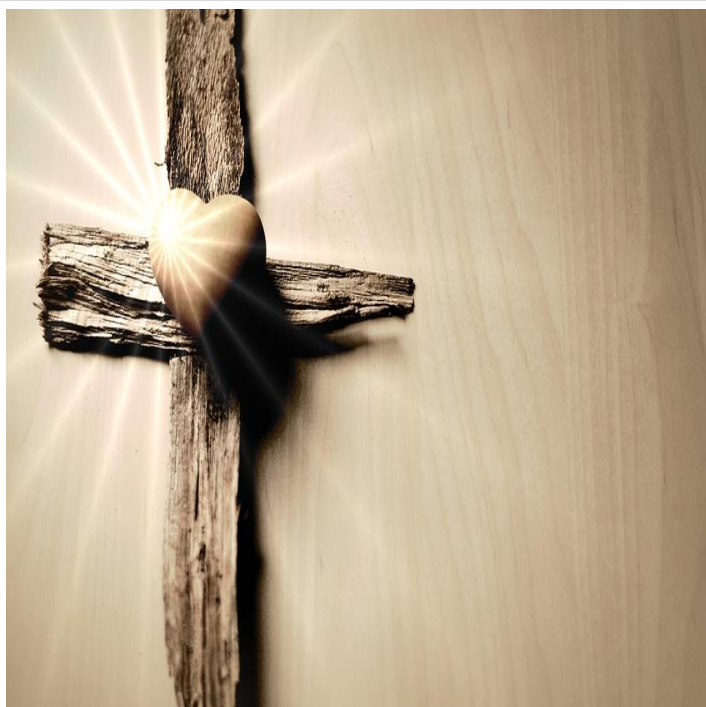




Courier March – May 2023



Newsletter of Martin Luther
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Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ

We will celebrate Eastern and Pentecost in the next 3 months, so for the devotion at the beginning of the new Church letter, I want to give you a slightly different view to these feasts. Let's have a look how the orthodox churches handle these feasts in icons – and you will see it's a different point of view.

First look at the Icon and try to figure out what you see. Then read what is said about the icon.

Easter



For the Orthodox Church, the classic image of the Resurrection is not so much Jesus rising from the tomb, but of Jesus descending into hell.

In the center of this icon, translucent and beautiful, stands the resurrected Jesus. He is tugging out from hell his human forebears, Adam and Eve. Behind Adam stand David and Solomon wearing the crowns, waiting to their turn for deliverance. Behind Eve is John the Baptist and among others, Noah holding a small model of the ark. The gates of hell have been shattered, rising like a drawbridge.

Beneath Jesus are the angels imprisoning the Devil who will never again have the power to roam unfettered on the earth. Jesus has conquered him. Behind the glowing angels in the center, dimly glimpsed in the darkness of the underworld are the vices, each personified by a devil, and each pierced through by a beam of light that comes from the angels who surround Jesus in the blue globe of the world.

These supporting details are hard to read with clarity, but what is very clear are the masses of the forgotten dead to the right and to the left clothed in white and stretching out their hands in love and hope and desire. Them too, all of them, the countless millions, Jesus will rescue from the darkness and lead them into the light of his Father.

The icon is not so much concerned with what happened, that Jesus rose from the dead, but what this means. It means, that the power of hell has been broken and that heaven is wide open to all who are willing to receive God's love.

(ICON: The Descent into hell, 1502-03, Workshop of Dionysius)

Pentecost Icon



The Position of the figures represents harmony in which no apostle is better than another. The inverse perspective prevents the apostles who are near the back of the semicircle from being painted as smaller, which would happen in the rendering of most normal paintings. In actuality, they are depicted slightly larger, particularly Peter and Paul as the chief apostles. But even then, they are among equals.

There is also no discord or chaos, which contrasts with some of the Western paintings of this event, which can be a bit dramatic. There is no sign of appearing drunk, which they were accused of that morning. Everything is sober and harmonious.

Who are the **figures in the icon**? On the left, starting from the top, we have Peter, Matthew, Luke, and other disciples. On the right, we have Paul, John, Mark, and other disciples. Paul, Luke, and Mark were not part of the twelve disciples, but because they played a significant role in preaching the Gospel to all humanity they are depicted as being in unity and harmony with the twelve.

Of course, Paul was not present during this event, but the reality of Pentecost transcends time and space, and in some sense, Paul was later mystically joined to this moment. He is also included to show that he was in complete harmony with the other Apostles.

In many icons the four evangelists are depicted **holding books** and the remainder are **holding scrolls**. The books symbolize the writings of the four gospels, the scrolls show that even those who did not write lengthy gospels still proclaimed the gospel message to the world.

Why is the **head of the semicircle of Apostles empty**? Because it is the seat of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is invisibly present. As he said before ascending, “Behold, I am with you even to the end of the age.” He continues to keep that promise, being invisibly present in the church, guiding us through the Holy Spirit.

The **twelve rays coming from the mandorla** (semicircle at the top) and the **tongues of fire**, sometimes shown above each Apostle, represent the Holy Spirit coming upon all of those depicted. The twelve symbolize that there are a diversity of gifts given by the one Spirit of God. In the same way, each of the twelve Apostles are seated in slightly different ways: there is harmony, but not conformity. We are all given different gifts by the same Spirit, but none of us

are meant to be a copy of anyone else. It is in the Church that we see diversity in its most beautiful harmony.

Something that stumps many people: who is the **kingly figure at the bottom** of the Pentecost icon? It is Cosmos. In the most ancient Pentecost icons, the crowd from Acts two was depicted at the bottom. However, that was quickly replaced by Cosmos, who personifies all people of all nations.

Later it was written, that this icon is “*an image of the inner life of the Church.*” How so? It shows that Christ sits at the head of our Church, invisibly guiding us; we have descended directly from the Apostles; we have been given the gift of the Holy Spirit by God through the Apostles; we celebrate our own participation in Pentecost through Chrismation and the mysteries of the Church because these things transcend time and space; while we always work toward harmony and unity with one another, we have a diversity of gifts and talents and there is no forced uniformity; people of all nations, tribes, and tongues are united together in the new spiritual building of the Church that transforms us from being lowly earthly creatures to heavenly ones.

President Report

Fellow Parishioners:

Here we are in 2023 having had a lovely Christmas and a successful new Year's reception.

Wonder of all wonders, our elevator has been renovated, inspected and is working. Klaus did the electrical work and deserves our heartfelt thanks. Instructions how to use the elevator are posted besides the door on each floor. Please follow them. Remember you have to keep the finger on the button for anything to work. The doors no longer open automatically and hopefully this will avoid the frequent breakdowns we had in the past.

The door on the left side of the basement has been fixed and there is no longer a gap of 5cm, so hopefully the draft from that door will no longer be an issue.

Speaking of that door, for security we installed two large bars so that it can be securely locked when the church is not in use. However as long as there are people in the church, these bars should be lifted, as the exit has to be accessible for quick exit in case of emergency.

We have decided to hold our annual **general meeting on April 30th, 2023** immediately following the joint services. As always we need volunteers and new blood on the council. Anyone willing to serve on the council kindly contact the Pastor or Heidi or me.

As you will see, when we have our AGM, we unfortunately ended the year with a deficit. Not surprising with Covid and limited church attendance. However this cannot become a constant state of affairs. So let me take this opportunity to remind you to give generously. Besides dropping you envelop in church you can use the donate button on our website (www.glco.org) or send a cheque to the church.

Our Church secretary Gail Smith is resigning from this work by end of march. We thank her for her good work and wish her all the best and we will still see her in our congregation. Thanks Gail!

Looking forward to a mild spring

Your President Konrad von Finckenstein

Review December 2022 – February 2023 and some pictures:

Finally we could celebrate Christmas 2022 normally again after two Corona years, even though a snowstorm swept over Ottawa the day before.

We had prepared a beautiful german nativity play with many little angels and the children were really very good!



We were so glad that we had once again reinforcement for our services around Christmas and New Year. Many thanks of course to MaryAnn and Peter Foley and additionally to Carman and Frank Gruska and Signhild and Martin Damus!



After Christmas is already New Year's Eve and our service for the New Year, with joint reception and visit of the German Ambassador. There was very tasty food, special thanks to Christina Wendorf, Heather Bent and Barbara Zabel! The wine had thankfully been brought by Ambassador Sparwasser!

The Concordia Choir delighted us with beautiful music at this New Year's service and Ute Davis gave a short New Year's speech on behalf of our congregation. It was a successful service and a nice celebration afterwards.



Do you remember that we had a "reverse Advent calendar" this Advent? Instead of getting something every day, we donated something every day. For example, cornflakes, pasta, gravy or jam, all food things that keep well for a long time. In early January, I took the donated food to the Carlington Community Chaplaincy and it was really a lot that came together with you help. There were six moving boxes full plus bags, it just fit in my car! Thank you so much for your donations and help!!!



Then we were on the road again on a Sunday in January, luckily the weather was nice for a walk. We were at the Sarsaparilla Trail. It was a very good hike and we even got to feed birds.



And then our conversation groups started.

Online with the Toronto Church, this discussion group will continue throughout the year and in February we met in person with our neighboring congregation of St. Aidans Anglican Church and talked about the sermon texts for the next Saunday which was very helpful for Reverend Rosemary and me. So we had a very good sermon preparation!



Once a month we meet to have lunch and talk together - all are always welcome there, too. Heather Ladouceur makes excellent soups. Thank you very much!



And then there was also carnival. The Quodlibet Choir invited and we celebrated, danced, sang and ate delicious food together downstairs in our church on February 11, all on the topic: Carnival of the Animals. There were a good 50 people of us and we had a lot of fun! Many thanks to all who participated.



The Arrest of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane

By: Gunther Bauer

In the aftermath of the Temple raid by Jesus and his disciples on Mount Zion, they remained near Jerusalem in the home of the two widowed sisters Martha and Miriam in Bethany. Jesus action was extreme, but not without precedent. Other rabbis before, also engaged in physical demonstrations when they preached their own brand of purity of the sacrifices in the Temple. Jesus had put pressure on the high priest Caiphas Jesus had chased out the merchants and animals from the Temple. Why did then the Sanhedrin priests finally agree to have Jesus arrested? The members of the Sanhedrin council, like many devout Jews in Jerusalem, were upset when Jesus offered wine and bread during the Eucharist with the word, for wine: "This is my Blood" and for bread: "This is my Body/Flesh" (Mat 26: 26-28 ; Luke 22:17-20 and Mark 14: 22-24). This was that Jesus blood is the equivalent of the blood from the sacrificed animals that is poured on the sacred fire and that his body/flesh (*bisra* in Aramaic) would be the meat from the sacrificed animals that is roasted on the altar and given to the poor. Jesus ritual was completely different and a direct challenge to the established ritual of the Temple. Jesus words can only make sense, if the "Jesus Movement" would be considered as a completely new religion. For the Gentiles and Greek-speaking Christians, that could only mean that Jesus is referring to himself. Did the bread literally become Jesus' body and the wine his blood, or was this ritual only a metaphor? After the Reformation, this question ignited a religious war and even today, the interpretation in offering bread and wine during the Eucharist with these words, varies in some Christian churches. But Jesus was neither starting a new sect nor a personal cult. He believed, that God had called him to fulfill the prophesy of Zechariah (Zechariah 14:21), to clean the Temple and rise its purity up again (John 2:19). Until Jesus had fulfilled these obligations given him by God, he cannot leave the vicinity of the Temple. And with Jesus insistence to remain close to the Temple, he began the sequence of events in the last chapter of his life. Some of his disciples, including Judas, had put pressure on Jesus to return to the relatively simple life they had in Galilee and Syria.

As Spring came Jesus had still not been arrested. The high priest Caiphas had finally convinced the members of the Sanhedrin Council, to have Jesus arrested. Jesus had made his meals with his disciples into events, that rivalled the Temple's sacrifices. Jesus had made preparations for him and his disciples to stay in

Jerusalem during Passover. Judas had sought an opportunity to inform Caiphas, when Jesus would be close to the Temple, so the Temple police could seize him (Mathew 26:14-16; Mark 14: 10-14; Luke 22: 2-6; John 13: 26-30). Judas, his character is often distorted by our feelings for Jesus. But he was neither tired nor frustrated with Jesus' teaching of the coming of the divine Kingdom. It is more likely that his immediate aim was to have Jesus arrested and expelled from Jerusalem. Judas had no knowledge of the agreement among Caiphas, Pilate and Herod Antipas. But he knew that Caiphas had no power to execute anyone.

After Jesus last supper with his disciples in Barnabas' house, he walked with some of his disciples and followers to a place called Gethsemane (Oil Press) on the Mount of Olives, just outside the walls of Jerusalem (Mark 14: 32-42; Mathew 26: 36-46; Luke 22: 39-46). Jesus had gone to the Garden of Gethsemane for solace and quiet conversation with his disciples and to pray. Jesus' arrest came quickly. A group consisting of both the Temple police and Roman soldiers stormed into the Garden of Olives confronting Jesus, his disciples and his followers (Mark 14: 43-52; Mathew 26: 47-56; Luke 22: 47-53; John 18: 2-11). The presence of the soldiers was the first indication for the disciples, Judas included, that they were confronted by forces not only from Caiphas, but also from Pilate as well. The military roughed up the disciples and they fought back. But Jesus stopped them. He did not want a repetition of the deadly violence he had seen during his raid of the Temple. Judas kissed Jesus for the last time, to designate Jesus for the militia - as the gospels say, but also - as the gospels do not say, because Judas still loved Jesus. Later, when Judas discovered that he had delivered Jesus to Pilate and to the most humiliating and painful form of execution, he killed himself (Mathew 27: 3-10; Acts 1: 18-20).

Confronted with an overwhelming force and disappointed that he had been handed over by one of his disciples, Jesus could not resist mocking the soldiers and the police that had arrested him.

Have you come out with swords and clubs to apprehend me as a thug? I was with you daily in the sacred place teaching and you did not seize me (Mark 14: 48-49).



169. Gefangennehmung Jesu. Matthäus 26, 47— 56.

Outlook - what will take place in our congregation in the near future?

In addition to our fixed offers this year (Zoom discussion group monthly, soup meeting monthly and in May again the Movie Night) the following events will take place in the next months, to which you are cordially invited.

I have to say the attendance to the events is not so good. Do you wish to have some other events or groups? Please talk to me and give me some hints!

The Lenten season is always a special time of preparation, whether you are fasting or renounce something or taking more time for certain things.

In this lenten time we have different offers in our congregation, which you can take advantage of during this time.

HOLDEN EVENING PRAYERS

As we did during Advent, Pastor Martin Malina of Faith Ottawa Church and I are offering 2 devotions during the Passion season.

One at Faith Ottawa Church (March 1) and one at our church (March 15). This devotional lasts 20-25 minutes and is mainly sung. It is a very quiet and meditative atmosphere. Feel free to come if you don't know it yet. Just the right thing for the Passion season.

DEVOTIONS ON THE ROAD

One Sunday per quarter we are on the road and have devotions at different places in Ottawa. Often we enjoy the outdoors while doing so.

This time we meet at a Jesus statue in Ottawa. Maybe you will think: Is there a statue of Jesus in Ottawa!

Yes, and it is well suited for a Passion devotion on the way. I won't say too much now, but hope to meet you on March 19th at 10am in the parking lot of Mill Street Pub, 555 Wellington Street, Ottawa. If you don't want to walk with us for like half an hour you can come at 10.30 am and meet us in the Mill Street Pub as we want to drink a coffee and maybe eat a bit after our short walk.

AND THEN THERE'S A FUNDRAISING EVENT THAT I'M ESPECIALLY INVITING ALL OF YOU TO ATTEND AND I HOPE YOU'LL INVITE FRIENDS TO ATTEND AS WELL:



I know that some of our congregation members love to paint and craft and be creative. That's exactly when this offer is perfect for you. Carmen Gruska and I will draw a Passion Easter picture with you. We will provide everything (canvas, paints and brushes) and also have a picture that we want to paint with you. Everyone paints their own picture and can take it home afterwards. In order to pay for the costs and since it is a fundraising event we charge a fee of \$35 dollars per participant. Feel free to bring your friends who are not in our congregation! But please register for this event so we have enough canvases and supplies.

And reassurance: Everyone is welcome, even if you think you are not good in painting, or if you are real good artists.

The picture is not difficult to paint, you will see! But it looks good anyway and hopefully it will be a nice evening with many people and you will go home with a Passion Easter painting. So please sign up until: 12.03.23

On 04th of June 2023 we will make a Bus Trip to 1000 Islands



Do you remember our nice trip and meeting with Martin Luther congregation Toronto at the Petroglyphs last summer?

This year we are going on another trip and again we are meeting the Martin Luther Church Toronto, but this time we are going to ROCKPORT and there we will take a boat trip (about 1 hour) in the 1000 Island waters.

Besides the boat trip we will walk through the small town of Rockport (easy and short distance) and plan to have a picnic together in the local church. Everyone will bring his or her own food.

We will meet on Sunday, June 4 at our church and take the bus to Rockport (about 150 km), a little less than 2 hours driving time.

The cost will be around \$140 dollars per person with bus fare and boat ride. Since we need to book everything soon, we need numbers of fellow travelers. So if you want to join us, please register with Pastor Kierschke for this trip (by Easter!).

More detailed information will follow!

I am looking forward to this day.

To remember

MARTIN LUTHER COMMUNITY COOKBOOK

In the last newsletter I asked you to send me some recipes to create a church cookbook.

I have already received some recipes - thank you very much! But for a nice, versatile and interesting cookbook the recipes are not yet enough. So please think again if you don't have 1 or 2 nice recipes somewhere. Thank you very much.

It will only work if many people participate and send me their recipes (best as an email to pastorkierschke@gmail.com or on a paper in the church).

WELL INFORMED - Whatsapp Group !?!

Also in the last newsletter I mentioned a Whatsapp group with news and pictures from the church. This group already exists and has some members, but of course new people can join at any time.

As you know, sometimes something has to be cancelled quickly, we had the case when I had Covid or when there was freezing rain last winter.

This Whatsapp group would just maybe be faster for you or if there is an event in the evening, I could remind again in the morning.

Maybe it is nice when you are sitting at home and a picture comes to you of what is happening at church. If you would like to take advantage of this, you need to have Whatsapp on your phone and give me your cell phone number and off you go!

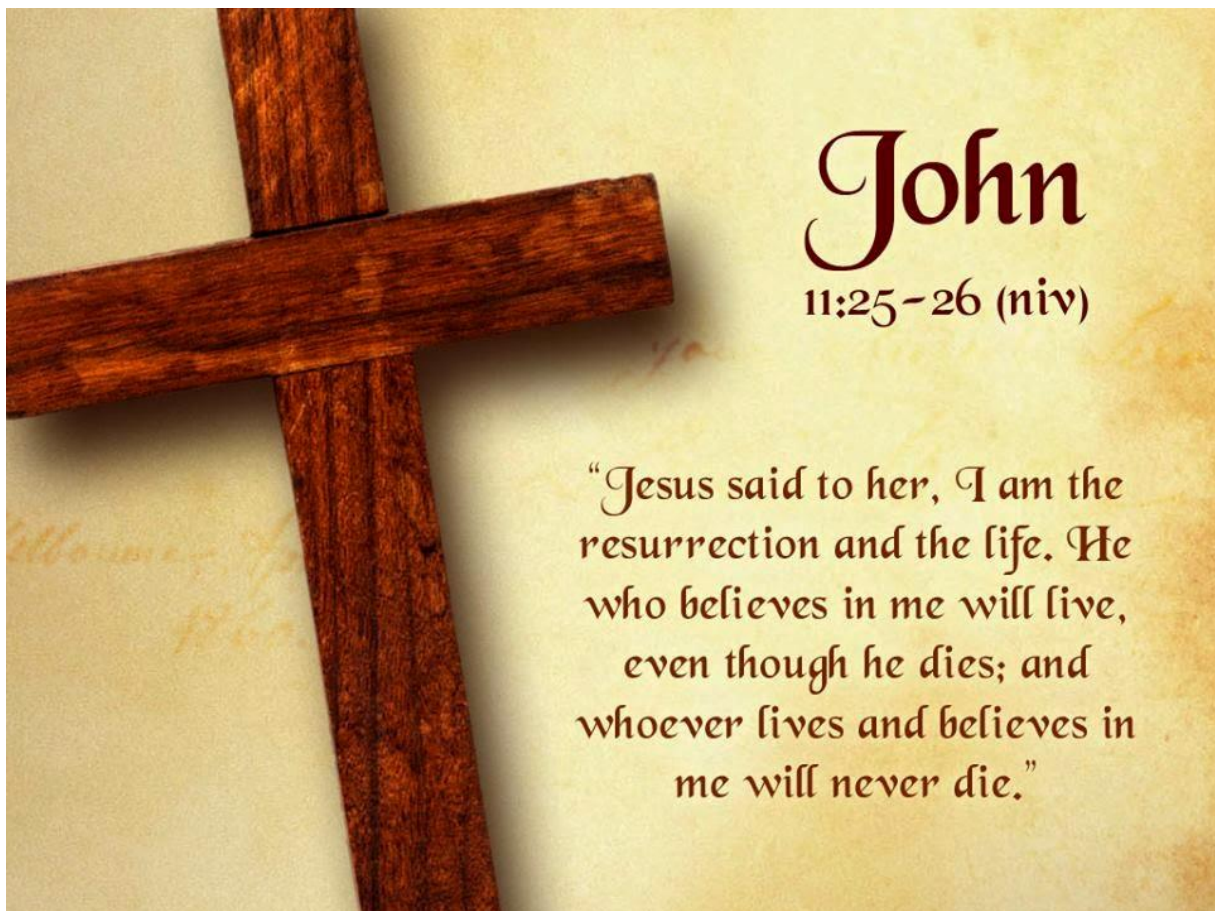
DIED IN CHRIST:

MARGRIT HANNA QUECKE (12.08.1932 -09.12.2022)

CHRISTA BOEHN (12.12.1936 - 30.12.2022)

EMIL WAGNER (11/25/1929- 02/13/2023)

ALL THREE OF THEM WERE LONG AND ACTIVE MEMBERS IN OUR CONGREGATION. WE REMEMBER THEM FONDLY, WE THANK THEM FOR THEIR SUPPORT AND HELP AT MANY CHURCH COFFEES AND TALKS. WE KNOW THAT THEY ARE SAFE AND SOUND IN THE GOOD HANDS OF GOD AND WE PRAY FOR THE FAMILIES OF THE DECEASED THAT GOD WILL COMFORT AND ACCOMPANY THEM.



Services and other dates March – May 2023

Pastor Kierschke is from 14. April -28. April in Washington DC on a retreat for the German Pastors abroad. Thanks to congregation members, who are willing to do the service, everything can take place as normal. Thanks!

Date and Time	English	German
Wednesday 01.03.	7pm Lent Holden Evening Prayer in Faith Ottawa Church	7pm Passionsandacht Holden Evening Prayer in Faith Ottawa Church
Friday 03.03.	World Day of Prayer in German St. Albertus Church at 6pm	6pm Weltgebetstag der Frauen in der katholischen St. Albertus Gemeinde
Sunday 05.03. 10 am	Joint Service with Coffee & Cake afterwards	Gemeinsamer Gottesdienst mit Kaffee und Kuchen im Anschluss
Thursday 09.03 Bible Study Zoom With Toronto	7pm Zoom link	7 pm Zoom link
12.03,	9.30 English Service	11 Deutscher Gottesdienst
Tuesday 14.03.	Soup and talk 12 pm	Soup and talk 12 pm
Wednesday 15.03.	7pm Holden Evening Prayer In Martin Luther Church	Passionsandacht Holden Evening Prayer in Martin Luther Church
Saturday 18.03.	4 pm Paint Fundraising Event	4pm Paint Fundraising Event
19.03.	Church on the Road to the Statue of Jesus in Ottawa Meeting Point: Mill Street Pub (10 am Parking Place) 555 Wellington Street- Ottawa	Kirche Unterwegs zur Jesusstatue in Ottawa Meeting Point: Mill Street Pub (10 am Parking Place) 555 Wellington Street- Ottawa
26.03.	9.30 English Service	11 Deutscher Gottesdienst
Palm Sunday 02.04	Joint Service with Coffee and Cake afterwards	Gemeinsamer Gottesdienst mit Kaffee und Kuchen im Anschluss

Gründonnerstag 06.04	5pm Devotion “Night of the extinguishing lights” English and German	5pm Andacht “Nacht der verlöschenden Lichter” English and German
Good Friday 07.04. 10 am	Service in English	
07.04. Karfreitag 3pm		3pm Gottesdienst zur Sterbestunde Jesu in Deutsch mit Abendmahl
Eastersunday 09.04.	9.30 Easter Service with Egg Hunt for kids afterwards	
Ostersonntag 09.04.		11 am Ostergottesdienst mit Kindergottesdienst und anschließend Ostereiersuche
Thursday 13.04 Bible Study Zoom With Toronto	7pm Zoom link	7pm Zoom link
16.04.	9.30 English Service (H. Ladouceur)	11 Uhr Deutscher Gottesdienst (Ch. Wendorf)
23.04.	9.30 English Service (S. Lapointe)	11 Uhr Deutscher Gottesdienst (K. von Finckenstein)
30.04	JOINT SERVICE AGM AFTERWARDS	10 am JOINT SERVICE Jährliche Hauptversammlung AGM DANACH
07.05.	9.30 English Service	11 Deutscher Gottesdienst
Tuesday 09.05.	12 pm Soup and Talk	12pm Soup and Talk
Thursday 11.05. Bible Study Zoom With Toronto	7 pm Zoom Link	7pm Zoom link
14.05.	9.30 English Service	12 Deutscher Gottesdienst
21.05.	9.30 Englisch Service	12 Deutscher Gottesdienst

26.05. Movie Night	Movie Night Classic in English Rear window by A. Hitchcock	Movie Night Classic Das Fenster zum Hof von A. Hitchcock in English
28.05. Pentecost Pfingsten	10 am Joint Service in our church Garden (bring your Chair) and a surprise at the end	10 am Gemeinsamer Gottesdienst im Kirchgarten (bringen Sie ihren Stuhl mit) mit einer Überraschung am Schluss
04.06	BUS TRIP 1000 Island	BUS TRIP 1000 Island

We are here for you

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www.glco.org

Facebook: Martin Luther Gemeinde Ottawa

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