



## The Courier 2019/4 Winter (December - February)

The English Language Newsletter  
of Martin Luther Church Ottawa

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### ► Surprises

Dear Parishioners,

it can't be ignored, we see and hear it everywhere, the advent and Christmas period has arrived. A time of anticipation and reflection for some, for others perhaps sighs to heave, so very much to prepare, so much to plan and consider. Rehearsals for concerts, performance preparations for the nativity play, baking of cookies, procuring an advent wreath, decorating hearth and home and, of course, all those Christmas presents. The dire question of what presents for whom takes on ever greater urgency with each passing day. All the while that sneaking feeling that, in all honesty, we have all we really need. So the quest is to find something that truly comes heart felt. Afterall, ultimately presents reflect the esteem in which we hold the recipients. And so it is particularly wonderful if something very personal is found and given.

Something that of joy for the recipient, who appreciates that the giver has given much thought to it or has even fashioned it personally. If something of value has luckily been found, the next question arises: is the present to be wrapped and, if so, how?

I remember that in my childhood presents had to be unwrapped with great care, lest the wrapping paper could not be used again. Not so much because my parents attached particular value to notions of recycling. Back then that was not yet really on the agenda, but because nice and precious wrapping paper wasn't easily



obtained in the German Democratic Republic. For us children it was a matter of great joy to guess what might be hidden in those packages. Did the shape of the package provide a clue as to content? The small tables with presents in the room where the Christmas tree stood were

covered in cloth. You can imagine how, on Christmas eve, we nervously hovered on the edge of the couch, finally to be allowed to lift the cloth from the table of presents. Some things could immediately be identified, others needed to be – as mentioned – very carefully unwrapped to preserve the paper. And then there were the postal packages. So much more to unpack until one could finally take stock of what grandparents, aunts and god parents had sent. Some wishes were fulfilled, but there were also genuinely unexpected surprises, on which we had not counted. Among us children there was always a lively discussion on whether it was better to wish a lot, knowing well that not all wishes could be fulfilled, or was it better to just simply wait and hope for something nice, something useful or a combination thereof.

It took a few years until we understood that joyous anticipation was a most important part of the festive season. Round about the same time we began to understand that there was a deeper meaning to the giving of gifts. We had always been singing about it, but had not really understood the full meaning of the song. In the German Christmas carol „Lobt Gott ihr Christen alle gleich“ (“Praise God the Lord, ye sons of men”), the first verse ends with the words „Today He opens heavens again and gives us His own son, and gives us His own son”. We are the true recipients at this feast. God gives himself. In his life Jesus will demonstrate what God has intended for and with us humans from the very outset. A present, which to the fullest possible extent we cannot really comprehend, but about

which we can feel great joy, thus also able to pass along such joy to others.

In coming weeks we, as a congregation, will also come to learn that even as I write these lines something as yet obscure awaits us. Pastors will come, one male, one female, who have applied to serve in our congregation. That is also a bit like a present. We don't yet know all particulars about them, but we certainly have a list of wishes. Some, no doubt of that, will have to be met. Other hopes and wishes are not even defined because I am sure both candidates will come with special talents that are not even listed on their curricula. Unlike the Christmas gifts, we may even choose who we think best suits our congregation. What luxury! It will be important to make a decision that covers as many hopes and wishes as possible. I will use personal restraint in holding back advice, but I do very much hope that we, as a congregation, can reach a decision with which an overwhelming majority can agree and live. Seen in this light such a choice is not just exciting it also fits well into this time of joyous anticipation and Christmas.

May we all in these exciting and stimulating, ever so surprise filled days always keep in mind that we have all along been enriched. God gives beyond all measure in his care of all mankind and that then certainly includes this, our congregation.

*Your Pastor Friedrich Demke*

Praise God the Lord, ye sons of men,  
Before His highest throne;  
Today He opens heavens again  
And gives us His own son,  
And gives us His own son.

## ► Report of the Co-Presidents

Dear Parishioners,

We are now approaching Christmas. My how time flies. This will end our second year as, the now no longer new, bilingual Martin Luther Church.

Let us bring you up to date on what has happened.

We have invested the proceeds from the sale of the church building on Preston Street with Meridian Credit Union which will earn us better interest than certificate of deposits. We will also transfer the existing CD's at CIBC to Meridian Credit Union on maturity. This means by the end of this year we will close all books with CIBC and in future deal only with Bank of Montreal.

Renovations of the church building are ongoing.

- Two skylight measuring 2 x 4 feet where installed in August in the mid-section of the sacristy which is now considerably brighter and welcoming.
- The walkways around the church where removed and new one's poured in their place. A new bike rack was also installed in the front of the church.
- The organ was repaired by the man who originally installed it, and now sounds better than ever.
- The kitchen renovations were delayed as it took several months to get the building permit. An examination of the building revealed asbestos in the ceiling paint in Calvary Hall. Originally, we planned to open the ceiling to bring in more electricity and water. But once the cost of opening the ceiling and removing the asbestos was ascertained, (over \$30,000.00) we adopted a work around method, leaving the ceiling undisturbed and merely putting a new pipe roughly 5 inches in diameter in the corner between ceiling and wall. The new electricity line will be fed through it. Instead of installing a new water feed, the existing one will be used but a

second heater will be installed in the kitchen. On this basis we have now obtained a building permit. But the delay also means that kitchen work will not commence before the new year.

- The light illuminating the altar and the cross had to be removed and new ones installed. The old ones were outside the Building Code. Thanks go to Klaus Moritz for undertaking this difficult work.
- A waste bin has been placed behind the church for garbage. A contract with Waste Management has been entered for monthly removal of our garbage. From now on no garbage bags will be stored in the church and all users have been so advised.
- 3 storage cabinets for users of our facilities will be installed this month in Calvary Hall between the pillars so all their belongings can be out of the way when not in use.

Where to place the stained-glass windows which we brought from Preston Street remains an issue. Installing them on the sides of the church; i.e. cutting holes into the wall and destroying existing murals is too expensive and would destroy the murals which are cherished by many. The only viable alternative is framing them in self standing enclosures and having them electrically backlit. However, this raises the question where to place them. At present two windows are being framed with back lightning. We will temporarily place one besides the altar and one in Calvary Hall. We will then have to decide where we want them. Three options are possible, i.e. in Calvary Hall, behind the altar or two behind the altar and two downstairs. Once every one has seen the actual framed windows in place it will hopefully be easier to make a final decision.

Once the fate of the four windows has been decided, Gunther and Irmgard Bauer have generously offered to pay for the framing of the 'good shepherd' window which he originally donated in memory of his family. It will be placed in the entrance where we presently have coat hanger stands.

For those of you who never visited Preston Street, here are photos of the four windows and the good shepherd window.



We have renewed the license with the South East Community Church (Mennonite) which use our facilities on Sunday afternoon. They are model users and have caused no problem.

On the other hand, we have terminated the lease with the Spanish speaking Seventh Day Adventist Church as of the end of the year. There were just too many issues with them regarding the proper use of our facilities.

Our lawn and garden were enhanced over the summer and fall. Under the guidance of Marianne Thornton and many volunteers, gardens were prepped for a new crop of flowers next spring.

As winter and snow approaches, a snow fence along the west lawn and garden was installed to protect it from damage by the snow plowing company over the winter. Our thanks to Martin Damus and Steve Thornton for installing it.

As decided last year we will alternate the style of Christmas decorations. Last year it was in the German style, this year it will be in the English (i.e. former Mount Calvary) style.

Finally, as you know we will be losing Pastor Demke in 2020. The EKD has advertised the job, held the interviews and pre-selected 2 possible pastors. These will then each fly to Ottawa with their spouses, hold trial sermons in English and German on Dec 15, and on January 12 or 19, meet the congregation and be interviewed by members of the council. On January 26 the Congregation in a general meeting will then select the successor to Pastor Demke.

Wishing you a meaningful Christmas and wonderful holidays

Your co-presidents

Konrad and Sonny





## ► Chrismons - English style of Christmas decorations

SIGNHILD DAMUS

Chrismons – a combination of Christ and monogram (meaning symbol). They are ornaments made of white (liturgical church colour) and gold (majesty/glory) material depicting the story of Jesus.

The tradition started in Ascension Lutheran Church in Danville, Virginia in 1957, and our Pastor Jon Keekley brought it with him to Mt.

## ► News from our confirmands

In September a new confirmation class started, and we meet once a month together with the youth of Faith Lutheran Church (Meadowlands). Two youth come from our congregation two are from the host congregation with Pastor Martin Malina. The three hours of these monthly events are dedicated to different topics.

So far, we have talked about ourselves and our biography as Christians, we have discussed at length the meaning and understanding of the creation story, and at the last meeting, we discussed the question of who Jesus Christ is. We read, tinkered, watched a short film, made a poster, but above all, we talked to each other. In the small, but very open-minded and willing to

## ► News from the kindergarten

We are very grateful these days that Gabi Kaindl, who was in the founding days of our kindergarten, is now again actively helping out there. Our kindergarten supervisor, Vasylyna Gryso, is in the last phase of her training as a licensed early childhood educator (ECE). This includes longer internships in other kindergartens. The children and especially their parents are happy that we can still keep the kindergarten open.

In a few days it will be that time again, then comes St. Nicholas to visit the kindergarten. As

Calvary. Our Women's Auxiliary sewed the whole set around 1970 under the leadership of Tina Hultquist. The Chrismons, though starting to show their age, have adorned our Christmas trees ever since.

You will find a complete list with explanation of each ornament on the website.

discuss group that is really a lot of joy. I hope it is the same for the young people as it is for me who is always surprised that our time is already over, although there is still so much to talk about.

At the end of our meetings, we come together in the church hall of Faith-Lutheran and speak together Luther's evening blessing, which one finds in the English as well as in the German hymnbook.

Your Pastor Friedrich

always, he will be offered a special program with songs, poems and usually a small play. Since I know him personally quite well, I know that he is very excited about this morning. The parents and grandparents will come, and there will be a happy potluck afterwards.

Your Pastor Friedrich

## ► The photo directory

It is always happening time and again that things go wrong which is always very unpleasant. That is what happened with the photo directory for our congregation.

Many had taken the trouble to make an appointment with the photographer. They were photographed, they ordered prints of their portrait pictures, which they did receive, but then they waited, when the whole directory would finally appear.

Unfortunately, it turned out that the Council had misunderstood the offer of the photography company. We had assumed that the directories would be for free. When we asked for the ordered number to be sent to us, to our surprise a very high bill came. Apparently the photographer had not been able to sell so many pictures extra that it would have been financially worthwhile for him.

After we had discussed the situation in Council we decided not to make an order under these circumstances, because we felt deceived and did not want to pay a lot of money. After all, after our complaint we were given some of these directories for free. As there are a lot fewer directories than promised, we have decided to hand them out on a first come first serve basis as long as stocks last.

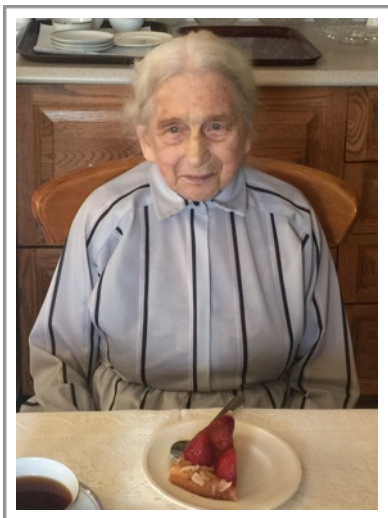
The few directories are now ready for you in the church office. Gail Smith or I will give them out. We sincerely regret that we have failed to find an acceptable compromise solution in this matter.

Thankfully, Christina Wendorff has offered to develop a parish directory in black and white. This will take some time, but as soon as it is ready, we will contact you again in this matter.

Your Pastor Friedrich

## ► The 97th birthday of Ruth Kaufmann and the 100th birthday of Christa Jachan

We were happy to celebrate two very big birthdays in our congregation.



First, Ruth Kaufmann turned 97 on September 5th, and the congratulants all came to her little house and had coffee and cake with her.

Then, on October 25th we celebrated the 100th birthday of Christa Jachan.



Irmgard and Gunther Bauer invited her and guests to their home.



100 balloons had been hung up as a wall decoration for the birthday party - filled with Gunther's breath. The centenarian refrained wisely from counting the balloons and smiled with pleasure...

Actually, both jubilarians should celebrate together on this day, but unfortunately Ruth Kaufmann had fallen so heavily the night before that she has been bedridden ever since. We wish her to get well and include her in our prayers.

From the bottom of our hearts we sing a German birthday song with good wishes for our two oldest church members:

Good luck and many blessings  
on all of your paths,  
good health and lots of gladness  
should be with you too

## ► Werner Noffke - the architect of our church building

ELFI HERZOGENRATH

Werner E. Noffke was born on April 9, 1878 in Gambin, Pomerania, and died on July 30, 1964 in Ottawa. Ottawa's cityscape is still today shaped by his buildings which include houses, hospitals, schools, and several churches. Noffke's principle was to design buildings according to his customer's requirements and demands, a principle he also applied to his churches, one of them is the church at 933 Smyth Rd, then Mount Calvary Church, now Martin Luther Church.

In the second half of the 19th century, Ottawa sent a representative to Pomerania to hire badly needed labourers. Subsequently the German community grew so quickly that in 1874 they decided to build a small wooden church on Wilbrod Street, the St. Paul's church, which was soon replaced by a bigger stone building, designed by the Thuringian architect Adam Harvey. On April 18, 1884, another 86 emigrants destined for Ottawa left Hamburg. Among those were Franz Noffke and his family who immigrated to Canada to join previously emigrated family members. Franz Noffke's family settled in Ottawa East Village, and Franz enrolled his youngest son, Werner Ernst Noffke,

in the German school which was part of St. Paul's church, and which he attended until the age of 14. He then took an apprenticeship with the architect Adam Harvey. After finishing his apprenticeship, W. E. Noffke went to work for the architect Moses Chamberlain Edey where he got to know other styles in addition to gothic and romantic.

During Noffke's time, there was no academic program for architects anywhere in Canada. Those, like Noffke, who could not afford to study in the US or Europe had to take courses in art studies and applied art in addition to their apprenticeship. In Ontario, these courses were regulated by the Ministry of Education.

In 1901, at the age of 23, the young architect established himself independently, and his first commission was followed by others as his reputation as a young talented architect increased. In the 1901 census, W. E. Noffke is listed as an architect, living at his parents' home on Third Street (now Montcalm St.), earning \$468 per year. In 1904 he married Ida Jordan, and the Ottawa newspaper covered this event. Noffke and his wife were both active members of St. Paul's. Ida sang in the church choir and was president of several church groups. They

were also supporters of the Liberal Party and close friends of Sir Wilfrid and Lady Laurier. In fact, their only child was named Edgar Wilfrid.

### *Noffke's church buildings in Ottawa*

His earliest church (1915) was St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church on MacKay Street. Major windows of the facade of the otherwise modest structure are trimmed with stone drip moulding. A rectory was added to one side of the building. As in St. Paul's Church, the service in St. Luke's Church was celebrated in German..

For the Lutheran congregations Noffke designed rather simple, functional buildings, whereas the Romanesque-style St. Theresa's Roman Catholic Church (1929) has a magnificent triple portal at the main entrance, which is mirrored by three large windows above the entry. Windows and doors are trimmed with red granite. In 1930, Noffke was commissioned to build a chapel and church for the Roman Catholic parish of Christ Le Roi on Argyle Street. In comparison to St. Theresa's, he built the modest Christ Le Roi Roman Catholic Church on a smaller scale as a flat-roofed, rectangular hall with classrooms in the basement. A slim steeple indicates the religious nature of the building.

Surviving plans for Our Saviour Lutheran Church (1954) on Roosevelt Avenue show that Noffke experimented with post-war architecture styles before designing the front-gabled facade resembling Gothic Revival churches. A free-standing large bell tower with a slender spire on top is connected to the church and serves as an entry porch.

The building on Smyth Road, then Mount Calvary, now Martin Luther Church, represents Noffke's shift to Modernism. Shannon Rickett states in his book 'Werner Ernst Noffke: Ottawa's Architect' that Noffke acknowledged the dominance of the automobile. Here, while careful to orient the chancel to the east, he located the main door so that it faced the parking lot rather than the street. Mount Calvary

is, perhaps, Noffke's most innovative church design, so Rickett. The walls of the nave are made up of a series of canted wood bents, like the gills of a fish. The low, pitched roof and the structure's horizontal extension into the landscape make it compatible with the neighbouring suburban bungalows.

Noffke's work was not limited to Ottawa, however, and his churches are found throughout Ontario. Shannon Ricketts's book contains a list of 20 other churches, as well as a complete list of Noffke buildings in Ottawa, with illustrations and street directories. His buildings at Clemow Estate East have been listed since 2011, and a plaque on Patterson Creek honors W.E. Noffke, who was commissioned to build 10 houses here in the 1920s.

*(Other sources: Rick Wallace: A History of Old Ottawa East; Thomas W. Carkner: Ottawa Germania Founding Families)*



*Gravestone of the Noffke family  
on the Beechwood Cemetery*



## ► Review of special events and occasions

### Labyrinth themed worship services on September 15

ALEXANDRA DEMKE

In this service we have wandered, though not for forty years and not through the desert. But through a labyrinth. Through our labyrinth, whose paths had been carefully cleared of weeds and grass in the summer and were thus made visible. No straight paths. And such wandering, as Pastor Demke preached, was almost a sign of us children of God.



After a small introduction, we started each one in turn. Every time you thought you were already at your destination, there was a turn again, and the path led back and around in a curve and back and forth.



A walk. With stations where we all stopped and listened to the readings, prayed and sang Taizé



songs, wonderfully accompanied by musicians and singers from our congregation (many thanks to Mary Ann and Peter Foley, Signhild Damus, Jonathan Ladouceur, Joachim Moskau, Marianne Thornton and Christina Wendorff).



For those who could not walk the paths with their feet, there were finger labyrinths.

„If we take a few steps through the maze“, Pastor Demke said at the end of his sermon, „let us remember that we have no permanent home here. We are always on the way, to the people, and finally to him who comes to meet us. Our way, our path of life is never straight, and we might not understand every turn. Some stones on the way might seem too big, some



slopes too tedious. But let us remember that this is part of faith. Let us remember that God is with his people. That includes the oh-so-

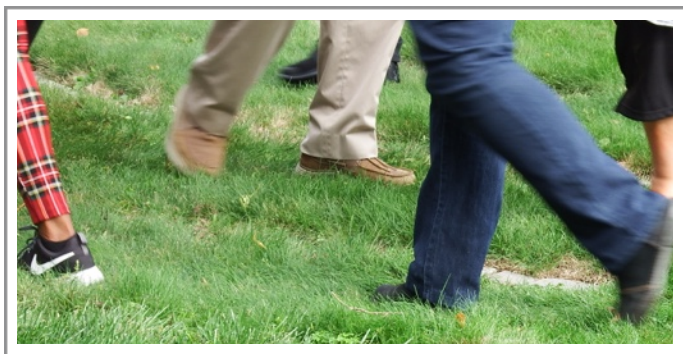
## Thanksgiving Family Service on October 6 in the garden of the German Embassy

ALEXANDRA DEMKE



unpopular changes. Whoever is moving forward shouldn't spend too much time looking back. Instead look ahead, at the next few steps. If you are on the road, you can enjoy a solid roof over your head here and there, but you must be aware it will only be there for a while. We are on the way. We walk our way, our life path together, and always with God."

All that's left to do is say „Amen“ - and continue to walk.



The tent in the embassy garden became full on this Sunday afternoon. Monsignor Hans Feichtinger and Pastor Friedrich Demke jointly led the ecumenical service of our two congregations, Martin Luther and St. Albertus congregation. The numerous children brought crops to the altar, unaware that they would examine them again later.



In his sermon Pastor Demke told us about John von Hengel, a catholic Christian who had worked in a soup kitchen. With his old delivery van he always collected food which could not be sold anymore at the shops. He brought the food to the soup kitchen and the city's homeless shelters - until he finally came up with the idea of setting up a small warehouse where the



various homeless initiatives could pick up what they needed. "You are my 'food bank'", one day a woman said who could only feed her family thanks to this support ...



The story was told not only because it worked so well for Thanksgiving and our way of dealing with food, but also because it showed how a big movement like the Food Bank once began in a very simple and very small way. A single person can easily make such a big difference. We heard the parable of the mustard seed, on all bulletins such a tiny seed was glued on, and behind the altar hung a picture where you could see how big a mustard plant is. In Palestine, where Jesus lived, they became even three meters high.



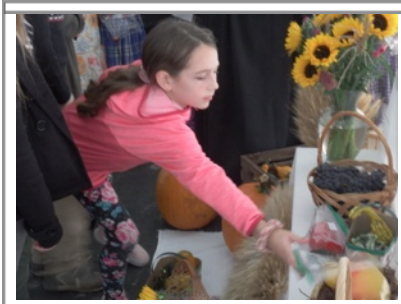
The children of the kindergarten sang a song. Then all the children were given the task of finding among the crops at the



altar the one to which they received the seeds in a small bag. Some things were easy, the big



core of the mango, for example, or the small apple seeds. But there were also tomato, lemon and pepper seeds, you had to look carefully. Avocado, peach and melon... Anyone who had found his fruit put the seed bag beside it.





So many good gifts were there - which by the way, as always, were donated to the Shepherds of Good Hope, after the service. Just a little good gesture. But with the meaning of the sermon, it starts exactly this way: see what is there and do what we can, and God can make it great. Just as the mustard seed is sown and grows, so does God's kingdom grow. It's all very simple when we bring the faith to life and let the gifts work in the world God gave us.

Many thanks to the German Embassy for this beautiful opportunity to celebrate the Thanksgiving service in the embassy garden and for the invitation to coffee and cake after the service.



Many thanks also to the Quodlibet choir, who shaped the service musically and sang to take along as a farewell: "God's power preserve you".

## Readings from the works of Theodor Fontane and Gottfried Keller for their 200th birthday anniversary

An event of Church and Culture  
October 18th, Martin Luther Church

The atmosphere was right, someone praised later, sofa with floor lamp, chairs in a semicircle, last but not least an enchanting buffet, one could almost speak of coziness.



But the works from which were read that evening, were by any means not characterized by "coziness". Hans-George Ruprecht introduced us to this era of "poetic realism", to which the jubilees Fontane and Keller were committed. What is allowed, what wants, what is literature?, he asked with a critical glance at the selection of this year's Nobel Prize for Literature.





At any rate, Keller and Fontane looked in their novels exactly on the reality of their time. It was read out from Fontane's "Effi Briest" and Keller's „Kleider machen Leute“ ("Clothes make the man"), plus we heard two ballads by Fontane and saw a video about his life.



There was laughter, applause, everyone stayed to the reception, engrossed in lively discussions - you could say, a really successful and enjoyable evening.

Thanks first of all to Helmut Zobl, on whose initiative and according to whose concept the whole evening took place. Thanks also to all those who participated: to Hans-G. Ruprecht for the introduction, to Christina Wendorff as moderator (with top hat!), to J. Joachim Moskau, Christina Fichte, Jörg Esleben and Alexandra Demke as readers, and thanks also to the Martin Luther Church for always giving space and time for these "Church-and-Culture" events.



## St. Martin's Day with lantern walk

FRIEDRICH DEMKE

In the days before the Martin's lantern walk I looked on the weather report full of worries, because I remembered well the November day of last year, when thick flakes fell for the first time and then remained until spring. But this time, the children and their parents were spared from heavy snow.

The kindergarten had practiced the story of St. Martin as a small spectacle and performed it with bravura. To my impression, on the way to the nearby park with luminous lanterns, we sung much more than in the years before, which pleased me a lot. In the meadow of the park two rabbits were jumping around. Someone commented: "The hares are confused, until Easter is still plenty of time." Everyone laughed, but this whole evening was marked by such a happy mood even without (Easter) rabbits. The big special Martin's pastry was shared and sharing was always a topic at the subsequent potluck with hot fruit tea and lots of delicious food in the Mt Calvary Hall.

When with great help in the end everything was cleaned up again and I closed the door of the church, I felt a bit wistful, because that was the last Martin's Day in Ottawa for me. But I am sure that, whoever succeeds me, this good tradition will continue.



## Long „read-aloud-night“ for children with sleep over in the church

Saturday, November 16th

ALEXANDRA DEMKE

Sixteen children sat down in our reading-"cave" in Mt Calvary Hall and listened to Cornelia Funke's story "Little Werewolf" in three parts. Only the standing lamp at the sofa was shining, otherwise everything was dark around us. The children made themselves comfortable on cushions and mattresses, some also on chairs and listened to the readers, who were Gabi Kaindl, Sonja Zaphiropoulos, Clara Demke, Friedrich Demke, Alexandra Demke.



After about half an hour reading time, there was the first break in which, to match the story, the sense of smell was tested, because it had become so incredibly „wolfish“ for the main character in the book. Six different fragrances had to be named. The easiest to find out was the coffee scent, at the



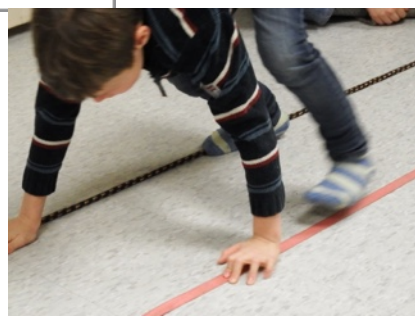
smell of cinnamon many thought of cakes, biscuits and pudding, peppermint was also a distinct smell, anise was already harder to



identify, vinegar too, but the most difficult one was the sesame oil. Congratulations to Aleah, who got all the smells right - dangerously „wolfish“ already...



A game of skill tested the children's catching and reacting qualities, they did not hunt rabbits, but they caught balls with a net. On all fours, they then had to walk over two cords, always carefully staying with all their paws,



um!... hands and feet on the cords.

After the next half hour of reading it was time to do handicrafts. Each child made an ancient amulet, just like the one in the story that was supposed to protect them from the werewolf spells.





After a pizza refreshment came the last half an hour of reading - but right before the final chapter, they all fetched their just ready "baked" amulets.



For the overnight stay, the children had brought their mats and sleeping bags, they built themselves wonderful sleeping places with their stuffed animals, they had some lights magic with small colorful lamps but then fell asleep deeply and firmly. We had breakfast at half past seven in the morning, and then the parents came to pick up their children.

## ► 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 December and January we have special dates. On December 1st we celebrate the First



In Germany in mid-November, the nationwide reading day of the "Stiftung Lesen" takes place. At the initiative of Joachim Moskau, we have been holding read-aloud-events in Ottawa for the past five years. Our long reading night for children now took place already the second time - and was again a great success.

I have to say that I am really thrilled by this large group of children, who participate with so much fun and joy and interact with each other so happily and lovingly. You have great children, dear parents!

of Advent in a joint family service at 9.30 am !!! Following the worship service the roles for the nativity play (in German) will be assigned, and of course there will be coffee, cakes and biscuits. The rehearsals for the nativity play will take place on Saturdays at 2 pm. We arrange with the families on which Saturdays we will meet. The main rehearsal will take place on December 21, with pizza food. Christmas Eve is the dress rehearsal at 2 pm.

Right in the beginning of the New Year we will have Sunday School on the first Sunday of January, on January 5th at 11 am (on January 12th, the second candidate as successor for the pastor will be here to hold the sermon in the services and to answer questions of the congregation afterwards)

In February, the children's service will take place as usual on the second Sunday, i.e. on February 9th, at 11 a.m..

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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

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### **German book circle**

*(every 6 weeks on Mondays, 7:30 pm)*  
Martin Luther Church, 933 Smyth Road

### **December 9**

Christmas celebration

In December we always meet for a Christmas celebration with tea and candlelight. We do not discuss a book but listen to what is brought, small Christmas themed stories, poems, lyrics, or we even read something ourselves.

It's a Christmas cookies potluck with hot fruit tea. We meet at 7.30pm at Martin Luther Church, 933 Smyth Road.

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### **January 27**

Jenny Erpenbeck: „Gehen, ging, gegangen“  
(„Go, went, gone“)

Moderation: Friederike Knabe

How to endure the passing of time when forced to inactivity? Richard, Emeritus Professor, gets through the chance meeting with the asylum seekers on the Oranienplatz the idea to seek the answers to his questions where no one else is looking for them: in those young refugees from Africa, who stranded in Berlin and are already for years condemned to waiting .

Jenny Erpenbeck tells a story of looking away and having a look, of death and war, of eternal waiting and of everything that lies hidden beneath the surface.

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### **March 9**

Herta Müller:

„Heute wäre ich mir lieber nicht begegnet“  
(„The appointment“)

Moderation: Sonja Finck

„I've been summoned.“ In Ceaucescu's Romania a young woman is on her way to interrogation by the secret service. She has had to do this tram ride to her interrogation many times, but this time, with a presentiment she had wrapped up a towel and toothbrush. On the way, her life passes by: the childhood in the province, the halferotic love for the father, the deportation of the grandparents, the occasional happiness that succeeds with Paul. But that day the train does not stop at the station where she has to get off. And she decides for the first time not to go to the interrogation.

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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)

### **January 31**

„outside“

The documentary "outside" („draußen“) portrays four men living on the streets in Cologne. Their personal belongings fit in a suitcase or shopping cart, sometimes even the Vesperbox is enough. Starting from the few personal objects that are charged with memories and emotions, the film opens up access to a parallel world that we encounter on a daily basis and that we think we know. Due to its unusual approach, the film calls on the viewer to change perspective.

After the documentary, we also show a short conversation with the two directors.

Directors: Johanna Suder-Plassmann,  
Tama Tobias power  
Germany 2018  
80 minutes; German with English subtitles

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### **February 21**

„Live is Life - Die Spätzünder“

The comedy revolves around the musician Rocco, who ends up in a Viennese retirement home, where he is supposed to serve a social service in order not to take his prison sentence in jail. At first he feels completely out of place, but then it turns out that the elderly are still very much alive. Even the initially nit-picky supervisor Marina reveals lovely sides. When Rocco is kicked out of his band, she suggests he should make music with the seniors. Heimleiterin Glück does not like that and throws him out. But the residents do not let that apply ...

A touching comedy about old and young people who throw away their real and their mental crutches and take their lives back into their own hands.

Director: Wolfgang Murnberger  
Austria, Germany 2010  
90 minutes; German, no subtitles

## **Our new kitchen**

HEATHER LADOUCEUR

The kitchen renovation is slated to begin the first week of January. This is a bit later than we had hoped, but this will allow us to go ahead with all of our planned Christmas and New Year's activities.

The new kitchen will give all of us a chance to work together in the new space. This might also be a good chance to try out some new activities, or change some of the current activities a bit. Start thinking of ways to use our new space.

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## **Wheels to Meals**

Third Wednesday of the month, 12 noon

HEATHER LADOUCEUR

All are welcome to join us for this meal and fellowship - no matter what age you are, what language you prefer, whether you are vegetarian or meat-lover.

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

The next meal will take place on December 18. In January our lunch will be cancelled due to the construction work for our new kitchen. We expect to meet again on February 19 when the renovation is completed. Please pay attention to the announcements. The office will also have any information on changes.

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## **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 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 will take place on January 30 and on February 27. The meeting in December will be canceled because it would have been on Boxing Day.

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## **SPECIAL DATES**

### **2nd of Advent at 2 pm Advent celebration with carol singing**

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

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### **Christmas Concert on December 15**

2:00 - 4:30 pm at St. Albertus Church  
416 Parkdale Ave

There will be a Christmas concert at St. Albertus Church on the 3rd of Advent, December 15th. The Concordia Choir Ottawa invites with guest choirs: the Montagna Singers, the Quodlibet Choir Ottawa, Nicholas Dyson (trumpet) and the Carleton University Brass Ensemble.

Free admission. Goodwill donations for charity.

## **Two candidates for being the new pastor for our congregation**

The two candidates will come on December 15 and on January 12, on these Sundays each of them will hold the sermons. The two pastors, one male, one female, will introduce themselves together with their spouses.

The procedure for both Sundays is the same:

The English service begins already at 9:00 am, the candidate will give the sermon, and after the service will be time for a conversation with the congregation.

At 11:00 am begins the German service, again with sermon of the applicant and following discussion with the congregation.

Following this, the Council meets with the candidate.

In the afternoon at 4:00 pm, the Demke family invites all interested parties, who would like to have a chat with the applicant and spouse during a coffee, to the parsonage (2035 Beaverhill Dr).

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## **Midweek Advent Services**

Wednesdays, December 5, 12, 19

6 pm Soup Supper, 7 pm Holden Evening Prayer

Join us for a midweek Advent Worship including supper and singing together the Holden Evening Prayer. Jonathan Ladouceur will lead us through these evenings.

On each of these evenings everyone is invited to a soup in Mt Calvary Hall, time to talk to each other. Then we meet upstairs in the church hall at 7 pm to the evening prayer.

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

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

### **CHRISTMAS EVE**

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

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

### **CHRISTMAS DAY**

On the morning of Christmas Day, on Wednesday, December 25, at 9:30 am there will be a joint worship service (bilingual) with Communion.

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### **Ecumenical Worship service (German) with St. Albertus Church**

**Wednesday, January 1, 3:00 pm**

Martin Luther Church, 933 Smyth Road

On Wednesday, January 1st, we cordially invite you to an ecumenical service at 3 pm together with St. Albertus congregation. The Concordia choir sings.

Afterwards please join us for our New Year's reception.

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New performance of the theater  
group „Augenblick!“

### **Peter Squentz - an absurd comedy**

28. February 28 + 29, March 1

Martin Luther Church, 933 Smyth Rd.

Augenblick!, the German-speaking theater group, will perform "Peter Squentz" on three evenings, an absurd seventeenth-century comedy by Andreas Gryphius. It is based on the

artisan episode in Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream".

The play will be performed in German with English supertitles.

More information about the performances will be released in the New Year.

Contact: Joerg Esleben,  
joerg.esleben[AT]gmail.com

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### **PREANNOUNCEMENT**

### **World Day of Prayer from Zimbabwe**

Friday, March 6, 7 pm Martin Luther Church

The World Day of Prayer Service is jointly organized by women from St. Albertus Church and the Martin Luther Church and takes place alternately in both churches - this year it is our turn at Martin Luther Church on 933 Smyth Road. We are pleased that the Quodlibet Choir will shape the World Day of Prayer's service musically. This time it has been prepared by women from Zimbabwe.

"For the World Day of Prayer 2020, they interpreted the biblical text from John 5 for the healing of a sick person: 'Get up! Take your mat and go!' Jesus says to a sick person. In their World Day of Prayer Service, the Zimbabweans let us know that this challenge is for everyone. God opens ways to personal and social change."



(Cover picture copyright Nonhlanhla Mathe)

## ► 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 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** 7:30 pm Church council  
**in the month**

**usually every second** 11 am meeting of the German-speaking playgroup in the Sunday School -  
**Sunday of the month** 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 December

Who has been walking in the dark and has no light,  
let him put his faith in the name of the Lord, looking to his God for support.  
*Isaiah 50:10*

#### ► December

**Sunday, December 1: 1st Sunday of Advent**  
**9.30 a.m. Joint family service (Demke)**  
**Following the service the roles for the nativity play (German) will be assigned.**

**Wednesday, Dec 4: Midweek Advent Services**  
**6 p.m. Soup Supper**  
**7 p.m. Holden Evening Prayer**

**Sunday, December 8: 2nd Sunday of Advent**  
**2 p.m. Joint Advent Celebration (Demke)**  
**Short service of the word and carol singing (bilingual).**  
**Coffee and ‚Stollen‘ following in Mt Calvary Hall**

**Monday, Dec 9: 7:30 pm Christmas celebration in the German Book circle**

**Wednesday, Dec 11: Midweek Advent Services**  
**6 p.m. Soup Supper**  
**7 p.m. Holden Evening Prayer**

**Saturday, Dec 14: 2:00 pm First rehearsal for the nativity play**

**Sunday, Dec 15: 3rd Sunday of Advent**

**PLEASE NOTE: 9.00 a.m. English Worship service with Communion**  
The first of our two candidates for being our next pastor holds the sermon.  
After the service conversation with the congregation.  
  
**11 a.m. German Worship service**  
The first of our two candidates for being our next pastor holds the sermon.  
After the service conversation with the congregation.  
  
**4 p.m. - Warm invitation to all to the parsonage (2035 Beaverhill Dr) for a coffee with the applicant plus spouse**

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

**Midweek Advent Services**  
**6 p.m. Soup Supper**  
**7 p.m. Holden Evening Prayer**

**Saturday, Dec 21: 2:00 pm Main rehearsal for the nativity play (with pizza)**

**Sunday, Dec 22: 4th Sunday of Advent**  
**9.30 a.m. English Worship service (Demke) with Communion**  
**11 a.m. German Worship service (Demke)**

- Tuesday, Dec 24: CHRISTMAS EVE**  
 2:00 p.m. Dress rehearsal nativity play  
 3.30 p.m. Family service with German Children's pageant (bilingual)  
 5 p.m. German Christmas Vespers  
 7 p.m. English Christmas Eve Worship service with Communion
- Wednesday, Dec 25: CHRISTMAS DAY**  
 9.30 a.m. Joint Worship service with Communion (bilingual)
- Sunday, Dec 29: 1st Sunday of Christmas**  
 9.30 a.m. English Worship service (Demke) with Communion  
 11 a.m. German Worship service (Demke) with Communion

### Bible text for the month of January

God is true.  
*I Corinthians 1:9*

#### ► January

- Wednesday, Jan 1: NEW YEAR**  
 3 p.m. Ecumenical New Year's Worship service with St Albertus Church (German) and with Concordia Choir  
 Followed by a New Year's reception
- Sunday, Jan 5: 2nd Sunday of Christmas - Epiphany**  
 9:30 am English Worship service with Communion (Demke)  
 11 am German Worship service (Demke) with Sunday School
- Sunday, Jan 12: 1st Sunday after Epiphany/Baptism of Jesus Christ**
- PLEASE NOTE: 9.00 a.m. English Worship service with Communion**  
 The second of our two candidates for being our next pastor holds the sermon. After the service conversation with the congregation.
- 11 a.m. German Worship service**  
 The second of our two candidates for being our next pastor holds the sermon. After the service conversation with the congregation.
- 4 p.m.** - Warm invitation to all to the parsonage (2035 Beaverhill Dr) for a coffee with the applicant plus spouse
- Sunday, Jan 19: 2nd Sunday after Epiphany**  
 9.30 a.m. English Worship service (Demke) with Communion  
 11 a.m. German Worship service (Demke)
- Sunday, Jan 26: 3rd Sunday after Epiphany**  
 9.30 a.m. Joint Worship service with Communion  
 After the service General Meeting for the election of the new pastor
- Monday, January 27:** 7.30 pm German book circle (Jenny Erpenbeck: „Gehen, ging, gegangen“)  
 933 Smyth Road
- Thursday, January 30:** 9.30 am RSVP Film & Discussions  
 933 Smyth Road, Mt Calvary Hall

**Friday, January 31:** 7.30 pm Filmclub („draußen“/“outside“, documentary, German with English subtitles, 80 min.)  
933 Smyth Road

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

It is the Lord who has made payment for you: be not servants of men..

*I Corinthians 7:23*

#### ► **February**

- Sunday, Feb 2:** 4th Sunday after Epiphany  
9:30 am English Worship service with Communion (Demke)  
11 am German Worship service (Demke) with Sunday School
- Sunday, Feb 9:** 5th Sunday after Epiphany  
9.30 a.m. English Worship service (Demke) with Communion  
11 a.m. German Worship service (Demke)
- Sunday, Feb 16:** 6th Sunday after Epiphany  
9.30 a.m. English Worship service (Demke) with Communion  
11 a.m. German Worship service (Demke)
- Wednesday, Feb 19:** 12 noon „Wheels to Meals“ (tentatively)
- Sunday, Feb 23:** 7th Sunday after Epiphany  
9.30 a.m. English Worship service (Demke) with Communion  
11 a.m. German Worship service (Demke) with Communion
- Thursday, Feb 27:** 9.30 a.m. RSVP Film & Discussions  
933 Smyth Road, Mt Calvary Hall
- Friday, Feb 28:** 7 p.m. Augenblick!-Theater group: „Peter Squentz“
- Saturday, Feb 29:** 7 p.m. Augenblick!-Theater group: „Peter Squentz“  
(on Sunday, March 1, 7 p.m. will be the third and last performance of „Peter Squentz“)

#### ► **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) .

### **Motto for the year 2020**

I have faith; make my feeble faith stronger.

*Mark 9:24*

## ► Joy and sorrow

### Baptized were

on September 22

Isabella Rayes



on October 20

Natan Rezene



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

Edith Linse  
Werner Wegener  
Edith and Heinz Franz  
Marion Peterson  
Adelbert Pallasch  
Horst Wiltsch  
Erika Nattkemper  
Daniel Stuart Swant



**Have no fear, for I have taken up your cause; naming you by your name,  
I have made you mine. *Isaiah 43:1***



## ► 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.demke@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.demke@gmail.com) 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)  
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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; (613) 220-2264 / [gasmith48@rogers.com](mailto:gasmith48@rogers.com)

**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.