



## The Courier 2019/2 Summer (June - August)

The English Language Newsletter  
of Martin Luther Church Ottawa

933 Smyth Rd  
Ottawa, ON K1G 1P5  
ph (613) 733-5804  
[info@glco.org](mailto:info@glco.org)  
[www.glco.org](http://www.glco.org)

### ► Pastor's Message: „In“ or „out“?

Dear Parishioners,

visitors attending our services and various cultural events make us happy. But what about those virtual visitors? In the month of April some 1,200 people dropped in on our website. Does this tell us something about our popularity? Well, yes, in that it at least provides an indication as to the number of people using the Internet who are specifically interested in what's going on in our congregation. Presumably there are even more, because there are also people who do not draw on the Internet for their information. And then of course there are those tracking us via our Facebook site. Their number is clearly lower. Our kids tell me that they regard this latter service as somewhat antiquated. In their view, which certainly merits but scant attention, we are – as a congregation using this platform – simply “out.” “In” or desirably relevant are other platforms and I dare

to assume that when we eventually manage to switch to other information and communication platforms they in turn will no longer be ‘trendy’ - or for to say it in German for once and at the same time to be understood by the English-speaking parishioners, they no longer correspond to the zeitgeist.



*Image by Gerd Altmann from Pixabay*

It certainly isn't easy to pick the right medium in keeping with changing fashions. They change quickly and even periodically appearing opinion polls are not to be trusted fully, because it isn't always readily apparent in whose interests they were taken. Whoever is involved in tracking politics

knows only too well that questions as to popularity are no simple matter. After all, politicians, male or female, want to be re-elected. The chances to do so are certainly influenced by whether a candidate happens to be ‘in’ or ‘out.’

Some years back people scanned fashion periodicals to determine what the 'in' folk wear and in that process wardrobe drawers and closets were filled. These days this happens via Internet manipulation as 'influencers' play with our minds. Whether they merit being called 'influencers' is not least determined by the number of 'clicks' on their respective blogs. All manner of things are being written about. Young people, it seems to me, are particularly susceptible of coming under pressure. For them it is important to be 'in' as changing fashions dictate. We also often hear of the pressure imposed, even dictated as majorities shape opinions. For the most part this involves products or matters of conduct and both are costly financially. Do we really comprehend the extent of pressure imposed on those with a need to feel 'in', as we register with some annoyance of some new trend or fashion to be adhered to? It is, for me personally, a matter of long ago, but I remember a time – you may well smile at this – when our family did not own a television set. All other families had one. And it was not a deliberate decision of my parents not to have one, but a sheer circumstantial fact that, as a family of the clergy in the then German Democratic Republic, we were simply too poor to be able to afford such luxury. I well remember how dreadful it felt not to be able to join in on schoolyard banter about the latest TV hit.

I am absolutely certain that we all prefer to be 'in,' to be of the majority, than to be excluded and even laughed at. As a congregation we are at no particular risk to be laughed at. All the

same, we do face pressure to be on the 'in' side of things. It is difficult to accept that we adhere to one who, in his own time, was an outsider.

"Let us then go out to him away from the camp, bearing his reproach. For here have we no continuing city..."

Paul urges us in his letter to the Hebrews. GO OUT THERE! What an unpleasant suggestion. But it certainly is true. Follow his traces, enter into his footsteps, is a course which the majority and prevailing majority opinion would rather desist from. Opinion polls are not the Christian thing. Whoever follows him had better not pay too much attention to raw numbers and polling data. Being Christian is to be on the 'outer' edge. To vocally address what might be cloaked in silence. To contradict where the majority seeks solutions attained by raw power.

Instead of many examples which you will more easily find than I do here, one last thought. What freedom! The worry to be part of the crowd, to strive to keep up is over. The pressure to justify oneself, the struggle to present oneself is over. You have been ransomed to attain liberty. You are free to respond to this love.

He is awaiting us – out there, beyond the door, where the wind of true freedom blows.

*Your Pastor Friedrich Demke*

**You cannot prevent the birds of sorrow  
from flying over your head,  
but you can prevent them  
from building nests in your hair.**

## ► Report of the Co-Presidents

Dear Parishioners,

As you know we had our second annual general meeting as a bilingual church on April 28. It was a good meeting with discussion on finances, proposed renovations to the building and grounds, and future projects such as the installation of the stain glass windows, the bell.

We elected a new council as Martin Damus, Klaus Koehler and Nancy Schoenherr had left. The new council in alphabetical order are: Ute Davis, Klaus Edenhoffer, Heather Ladouceur, Jonathan Ladouceur, Sonny Lapointe, Klaus Moritz, Heidi Rausch, Sheri Pendlebury, Alfred Popp, Esther Shoemaker, Stephen Thornton, Konrad von Finckenstein, Christina Wendorff.

We also received the financial statement and the audit report for 2018. Klaus Edenhoffer explained how the council became a victim of a fraud artist and lost over 20 000 dollars. To avoid any future occurrence no cheques will be issued without an invoice and cheques must be signed by two authorized council members. Payments other than by cheque are not authorized and will not be made.

The budget for 2019 was presented, scrutinized and approved. As a result of the scrutiny adjustments to insurance cost and GST rebate were made both resulting in a small reduction in our projected costs.

We however need to point out that generous support and increased donations are required if we want to meet our budget for 2019. The funds received from the sale of Preston St. are capital funds and will be used to renovate and improve the Smyth Rd. property, they cannot be used for the general operations of the church.

We also appointed a new accountant, Marion Fraser, whose responsibility will be to maintain a record of our financial transactions as well as keep track of outflows and spending. She will

work closely with our treasurer.

As sale of the Preston St property has been completely finalized and as renovation of the Smyth property is urgently needed the congregation also authorized the following projects with costs in excess of \$5K as per our bylaws:

- installing new microphones and a sound mixer (estimated cost \$6K)
- the renovation of the kitchen with associated plumbing (estimated cost \$90K)
- the fixing of the cold room underneath the entrance steps (digging a ditch around them, laying a drainage pump , enclosing the concrete with impenetrable sheathing, refilling with gravel and levelling the ground) as well as digging a deeper well for our sump pump (estimated cost \$7K)
- the re-shingling and triangular shaping of our entrance over the stairway (estimated cost \$6.5K unless a second quote for a lesser amount can be found)

The Pastor and Sven List from the Kindergarten

- made a passionate plea why a kindergarten is needed to continue the growth and rejuvenation of our community
- explained why only a full time Kindergarten will achieve these goals
- explained what is needed to create a self sufficient full time Kindergarten which would be 24 kids bilingual, probably 16 English, 8 German
- pointed out that their pro forma business plan envisions that it will take three years before the Kindergarten is fully self sufficient and a declining subsidy from the congregation will be required
- asked for approval in principle to proceed with such a plan and a mandate to further explore feasibility and costs and then come back to

the congregation for further authorization and decisions.

After intense discussion the Pastor and Sven List received the mandate sought. Other than preliminary planning expenses no financial expenditures are approved at this point in time.

Finally there was extensive discussion on how to integrate the four stained glass windows from Preston St. into the Smyth building. Two options exist

A) cut holes into the panels on either side of the church, install windows and in front of the windows install stained glass panels (as was done in Preston St.), or

B) mount the stained glass windows in standing wooden frames, have them back-lit by electric lights and place them against the brick walls on either side of the altar.

No consensus was reached, given that alternative B) has not been costed. Alternative A) will cost \$5000 each. We will get the necessary quotes and then bring the matter back to the congregation at a special general meeting later this summer.

In the interim contracts for the audio and the entrance foundation work have been granted. The kitchen contract will be signed imminently.

We are also looking for a part time custodian to look after the building given that Jonathan Ladouceur is now on council.

At the last council meeting we also approved \$500 for garden improvements and the erection of a notice board. Steve Thornton, head of the garden committee will look after this.

At the recent council meeting the following persons were acclaimed for the following positions:

Co - Presidents :	Konrad von Finckenstein and Sonny Lapointe
Secretary :	Heidi Rausch
Treasurer:	Klaus Edenhoffer
Financial Secretary:	Heather Bent
Accountant:	Marion Fraser

As you can see we have a busy schedule ahead. In future we will have to deal with such issues as bell tower, elevator, siding kindergarten etc.

We want to thank the congregation for their support to the forward looking decisions taken at the AGM.

Have a pleasant summer

Sonny and Konrad

**That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory,  
may give to you a spirit of wisdom  
and revelation in the knowledge of him.**

*Ephesians 1:17*

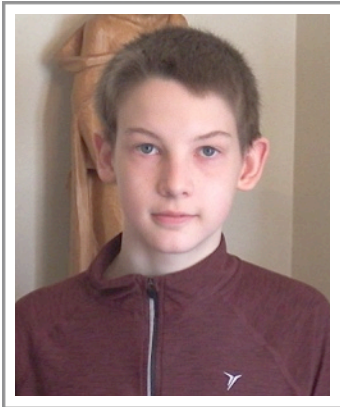
## ► Our confirmands introduce themselves



On June 9th, on Pentecost Sunday, at 9:30 am, in a joint worship service with music by the Quodlibet Choir, we will celebrate the confirmation of our three confirmands. The confirmation class took place together with Pastor Bart Beglo and his wife Jo and Pastor Friedrich Demke.

Here our confirmands introduce themselves to the congregation:

I am **Cody Robison**. I am 15 years old. I like the outdoors, I have been to Algonquin Park several times and enjoyed it. I am thinking about what my future might look like, I live in a small town but I am thinking of going to RMC (Royal Military



College) Since a lot of my family have gone there already. I also enjoy reading books and if they are good I will not want to do anything but read, I love to run and have signed up for a running team. I look forward to things I might do during the summer. Summer is a great time to spend time with family and relax.

My name is **Deborah Sitorus**. I am going to be 14 this year and I have a little brother. I have a Chinese and Indonesian background and I was born in Switzerland. My many hobbies include reading, cooking and baking, as well as hanging

out with my friends, but my main interest is visual arts. I take art classes to learn how to create art with different styles of paintings, sketches, 3D sculptures, landscapes and portraits, as well as learn how to improve my skills in it. In September, I will begin Grade 9 at

Canterbury High School Visual Arts Program. I enjoy the historical masterpieces created by many well-known artists like Leonardo Da Vinci with his "Mona Lisa" and Vincent van Gogh with his "Starry Night". Currently, I am working to replicate the "Still Life with Sunflowers" (V. van Gogh) and the "Last Supper" (L. Da Vinci). My mom is an ELCIC pastor and we get to worship at different churches where she is leading worship. When we visit our grandfather in Toronto, who is also a pastor, we worship in Cantonese and English



My name is **Jasmin Burn**. I am 17 years old and currently working on my parents' farm. In my spare time, I see a lot of The Grand Tour and Formula One, because I'm interested in cars and mechanics. I like listening to music by Kraftklub and Mozart,

and I like to discuss politics with my friends. Right now I am finishing my final year of high school, and after high school I would like to become a pilot.

## ► Registration for the confirmation class in autumn

At Pentecost Sunday we confirm this year three young people (*see article on page 5*). This is the first time that we, as a larger congregation, have been invited to celebrate this feast. This fall, a new group of confirmands could emerge. It would, by the way, be the last one that would be confirmed by me.

We still do not know of anybody who wants to be confirmed. But when a group is found, we want to want to explore our faith. We want to talk together about what our hopes and our questions have to do with living as a Christian. We want to get to know other young people, possibly go away on a trip together and

hopefully become a happy fellowship. At the end of the class is the confirmation, the date is not yet fixed but is chosen in consultation with the confirmands.

Please contact me by phone or e-mail, even if you just have any questions. There are no preconditions for attending the class.

Looking forward to new confirmands is

your Pastor Friedrich

## ► News from the kindergarten

The most important news for our kindergarten comes from our annual general meeting. There, Sven List, one of the directors of the kindergarten board, presented the project of expanding our kindergarten into a full-time daycare center. Expansion may be understood in a double sense. We want to become bigger (and we have to, if the project is to finance itself). But we also want the kindergarten to be at home on our property. There is a lot to consider, not an easy decision.

We hope to gain new church members through this kindergarten, which will then be bilingual as our congregation, but we also hope to do a special service for those who are looking for a kindergarten in German as well as for those who find a Christian kindergarten in English attractive. A big project, and we are happy that the congregation has agreed in principle. Now much planning work is needed so that we know in detail what is needed to implement our idea, but also, of course, to know what that will cost. Those who have experienced the joyous

children's songs and the decorating of the Easter branches on Easter day will well remember how enriching it is for our congregation when at the family worship services the church is so full of young families with children and also when at the Sunday School usually 10 to 15 children participate. Most of them still know each other from kindergarten, where they maintained their German.

In the meantime, the kindergarten will remain where it was, and Vasylyna and Angelika will do an outstanding job there. We are happy about all who attend the kindergarten. Again and again we experience that interested people are looking for a full-time offer, we would like to comply with these requests. At the moment there are still spaces available, also for the coming year.

Your Pastor Friedrich

## ► Our visiting service

Visiting sick, lonely or especially needy church members is a beautiful as well as important task for all of us. The Visiting Circle of our congregation currently consists of 6 members. We meet once a month with Ulla Robitschek, who has thankfully taken over the coordination for this group. We report on our experiences, discuss where we see special needs, and coordinate visits for the coming month.

We are very happy if more church members want to participate in this ministry. There is no

## ► Gardening

MARIANNE THORNTON

Gardening can be about solitude, it can produce food, it can be exercise. It can also be about releasing some urban space back to nature.

Highlights of the garden at Martin Luther Church include:

1. the Peace Pole donated and installed by Pastor Deborah Anne Taylor in memory of her father,
2. several trees are planted in memory of loved ones,
3. benches on which to sit and relax,
4. the labyrinth installed by members of the Mount Calvary Lutheran Church,
5. plants that are predominantly native to our country and climate, and are drought and insect resistant.

Gardens do require some maintenance and I invite everyone to come out one Saturday morning between the May long weekend and thanksgiving to experience the benefit of this gift of space and beauty in our midst. The garden is our gift to the community. If you spend some time walking the labyrinth, maintaining one of the beds or just resting on a bench, you will meet some of our neighbours, those that use the space to bring their pets or their

obligation on how many visits you should make, what counts is the willingness to share some of your time with others. Please contact Pastor Demke or Ulla Robitschek if you are interested.

We depend on knowing who is sick, who needs special support, so please share if you know of people we should visit.

Your Pastor Friedrich

children. Some just want to get out of their home or apartment.

Here is a plan to consider ways you can participate:

Timeline for this summer – watch out for announcements

May – cleanup and edging of beds

June-September – weeding and watering needed

October – fall clean up

Please consider adopting a flower bed and helping to water and maintain it. If you have any questions about how to care for gardens, please speak to one of those on the gardening team.

Would anyone be interested in a labyrinth walk some Sunday?

It is our hope to build some garden boxes for around the church near the parking lot. It would be nice to plant some vegetables in the bed at the farthest end of the property away from Smyth Road.

Needed: physical skills of raking, weeding, watering. Saturday mornings from 9-11



someone will often be there through the summer.

Planning and praying, offering of snacks and drinks for the gardeners

People with knowledge of gardening to offer support and advice – annuals, perennials, bird feeders.

Do you have skills in building flower boxes or in maintain flower beds? Lets talk! I look forward to hearing from you.

Marianne Thornton [marthorntonpt@gmail.com](mailto:marthorntonpt@gmail.com)  
On behalf of the team of interested gardening enthusiasts – Heather Bent, Martin Damus, Steve Thornton, Pastor Friedrich Demke

## ► Review of special events and occasions

### World Day of Prayer, Friday, March 1 St. Albertus Church

ALEXANDRA DEMKE

"Everything worked very well again," said Marlies Kathmann, President of the Women's Association of the St. Albert congregation, who has been organizing and celebrating the World Day of Prayer for the past 44 years together with the faith sisters of the Protestant Martin Luther Church. It is our largest and most enduring ecumenical project we celebrate here in Ottawa. Yes, luckily this time there was no blizzard, no freezing rain. All this had already happened on those first Fridays in March, when the World Day of Prayer is celebrated. Everything worked very well. In addition to the organization, this is especially due to the Quodlibet Choir, which has been carrying us through these World Days of Prayer since 2014. The services are prepared by women from often distant lands with songs that often sound exotic to us. This time the order of service came from Slovenia, so not quite so far and for some quite familiar. The choir not only sang but also played



many instruments, and it brought on a real festive mood. And then the food, the baked wedding bread, as if from a showcase so



beautiful, the many Slovenian dishes that have been prepared, and then some of the singers even came in traditional dresses. Very atmospheric and very emotional, this gathering, in which we celebrated not only this Eastern European country wonderfully, but also considered it in prayer. The collection amounted to over \$ 300. The money from the services of the World Days of Prayer is not just going to Slovenia, but it also supports women's projects around the world. World Day of Prayer is not just the largest ecumenical project for us, but in general the largest ecumenical grassroots movement of women.





## Open Table on March 10

STEPHEN THORNTON

Pull up a seat at the table...



The mission of Open Table is to offer radical hospitality to students and young adults in Ottawa, hospitality at it's finest. As an ecumenical ministry they are generously supported by church partners from Ottawa and the surrounding area. They aim to connect with students at Carleton and uOttawa to offer outreach/support initiatives for students.



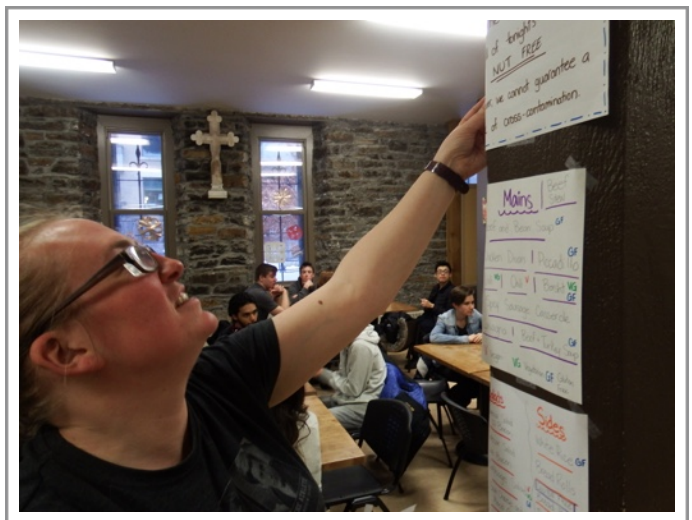
Location: Centre 454 (454 King Edward Ave)

Meals are provided September, October, November, January, February, March.



There are also meals hosted at Carleton during exam season in the Atrium.

The meal has 0 strings attached. Students can expect a welcoming environment, great conversation with new friends and of course incredible food!



The Open Table takes place monthly as a community meal at centre 454 where a free home-cooked meal is offered for students and young adults. These gatherings offer the opportunity to be a portal to many activities taking place in local churches, the community and beyond. It is an opportunity to meet new



people, explore Christian spirituality or access pastoral support.



The Open Table is supported by the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa, the Eastern Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, the Presbyterian Church in Canada and the Ottawa Presbytery of the United Church.



It was an honour - but also a bit overwhelming - to be approached at the last minute when the last event of the spring 2019 session had no host for the meal. When Steve Thornton was approached by the organizer of the events, Ken Grahlman, in early March, he took a leap of faith and agreed to go to the MLK church council with the request.

Many people came to support this initiative and it was hailed as one of the most well organized events, for a first time group! Thank you to all who helped prepare and serve food and to



those who came to set up and clean the area afterwards.

So, should we do this again? Or perhaps host a meal of our own in the fall? Let's talk

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## Seder meal 2019

STEPHEN THORNTON

What is a traditional Seder meal? The actual Seder meal is quite variable depending what tradition is followed. But generally the feast includes reading, drinking wine, telling stories, eating special foods, singing, and other Passover traditions, including question – many questions.



Inspired by (but not an actual) family Seder meal, 27 people celebrated together at Martin Luther Church on Maundy Thursday. Tradition says the meal it is to be held after nightfall on the first night of Passover, the anniversary of the miraculous exodus from Egyptian slavery more than 3,000 years ago.



Ceremonial foods were arranged on a platter, called the Seder plate. On the plate is a roasted egg, traditionally associated with mourning.

During the evening we enjoyed four 'cups' of 'wine' (cups could be defined symbolically as 'a small amount of wine in a cup' and 'wine' could take the form of juice in our Seder). You may ask 'why four cups of wine?' Good question. The Torah uses four expressions of freedom or deliverance in connection with the liberation from Egypt of God's people. Wine is used as it is a symbol of joy and happiness.

There were also veggies dipped in saltwater, dry cracker-like bread called matzah, bitter herbs (horseradish), charoset (a paste of nuts, apples, and wine representing the mortar that the Israelites used to make bricks while they were slaves in Egypt) and a festive meal (prepared by Sheri Pendelbury with a team of other contributors). The items are brought to the table and consumed in a ceremonial, choreographed combination of tastes, sounds, sensations and smells. Thanks are due to Steve Thornton for his planning and to Pastor Friedrich for his support of the evening.



The Seder story begins with a recounting of the Jewish people's descent into Egypt, recalling their suffering and persecution. We are with them as God sends the ten plagues to punish Pharaoh and his nation, and follow along as they leave Egypt and cross the Sea of Reeds as the waters part, allowing the Israelites to pass, then return to inundate the Egyptian legions.

As we eat bitter foods of affliction and poverty, the Exodus becomes a reality – as real as the festive meal and celebratory toasts that follow.

The meal features several recitations, proclaiming the holiness of the holiday. After hand-washing, the meal continues with a small piece of vegetable (parsley) dipped in salt water.



Matzah is the food of faith, when our forefathers left Egypt, they were in such a hurry that here was no time to wait for the dough to rise, and therefore ate matzah unleavened bread. We also ate a 'Hillel Sandwich' consisting of matzah and maror.

There is much to learn from experiencing a Seder meal and we hope to be able to celebrate it again next year. As we said at the closing of the Seder 'Next year in Jerusalem!'

## Easter Vigil

MARIANNE THORNTON

An Easter Vigil was hosted at Martin Luther Church on Saturday April 20. This event grew out of a conference called 'Journey to Baptismal Living' held in fall 2018, which Marianne Thornton was privileged to attend. Also attending were other members from various Lutheran and Anglican churches in the Ottawa area. Rev. JoAnne Lam was one of the presenters at the workshop.



As a follow up to that workshop, three bible studies were planned, as well as a Vigil in the same spirit as the conference. The Bible studies focused on the readings of the Easter Vigil and took place over the course of 3 Saturdays prior to the Vigil where participants experienced the text of the readings through repetition, where 3 different people read the text while the participants listened and then answered questions after. We thought about and discussed what the text said to each participant, and how what impact it had on their life? Finally, we shared what the text said to the world?

The evening of the vigil began with a simple shared meal before we gathered in darkness. Lit candles gradually intruded on the darkness. Readings and re-enactments brought the group through the story of our faith and the life of Christ as the lights gradually came on. We celebrated Eucharist as we welcomed back (literally!) the Alleluia of Easter.



Special accolades go to Sandy and Cody Robison as well as Pastor Lam's children Deborah and Gideon. Cody and Deborah will be confirmed this spring, and their participation was part of their preparation for confirmation. Thank you, also to Ellen Robison for her coordinating efforts and to all others who contributed.

We departed after saying 'Christ is Risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!'

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## Easter

ALEXANDRA DEMKE



Still in the dark we gathered on Easter morning **just before 6 a.m.** around a small Easter fire in front of our church. We stood there silently, still a little tired and dreamy, looking into the roaring fire. From near and far people joined us by the fire, one even came by taxi from Kanata, because there were no buses so early in the morning, one came quickly before her shift in the hospital, which is almost around the corner from the church. Standing in a semicircle around the fire we all became quiet, and then someone said a prayer. There were four speakers this morning, two read English texts, two German - the translations were printed in the Bulletin for this celebration of the Easter Sunrise Service.



It was already getting light when the big new Easter candle was lit by the fire. Accompanied only by a violin, we started to chant the first song outside to enter the church. It was one of the many Taizé songs we sang in the course of this morning, repeated over and over again, catchy, beautiful melodies that carried you and let you float in devotion and contemplation. A very meditative, thoughtful, and evocative service, in which, what is so rare in our sober Protestant church, the senses were directly addressed. So intense the perception of darkness and light. As we were praying for the church, we lit our small candles on the large Easter candle, bringing light into the still-dark church. After the Easter call, "The Lord is risen," and the answer, "He is truly risen," we sang, now accompanied by the organ, "Christ is risen." Easter! Joy!

The Holy Scriptures led us from the liberation of Israel to the birth of Christ and the question of who Jesus was. After the remembrance of our baptism, we celebrated the Lord's Supper. The church became very bright, and we put out the candles, stood in a circle around the altar, interceding, praying for God's blessing. Full of good words and full of songs, violin and piano melodies, we went to the Mount Calvary Hall after this Easter sunrise service to enjoy together happily a big Easter breakfast. An uplifting and fulfilling wonderful Easter morning!

**At 9.30 a.m.** we celebrated the classic English Easter service.

The Martin Luther Church Choir contributed especially to the festivity, as did the instrumental circle with Martin Damus (viola), Signhild Damus (flute), Clara Demke (violin), Jonathan Ladouceur (cello) and Marianne Thornton (flute).

The little Naher Araya had at this service the Easter joy clearly shining on her face!





At 11 a.m. we gathered for the big Easter family service.



The songs we sang in this service were instrumentally accompanied by Clara Demke on the violin and Jonathan Ladouceur on the cello and with the drum.



The children decorated the Easter bouquet and the kindergarten children sang two songs. "Did I do everything well?" asked a child after singing, and everyone clapped and shouted "Yes !!!".

The children got a big hard task. For the story was told of the women who went to the tomb of Jesus early in the morning to pay him the last honor and to anoint him with oils. On the way, they racked their brains over who would roll the heavy stone from the entrance to the tomb.

And just such a huge rock stood in front of us in the church hall. The children now had to move it carefully and with joint forces.







And then this big stone was rolled through the whole church and back. (Of course, this was only so easily done, because it was a disguised Rhönräd, a gym wheel, the children pushed in front of them ...).



In an impressively obvious way we could see what the women experienced when they discovered at the grave cave, that the stone had already been rolled aside. The angel who was there instead of Jesus, told them to tell everybody that Jesus was risen and would go before them to Galilee. But they were so scared that they did not tell anyone. But at some point they must have told something, otherwise we would not know this story.

The big rolled aside stone stood now in front of us in the church hall. All our worries and burdens should also be rolled away with it,

everything that weighs heavily on us, because all of this we can unburden with Jesus.



The children distributed leaves and pens and hung all the troubles and worries on the big stone. Fully loaded, he was then rolled away again - and placed under the cross.



We celebrated together in a large circle that encircled the church from the inside, the agape

meal in which bread and grapes are passed from one to the other with the words "Peace be with you".



Such a family service makes you feel God's abundant blessing in a special way - just look at the many happy and lively children who fill the church on these days. There is so much joy of life to feel, that Easter becomes very bright and radiant. And the big stone has been rolled away.

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### **Augenblick!-Theatre performance „The visit“**

ALEXANDRA DEMKE

On May 10 and 11, the theatre group „Augenblick!“ performed "The Visit" by Friedrich Dürrenmatt in the Martin Luther Church. On both evenings they had a "full house", an extra bench was set up, but then there was simply no more space.

14 actors, 25 roles, 3 technicians, 1 prompter, 8 months preparation, 3 acts, 3 hours, 1 intermission. And then some spectators said that it was so entertaining and engaging that they did not realize that the performance had taken three hours. We thank you very much for all the feedback and the wonderful praise we have received, here are some examples:

"Well now, THAT was totally AWESOME. Congratulations. I was not prepared for such a professional performance. "

"The staging was brilliant and I wish you continued success in future projects."

"You've done great again. Everyone I spoke to was thrilled. "

"We really enjoyed the performance. One can see that a lot of work went into it. Your voices were all nice and loud and they were great. I'm amazed at how much you had to memorize. The different sets were also well done, as was the coach for Claire. Bravo to all the actors and the behind-the-scenes contributors including lighting and sound effects. Thank you."

"Many Thanks! Such a nice evening. It was wonderful."

In the weeks prior to the performance the parish hall - the Mount Calvary Hall - had gradually been converted into a theatre with six venues. Stages were built from pallets and wooden boards, a sedan chair from cardboard and carpet rolls and poles. At kijiji, theatrical spotlights were discovered, they were repaired, mounts were built for them, a remote control switch was obtained to centrally manage the lighting of the various venues. Loudspeakers were set up, sound effects compiled, a playlist created to play the recordings. The English translation of the texts were transferred into a teleprompter program and were projected as supertitles onto a screen. We were very grateful that we found three people for sound, lighting and supertitle production, who eventually served the technique during the performances.



Even the audience got something to do, it had to turn its chairs always to the respective venues. Perhaps one or the other has felt the somewhat mournful feeling of not only becoming a spectator but also part of the story that has been played. The spectators became

very up to date. Another said after the performance, he had not imagined that the inhabitants of the town of



inhabitants of the small town of Güllen, they were sitting in the same theater hall where the deadly ending of the piece was played.

"The Visit" is a tragicomedy. Only with the help of the grotesque, according to Dürrenmatt, would one join the modern age. Funny, tragic, grotesque - so with this story the laughter stuck in the throat again and again. The piece is really very dark, someone said, and - unfortunately -

Güllen would actually commit the murder. Shaped by Hollywood, as we are today, he had expected that the Gülleners would have fooled the old lady to get the billion without murder, and in the end they would celebrate as they had tricked the old woman. But with Dürrenmatt there is no Hollywood happy ending.

"Justice for a murder, business for a corpse", the old lady had said, and in the end she handed over the promised cheque for a billion. Not only did the people of Güllingen commit murder, they also said in the end, with the tone







Station Master, Friedrich Demke as Husbands VII-IX, Koby and Loby, Christina Fichte as Woman 1, Gymnast and Reporter, Leo Heistek as Toby.

Directed by Friedrich Demke and Christina Fichte. The stages were designed by Gabi Kaindl and Friedrich Demke. Sound effects and guitar came from Leo Heistek, textual editing and translations by Jörg Esleben. Barbara Zabel was the Prompter.

In the technical team Louis Dourte was responsible for the lighting, Hendrik Schubert for the sound, Paul Demke for the Supertitle Production.

The Augenblick!-Theatre Group wants to say thank you for the free-will offering collected at the two performances. This covered all production costs, and left us - also with the support from the group „Kirche und Kultur“ -

with start-up funds for our next performance. Yes, it is already talked about that. We plan to start working on a new play in September. We will keep you up to date.



## ► Upcoming events

### REGULAR EVENTS

#### Sunday school and family worship services

In general, we always invite on the SECOND Sunday of the month to the German Sunday School at 11 am, unless we celebrate a family service. There is no Sunday School during the holidays. The children's worship team includes Vicky Oelck, Martin Damus (music!) and Alexandra Demke.

In June there is an exception: we do not celebrate the children's service on the second Sunday of the month, but on the third, that is, on June 16th. On June 9th, Pentecost, we have a joint service at 9.30 so that we can all celebrate the confirmation of our confirmands from the English-speaking part of our congregation and from the German-speaking one together. On

June 9th there will be only this joint Worship at 9.30 am.

So we celebrate the children's service on June 16th, as always at 11 a.m.

In July and August are summer holidays, after that we meet again on September 8th.

The next family worship service will take place on October 6, when we celebrate Thanksgiving.

### **German book circle**

*(every 6 weeks on Mondays, 7:30 pm)*

Martin Luther Church, 933 Smyth Road

The book circle had its last meeting before summer break on May 27. The first meeting after summer holidays is scheduled for the 16th of September. We will then talk about "Der falsche Inder" by Abba Khider.

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### **German Filmclub (with children's cinema)**

*(usually on the last Friday of the month at 7.30 pm, children's cinema about every two months)*

The film club has already closed for the summer. The first movie night after the summer is scheduled for the 27th of September.

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### **Wheels to Meals**

Third Wednesday of the month, 12 noon

HEATHER LADOUCEUR

In the summer months our kitchen is being renovated. The exact times have not yet been set, and so it is not sure when we will gather again for our open lunch. Please pay attention to the announcements after the worship services and look for updates on our website.

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

#### **Film & Discussions**

Generally last Thursday of the month, 9:30 am

The RSVP (répondez s'il vous plaît) meetings with short films and subsequent discussions are now entering the summer break. From September on, everyone will be warmly invited to see these and have conversations about questions of faith in our lives ..

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### **SPECIAL DATES**

#### **Spring Concert**

Saturday, June 1st, 2 p.m.

St. Thomas the Apostle Church

2345 Alta Vista Drive

The Concordia Choir Ottawa invites everybody to the annual spring concert - with The Montagna Singers, Quodlibet Choir Ottawa, Bell Concert Choir and Bell Flute Choir.

Tickets \$ 15 (children under 12 free)

Reception with refreshments after concert

Information: (613) 741-1995

[www.concordiachoirottawa.ca](http://www.concordiachoirottawa.ca)



**SPRING CONCERT**  
**Frühlingskonzert**  
**Saturday, June 1st 2019 2 p.m.**  
St. Thomas the Apostle Church 2345 Alta Vista Drive  
**Concordia Choir Ottawa**  
with  
**The Montagna Singers**  
**Quodlibet Choir Ottawa**  
**Bell Concert Choir**  
**Bell Flute Choir**

Tickets \$15.00 (children under 12 free)  
Reception with refreshments after concert  
Information: (613)741-1995 [www.concordiachoirottawa.ca](http://www.concordiachoirottawa.ca)

## ► Donate on-line made easy

Of course, we very much like to see you all in the church and at the service! Not everyone can or wants to visit Smyth Rd regularly, but that does not mean he or she does not want to support our work. We want to keep it the same way the church still functions in Germany: we do not complain about those who seldom or never come to church, but we are also very happy about those who support their church "only financially".

Since the Canadian system has no church tax like Germany where the government collects it from church members and passes it on to the church, we have developed ways to make it as easy as possible for you to finance the work of the congregation.

In addition to the classic cheque and cash transactions, which still accounts for a large part of our donations, there are two complementary ways to help our congregation. We hope that this will appeal to younger people in particular, and you can help by pointing out these possibilities to your adult children:

1. **If you are a CIBC customer and already have a three-digit donation number from our church**, then you can add our church online as Payee to the institutions where you pay your other bills (in the search box "German Martin

Luther Church") ). At the end of the year, as usual, you will receive your donation receipt from our finance secretary. Heather Bent (613 248-0600, [heatherbent@bell.net](mailto:heatherbent@bell.net)) can also give you a three-digit donation number at any time if you do not already have one.

2. If 1. does not apply to you then you can instead of by cheque or cash, donate online via our **website** [www.glco.org](http://www.glco.org). On the website under the menu item "donations" there is a "donate-now" - button of the organization CanadaHelps. Please click on it. If you're not yet registered with CanadaHelps, you'll need to create a short profile (it's faster than writing a cheque!) But you need to do this only once. After that you can help your congregation by credit card over a secure connection. You will not receive the donation receipt from the church, but directly from CanadaHelps. This system works very well and enjoys increasing popularity.



## ► Events in the Martin Luther Congregation

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

### REGULAR MEETINGS

**alternately on the 1st Monday  
or Tuesday in the month**

7:30 pm Church council

**usually every second  
Sunday of the month**

11 am meeting of the German-speaking playgroup in the Sunday School -  
followed by a coffeetable and other activities  
Contact: Esther Shoemaker ([estershoe@gmail.com](mailto:estershoe@gmail.com))  
(no Sunday School during the Holidays)

The German Senior Club „**Frohe Runde**“ meets on Thursdays in the St. Albertus Church.  
(Contact: Linda Kiesewalter, [kiesewalterlinda@yahoo.ca](mailto:kiesewalterlinda@yahoo.ca), Ph. 613-224 7467)

## WORSHIP SERVICES AND SPECIAL EVENTS

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

Pleasing words are like honey, sweet to the soul and new life to the bones.  
*Proverbs 16:24*

#### ► June

- Sunday, June 2:**      **Sixth Sunday of Easter**  
9.30 am Joint worship service (Demke) with Communion  
During this worship service our newly elected members of the Church Council will be inducted.
- Sunday, June 9:**      **Day of Pentecost**  
9.30 am Joint worship service (Demke) with Communion  
and with celebration of Confirmation  
The Quodlibet Choir will contribute to the service.
- Sunday, June 16:**      **Trinity**  
9:30 am English Worship service with Communion (Demke)  
11 am German Worship service (Demke) with Sunday School
- Sunday, June 23:**      **Time after Pentecost**  
9:30 am English Worship service with Communion (Demke)  
11 am German Worship service (Demke)
- Sunday, June 30:**      **Time after Pentecost**  
9.30 am English Service of the Word (N.N.)  
11 am German Service of the Word (N.N.)

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

You have knowledge of this, dear brothers.  
But let every man be quick in hearing, slow in words, slow to get angry.  
*James 1:19*

#### ► July

- Sunday, July 7:**      **Time after Pentecost**  
9.30 am English Service of the Word (N.N.)  
11 am German Service of the Word (N.N.)
- Sunday, July 14:**      **Time after Pentecost**  
9:30 am English Worship service with Communion (Demke)  
11 am German Worship service (Demke)
- Sunday, July 21:**      **Time after Pentecost**  
9:30 am English Worship service with Communion (Demke)  
11 am German Worship service (Demke)

**Sunday, July 28:** Time after Pentecost  
9:30 am English Worship service with Communion (Demke)  
11 am German Worship service (Demke) with Communion

**Bible text for the month of August**

And, on your way, say, The kingdom of heaven is near.  
*Matthew 10:7*

► **August**

**Sunday, August 4.:** Time after Pentecost  
11 am Joint worship service (Demke) with Communion and baptism

**Sunday, August 11.:** Time after Pentecost  
9.30 am English Service of the Word (N.N.)  
11 am German Service of the Word (N.N.)

**Sunday, August 18.:** Time after Pentecost  
9.30 am English Service of the Word (N.N.)  
11 am German Service of the Word (N.N.)

**Sunday, August 25.:** Time after Pentecost  
9:30 am English Worship service with Communion (Demke)  
11 am German Worship service (Demke) with Communion

► **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**

**From our congregation have died**

Adelbert Pallasch, 85 years  
Horst Wiltsch, 91 years



And he will put an end  
to all their weeping;  
and there will be no more death,  
or sorrow, or crying, or pain;  
for the first things have come to an end.

*Revelation 21:4*





## ► Last but not least:

### **Do we really know them? That man and that woman married to each other?**

J. JOACHIM MOSKAU

Let's face it. Much of the time it all boils down to a modest test of our courage. Such a simple thing, Sunday morning. Outside a howling blizzard. Do I go to church?

But then I go. And here is the next test: do I really mount enough curious courage to listen with full attentiveness to those readings of scripture, the prayers, the sermon, those possibly tedious announcements at the end of service?

Surprise, surprise! - We at this 'new' Martin Luther Church on Smyth have – perhaps to our own amazement – managed to cope with several tests of our courage in the short eighteen months of our co-existence.

Just a few examples:

- lo and behold, a real congregational choir is taking its first tentative steps,
- downstairs in Calvary Hall a well attended production of a celebrated Swiss play has earned much applause,
- while still mute, that genuine church bell first rung on Preston Street exactly fifty years ago now awaits its new assignment at the entrance and downstairs, the multi-colored church windows transported safely from Preston are ready to glow again.

In short, much of life in church as elsewhere is a step-by-step series of tiny ventures of courage. Some steps are really small, some more dauntingly ambitious. And perhaps inspired by some of the challenges this congregation itself is experiencing a lively

discussion ensued some weeks ago as part of a book club meeting. How do we deal with the puzzling and sometimes irritating questions of getting along with our next door neighbor? Who, in fact, are they, that man and that woman married to each other?

The book club session has led to some exploratory discussions and it now looks as if a small cluster of people, including some congregants, will delve into some of the simple mysteries of how the hell we can all manage to get along.

How do we make sense of ever more disturbing manifestations of Islamophobia, of Anti-Semitism, all terrifying forms of racism? How, not least, do we – on what after all happens to be unceded land of Canadian aboriginals - cope with our failure to fully respect the simple provisions of the 1763 Royal Proclamation? How can we begin to comprehend and ultimately shed those many irritating traps of stereotypical cliché distortions. Those ridiculously proverbial things that invariably begin with 'typically German...', 'all the such-and-such can ever think of is...'. And so tediously on and on.

The initial session of an ad hoc working group arising out of the book club is expected to prepare us for a hopefully ambitious venture of community building.

Where but in a church such as ours should a courageous search for improved societal understanding be launched?

## ► **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:

## **We are here for you:**

**Contact:** 933 Smyth Road, Ottawa ON K1G 1P5, (613) 733 5804 / [info@glco.org](mailto:info@glco.org) / [www.glco.org](http://www.glco.org) / Facebook: Martin Luther Gemeinde Ottawa  
Parking at the Church

**Pastor:** Rev. Friedrich Demke, (613) 748-9745

Confidential Email: [pastor@glco.org](mailto:pastor@glco.org). Please call or send an Email if you would like a personal conversation.

**Church musician:** MaryAnn Foley 613-225-2522 / [macfoley@rogers.com](mailto:macfoley@rogers.com)

**Council Co-Chairs:** Konrad von Finckenstein, (613) 744-5856 / [finckenstein@gmail.com](mailto:finckenstein@gmail.com)

Rolland Lapointe, (613) 692-5506 / [rolland.lapointe@sympatico.ca](mailto:rolland.lapointe@sympatico.ca)

**Secretary:** Heidi Rausch, (613) 247-9102 / [hrausch@hotmail.ca](mailto:hrausch@hotmail.ca)

**Treasurer:** Klaus Edenhoffer, (613) 252 4325 / [kedenhof@gmail.com](mailto:kedenhof@gmail.com)

**Building Committee:** Gunther Bauer, (613) 730 3495 / [guntherbauer@hotmail.com](mailto:guntherbauer@hotmail.com)

Klaus Moritz, (613) 254 9893 / [klausmoritz5@gmail.com](mailto:klausmoritz5@gmail.com)

**Representative for the Martin Luther Kindergarten:** Esther Shoemaker, (613) 366 8000 / [esther@shoemaker.ca](mailto:esther@shoemaker.ca);  
Sven List, (613) 569-9135 / [svenlist@sympatico.ca](mailto:svenlist@sympatico.ca)

### **Other members of the Church Council:**

Ute Davis, (613) 236 3736 / [muted@rogers.com](mailto:muted@rogers.com)

Jonathan Ladouceur, (613) 983-1812 / [jonathan.r.ladouceur@gmail.com](mailto:jonathan.r.ladouceur@gmail.com)

Heather Ladouceur, (613) 263-1812 / [heather.ladouceur@gmail.com](mailto:heather.ladouceur@gmail.com)

Sheri Pendlebury, (613) 523-5262 / [bsp\\_sheri@hotmail.com](mailto:bsp_sheri@hotmail.com)

Alfred Popp, (613) 729-4650 / [alfpopp@gmail.com](mailto:alfpopp@gmail.com)

Steve Thornton, (613) 526-5414 / [stevethornton@rogers.com](mailto:stevethornton@rogers.com)

Christina Wendorff, (613) 489 3438 / [christina.wendorff@gmail.com](mailto:christina.wendorff@gmail.com)

**Financial secretary:** Heather Bent, (613) 248-0600 / [heatherbent@bell.net](mailto:heatherbent@bell.net)

**Accountant:** Marion Fraser, [mdfraser@bell.net](mailto:mdfraser@bell.net)

**Church secretary:** Gail Smith

**English Worship service:** Sunday 9:30 am, every Sunday with Communion

**German Worship service:** Sunday 11 am, on the last Sunday of the month with Communion

**Joint Worship service:** First Sunday of the month 9:30 am, with Communion (English/German) (there is no other worship service on this Sunday)

**German Sunday School:** Second Sunday of the month 11 am (no Sunday School during the Holidays).

Our two newsletters, the German "Ruf" and the English "Courier" are issued four times a year in March, June, September and December by German Evangelical Martin Luther Church of Ottawa Inc. If you would like to receive the newsletter by e-mail, please let us know sending an e-mail to [lutherinfo@gmail.com](mailto:lutherinfo@gmail.com) – we would love to put you on our mailing list. You may also receive the newsletter by post on a regular basis and at no charge (even if you are not a member of the congregation). Please check the mailing address on the envelope and inform us about changes and corrections.