end.



Pater Andrzej, who by the way belongs to the same order as did Pater Schönhammer, the Oblates, represented the congregation of St. Albertus for this ecumenical family service.

The kindergarten kids sang of the seeds in the five tiny houses of their little apple,



and pastor Demke told the story of Johnny Appleseed who travelled through North America with a big sack of apple seeds and spread them everywhere he went resulting in the growth of apple trees throughout the land. He is famously remembered as a weirdo with a tin cooking pot on his head, a bible under his arm and the apple seeds in a big bag. Thanks to a Disney movie the children could even sing along with the Johnny Appleseed song:

Oh, the Lord's been good to me.  
And so I thank the Lord  
For giving me the things I need:  
The sun, the rain and the apple seed;  
Oh, the lord's been good to me.

Johnny Appleseed alias John Chapmann lived 250 years ago. He was always barefoot, had extensive knowledge of medicinal plants and deeply respected all

of creation, including mosquitos and ants. He was a wanderer and a preacher spreading the gospel, and the Indigenous Peoples regarded him as somebody who had been touched by the Great Spirit, the Creator. Many big things start as small as an apple seed. Even the smallest seeds

were created by God, and big trees can grow out of them whose fruits can feed many people. On this Thanksgiving Sunday we were especially attentive to the small things, and gratefully gave thanks for them.

## Visit of Claudia Ostarek

ALEXANDRA DEMKE

From October 18 to 21 Rev. Claudia Ostarek from the Evangelical Church in Germany (EKD) was visiting our congregation. She is the Regional secretary for East Asia, Australia, Pacific and North America. On October 18 she had flown directly from Hong Kong to us. She lived with us in the parsonage and so we had a lot of time for many good talks.

The Church council had called for an extra meeting, so that Claudia Ostarek could get acquainted with our new situation as a bilingual church and also get more accurate ideas about the expectations of the parish to the successor of Pastor Demke. Claudia Ostarek is in charge of supervising and facilitating the process of calling a new pastor in 2020, once Pastor Demkes term expires. On page 3 in the report of our presidents you can read more about the tendering procedure and the posting process. There were also some interested church members at the council meeting, so there was a very lively, engaging conversation.

## Journey to Baptismal Living

MARIANNE THORNTON

I was pleased to be able to attend this immersive training for parish teams,



On Sunday, October 21, Claudia Ostarek spoke a greeting in the English-speaking church service and gave the sermon in the German-speaking church service. After the service there was plenty of time to meet for coffee and cake in the Mt Calvary Hall and get into conversation with Claudia Ostarek.

On Sunday evening she flew off, but this time not in other countries but back to Germany. We thank her very much for the visit and look forward to the three pastors who will introduce themselves in our parish in about one year.

leaders and students on October 26-28 at St. Paul's University in Ottawa.

There was representation from each of the Lutheran Churches in Ottawa as well

as Anglican participants. We discussed what the Catechumenate is, and what it means to Christians. Elements include story telling, questions, community of faith, tradition, conversion, celebration and mission.

We took turns in small groups telling our life story to think about how God has been part of our life. It was an opportunity to share my story, to listen to others tell their stories, and participate in caring relationships as part of the history of God's people.

We talked about and experienced an 'Aural Bible Study', an African model, to learn ways of telling and hearing the story of God. We experienced praying for one another, responding to God's call, listening to the word in different ways and we thought about how we are living our baptism in daily life at home, in our vocation, in our community and the world.

We experienced Easter as a time for both the newly baptized and the community together growing in deepening their understanding of the paschal mystery, making it a part of their lives through meditation on the Gospel.

## **St. Martin's Day on November 9**

FRIEDRICH DEMKE

This Friday of all days started a wet, dense snowdrift. However, this did not deter some 50 children and adults to celebrate St. Martin's Day. First, the kindergarten kids performed the story of Martin inside the church. Then it was said: light the lanterns! And off we went into the winter. Our procession led us to Hutton Park, 2 streets away, and we have

What I found most meaningful was the discussion of the commitment that is expected of people who wish to join the community, to be baptised or have their child baptised. The elements of Baptismal living are that for the rest of your life you experience and share the Love of God, and serve your neighbor. I'd never really fully appreciated how significant the congregation's part is in a baptism, and how it is each member's responsibility to care for each other, to support new members and those newly baptised. The commitment goes both ways, with the newly baptised or committed member being asked to participate fully in the life of the church.

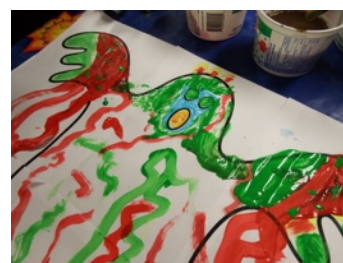
I was especially humbled by the experiences of worship, bible study, story telling (including bible readings during worship) and caring for each other.

I hope to share more with you about this wonderful opportunity as we continue to worship together. Thank you for being part of this caring community.

I was left with one final over-riding question – what are the ways that faith informs and is expressed in every part of our lives?

sung so loud and so much as never before. Back inside the church we all warmed up and drank hot sweet fruit tea. Many delicious things were provided for the potluck, and of course we all shared Martinshoernchen (Martin croissants).

A Martin's feast in a wonderfully exuberant and happy atmosphere – thank you all for being there and celebrating.



## Long ,read aloud night' for children on Saturday, November 17

ALEXANDRA DEMKE

17 children came to Martin Luther Church on this November afternoon for hunting ghosts with us. Or actually with Cornelia Funke, a German Children's author whose story „Ghost hunters on icy track“ we read aloud, a story, where you can experience all sorts of practical things about ghosts. For example, ghosts do not like the color red, can not stand heat, abhor classical music, especially Mozart, find violet fragrance disgusting and do not tolerate a certain sort of biscuit at all.

With the partition screens we had built a cozy „Read-aloud-Den“ in Mt Calvary Hall. There was a lot of red to be found, red blankets and cushions were spread out on the floor, many of the children had also put on something red - so we were well prepared for the ghosts and for the story which we had split into three reading units.

The readers - as there were Gabi Kaindl,

Sonja Zaphiropoulos, Brigitte Gustin, Clara Demke, Friedrich Demke, Alexandra Demke - sat under a reading lamp on a couch, and as the evening progressed the children moved closer and closer to this couch, nicely wrapped in red blankets.



In between there were games, crafts and we had pizza. Before the last reading session, we all went out with lanterns to search for ghosts upstairs in the dark church hall, listening to some loud music by Mozart, because you never know. But the coast was clear, no ghosts to find. So the children could lay down to sleep reassured. They unrolled their mats, crept into the sleeping bags, and then listened to the last part of the story before falling asleep.



It was impressive how well and quickly the children fell asleep. Here was a bit of mumbling, a bit of giggling there, but within half an hour it was getting quieter and quieter, and a peaceful good night began.

In Germany in the middle of November the federal „Read-aloud-day“ of the

## **Advent Crafting and Christmas decoration**

At two Thursdays, November 22 and 29, we met to craft straw stars and to fold stars out of colourful tissue paper. Wonderful, this concentrated crackling silence, and then conversations and laughter, a nice togetherness!

One or two straw stars were also intended as a replenishment for our Christmas tree ornaments - because for the Christmas season this year the church should be decorated in the tradition of the German-speaking part of our community,

„Reading Foundation“ takes place. At the initiative of Joachim Moskau, we have also been holding „Read-aloud-days“ in Ottawa since 2014 - at the German Language School, the German-language Kindergarten, the University of Ottawa and the Martin Luther Church. In this context the long „read-aloud-night“ could become a new tradition.

that is with a real fir tree and with straw stars.

The Church council has considered that it would be best if the Christmas adornment of the church is always alternately taken over in one year by the German-speaking part of the community, the next year by the English-speaking part of the community.

It will be interesting to see where the different traditions come from and what they mean.

## **Upcoming events**

### **Wheels to Meals**

Third Wednesday of the month, 12 noon

HEATHER LADOUCEUR

As our congregation has grown to a new, bigger, merged congregation we were thinking that „Wheels to Meals“ should be looking for a new name. It should be a name that reflects that we are inviting everybody to our monthly meal - no matter what age you are, what language you prefer, whether you are vegetarian or meat-lover. 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.

If you have an idea for a new name, please let us know. The competition is on!

The next meals will take place on December 19, January 16 and February 20.

## **RSVP Ministries (Christian Women)**

### **Film & Discussions**

Generally last Thursday of the month, 9:30 am

MARILYN DONISON

Once a month several of us come together in the Mt. Calvary Hall to watch a short 10 minute film together. 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. 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.

We invite you to join us at future Video Days and we welcome both women and men! We meet at 9:30 a.m. in the Mt. Calvary Hall at Martin Luther Church, 933 Smyth Rd.

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## **Midweek Advent Services Wed Dec 5, 12, 19** **6 p.m. Soup Supper, 7 p.m. Holden Evening Prayer**



*The Ottawa Ministry Area and Martin Luther Church invites*

### **Advent Midweek Worship** *Singing together the Holden Evening Prayer*



Join us for a midweek Advent Worship including supper and singing together the Holden Evening Prayer.

In turn, several of our Lutheran congregations in Ottawa will hold these services. Our congregation will be responsible for the Advent Worship Service on Dec 5.

Date: December 5, 12, and 19, 2018 (Wed)

Time: 6 p.m. Soup Supper  
7 p.m. Prayer

Place: Martin Luther Church  
933 Smyth Road

Contact information: (613) 733-5804, [info@glco.org](mailto:info@glco.org)

*Join us for a quiet time of prayer and music in a season of active anticipation.*

The Holden Evening Prayer is a simple Lutheran Vespers service that follows traditional form while using contemporary and inclusive language, written in 1985-86 by Marty Haugen during a musical residency at Holden Village.

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## **2nd of Advent**

### **2:00 p.m. Special Advent Celebration**

There will be no morning service on 2nd of Advent. Please join us with our whole church for this special joint Advent Celebration with a short service and a lot of carol singing (bilingual). We will come together in Mt Calvary Hall and enjoy 'Stollen' and other traditional Christmas pastries or cookies.

## **Our Worship Services for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day**

### **CHRISTMAS EVE**

On Christmas Eve, Monday, December 24, we will have three worship services in our church:

- 3.30 p.m. Christmas Vespers with German Children's pageant (bilingual)
- 5 p.m. German Christmas Vespers with string quartet
- 7 p.m. English Christmas Eve Worship service with Communion

### **CHRISTMAS DAY**

On the morning of Christmas Day, on Tuesday, December 25, there will be a joint worship service (bilingual) with Communion at 9.30 a.m.

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## **Calendar of events in Martin Luther Church**

(Please pay attention to additions and changes, which are announced in the church services and communicated by email, as well as on our website and on Facebook.)

### **REGULARLY MEETINGS**

**alternating on the first Monday or Tuesday of the month**                      **7.30 p.m. Church council**

**Saturday**    **10 a.m. Church Choir rehearsal in Mt Calvary Hall**

### **WORSHIP SERVICES AND SPECIAL EVENTS**

#### **Bible text for the month of December**

And when they saw the star they were full of joy.

*Matthew 2:10*

### **December**

**Sunday, Dec 2:**                      **1st Sunday of Advent**  
   **9.30 a.m. Joint family service (Demke)**

**Wednesday, Dec 5:**           **Midweek Advent Services**  
   6 p.m. Soup Supper  
   **7 p.m. Holden Evening Prayer**

**Sunday, Dec 9:**                   **2nd Sunday of Advent**  
   **2 p.m. Joint Advent Celebration (Demke)**  
   **Short service of the word and carol singing (bilingual).**  
   Coffee and ,Stollen` following in Mt Calvary Hall

- Wednesday, Dec 12: Midweek Advent Services**  
6 p.m. Soup Supper  
**7 p.m. Holden Evening Prayer**
- Sunday, Dec 16: 3rd Sunday of Advent**  
**9.30 a.m. English Worship service (Demke) with Communion**  
**11 a.m. German Worship service (Demke)**
- Wednesday, Dec 19: 12 noon „Wheels to Meals“**
- Midweek Advent Services**  
6 p.m. Soup Supper  
**7 p.m. Holden Evening Prayer**
- Sunday, Dec 23: 4th Sunday of Advent**  
**9.30 a.m. English Worship service (Demke) with Communion**  
**11 a.m. German Worship service (Demke)**
- Monday, Dec 24: Christmas Eve**  
**3.30 Uhr Christmas Vespers**  
**with German Children's pageant (bilingual)**  
**5 p.m. German Christmas Vespers with string quartet**  
**7 p.m. English Christmas Eve Worship service with Communion**
- Tuesday, Dec 25: Christmas Day**  
**9.30 a.m. Joint Worship service with Communion (bilingual)**
- Sunday, Dec 30: 1st Sunday of Christmas**  
**9.30 a.m. English Worship service (Demke) with Communion**  
**11 a.m. German Worship service (Demke) with Communion**

**Bible text for the month of January**

And God said, I will put my bow in the cloud  
and it will be for a sign of the agreement between me and the earth.  
*Genesis 9:13*

**January**

- Tuesday, Jan 1: New Year**  
**3 p.m. Ecumenical Worship service with St Albertus Church**  
**(German, Demke/Msgr Feichtinger), with Concordia Choir**  
Followed by a New Year's reception
- Sunday, Jan 6: Epiphany**  
**9.30 a.m. Joint Service (Demke) with Communion**
- Sunday, Jan 13: 1st Sunday after Epiphany/Jesus Christ**  
**9.30 a.m. English Worship service (Demke) with Communion**  
**11 a.m. German Worship service (Demke) with Sunday School**

- Wednesday, Jan 16:** 12 noon „Wheels to Meals“
- Sunday, Jan 20:** **2nd Sunday after Epiphany**  
**9.30 a.m. English Worship service (Demke) with Communion**  
**11 a.m. German Worship service (Demke)**
- Sunday, Jan 27:** **3rd Sunday after Epiphany**  
**9.30 a.m. Joint Service (Pryce/Demke) with Communion**  
 Bishop Michael Pryce is visiting our congregation.
- Thursday, Jan 31:** 9.30 a.m. RSVP Film & Discussions, Mt Calvary Hall

**Bible text for the month of February**

I am of the opinion that there is no comparison between the pain of this present time  
 and the glory which we will see in the future.  
*Romans 8:18*

**February**

- Sunday, Feb 3:** **4th Sunday after Epiphany**  
**9.30 a.m. Joint Service (Demke) with Communion**
- Sunday, Feb 10:** **5th Sunday after Epiphany**  
**9.30 a.m. English Worship service (Demke) with Communion**  
**11 a.m. German Worship service (Demke) with Sunday School**
- Sunday, Feb 17:** **6th Sunday after Epiphany**  
**9.30 a.m. English Worship service (Demke) with Communion**  
**11 a.m. German Worship service (Demke)**
- Wednesday, Feb 20:** 12 noon „Wheels to Meals“
- Sunday, Feb 24:** **7th Sunday after Epiphany**  
**9.30 a.m. English Worship service (Demke) with Communion**  
**11 a.m. German Worship service (Demke) with Communion**
- Thursday, Feb 28:** 9.30 a.m. RSVP Film & Discussions, Mt Calvary Hall

**Event invitations by email**

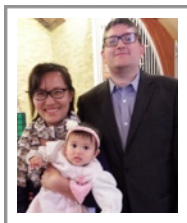
For our special events, we invite you again by e-mail. If you also want to be reminded this way, please send an email to [lutherinfo@gmail.com](mailto:lutherinfo@gmail.com).

## Joy and sorrow

### Baptized were

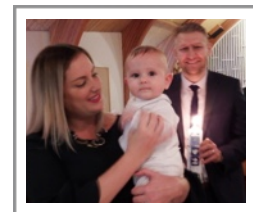
**on September 23:**

Kate Xu Edenhoffer



**on October 21:**

Émil Walter



### From our congregation have died

Maria Arnold, 90 years

Klaus Seltenreich, 81 years

Susanne Rausch, 89 years

Gerhard Neumann, 87 years



*Yes, though I go  
through the valley of deep shade,  
I will have no fear of evil;  
for you are with me,  
your rod and your support are my comfort.*

*Psalms 23,4*

### From our church have died in this church year:

*Mary Margaret Webb - Dorothy Mildred  
Elise Leith - Lily Kropp - Frank Kropp -  
Günther Laub - Dorothy Featherstone -  
Gerhard Siegfried Ernst Wagner - Klaus  
Seltenreich - Maria Arnold - Susanne  
Rausch - Gerhard Neumann*

**„Have no fear, for I have taken up  
your cause; naming you by your  
name, I have made you mine.“**

*Isaiah 43:1*

### Last but not least: Only in Canada

J. JOACHIM MOSKAU

An elderly gentleman steps up to the small adjacent table. There, he carefully places his fur cap on the tabletop. It is precisely 10.46 on this chilly November Wednesday morning. A busy morning in this shopping mall. Now the elderly gentleman takes off his dark coat, folds it neatly and drapes it carefully on the backrest of a chair. But he doesn't sit down. He simply disappears.

Slowly down the hall he walks, turning into the next aisle, gone he is, not to be seen. - But almost precisely twentyfive minutes later, there he re-appears. Slowly advancing. He sits down at the table, picks up a book and starts reading.

A short moment later and we are launched on a conversation. In laughter and pure enjoyment, not without a touch of pride about the circumstances that have so

surprisingly brought us to meet. We are happily conscious of the strikingly remarkable fact that we just cannot imagine where else on the face of this earth so trite and absolutely commonplace an event as ours can possibly occur, but right here in Canada.

That an elderly man, on a bitterly cold winter day, musters the courage to simply leave behind, in blind trust, his cap, his coat. All this as hurried shoppers walk past. That this man so blithely disregards all dangers of theft. Where else but in this large city of Ottawa can one imagine such a display of simple unconcern.

Only in Canada is this conceivable, the elderly man agrees. Isn't this also where those strange people live who smile as you bump into them on an overcrowded bus and who offer us a courteous "I'm sorry", as we step on their toes?

## **Belong - become a member of our congregation!**

We welcome you to join our congregation – even if you live in Ottawa only temporarily. Our church is and stays alive through those who belong to it and support it.

Yes, I want to belong to Martin Luther Church Ottawa:

Last name, first name:

Address:

Phone, Email:

Place and date of birth:

Place and date of baptism:

Place and date of confirmation (if applicable)

I am interested to participate in the following:

I would like to receive further information about:

Date and signature:

**The 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)  
Confidential email: [pastor.demke@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.demke@gmail.com)

**Council Co-Chairs:**

Konrad von Finckenstein, [president@glco.org](mailto:president@glco.org) [finckenstein@gmail.com](mailto:finckenstein@gmail.com)  
Sonny Lapointe, [president@glco.org](mailto:president@glco.org), [rolland.lapointe@sympatico.ca](mailto:rolland.lapointe@sympatico.ca)

**Parish Secretary:**

Gail Smith, 613-733-5804