



## The Courier 2019/3 Fall (September - November)

The English Language Newsletter  
of Martin Luther Church Ottawa

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### ► "A chap who goes a'travellin' can tell you many a tale..."

Dear Parishioners,

so goes a line in a song by Matthias Claudias, whom we know as the poet of the eveningsong "Der Mond ist aufgegangen" (The moon has risen). In keeping with that sentiment let me describe a journey, now thirty years past. In 1989 my parents and I journeyed to Bulgaria, into the mountains known as "Stara Planina," there to hike. It was August and our joint holiday began in keeping with a timetested pattern. Late one evening at Berlin-Lichtenberg station we went aboard the "Pannonia" Express and, yes, noteworthy it was that the GDR railway service appended the name of a Roman province to one of its long distance connections. The sleeper compartments were in hot demand and had been booked months before. For people of the GDR with dreams of distant travel Bulgaria was one of the few possible destinations. We had obtained the

necessary rose coloured "Travel certificate for visa exempt journeys" (we were not, of course, in possession of normal passports), having had to endure endless hours of wait at police headquarters. We were also proud to be in possession of sophisticated back packs with tents and sleeping mats, gifts of kind friends and family relations in the West, such articles certainly not available where we did our shopping. We stowed our luggage, dad climbed up into the upper berth and promptly fell asleep. To be wakened only by the dreaded and

unpredictable border control officers of the GDR, who, these days, seem to have found worthy successors south of our Canadian border. But, what a surprise, occasionally we encountered very friendly and

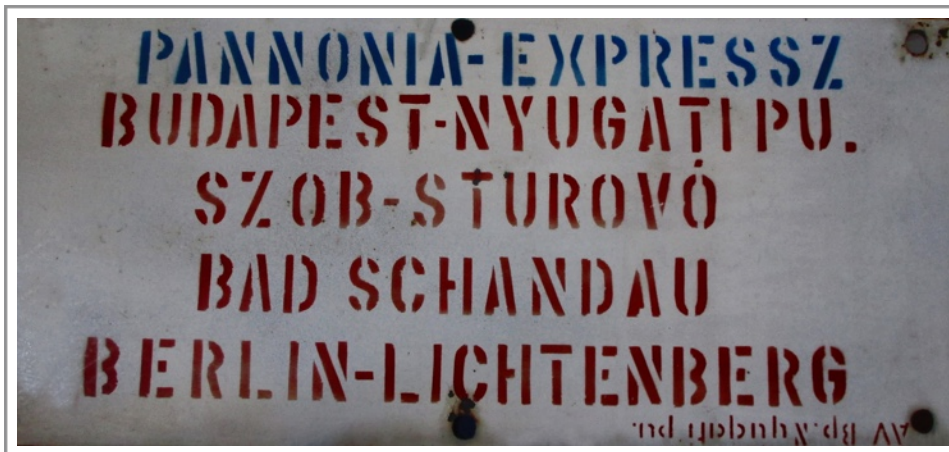


Foto (scaled): [Lupus in Saxonia](#) -

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accommodating officials.

During the near two full days of rail travel, there wasn't much to be seen of our Lord of the

Manor, just peaceful snoring sounds to signal that the well deserved summer vacation had commenced. The train was filled to capacity, as always hordes of aspiring travelers clustered at the carriage doors to be kept in check by the rail attendants. People without reserved tickets in desperate need of travel, spotting an empty seat somewhere in the carriage managed to persuade train staffers to yield access, probably in exchange for not so insignificant little amounts to their private casket. Hence, the train was fully loaded. „Fulfillment of the plan.“

Of our hikes into the mountains, wonderful though they were, I will not talk here – except to mention the tiny shortwave radio set with the charming name “Global Receiver” which we had brought along. Sometimes, in evening hours, we succeeded in finding out what all was going on in the world. We heard that the situation at the Federal German embassy in Prague was escalating. We heard of the mass escape of some 600 people at Sopron along the Hungarian – Austrian border. Quite accidentally in the corridor of the train I had overheard an exchange between two teenagers on their way to Hungary talking of their plan to attend the “Pan European Picknick” at Sopron along the Hungarian – Austrian border and now I understood the background.

During our daily hikes and each evening we discussed what was going on, how our country might evolve in the wake. Hungary, by then, had introduced a multi-party government, in Poland Solidarność had virtually forced free elections to be held. Would we experience something similar, or would we suffer something like China after the June massacre in Tiananmen Square? I was wrestling with the question of whether or not it was time for me to turn my back on the GDR.

Afterall, the borders of Hungary, through which we travelled on our return trip, had for all intents been dismantled. At the end I was persuaded by the argument of my parents. In brief, this was it: God no doubt has reasons for our life in the GDR, as Christians in an assertively pronounced atheistic society. It was up to us how, in that place where God had placed us we would answer his commands to serve as witnesses of divine scripture.

The return trip home during those last days of August was strange. In Budapest, normally the site of fiercely dramatic struggles over the very few available seats on the train all was quiet. In our car only two compartments were occupied. And so it was right to the GDR border at Bad Schandau. Border patrol guards seemed almost irritated that anyone at all wanted to return to the country. They were friendly in a way that almost struck me as scary.

Now, retrospectively, I am grateful to have returned. It is, of course, futile to speculate on what might have been had I turned my back on the GDR. How could I imagine that within three short months the borders would simply be opened and that the Federal Germany into which I would have entered would now simply come to me. On the other hand, the motive for staying now seems to me to be as topical as it was then. How do I live as a Christian being at the place where God has located me, in company with those whom I encounter there? That is an enduring and exciting question, and the consequences are certainly far reaching, as they were then, as I chose to stay on the train.

*Your Pastor Friedrich Demke*

## ► Report of the Co-Presidents

Dear Parishioners,

We hope you had a pleasant summer. As we enter into the fall it is time that we bring you up to date what happened with our church in the interim. Here is what happened:

1. You will recall that at our last annual meeting we decided to refurbish the kitchen in the basement by engaging the firm Irish Renovations. To do so they need a building permit. A building as old as our church needs to be examined to ascertain that it is asbestos free before a permit can be issued. Unfortunately the inspection revealed that the paint in our basement contains asbestos. We are therefore in the process of having part of the ceiling ( the part that needs to be opened for new pipes and electricity lines) cleansed by a hazmat team of experts. This has taken time and effort and will hopefully be done by the end of September so that renovation of the church can then proceed. Needless to say all this represents additional costs.

2. We have also had the foundation under the front entrance properly insulated and weeping tiles employed. In addition the sump pump in the basement room was buried at a proper depth and a new pump installed. As a result we now have a dry room and hopefully no water next spring.

3. A new roof with a different slope and eavestrough has been installed over the entrance. This will ensure that in future the water drains away from the building rather than into it.

4. A new acoustic system was installed in the church, new microphones were installed and a new sound mixer is in the music room.

5. The organ has been extensively repaired by the expert who originally installed it. The resulting sound is just outstanding.

6. We have a contract for the construction of three closets in Mount Calvary hall to be used by our licencees namely, the Spanish church,

the Mennonite Church, the girl guides and the Narcotics Anonymous group. Hopefully this will bring some order into how space is used by our licencees

7. We have contracted the installation of two curb-style skylights with 2 feet by 4 feet in the middle of the church which will bring more light into the nave of the church. They should be installed the second week of September.

8. A contract for repaving the walkways around the church has been signed and the work should be done in September as well

9. Lastly we have conducted extensive investigation of our walls and testing of the stained glass windows that we brought from Preston St. has shown that installing them in the walls at Smyth St. would be inordinately expensive. It would also destroy the paintings on the wall that were characteristic of Mount Calvary church. We have therefore obtained quotes for having the windows put in self standing upright frames and backlit by LED lights. Two of the windows would be placed at 45 degrees in each corner behind the altar and one each on the left and right side behind the altar. Hopefully this will be approved at the next council meeting.

As you can see we are busy upgrading the church and give it the renovations that are so urgently needed.

In the interim the garden group of volunteers under the leadership of Steve Thornton has been cleaned the premises and the garden is flowering as never before.

Finally the EKD has informed us that the restaffing of our pastor's position has been approved and an advertisement outlining the Ottawa position has been published in the internal magazine of the EKD and placed on its website. So the process for replacing Pastor Demke is proceeding as planned.

So, that's it for today.

Your co-presidents

Konrad and Sonny



## ► Thank You to our gardeners!

A big thank you to our garden enthusiasts around Marianne Thornton

- Heather Bent, Martin Damus, Steve Thornton, Pastor Friedrich Demke and whoever may have joined them in the course of the summer.

They have grown the garden into such a magnificent, blooming and enchanted idyll these past few months, they have put so much care and diligence and work into it, and it's such a pleasure to come to the church and to sit a little while on one of the benches in this beautiful garden atmosphere. For this it is worthwhile to come early on Sunday to the worship service or to stay a little longer after the service !!!

The labyrinth (see page 14, *Invitation to the Labyrinth-themed Worship Service*) is also in good shape to walk through it, all the stones have been cleared of weeds and the walkways are clearly recognizable. The entrance to the labyrinth is just behind the peace pole.



This stake belongs to a worldwide peace project of the World Peace Prayer Society. Peace poles serve as peace prayers. They should remind us to find and promote peace in ourselves and in the world.

May Peace Prevail On Earth.

Möge Frieden Auf Erden Sein.

These words in many languages and countries may bring us together in this simple peace prayer all over the world.

Our "Community Garden" invites us and the whole neighborhood in many ways to relax, to pray, to think, to meditate or to enjoy nature.

Just come along and sit down on one of the benches.



## ► Thank You to Our Worship Readers

Many heartfelt thanks to all who helped celebrate the Service of the Word during my absence this summer. I am always thrilled that so many of our members are willing to lead such a service. I know it is by no means self-evident but a sign of our congregation's great care and engagement.

Only those who have done this themselves can truly assess what kind of strength and mental strain it takes to be responsible for leading a worship. It is a blessing that we had so many volunteers to share the burden. During the

summer, when for a variety of reasons fewer churchgoers participate in the service, the extra effort is again particularly praiseworthy.

So a big thank you to Sonny Lapointe, Sheri Pendlebury and Steve Thornton for the English services, and to Konrad v. Finckenstein, Brigitte Gustin, Joachim Moskau and Alfred Popp for the German worship services.

Your Pastor Friedrich

## ► Registration for the confirmation class

A new confirmation class will start in September, one person already registered. As in the past, we will once again have classes together with the youth of Faith Lutheran Church (Meadowlands) so that we can form a larger group. I would be very happy to see more interested youth registering.

During this confirmation time we want to explore what is faith. We want to talk about what our hopes and questions about life have to do with us as Christians. We want to get to know other young people, possibly go away together and hopefully become a happy community. The lessons end with the confirmation. The date will be selected in consultation with the

confirmands.

The exact location and the time for the Confirmation Classes will be established together with Pastor Martin Malina and the adolescents of Faith Lutheran. Please contact me by phone or e-mail with any questions you may have. There are no prerequisites for attending the classes.

Looking forward to welcoming new confirmands

Your Pastor Friedrich

## ► News from the kindergarten

On Tuesday, September 3, the new kindergarten year begins with an opening ceremony at 10.30 with Rev. Friedrich Demke. Eight children have registered so far.

The kindergarten students are already scheduled to give a small performance for us when we will celebrate the Thanksgiving family service on October 6th, at 2:30 pm in the garden of the residence of the German Ambassador. They will participate and perform

again in November at the St. Martin's Festival.

We thank Vasylyna Gryso and Angelika Guerin for their wonderful work with the children, and we look forward to a great new kindergarten year.

Your Pastor Friedrich



## ► Looking for a host family for a German student

Hello,

I am writing this letter, because I would love to stay in Canada from April 5th to presumably July 20th 2020. My intentions are to go to school and to get to know the culture. I would be happy if my English improves in the time I'll stay in Canada. Therefore, I will be concentrating on my English accent and my vocabulary whilst also being in a French environment.

My name is Valentin Hopstein and I am 15 years old. I have been living in Singapore since 2011 but I am originally from Germany. My friends describe me as a fair, self-confident and a reliable friend. I like being and communicating with other people in a group. I like sports a lot, which is why I enjoy badminton, swimming in a school team and I love parkour. I like playing the piano, too. But I am open to do whatever is best for me and the family I'll be in.

Most of my friends have humour and are easy to talk to. But I am happy with everybody who is kind to me, which is why I return the favour. If some kids have the same interests as me, it would be a lot easier to get together. One of my best friends Julian is leaving Singapore, but he

and I have a lot in common. We're both all the time active and happy. He is a very good swimmer, too and we loved to race each other. Julian and I and two girls in our class then started to understand each other, and we were, just until the end of this school year, close friends and went out a lot. But apparently two of them left, but there's still one left, right?

I have been staying with a family in France for six months just before turning 13, which is why I speak three languages. German is my mother tongue. I also speak English and French. I lived with the family next to the city Lyon. The exact name was: Villefranche-sur-Saône. I found some good friends, with whom I'm still a little in contact. I believe that I will need the English more than the French in the future. That's why a perfect family for me is one, who speaks English daily and French on the side.

But I think a Family who only speaks English sounds good to me, too.

And to finish the letter, a little side information: After returning from France, I started to go to the French Scouts in Singapore.



The letter from Valentin is also available in the church in the entrance - in English and in French - to take away. If you are interested or if you have any questions, please contact Pastor Friedrich Demke at [lutherinfo@gmail.com](mailto:lutherinfo@gmail.com) or (613) 748-9745.

## ► Review of special events and occasions

### Refugee Committee

Plant- and Bake-Sale on May 25th

ALEXANDRA DEMKE

As in previous years, our church has joined the annual fundraiser for the work of the Ottawa Lutheran Refugee Sponsorship Committee. For the "Plant and Bake Sale" at the Great Glebe Garage Festival on Saturday, May 25, our community contributed biscuits, squares and the already famous German "Kuchen" (cake). "You were here last year, too," someone said to us and immediately remembered his favourite cake. Someone else had bought two "Berliner", a special sort of pancake, and came back 20 minutes later: "I would like to buy all the rest, please." Later that morning the rains came. We were just glad that it hadn't started raining even earlier as predicted. Unfortunately it did not stop and thus provided for an early end to the fundraiser.

superb plants and baked goods.



In total, the plant and bake sale made 1878.60 dollars, a very successful fundraiser! A big thank you to all who supported this worthy cause!



The next day, Sunday, the bake sale continued in our congregation. Fresh cakes supplemented the left over ones, and we ended up with as many donations as we had for the Glebe sale. Both together brought in just under \$ 350.

Some church members had also donated plants, and the first interested parties arrived early in the morning to get the best pick of the plants. By now we are well known for our

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### Installation of our Council Members on June 2

ALEXANDRA DEMKE

The members of the Church Council were elected at the end of April and installed during the joint worship service on June 2.





The ceremony for the installation of the Presbyters as they were called in the early church is a moving mutual commitment of the elders and the congregation. The members of the church council were asked if they would take responsibility for the congregation, for worship, for ecumenism, for outreach and for the teaching in this church. If they would promise to work toward the unity of this congregation with Christ as the center of all. They responded: „We do and with God’s help.“

In a prayer for the Presbyters God was asked to bless their words and deeds, to encourage them to take steps towards an open, inviting and sustainable congregation, to equip them with patience, and love and a sense of humor, and that their decisions may be guided by heart, reason and faith. The congregation, in turn, was asked to honour our Presbyters and to pray for them.

Words, obligations, wishes, promises, that put you in a serious and solemn and at the same time happy and elated mood.

New in the church council are Alfred Popp (*top left on the fotos*), Klaus Moritz (*right*) and Jonathan Ladouceur (*bottom left*). In addition, we now have an accountant with Marion Fraser, and she will work closely with our treasurer.



## Confirmation on June 9 at Pentecost

In glorious sunshine we celebrated on Pentecost Sunday the Confirmation of Jasmin Burn, Deborah Sitorus and Cody Robison. The three had confirmations classes with Pastor Demke together with Pastor Barton Beglo and his wife Jo.



In the past year, they had contributed on various occasions in our worship services, for example, at the celebration of the Easter Vigil on the Saturday before Easter, which will well be remembered with all the many actions. And on their confirmation day, they were also actively involved and, for example, proposed their own version of the confession of faith.







We are very grateful to the Quodlibet Choir and our church choir for making such a festive musical contribution to the worship service. The service began with the sung request "Veni Sancte Spiritus", Come Holy Spirit, a Taizé song. The cross of this fraternity in France, where Christians from all over the world and all denominations come together for prayer and worship and talk about issues of faith and sing together, the cross on Taizé shaped like a dove was in the centre of the whole Pentecostal Confirmation service.

The pigeon is the most famous symbol of Christianity for God's Holy Spirit. When Jesus was baptized God's Spirit came down upon him AS a dove, gentle. And it was a dove that brought the olive branch after the Deluge as a sign that God has reconciled with people and forgiven them. So the dove as a sign of peace, coming gently and quietly, as a sign for reconciliation and forgiveness. The dove of Taizé now comes in the form of the cross, the sign for Christians. The sign for Good Friday

AND for Easter. It also is a reminder that our way is always a way of listening, listening to God and searching for God. Sometimes God's answer brought to us by the Holy Spirit, comes very quietly and surprisingly as a dove.

Cody, Deborah and Jasmine, who said "yes" to a life with God at Pentecost, were given a dove-cross, just as the one in Taizé, as a companion. Dove crosses that the pastor had made for



them from olive wood, certainly all from the same tree. A tree whose branches as well as the dove are a sign of peace between God and humanity and on earth at all. That was also the wish that Pastor Demke gave to

the three confirmands: that they may bring about peace and reconciliation, and that their lives may be guided by the sign of the cross and the dove.



## 16th Biennial Conference of DELKINA June 29-July 3, San Francisco Bay Area

ALEXANDRA DEMKE

*The proclaimed dead live longer ...*

With a wistful feeling we drove to the DELKINA, the German Evangelical Lutheran Conference in North America, which meets every two years, alternately in Canada and in the USA. Wistful not only because for us personally it would be the last time we attended this conference due to our return to Germany next year, but wistful especially because the last Conference in 2017 in Toronto decided to discontinue DELKINA. Although as an advocate of churches celebrating church services in German, it is a good place to exchange ideas, to learn from each other, and to develop theologically. However, the number of congregations for which the German language is decisive for their existence is becoming smaller and smaller, and there are now other ways of communicating. The dwindling number of German congregations no longer justifies the elaborate and expensive organization of such a conference. That was the stated consideration.

According to the statutes of the DELKINA, the conference two years ago in Toronto could not be dissolved immediately. The resolution must be voted in two successive conferences with 2/3 majority. The most important agenda item for this year's conference was the vote on whether to continue the DELKINA in its current form. The theme of the DELKINA Conference was appropriately called "Changes". How do we go into the future as German-speaking communities and as DELKINA?

It was a big surprise when the discussion and the vote turned out that the majority was in favor of a continuation of the DELKINA! It was decided that the board would be downsized, and its work would have to be distributed to more shoulders. Therefore, a special working group has been formed for the preparation of the next conference. It was also decided that, as far as possible, the conference should always be linked to the regional conference of

the pastors sent by the EKD - as was the case in San Francisco.

As new DELKINA co-chairs were elected Pastor Dr. Norbert Hahn, Philadelphia (Immanuel Lutheran Church) and Pastor Dr. Karin Achtelstetter, Toronto (Executive Director Canadian Lutheran World Relief). Albert Christ, Winnipeg, remains as treasurer.



Kelowna, B.C. was selected as a possible venue for the DELKINA 2021. Pastor Patricia Giannelia from Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kelowna agreed to take over the field planning. She is assisted by a team that includes Pastor Ingrid Cramer-Dörschel of Trinity Lutheran Church in Edmonton and Pastor Katharina Möller of St. George's Church in Toronto.

Many thanks to the old board who prepared this year's conference. We were superbly housed at the Sonoma State University site an hour's drive north of San Francisco. At the beginning of the conference, we all met on Sunday, June 30, for worship at St. Matthew's Church in San Francisco. The service was led by Kerstin Weidman, the local pastor and former president of the DELKINA. Pastor Karin Achtelstetter, the new co-chair of the DELKINA, gave the sermon - she could not have guessed her new position at that time. Oberkirchenrätin Claudia Ostarek gave the sermon at the concluding worship service in Sonoma and installed the new DELKINA board,.





So our wistful sadness remains only a personal one, because for us it was time to say goodbye to many dear conference participants whom we had the great fortune to have met every two years with joy and curiosity and interest.

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### **Regional Conference of the EKD July 3-8 in San Francisco**

ALEXANDRA UND FRIEDRICH DEMKE



For the EKD ministers from Washington, New York, Toronto and Ottawa, the Regional Conference seamlessly joined the DELKINA. Since 2017, Australia has been part of our North American region, which may sound crazy at first because of the distance, but Australia has much more in common in terms of content and history with us in North America than with Asia, where it had previously been regionally assigned. Two pastors from Melbourne joined us on July 3rd. Because of the special situation of living abroad the delegates are invited to regional conferences together with their families. And so we were eleven adults and twelve children. Only thanks to the two representatives of the EKD - Oberkirchenrätin Claudia Ostarek and Pastor Reinhard Vetter - and a pastor and a vicar, the adults were then in the majority.

Rebekka Pöhlmann, pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bavaria, who was in New York for a one-year special ministry at the UN Office of the Lutheran World Federation, and Silke Fahl, the new vicar in Toronto, had prepared a retreat for the children and adolescents. It was about the special situation as third-culture-kids, about questions of home, identity, culture and also about a fantasy design for their dream of a parish. Interestingly, in this design they all very much emphasized the openness of their dream congregation for ALL people, regardless of their background.

This brought them close to the topic of our conference: "Community Building in a Multicultural Context". To deal with different aspects of the topic we shared the experiences in our congregations, heard book presentations (The Nature of Prejudice, Faith, Christ and Culture, and Theology of Religious Relations) and sat down in discussion groups. Lectures on "Confidence-building in heterogeneous groups", on experiences with "Interfaith and multicultural encounters" and on experiences with the ongoing colonialism in Canada deepened the debate.



Every morning and every evening, prayer worshipps were arranged by the participants and a lot of music was played.



The absolute highlight of our conference was a trip to San Francisco, which fell on the 4th of July, the national holiday - because this was a Thursday, and it was always on Thursdays that a local Lutheran church invited to the "Open Cathedral".

We were guests of the Iglesia Luterana Santa Maria and Santa Marta. For the worship service with communion we had rehearsed a song that we wanted to sing there to present our group. While we were stuck in the traffic jam to get to San Francisco, we thought about the good experience we had here in Ottawa with our participation in the "open table". What would the Cathedral of San Francisco look like? But we probably had not payed attention properly. "Open Cathedral" did not mean open doors of the cathedral, but an open-air worship service. Specifically, a worship service at the stairs to a subway station where homeless people gather.

From a van, two folding tables were unloaded, they were covered with a green cloth, a cross was placed on top, a Bible laid, two goblets were filled with grape juice, a bread placed on a plate. The pastor, Rev. Monique Ortiz, put on a green stole, turned on the microphone, and the service could begin. There was a bulletin, just like ours bilingual, but English-Spanish.



There we - all the pastors and their families - stood or sat next to a group of homeless people on set up plastic chairs or on the stairs on the railing to a subway. On the other side of the stairs, people were dealing with drugs and argued aloud, during the service the police came and arrested someone.



Although the liturgy was familiar and we also sang our prepared song, this was certainly the most unusual worship we ever attended. As each word was translated, it took almost 2 hours. At the intercessions, Rev. Monique walked around with the microphone, several homeless people talked about themselves and prayed loudly, and reverend Monique translated it into the other language. That was a moment when one or the other thought came to the fore, should church be like that, in the midst of people in need of help? Was this meant by the mission in the gospel of seeking Jesus in Galilee? Are we too comfortable in our beautiful

churches, too rich, too far from the misery of this world?

When the Lord's Supper was prepared with a large goblet and a loaf, some began to feel uncomfortable: drinking together from ONE cup, when some of the homeless people looked sick and were dirty? But then the bread was broken and handed to everyone to dip into the cup. After the service everybody was invited to a meal, there were salad, and hot dogs, and people formed a long line.

The St. Mary and St. Martha congregation invites twice a week to this "Open Cathedral". The congregation is housed in a new building financed by the sale of its old building. Their sold original church has since been converted into a Buddhist temple, but we have seen the cornerstone on which was read in German "Lutheran John Church". Every evening, the members of the congregation transform their worship space into a homeless asylum. Chairs are set aside, mattresses are placed on the floor.

We were invited to a dinner, where Rev. Monique Ortiz told us about the "Night Ministry", which we wanted to join afterwards. Some of our families returned to the campus of the university because children under 15 were not allowed to go. Outside, firecrackers exploded on the streets, causing a hell of a noise. National holiday ... But at ten o'clock in the evening, when we started to walk, the bang stopped as it should.

We split into three small groups and accompanied Pastor Monique and two of her colleagues on their nightly service from 10pm to midnight, but their service continued until 4am. The "night ministers", recognizable by their clerical collar, just walk through the streets where the homeless live, slowly, quietly, greeting one or the other they know, but not pushing anyone. We went with Pastor David through an area where on the sidewalks tents were set up close to each other, tent by tent or tarps were stretched or cardboard boxes served as a base, others just slept right on the

pavement. So many homeless people sleeping on the streets, we probably had not experienced anywhere before. The first thing that struck us the most was the indescribable stench. Of urine. As intense as never smelled before. Mountainous, like the streets in San Francisco are, we went up and down for two hours. Some one called to Pastor David looking at the collar shirt: "God bless you!" One encounter was particularly impressive. A man was sitting on the floor, his nose bleeding. Pastor David searched for a handkerchief in his pockets, and when he found none, he asked if any of us had one. The man he wanted to help looked at us in surprise, disbelieving that anyone cared for him and took interest in him - and it was this look that burned into our minds. When no one in the group had a handkerchief, Pastor David gave him some fresh, white socks, with which the man then wiped off the blood.

Night Ministry just wants to be present, to offer contact for people with whom hardly anyone else speaks when they beg for alms during the day in the same area of the city. Being there and listening, so that there is at least somebody who is interested in those who are really on the margins of society.

Rev. Monique Ortiz has been with the Night Ministry and the Open Cathedral for over 10 years. Almost, she told us, she had given up, could no longer endure all the misery, felt no strength, because what could she do, she could do nothing to change the situation, she could not really help, not save the people. She sat in her car after her nightly service and howled, was desperate and prayed - and suddenly she felt the answer. She realized that it was not her job to solve the whole problem, but that it was up to her to give just as much love as possible and to show people that they are loved. That's also what she gave us to take along for the night walk. Look at people, smile at them, be friendly, you do not even believe what such a smile can mean to someone.

## ► 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.

We celebrate our next Children's Services on September 8 and November 10, with the next Family Service scheduled for Thanksgiving on October 6 (in the afternoon at 2.30 pm in the German Ambassador's Garden, 290 Coltrin Road), and we celebrate it together with the St. Albertius Church.

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#### Our visiting service

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 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

Our next meeting will take place on September 10.

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#### Labyrinth-themed worship services

Sunday, September 15 - 9.30 am and 11 am

MARIANNE THORNTON

Please join us for a special labyrinth-themed worship at Martin Luther Church on Sunday, September 15 at our usual worship times. We will gather around the labyrinth (weather permitting) at the start of the service and have an opportunity to walk the labyrinth before heading inside to continue the service.



Labyrinths have been a symbol of the Christian way since ancient times, representing the path of the soul through life. Walking a labyrinth is a journey toward a goal, a purpose-filled walk. It is a solitary journey, a prayerful walk. Participants follow a meandering path from the outside to the



centre and then back out on the same path. The way is always visible and clear, which allows users to be free of distractions and to focus internally.

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## **German book circle**

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

Martin Luther Church, 933 Smyth Road

### **September 16**

Abba Khider: „Der falsche Inder“

Moderation: Sonja Finck

A mysterious Arabic manuscript in the ICE Berlin-Munich, which seems to belong to no one and in which the life story of the person who accidentally finds and reads it is told eight times in different ways. This novel debut is about the flight of a young Iraqi, who was imprisoned under Saddam Hussein and fleeing war and oppression, in several countries acting as tutor, casual worker, waiter; who seems to be haunted by misfortune and is always miraculously saved. On his journey through North Africa and Europe, he meets many other refugees from all over the world, who like him are in search of a life without hunger and war and sacrifice a great deal for it. Their voices and destinies combine in Khider's novel into a modern, realistic fairytale.

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### **October 28**

Theresia Enzensberger: „Blaupause“

Moderation: Hans Ruprecht

»Understanding the past as a living thing - Theresia Enzensberger makes the Bauhaus years to a moment in the present.« Florian Illies - Luise Schilling is young, inquisitive and full of future. At the beginning of the roaring twenties, she comes to the Weimar Bauhaus. She studies with professors like Gropius or Kandinsky and throws herself into the dreams and ideas of her era. Between technology and art, populism and avant-garde, the utopias of a whole society and individual love, Luise realizes that the struggle for the great freedom never stops at one's own life. - Fast and extremely present Theresia Enzensberger tells about a young woman in the turmoil of her life: from the conflicts between right and left to the jump of a young couple in a nocturnal river.

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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)

### **September 20**

„Mackie Messer - Brechts Dreigroschenfilm“

The German-Belgian feature film is based on true events: In fact, Bertolt Brecht and the composer Kurt Weill wanted to make a movie from the "Dreigroschenoper" which they had successfully premiered in August 1928 at the Theater am Schiffbauerdamm in Berlin. But their project soon failed due to the different intentions of author and production company: While Brecht wanted to shoot no less than the most extraordinary film of all time, the producers pursued purely economic interests.

Director and scriptwriter Joachim Lang tells the true story of the failed adaptation attempt in parallel to the songs and the action of the Threepenny Opera to juxtapose them and at the same time to integrate them into the time of the world economic crisis, unemployment and emerging fascism. In this way, he could on the one hand shoot a kind of historical making-of-film, but on the other hand philosophize in image and music about how Brecht might have realized his work according to his own ideas.

Director: Joachim A. Lang

Germany, Belgium 2018

135 minutes; German without subtitles

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### **25. Oktober**

„Werk ohne Autor“

"Werk ohne Autor" („Never look away“) is an epic (three hours long!) psychological thriller about the life of an artist, based on the biography of Gerhard Richter.

Over three epochs of German history, the film tells of the dramatic life of the artist Kurt Barnert. Growing up during the Nazi era, the young artist had to watch terrible violence in his early childhood. Even after the end of the Nazi dictatorship he has traumatic experiences in the

GDR. When Barnert finally manages to escape to the West together with Ellie, the love of his life, he hopes to be able to devote himself undisturbed to his art there. When he intuitively uses his personal trauma of the Nazi period as inspiration, he finds his own artistic self. With the question of meaning "Who am I", the artist succeeds in creating a series of images with both private and political background of Nazi Germany - without suspecting the real role his father-in-law is playing in all this.

Director: Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck  
Germany, Italy 2018  
188 minutes; German without subtitles

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### **Wheels to Meals**

Third Wednesday of the month, 12 noon

HEATHER LADOUCEUR

We are still 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 have an idea for a new name, please let us know and send an e-mail to [lutherinfo@gmail.com](mailto:lutherinfo@gmail.com). As for now we have one proposal for a new name: „Open lunch“.

If you need help with transportation let the church office know and we will do our best to get you there.

The next meals are planned for September 18, October 16 and November 20. Please be aware that at some point this fall construction will begin on the new kitchen. We are waiting for the building permit. Until construction begins we will go ahead with our lunches. Please listen to the announcements for any changes. The office will also have any information on changes.

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

#### **Film & Discussions**

Generally last Thursday of the month, 9:30 am

MARILYN DONISON

Please join us once a month for our RSVP (répondez s'il vous plaît) meetings with short films and subsequent discussions. The short 10 minute 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.

Our next meetings are planned for September 26, October 31 and November 28.

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### **SPECIAL DATES**

#### **Thanksgiving Family Service on October 6 in the garden of the German ambassador's residence**

On October 6th, at 2.30 pm, we will celebrate the Thanksgiving service in the garden of the German Ambassador's residence (290 Coltrin Road). It will be a service that we will celebrate together with our brothers and sisters of St. Albertus Church. The kindergarten children will make a small contribution and also the Quodlibet choir will be there.

Of course, we hope for good weather, but in any case, a tent will be ready, so we do not get wet, in case there should be an early autumn rain.

Please let others know about this service.

## Church and Culture

The circle „Church and Culture“ (Kirche und Kultur) is planning two events this fall. For the 200th birthday of Gottfried Keller and Theodor Fontane there should be a reading from their works, probably in October. And there are plans for a special song recital in November. We will inform you in a timely manner about the two events and send invitations.

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### St. Martin's Day, November 8

5 pm, Martin Luther Church, 933 Smyth Road

On Friday, November 8 we invite children to our St Martin celebration with lantern walk. We will meet at 5 pm in the church at 933 Smyth Road where the children of the Kindergarten will put on a small performance of the St Martin tale (in German). From there we will start our lantern walk. Following the walk, we will reconvene in the church for a potluck with hot fruit tea.

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## ► 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

## „Read aloud night“ for children (in German)

Saturday, November 16, 4pm

For Saturday, November 16th, we are planning an exciting reading night at the Martin Luther Church (933 Smyth Road) with a story, with fun, pizza and games. All are invited to spend the night in the church too. Ideal for children from 7 years.

Registration and contact: [lutherinfo@gmail.com](mailto:lutherinfo@gmail.com) or (613) 748-9745

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## Craft night

Friday, November 29, 7 pm

We are planning a Christmas craft night. What kind of handicraft we will do this year has not yet been determined at the editorial deadline.

If you have specific wishes or want to suggest a craft, please let us know and contact [lutherinfo@gmail.com](mailto:lutherinfo@gmail.com) or the church office.

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 Canada-Helps. 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

**1st Monday  
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.  
(Contakt: Linda Kiesewalter, [kiesewalterlinda@yahoo.ca](mailto:kiesewalterlinda@yahoo.ca), Ph. 613-224 7467)

### WORSHIP SERVICES AND SPECIAL EVENTS

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

For what profit has a man, if he gets all the world with the loss of his life?  
or what will a man give in exchange for his life?  
*Matthew 16:26*

#### ► September

**Sunday, September 1: Time after Pentecost**  
9.30 am Joint worship service (Demke) with Communion

**Sunday, September 8: Time after Pentecost**  
9.30 am English Worship service (Demke) with Communion  
11 am German Worship service (Demke) with Sunday School

**Sunday, September 15: Time after Pentecost**  
We will gather around the labyrinth (weather permitting) at the start of the services.  
9:30 am English Worship service with Communion (Demke)  
11 am German Worship service (Demke)

**Monday, September 16:** 7.30 pm German book circle (Abba Khider: „Der falsche Inder“)  
933 Smyth Road

**Wednesday, September 18:** 12 noon „Wheels to Meals“

**Friday, September 20:** 7.30 pm Filmclub („Macky Messer - Brechts Dreigroschenfilm“ - German, no subtitles)  
933 Smyth Road

**Sunday, September 22: Time after Pentecost**  
9:30 am English Worship service with Communion (Demke)  
11 am German Worship service (Demke)

**Thursday, September 26:** 9.30 am RSVP Film & Discussions  
933 Smyth Road, Mt Calvary Hall

**Sunday, September 29: Time after Pentecost**  
9:30 am English Worship service (Demke) with Communion  
11 am German Worship service (Demke) with Communion

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

According to thy ability be merciful.  
If thou have much give abundantly: if thou have a little, take care even so to bestow willingly a little.  
*Tobit 4:8*

### **► October**

**Sunday, October 6:** Time after Pentecost  
9.30 am English Worship service (Demke) with Communion  
**GERMAN THANKSGIVING**  
2.30 pm German Family service with St. Albertus Church, with Quodlibet Choir  
and with the children from the Kindergarten  
Location: garden of the Residence of the German Ambassador (290 Coltrin Rd)

**Sunday, October 13:** Time after Pentecost  
**CANADIAN THANKSGIVING**  
9:30 am English Worship service with Communion (Demke)  
11 am German Worship service (Demke)

**Wednesday, October 16:** 12 noon „Wheels to Meals“

**Sunday, October 20:** Time after Pentecost  
9:30 am English Worship service with Communion (Demke)  
11 am German Worship service (Demke)

**Friday, October 25:** 7.30 pm Filmclub („Werk ohne Autor“ - German, no subtitles)  
933 Smyth Road

**Sunday, October 27:** Time after Pentecost  
9:30 am English Worship service with Communion (Demke)  
11 am German Worship service (Demke) with Communion

**Monday, October 28:** 7.30 pm German book circle (Theresia Enzensberger: „Blaupause“)  
933 Smyth Road

**Thursday, October 31:** 9.30 am RSVP Film & Discussions  
933 Smyth Road, Mt Calvary Hall

**Bible text for the month of November**

But I am certain that he who will take up my cause is living.  
*Job 19:25*

► **November**

**Sunday, November 3.: Time after Pentecost**  
**ALL SAINTS SUNDAY**

**9.30 am Joint worship service (Demke) with Communion**

**Friday, November 8: 5 pm St. Martin's Day with lantern walk**  
**Martin Luther Church, 933 Smyth Road**  
**Followed by a Potluck**

**Sunday, November 10.: Time after Pentecost**  
**9:30 am English Worship service with Communion (Demke)**  
**11 am German Worship service (Demke)**

**Saturday, November 16:** „Read aloud night“ for children (in German) with sleep over in the church  
4 pm , 933 Smyth Road (Please register at [lutherinfo@gmail.com](mailto:lutherinfo@gmail.com))

**Sunday, November 17.: Time after Pentecost**  
**9:30 am English Worship service with Communion (Demke)**  
**11 am German Worship service (Demke)**

**Wednesday, November 20:** 12 noon „Wheels to Meals“

**Sunday, November 25.: CHRIST THE KING**  
**9:30 am English Worship service with Communion (Demke)**  
**EWIGKEITSSONNTAG**  
**11 am German Worship service (Demke) with Communion and with Concordia Choir**

**Thursday, November 28:** 9.30 am RSVP Film & Discussions  
933 Smyth Road, Mt Calvary Hall

**Friday, November 29:** Craft night  
7 pm , 933 Smyth Road

► **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 August 4**

Billa Delaney



Love has the power of undergoing all things, having faith in all things, hoping all things. Love has no end

1. Corinthians 13:8

Blair Redburn  
Frederick Redburn



Jesus said: Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.

Matthew 19:14

## **From our congregation have died**

Erika Nattkemper, 85 years  
Daniel Stuart Swant, 96 years



The Lord will keep watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time and for ever.

*Psalm 121:8*

## ► 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)  
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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.