



## The Courier 2020/1 Spring (March - May)

The English Language Newsletter  
of Martin Luther Church Ottawa

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

### ► The Witness Program

Dear Parishioners,

Of course, right away you saw that this is not about a 'witness protection program,' as that would not be something for the church, but rather the responsibility of the police.

As Christians we live among witnesses. Men and women, who lived before our time and in what they said and what they did gave testimony of faith. Hence, they were witnesses of faith. So it was from the very beginning, as we read, for example, in the Epistle to the Hebrews (Heb. 12: 1) of "so great a cloud of witnesses", who lead us through the story of the faithful. A story of the relationship of God and humans, which began long before Jesus. This cloud does not darken, on the contrary, it brings light into the world.

For us, the faithful, witnesses are needed, they are present even before anything whatever was written down. They are

program, as the literal sense of the original Greek word tells us, the first syllable "pro=before" followed by 'Grammar=letter'.



Generally, witnesses are summoned when testimony is needed of an occurrence, or to shed some specific light on an event. The courts are frequently dependent on the testimony of witnesses. The assertions of individuals involved in a court case gain strength as witnesses testify. Much depends on the credibility of the witnesses under questioning. The witnesses are sworn to tell the truth and nothing else.

As Christians we rely on the words of those who affirm the veracity of scripture. The book of books is full of accounts in which humans speak of their experience with God, their faith in God, or, as we also say they 'bear witness.'

In these early days of the year we are moving toward Easter. It is the time of Passion, the time

in which we think of the suffering and death of Jesus Christ. We read the accounts of the disciples, who, for us, are the eye witnesses of what happened. Before their experiences were recorded, these witness accounts were told and re-told. In this way the very words were conveyed which we verbalize when we join in celebrating communion. They are the words Jesus spoke to his followers when last before his death he sat with them and broke the bread.

It is the female witnesses before whom the risen Christ appears. It is they, who convey the news to the frightened disciples. The great and joyous message of Easter. Women were the first witnesses of the miracle of Easter. At the time, this was a virtual improbability. At the time of Jesus women were not regarded as fully valid individuals. The courts at that time did not recognize the testimony of women. A legal scholar at that time would have laughed at their testimony, as – in his eyes – it was totally worthless. Jesus, who certainly knew of this, chose women whom he first encountered. Without difficulty, here we recognize his program to strengthen the weak, to take seriously those barely acknowledged. Against this background it is particularly they, the women, who are the most credible eye witnesses of the Easter occurrences. Deemed worthy and deserving by Christ himself.

Although we now have Holy Scripture, the Bible, we remain, to this day, dependent on witnesses of faith. Through their words and deeds is

rendered the judgment on faith by our fellow citizens. In this way we bear a measure of co-responsibility to shed light on the truth. The witness program is not yet at an end. That does not only apply on questions of faith.

At the beginning of this year we were reminded of the 75th anniversary of the liberation of the inmates of the Auschwitz concentration camp. In television reports some very old survivors of this dreadful extermination camp were seen. They kept alive memories of this horror. None of them will be around when, in 25 years, the next big memorial date happens. Then we or our children will be the ones who have heard the words of eye witnesses, and even more than now it will be up to us to bear witness of the genocide and to keep the memory alive and to stand up for the „never again!“.

On the 8th of May we will hear witnesses who experienced the end of World War II. I am already of the generation of those who did not have to live through neither the time of National Socialism, nor the Holocaust nor that war. I am of those who were allowed to begin their lives with what the German journalist and politician Gunter Gaus termed the “mercy of late birth”. For us late-borns, however, the reports of the witnesses are even more important so that light continues to shine on the truth.

*Your Pastor Friedrich Demke*

## ► Report of the Co-Presidents

Dear Parishioners,

Christmas is over and we are entering a year that will bring many changes to our congregation. As your co-presidents we have the following to report:

### **Change of pastors**

As you know Pastor Friedrich Demke and Alexandra will leave us this summer. The Evangelical Church of Germany EKD published the opening for the position in its newsletter, interviewed all candidates and pre-selected two candidate pastors. Both flew to Ottawa, gave a sermon in English and German and were interviewed by the council. The first candidate withdrew his candidacy and we selected the second candidate, Pastor Kierschke unanimously at an extraordinary meeting of the council on January 26, 2020.

She accepted the post and is looking forward to come to Canada with her husband and two children. We notified the bishop and provided him with a copy of Pastor Kierschke's CV. Right now the EKD and the ELCIC are going through the necessary paperwork to effect the transfer. Pastor Kierschke will assume her position on August 1, 2020. A formal instalment by the Dean of the Eastern Synod is planned for September 13 during a special afternoon service in which Oberkirchenraetin Ostarek from the EKD will also participate.

Pastor Friedrich Demke and Alexandra are scheduled to leave Ottawa this summer. Pastor Demke's last worship service will be on June 28. We have planned a farewell party for June 20. You will hear more about this later, we are just mentioning these dates now so that you can plan accordingly.

### **Church Building**

The renovation of the kitchen is in full progress. As usual it proved more difficult than anticipated. The plumbing is insufficient and the cement floor in the kitchen and women's

washroom need to be opened and a larger effluent exit pipe needs to be installed. Before the new drainage pipes can be installed, the main water valve requires to be shut off. This proved to be a problem as the plumber and the city were unable to locate the original shut-off valve. A work order with the City of Ottawa has been issued to install a new shut-off valve. The date given for the work to be completed is 2-3 weeks. This delay not only affects the availability of the Ladies and Handicapped washroom, it also has forced us to cancel scheduled events in February and March. We also found old asbestos tiles under the cabinets and their removal created delays as well as extra costs.

Prior to the commencement of the kitchen renovations we hired a bin and cleaned out a lot of rubbish and old equipment from the basement and other areas of the church. Thanks to all who helped in this unpleasant but necessary task

The storage cupboards for the 'renters' will be installed this month and hopefully will allow us to put order into Mt Calvary Hall.

We have two of the stained glass windows framed. One stands behind the altar, the other in Mt Calvary Hall. They are back lit electrically and their full beauty really comes to the fore this way. The other two are in the process of being reframed and will be ready in March. The question remains where to place them. We addressed the issue at our Extraordinary Congregation Meeting and took a straw poll. The results were inconclusive. However the congregation decided to have a photoshop montage made that would show how these pictures would look in the three alternatives, namely 4 behind the altar, 4 in Mt Calvary Hall and 2 behind the altar and 2 behind in Mt Calvary Hall. On the basis of this photomontage we can better visualize how these windows fit into the overall church. (s.page 5) At our Annual General Meeting scheduled for April 19, we will

then decide, by ballot which configuration the congregation prefers.

This decision will also have to take into consideration how the windows and the dossal curtains fit together. In short we have to determine if we to find a solution where the windows and the curtains are compatible. Dossal curtains have no religious significance but are hung for decoration. See below note on dossal curtains for general explanation.

### **Manse**

The pastor's house was last spruced up before Pastor Demke came 9 years ago. The council

## **► What are dossal curtains?**

We have recently discussed not only stained glass windows but also curtains. It is about the design of the sanctuary of our church. The name "Dossal" appeared several times.

"Dossal" is a word that goes back to the early medieval church. It was the practice to hide or cover elements of the Eucharist behind cloths or curtains. Today we place cloths over the chalice and the eucharistic bread when they are on the altar. At that time there were curtains on the front and back of the altar as well as on the sides, and even a cloth over the top. Dorsale comes from the Latin word "dorsum" = back. In the Middle Ages, the altar was also clad on the back (dorsal) from the altar slab (mensa) to the floor, often not with fabric, but with wood, precious metal or stone, often decorated with ornaments.

If you turn to a lexicon or Wikipedia you get the following answer:

Dorsals (Latin dorsum, back), also bank sheets, back sheets

1. Narrow, usually a maximum of 1 meter wide and up to 10 meters long curtain on the back wall of the choir stalls. The cloth can be knitted, embroidered or painted with Christian symbols and biblical scenes. It was hung on the back

at its next meeting will need to discuss what needs to be done and how it can be done inexpensively and prior to the arrival of the Kierschkes.

This hopefully brings you up to date.

Your co-presidents

Konrad and Sonny

wall with rings on nails and served as decoration and as protection against the cold.

2. Embroidered wall hanging behind the altar instead of a display wall behind the altar table or on the wall behind the altar or a mural.

Dossal curtains belong to the parameters, i.e. textiles used in liturgy, which are often artistically complex. The overall parameters include the cloth with which the chalice and paten are covered, the altar cloth, stole and liturgical vestments as well as cloths for covering the cross, curtains, wall hangings, carpets.

A subgroup of the paraments are the antependia ("what hangs in front of it"), as the cloths are called, which serve as altar and pulpit curtains. They are kept in the liturgical colors and mostly provided with symbols appropriate for the church season.

The liturgical colors include violet, white, red and green and here in North America also blue. Violet is used for Lent. White is used for the special holy days: Christmas, Sundays after Christmas, Epiphany, Easter and Easter time. Red is the color of the Holy Spirit (fire) and is used on Pentecost and on Reformation Day. Most of the year the liturgical color is green.

There are also blue, pink and black as secondary colors.

The curtains of Mt Calvary Church were initially in the liturgical colors, i.e. the curtains changed according to the church year. The curtains that we have now have been sewn from the remains

of the violet, white, red, green and blue curtains and have thus lost their liturgical meaning.

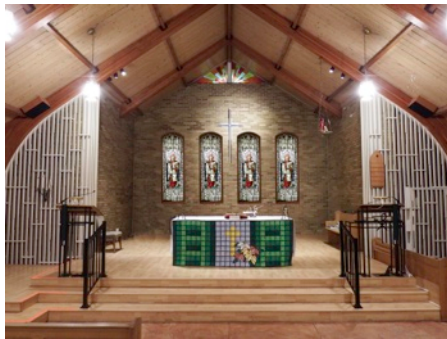
On the back of the now colorful curtains there is still the purely black curtain for Good Friday.

## ► The six options to vote on at our AGM on April 19

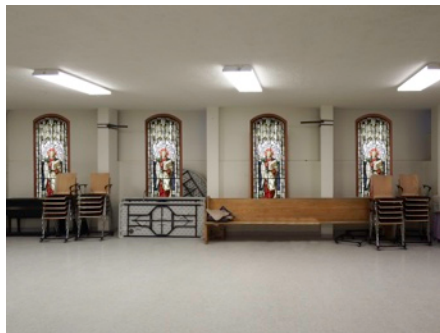
A big thank you to Julian Haber, nephew of Konrad von Finckenstein, for making the photo montages!!!

You can also find the pictures in large size on our website under News. Here we present them in small so that you can get a first impression:

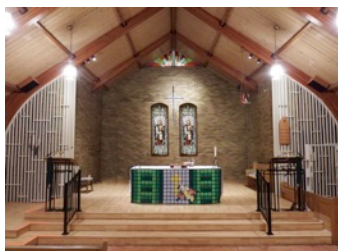
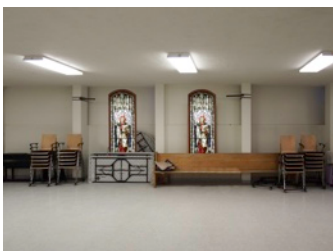
**Option 1**  
(4 windows behind the altar)



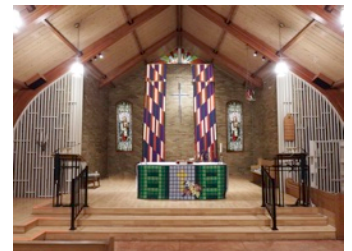
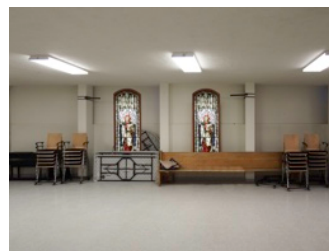
**Option 2**  
(4 windows in Mt. Calvary Hall)



**Option 3**  
(2 windows behind the altar, 2 windows in Mt. Calvary Hall)



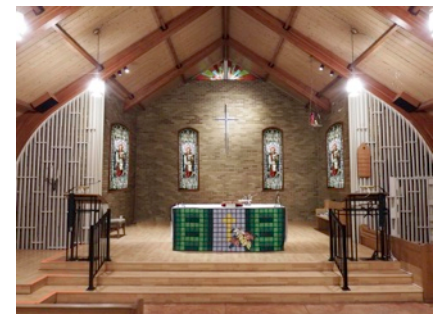
**Option 4**  
(2 windows + dossal curtains behind the altar, 2 windows in Mt. Calvary Hall)



**Option 5**  
(4 windows + dossal curtains in the sanctuary, 2 windows behind the altar, 2 windows on the side walls)



**Option 6**  
(4 windows in the sanctuary, 2 windows behind the altar, 2 windows on the side walls)





## ► We are getting a new pastor

At the extraordinary congregation meeting on January 26th, Pastor Judith Kierschke was unanimously elected as the successor to Pastor Friedrich Demke. She will start her service on August 1st.



You could say "Good things come to those who wait" - because Judith Kierschke and her husband Olaf had to pass more than one endurance test. They had already boarded the plane on Friday, January 10th, when it was announced that everyone should get up and leave. They thought it was a joke, but there were technical problems and the flight was canceled. They were rebooked and the new flight was also delayed. Finally, many hours later than planned, they arrived in Ottawa - but not their suitcase, and it included the pastor's cassock...

The planned city walk on Saturday had to make way for a clothes buying quest through the Rideau Center to be able to change travel clothes. But of course there are no cassocks ... Pastor Friedrich was already beginning to adapt his second gown to Judith's size...

On Saturday morning they visited the German Language School, in the afternoon Kierschkes were guests at the home of Sonny Lapointe and his wife. And in the evening the airport called: the suitcase had arrived!

Pastor Kierschke held the service on Sunday - but it was snowing heavily that day. Her husband Olaf grabbed a snow shovel at the church and helped John Wehrfritz clear the sidewalks.



This endurance test was also passed with flying colours. By now all obstacles were overcome.

The service, the conversation with the congregation, the meeting with the parish council, and the afternoon parish get-together at the parsonage - all went well, as two weeks later the vote confirmed.



We look forward to welcoming Judith and Olaf Kierschke and their children Emma and Jakob!

## ► Joint Confirmation on April 19

Sunday after Easter we will celebrate confirmation in our church. The confirmation group consisted of four young people who took lessons, two from our congregation and two from Faith Lutheran Church.

Because the bond within the group was particularly good, the confirmands want to celebrate the day of confirmation together. Pastor Martin Malina will have a substitute taking the service in his church, so that he can be with us. He and I and the four confirmands will prepare the worship service together.

This joint service will be German-English and will begin at 9:30 a.m. The Concordia Choir will be a guest, and after the service our congregation will have the annual general meeting. So it will be a special festival day in every respect.

Please mark this special date, April 19, in your calendar.

Looking forward to a large attendance,

Your pastor Friedrich

## ► Directory

Dear Parishioners,

some may have already read in the last Courier that we- Lutz and Christina Wendorff and Sheri Pendlebury- plan to compile a new directory of the congregation. To do that we would need

- your photo,
- current address,
- cell phone- and telefon number
- and email-address.

All these informations are optional, of course. It would be great if we were able to have the directory ready in time for our new pastor. It would make it easier for her in getting to know us.

Our email- address is:

[christina.wendorffATgmail.com](mailto:christina.wendorffATgmail.com)

## ► Spring gardening

MARINANNE THORNTON

I'm writing this in February, having faith that spring WILL come. With the warmth of spring, the garden will begin to come alive and the first signs to watch for are the tulip bulbs that Heather Bent planted around the doors facing Smyth Road. The daffodils should begin to appear in the Forest Floor Bed closest to the road. Once the ground becomes a bit less wet, the labyrinth will also become available to use for meditation and prayer.

There are plans to build planter boxes along the edge of the garden, marking the end of the parking lot We also hope to install a new sign and build a "wayside library" with an appropriate theme.

If you would like to know more or would like to offer help with the care of our garden, please speak to me.

Marianne Thornton  
613-295-9543

## ► Lenten Campaign - Confidence

The Lenten Campaign "7 weeks without" has been in Germany for more than 30 years, it invites you to consciously experience and shape the time between Ash Wednesday and Easter.

This year's motto for Lent from February 26 to April 13, 2020 is:

"Confidence! Seven weeks without pessimism".

"Why do so many people tend to describe the future as a time of defeat, failure, even catastrophe?", asks Arnd Brummer, managing director of the "7 weeks without" campaign.

"They are driven by fear and worry," he explains. "Fear and worry are central elements

of human awareness. But they must not dominate and let people fall into hopelessness. Our motto for Lent 2020, "Confidence! Seven weeks without pessimism", should encourage us through Jesus Christ to overcome fear and mistrust of the future.

Confidence helps us learn from crises and discover new ways together. Confidence grows in the living community, in the living 'You are not alone!'.  
And when you feel

abandoned by people, it is God who stays with you. God is our confidence."



## ► 1945-2020: Seventy-five years

...and they elude us still. The 'right' words. We stumble about in gloomy dusk. We still lack a credible and stable means to aid our comprehension and articulation.

How do we cope with terms such as 'Auschwitz' and '8 May 1945'?

Perhaps with a transparently simple statement of creed and profession. Some years ago in Austria a group of immediately affected survivors found these words: "We will walk a common path, a path leading to freedom for all people, leading to mutual respect, a path of cooperation in the enormous task of building a new, a just, a free world for all."

At all times in the long history of human errors and helplessness there have indescribably tiny moments where bridges were not even being built but were at least sensed as a fleeting vision. Weak bridges they often no doubt were, but tiny and even faint-heartedly small glimmers of hope.

On the First of October 1944 there is, on the ramp of the Auschwitz concentration camp, where the circa 1,500 Jews offloaded that day as the human cargo of 'Transport Em' inbound from the Theresienstadt (Terezin) concentration camp, the very short moment of one such indescribably fragile bridge building. A young woman sees sharpteethed dogs and clubbing SS guards dividing the mass of new arrivals:



women to the left – men to the right. The young woman sees her own father being driven off to the gas chambers and in utmost fear she screams out for help. And the father hears her. He turns his head, spots her in the crowd, raises the back of his hand to under his chin. And with this very tiny “chin up” bridge signal the young woman survives Auschwitz concentration camp, the ‘March of Death’ weeks later and the Allied bombing of Dresden on 13 February 1945, to be at last liberated from the Mauthausen concentration camp on 5 May 1945.

Very tiny bridges of hope or faintest gleams of redemption may not provide full answers to our questions, they do however help us embark on cautiously testing steps as we dare set out on our individual journeys of life. The young woman of the Auschwitz concentration camp will one day go on to be a helpful family therapist in Montréal and Munich.

On the 29th of April 1945 in a Bavarian village a nine-year-old boy sets out on a meadow to pick some flowers as a meagre gift for his highly pregnant mother on this, her 33rd birthday. There he stands on this large meadow, all alone, as, just brushing over the tops of the near forest a lone fighter aircraft rapidly comes closer. The boy is spotted and the pilot drills a machine gun burst mere inches from him. The aircraft wheels, comes closer again and another burst of gun fire. And one more time the aircraft turns, but, by now, the pilot dips his wings, left and right, left and right and the boy even spots

the face of this now broadly grinning American, who even offers a raised hand as if to say: “... don’t worry little German boy...I was just kidding...this war is over...”

All the same, there still remain now and probably for all time to come frightening questions. The German sociologist Ralf Dahrendorf speaks of “Observations of German society of the day before yesterday, of yesterday and even today that feed the suspicion that they may be tied to a mindset that permitted physicians and judges and military officers to commit murder. There are nooks in this society in which frequently unreflected inhumanity systematically persists. There is the biting contrast of talk of humanity and indifference to life.”

A few yards from the house in which the young woman of Auschwitz spent years of childhood and adolescence a synagogue was consecrated in 1931. Chiselled into the wall above the main entrance, to be read left to right in German, right to left in Hebrew is a citation from the book of Isaiah, which reads: “Mein Haus wird ein Bethaus heißen für alle Völker” / “Mine house shall be called an house of prayer for all people” (Isa. 56, 7) The Synagogue was demolished in ‘Kristallnacht’ in November 1938 and restored after the war. Today it serves as a recording studio and recital hall of a public broadcaster. The Isaiah citation has survived.

JJM

## ► Review of special events and occasions

### Together in Advent

During the Advent season we had a lot of joint celebrations in our congregation, and we would like to thank everyone who contributed to it.

On Wednesday evenings we met for Midweek Advent Services, the Holden Evening Prayers after sharing soup - or even two or three soups,

as there were a wide variety of delicious soups brought along.

On the 1st of Advent we celebrated a family service together and heard and saw wonderful stories about the development of the advent calendar.

On the 2nd Advent we met at 2 p.m. for our big Advent celebration. The day before we had decorated the Calvary Hall together and set the tables. This team work of the English-speaking and the German-speaking part of our congregation is always particularly unifying. There is laughter, stories are told, and a festival is prepared together in the church. And that's exactly what the Advent season is all about - waiting and preparing for the arrival.



The Concordia Choir performed three songs for the Advent service on the 2nd of Advent.



And after the service, everyone in Calvary Hall sang Advent and Christmas hymns alternately in German and English.



Coffee, 'stollen', all kinds of pastries and lots of mulled wine was served.

### Wheels to Meals

Another joint celebration in the Advent season was our "Wheels to Meals" on December 18. It was a particularly large gathering for a delicious !!! meal, a most joyful connecting experience.



Incidentally, there is the idea of inviting you to an East Frisian lunch table for which the Bauer family would cook. Who knows what other lunchtime traditions we will be invited to partake in the future - as soon as the new kitchen is ready.



## Christmas pageant

ALEXANDRA DEMKE

First of all, it was a very special Christmas joy for Friedrich and me that so many children - namely 16! - participated in this year's nativity play. Many thanks to everyone for diligently rehearsing and memorizing the rhymed texts and for creatively designing the costumes and lights. Yes, lights were of special importance in this nativity play.

And there were other things quite different. The "secret leading role", for example, doesn't really exist. The landlord and his wife dismissed Maria and Joseph with the words "What? Poor riffraff? Oh, take your bundle." But this time they had a child, and this child did not agree with his parents:



"It is very mean that they don't let you in. I'll show you the way to a place to sleep. It is in the stable with the sheep."

In the field, the shepherds "keep watch day and at night" and "see the sky full of stars from afar" - until suddenly, mighty, large and powerful, the angel of the annunciation appeared with the heavenly host: "Look shepherds - a light .. and the darkness breaks." The angels came with bright lights through the dark church - additionally illuminated from above by the gallery.



The shepherds trembled. "Is there a fire in the field? Does the world perish now? Does this light mean the last judgment?" This is how it is with angels, they are frightening, which is why the shepherds first had to be calmed down:



"You shepherds in the light, do not be afraid!"

Meanwhile, in the palace, King Herod tried to dissuade the three wise men from far away lands from searching for the child: "Oh, you far-traveled unlucky wretches, you are riding in vain, trotting for nothing."



But the wise men wanted to question his scholar, who lectured wildly and forcefully:

"The Savior of the World is born in Bethlehem because God likes it that way. "



Everyone came together in the stable at the manger. The child of the landlord and his wife saw the newborn first:



"There it lies in a crib and does not even have a shirt. I will tiptoe quietly and get him one, a fine shirt for a small child."

The shepherds brought "gifts to strengthen the little child, a warm jacket and sheep's wool socks".

The wise men brought "myrrh, frankincense and gold for the little child" and stated:



"Before you it does not matter from which kingdom, which country, profession or class, we come to you as your faithful followers."





## Thanks to the Music Ensemble

The services on Christmas Eve were musically enhanced by Martin Damus (viola), Signhild Damus (flute), Clara Demke (violin) and Jonathan Ladouceur (cello).



Thank you very much for gift of music!

---

## Ecumenical New Year's service

A good start is always worth a lot. We started the New Year with a worship service, celebrated together with our brothers and sisters from the Roman-Catholic St. Albertus congregation. It is a good tradition that we take the step into the New Year together.



It is also a good tradition that the singers of the Concordia Choir help shape the service musically.



Another musical gift was the ensemble consisting of Martin Damus (viola), Signhild Damus (flute) and Simone Oberacher (cello) and their contributions to this festive service.



A special thank you to the German ambassador Sabine Sparwasser, who contributed to the successful start to 2020 with her greeting and her participation.

We then came together for a reception at Mt. Calvary Hall. The kitchen was already cleared because the renovation work started the next day. Many thanks to Heidi Rausch, Christina and Lutz Wendorff, Heather Bent, Ingeborg König, Rosemarie Pallasch and Heather Ladouceur for the preparatory work, the design of the room, the fantastic buffet, the serving of drinks and in general that you hardly noticed that actually, nothing at all was as usual.



## ► 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.

Because of March Break the next children's service will take place on May 10. At Easter, on April 12, you are cordially invited to our family service at 11 a.m.

---

#### 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

Contact: Ulla Robitschek, ph. 613-828 6182  
(please call only between 9 a.m. und 5 p.m.).

---

#### German book circle

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

#### 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.

---

#### April 20

Michael Blum: „Oranienstraße. Ausgrabungen.  
Eine Verschronik“

Moderation: Sonja Finck

The exemplary history of a house in Berlin-Kreuzberger Oranienstrasse 10/11 and at the same time the life panorama of the Baum family from the middle of the 19th century to the present day. Everything starts like in a fairy tale: a man and a woman, born on the same day, fall in love and have five sons. We follow the different lives of their descendants stretching from Berlin to Rome, Haifa, Buenos Aires and Washington DC throughout the course of the 20th century.

---

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

(usually on the last Friday of the month  
at 7.30 pm)

**March 27**

„Systemsprenger“

Loud, wild, unpredictable: Benni! The nine-year-old drives her fellow human beings to despair. She only wants one thing: to go back home! Foster family, residential group, special school: No matter where Benni goes, she gets ejected immediately. The wild nine-year-old is what the youth welfare office calls a "system buster". But Benni only wants one thing: love, security and to live again with her mother! However, Bianca is afraid of her unpredictable daughter. When there seems to be no place left for Benni and no solution in sight, the anti-violence coach Micha tries to free her from the spiral of anger and aggression.

Director: Nora Fingscheidt

Germany 2019

120 minutes; German (without subtitles)

---

**April 17**

„Die Blindgänger“

The two 13-year-old friends Marie and Inga are fun-loving girls with the usual teenage problems: boys, school, figure. In one respect, however, the boarding school students differ from their peers: Marie and Inga are blind. The great passion of the two is music. Despite their talent, they are rejected by a local school band on the grounds that blind people are not suitable for the media. Together with Herbert, a Russian-German who wants to return to Kazakhstan soon, the girls form a street band - with unexpected success.

With a great sense of humour, director Bernd Sahling shows what everyday life of two blind girls is for them: quite normal! The film places the topic of disability in the general context of being different or being alien. He invites the viewer to a different 'insight', especially through

the extraordinary use of music and sounds.”(Institute for Cinema and Film Culture)

Director: Bernd Sahling

Germany 2004

88 minutes; German (without subtitles)

---

## **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.

For the time of construction work for our new kitchen our lunches will be cancelled. Please pay attention to the announcements. 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 welcome both women and men! We meet at 9:30 a.m. in the Mt. Calvary Hall at Martin Luther Church, 933 Smyth Rd.

---

## SPECIAL DATES

### Augenblick! Theater Ottawa

#### Absurda Comica or Mr. Peter Squentz

Last performance on March 1, 7:30 p.m.



### World Day of Prayer from Zimbabwe

Friday, March 6, 7 p.m. St. Albertuschurch  
416 Parkdale Ave.

The worship service for the World Day of Prayer is organized jointly by women from the St. Albertus Congregation and the Martin Luther Congregation and takes place alternately in both churches - this year it should actually have taken place here, but this is not possible because the kitchen renovation is unfortunately not completed. We thank the St. Albertus congregation for switching with us on such short notice! The Quodlibet Choir has again taken on the musical arrangement of the World Day of

Prayer Service. Please bring something for the potluck after the service. Recipes are pinned on the bulletin board in Mt Calvary Hall.

For the World Day of Prayer 2020 women from Zimbabwe have interpreted the Bible text from John 5 for healing a sick person: "Get up! Take your mat and go!" Jesus tells a patient. This request applies to everyone. God thus opens the way to personal and social change.

The authors of World Prayer Day 2020 know what they are writing about: overpriced food, sky high gasoline prices and rising inflation are everyday life for them and just a few of the difficulties they have to overcome. The reasons for the economic collapse are years of corruption and mismanagement and failed reforms imposed by the International Monetary Fund. Natural resources could make Zimbabwe rich, but others profit from that.

The fact that people in Zimbabwe stand up and fight for their rights is not new: the population fought for independence from Great Britain for many years until they reached their goal in 1980. However, the first black president, Robert Mugabe, ruled the country for 37 years and became increasingly authoritarian.

Women are still disadvantaged today. They are often driven out by their in-laws after the death of their husband because traditional law does not entitle them to inheritance, even if state law now does provide for it.

With its work, the World Day of Prayer supports women and girls worldwide: for example in Zimbabwe, girls and women practice using social media to make their voices heard; with a campaign in Mali that promotes girls' schooling; or with the organization of water protection areas in El Salvador, combined with lobbying for the human right to water.



## **HOLY WEEK**

In Holy Week, the week before Easter, there are a number of special events to which all are cordially invited including of course, to Easter Sunday.

### **On Maundy Thursday, April 9,**

we will celebrate communion at 7 pm, we want to remember how Jesus for the last time came together with his disciples and how he introduced the much shorter feast we celebrate as Holy Communion.

### **On Good Friday,**

the German-speaking worship service will take place in the morning at 11 am and include Communion. The English-speaking worship service takes place at 3 pm

---

## **EASTER**

### **On Easter morning at 6 am**

for early risers (like the women who went to the tomb of Jesus) we celebrate a meditative service with songs from Taizé and readings from the Bible, there is no sermon, but instead a time of silence. Readings and songs are in German and in English.

### **Afterwards there is an EASTER BREAKFAST**

#### **At 9:30,**

the Easter service will be held in English. It is an invitation for all who on Easter day value a worship service with a familiar liturgy

#### **At 11 am**

we invite to an Easter family service. As usual, it will be celebrated with a mix of German and English-speaking elements and is aimed at families with children and everyone who enjoys a lively celebration of Easter morning.

---

## **Annual General Meeting on April 19**

On April 19, we cordially invite you to our annual meeting. This Sunday we celebrate confirmation at 9:30 a.m. in a joint service. The Concordia choir will sing.

Afterwards there will be a short break with coffee, cake and snacks in the narthex - and then the annual meeting begins. Invitations along with the agenda will be sent to you beforehand. We look forward to a large participation and good discussions.

---

### **30 Years of German Unification (or 29 1/2)**

Friday, April 24, 7:30 p.m.

Martin Luther Church, 933 Smyth Rd

On October 3, 1990, the German Democratic Republic joined the Federal Republic of Germany, and the unity of Germany was formally accomplished. I will no longer be the pastor here in October, and my successor Judith Kierschke comes from the western part of Germany. I am happy to comply with the request to report as an eyewitness about life in the GDR even before the 30th anniversary. It is less about political analysis, and more about personal experiences from the life as a Christian in socialism. I will tell some things, but above all there should be time for questions and conversation.

---

### **May 8th Memorial gathering**

7:30 p.m. Martin Luther Church

It was 75 years ago that the last world war ended on May 8th. For those who are younger, this is a date learned in history classes. There are monuments where memorial services will be held. For many of us there are still personal memories from those days. We want to share such personal memories in a gathering on May 8th. The younger ones want to know how it was, the older ones are wondering, how was it with

you? This should be a moment of silent commemoration, no big words or elaborate political speeches.

We are placing ourselves in the long tradition of faith that keeps memories alive so that life can succeed today.

We celebrated Easter three weeks earlier. The Jewish Passover, which is celebrated at the same time, begins with the youngest child's question: "What distinguishes this night from all others?". The answer tells the story of the exodus, the liberation from Egypt.

For us Germans, who were liberated from the bondage of the Nazi regime on May 8th, the path to freedom began on May 8th in a quite comparable way.

---

## ► 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

## Announcement: German Romanticism

HELMUT ZOBL

As part of the series *Kirche und Kultur/Church and Culture* an event is planned on the topic of German Romanticism (1800-1850). Key ideas of this significant cultural epoch will be highlighted, examples from the works of important representatives (e.g., Caspar David Friedrich) are presented in word, picture and music, and commented on.

The event is scheduled for end of May-beginning of June. It will be in German.

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, [heatherbentATbell.net](mailto:heatherbentATbell.net)) can also give you a three-digit donation number at any time if you do not already have one.

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



## ► Events in the Martin Luther Congregation

(Please pay attention to additions and changes that are announced in the worship services and communicated by email, as well as on our website and on Facebook and on the answering machine on the phone of our church office. )

### REGULAR MEETINGS

**1st Monday  
in the month** 7:00 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 ([estershoeATgmail.com](mailto:estershoeATgmail.com))  
(no Sunday School during the Holidays)

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

### WORSHIP SERVICES AND SPECIAL EVENTS

**Bible text for the month of March**  
And what I say to you, I say to all, Keep watch.  
*Mark 13:37*

#### ► March

- Sunday, March 1:**     **1. Sunday in Lent**  
                             **9.30 a.m. Joint Worship service (Demke) with Communion**  
  
                             7:30 p.m. Augenblick! Theater Ottawa: „Absurda Comica or Mr. Peter Squentz“
- Wednesday, March 4:** **7 p.m. Midweek Lent Services - Holden Evening Prayer**
- Friday, March 6:**     **World Day of Prayer: „Rise! Take your mat and walk.“**  
                             **Ecumenical worship service (in German) with the Quodlibet Choir**  
                             **7 pm, St. Albertus Church, 416 Parkdale Ave**  
                             Followed by a Potluck.
- Sunday, March 8:**     **2. Sunday in Lent**  
                             **9.30 a.m. English Worship service (Demke)**  
                             **11 a.m. German Worship service (Demke)**
- Monday, March 9:**     7:30 pm German Book circle (Herta Müller: „Heute wäre ich mir lieber nicht begegnet“)
- Wednesday, March 11:** **7 p.m. Midweek Lent Services - Holden Evening Prayer**
- Sunday, March 15:**     **3. Sunday in Lent**  
                             **9.30 a.m. English Worship service (Demke)**  
                             **11 a.m. German Worship service (Demke)**
- Wednesday, March 18:** **7 p.m. Midweek Lent Services - Holden Evening Prayer**

**Sunday, March 22:**     **4. Sunday in Lent**  
                              **9:30 a.m. English Worship service (Demke)**  
                              **11 a.m. German Worship service (Demke)**

**Wednesday, March 25: 7 p.m. Midweek Lent Services - Holden Evening Prayer**

**Friday, March 27:**     7:30 p.m. German Filmclub („Systemsprenger“, 120 min., German, without subtitles)

**Sunday, March 29:**     **5. Sunday in Lent**  
                              **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 April**  
It is planted in death; it comes again in life.  
*I Corinthians 15:42*

► **May**

**Wednesday, April 1:**   **7 p.m. Midweek Lent Services - Holden Evening Prayer**

**Sunday, April 5:**       **Palm Sunday - 6. Sunday in Lent**  
                              **9:30 a.m Joint Worship service (Demke) with Communion**

**Thursday, April 9:**    **MAUNDY THURSDAY**  
                              **7 p.m Communion**

**Friday, April 10:**     **GOOD FRIDAY**  
                              **11 a.m German Worship service (Demke) with Communion**  
                              **3 p.m English Worship service (Demke)**

**Sunday, April 12:**     **EASTER**  
                              **6 a.m. meditative service with songs from Taizé and readings from the Bible (Germ/Engl)**  
                              Followed by an Easter breakfast  
                              **9:30 a.m English Easter Worship service (Demke)**  
                              **11 a.m Family Easter Worship service (Demke) (German/English)**

**Friday, April 17:**     7:30 p.m German Filmclub („Die Blindgänger“, 88 min., German, without subtitles)

**Sunday, April 19:**     **1. Sunday of Easter with Confirmation**  
                              **9:30 a.m Joint Worship service (Demke/Malina/Confirmands) with Communion**  
                              **and with Concordia Choir**  
                              **Followed by the Annual General Meeting of our congregation**

**Monday, April 20:**    7:30 p.m German Book circle (Michael Blum: „Oranienstraße“, 933 Smyth Road

**Friday, April 24:**     7:30 pm 30 years unity of Germany - From the life as a Christian in socialism

**Sunday, April 26:**     **2. Sunday of Easter**  
                              **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 May**

Make distribution among one another of whatever has been given to you,  
like true servants of the unmeasured grace of God.

*I Peter 4:10*

#### **► May**

- Sunday, May 3:**      **3. Sunday of Easter**  
9:30 a.m Joint Worship service (Demke) with Communion
- Friday, May 8:**      7:30 p.m May 8th Memorial gathering
- Sunday, May 10:**      **4. Sunday of Easter**  
9:30 a.m. English Worship service (Demke) with Communion  
11 a.m. German Worship service (Demke) with Sunday School
- Sunday, May 17:**      **5. Sunday of Easter**  
9:30 a.m. English Worship service (Demke) with Communion  
11 a.m. German Worship service (Demke)
- Thursday, May 21:**      **ASCENSION**  
7 pm Ecumenical Worship service with St. Albertus Church (German)  
St. Albertus Church, 416 Parkdale Ave.
- Sunday, May 24:**      **6. Sunday of Easter**  
9:30 a.m. English Worship service (Demke) with Communion  
11 a.m. German Worship service (Demke)
- Sunday, May 31:**      **Pentecost**  
9.30 a.m. English Worship service with Communion  
11 a.m. German Worship service with Communion

#### **► Event invitations by email**

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

#### **► Joy and sorrow**

#### **From our congregation has died:**

Anne Elizabeth Robison, 80 years



## ► 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 / [infoATglco.org](mailto:infoATglco.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.demkeATgmail.com](mailto:pastor.demkeATgmail.com) Please call or send an Email if you would like a personal conversation.

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

**Council Co-Chairs:** Konrad von Finckenstein, (613) 744-5856 / [finckensteinATgmail.com](mailto:finckensteinATgmail.com)  
Rolland Lapointe, (613) 692-5506 / [rolland.lapointeATsympatico.ca](mailto:rolland.lapointeATsympatico.ca)

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

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

**Building Committee:** Gunther Bauer, (613) 730 3495 / [guntherbauerAThotmail.com](mailto:guntherbauerAThotmail.com)  
Klaus Moritz, (613) 254 9893 / [klausmoritz5ATgmail.com](mailto:klausmoritz5ATgmail.com)

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

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

Ute Davis, (613) 236 3736 / [mutedATrogers.com](mailto:mutedATrogers.com)

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

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

Sheri Pendlebury, (613) 523-5262 / [bsp\\_sheriAThotmail.com](mailto:bsp_sheriAThotmail.com)

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

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

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

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

**Accountant:** Marion Fraser, [mdfraserATbell.net](mailto:mdfraserATbell.net)

**Church secretary:** Gail Smith; (613) 220-2264 / [Smithga98ATgmail.com](mailto:Smithga98ATgmail.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 [lutherinfoATgmail.com](mailto:lutherinfoATgmail.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.