



# Courier June - August 2023



Newsletter of Martin Luther  
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Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ!

Have you already walked through our labyrinth in the garden this year? If not, then take some time to do so. Maybe before or after a service, or maybe you drive by the church once during the week and sit in the beautiful garden and walk through the labyrinth.



In this picture, you see the world-famous labyrinth that is a floor mosaic in the great Chartres Cathedral in France. It is so big in reality that you can walk the paths in it. So large, in fact, that it takes a bit more time to get to the center coming from the entrance at the outer bottom edge. So large and intricate that it is not at all easy to reach the destination. Who moves in this labyrinth, makes various experiences: The experience that some things are much more difficult than originally assumed, or that it is not at all easy to find one's way and to walk it. The experience that sometimes you seem to not really getting anywhere. The experience that unexpected detours lead away from the original goal. And all of this can irritate and confuse; it can make you insecure and also trigger fear. And when that happens, people's steps in the labyrinth become slower and slower, more hesitant, and they lack the courage to go on. And some who have experienced this say afterwards, "It was kind of like normal. I felt like I was in reality. Just like life!" - "Everything started off really nicely. Full of verve.

But then first difficulties arise, and towards the end, everything got completely confused. We were at a loss.

So, is the labyrinth from the cathedral in Chartres in France a symbol for human life!? The labyrinth on the floor of a church as a picture of our way of life!? The labyrinth here in front of us with its intricate lines, curves and arcs as a labyrinth of life!? As such it has been understood in earlier times, and many stories bear witness to it. This is probably one of the most well-known labyrinth traditions from the island Crete: A bull-headed monster, the Minotaur, was chained in the center of a labyrinth to protect the world from him and his voracity. Hardly anyone dared to enter, and those who had to, because they had to feed the Minotaur on behalf of his father, King Minos, were very afraid. The walk through the labyrinth was especially bad for the seven young men and women who were chosen every year to be sacrificed to the Minotaur. They knew very well: death lurked in the middle of the labyrinth.

At the end of our final journey, trembling and trepidatious, there is no mercy, only total annihilation. - Only when Theseus, a particularly courageous young man, was among those condemned to death, was this tide of terror to turn. But actually, this was not only his merit, but also that of his bride Ariadne. When she learned that Theseus was to be delivered to the Minotaur, she took a ball of red wool from her chamber and presented it to her beloved. "Take the ball and do not let it out of your hand! Its thread will be a sign of my love for you in your long, arduous way in the labyrinth. Hold on to it tightly! And when you have overcome the Minotaur, use it wisely to get back to the light along the winding paths, back to me, to your love and to life." - Theseus did exactly what Ariadne advised him to do, and what hardly anyone had dared to hope happened: the monster in the center of the labyrinth was struck down, and all those who were to be sacrificed to him survived. They followed Theseus, who was guided by the red thread of his love, the "Ariadne thread", and got back to freedom, which seemed to them like a second, given life. - This story was told again and again for centuries, and many people understood it as encouragement for their personal path in the labyrinth of life. They relied on the strength and power of love and relied on the fact that there would also be something like an "Ariadne thread" for them in times of crisis, a "bond of love" that could provide support and orientation. Christians who heard about all this remembered the words of the 'bond of perfection' (Col 3:14) and the 'bond of peace' (Eph 4:3) in the New Testament. And they began by changing the old story of the young hero Theseus in the labyrinth of death and retelling it. The main character was no longer a

young Greek, but Jesus, the Christ; he was henceforth called the "Second Theseus", and the love of God that transcended everything else, which had taken shape in him, was seen as the unbreakable basis for survival. In the middle of the labyrinth, death no longer dwells. There is a new master of the house, who gives mercy before justice and who leads out of the zone of fear and terror. His name is program: "Jesus, the Christ, Son of God, brother and friend of all people. The one who can save and does so."

"He accompanies us on all paths of life. He stands faithfully by the side of the irritated and wandering. His nearness conveys strength and confidence, makes us strong in times of weakness, and encourages us to go on bravely when ridge walks are necessary. And this not once in a while, sometimes, but always, again and again. 'I am with you always, to the end of the age.' (Mt 28:20b) Thus speaks Jesus, the Christ, the second Theseus. This is the promise he makes to all people who come to him weary and burdened, who are at a loss. God cares for you, for those who have lost their direction and goal and thus their orientation. He cares for you and gives you new perspectives.

Our life has many winding paths, with numerous curves and bends, with many ups and downs. It takes place in the labyrinth of life, but it is accompanied life, sheltered life - and that from beginning to end, from the rising of the sun to its setting, from now until eternity. Amen.

### **President & Pastors Report – what happened the last 3 month**

There was a lot going on in our church. Carmen Gruska and Martin Damus offered a painting event that was well attended and fun for young and old. We will definitely do it again. What emerged were Passion Easter pictures and although we had one template, the pictures turned out all different. Many thanks to Carman and Martin and all who attended and participated!



We were also out again one Sunday morning. We visited a statue of Jesus in Ottawa by artist Timothy Schmalz, but it was so cold that we quickly escaped to the pub and had coffee, cake or even beer and pretzels. A somewhat different Sunday morning, but very blessed and in good fellowship.



We celebrated two beautiful and well-attended Easter services, and do you remember? You painted eggs in advance, which were then displayed on our altar during the Easter service. The variety of painted eggs was amazing and even the weeks after Easter this shrub remained on the altar.



### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

On April 30, we held our AGM, our annual meeting with the congregation following a joint worship service.

Some things were reported from the Council. The elevator, in particular, was a costly expense during the last fiscal year, but it is now running again. Unfortunately, water from the Sump Pump collects in front of the elevator shaft. Especially in the winter, turning the area in front of the elevator into a single ring of ice, so it is not safe to use it that way. Unfortunately, this is also a financially bigger problem. We will take care of it this year.

At the moment, various ideas and cost estimates are being solicited for this.



Several congregation members noted that Mount Calvary Hall downstairs in our church is not very inviting to be in with the various groups. We are looking for solutions that will make the space more comfortable while taking care of all the needs of our congregation and those of the tenants.

Finally, Ontario has passed a new Non-Profit Corporations Act (ONCA). All existing non-profit corporations, like ours, have three years to transition from the old to the new law. For us, this simply means reorganizing our incorporation documents. Konrad von Finckenstein has thankfully reviewed our documents and reworded (more accurately, reorganized) them to meet the new requirements. Many thanks!

At the AGM also the new Church Council was elected:

In the new Council are

**Konrad von Finckenstein (President), Heidi Rausch (Vice President), Ute Davis, Carmen Gruska, Frank Gruska, Heather Ladouceur, Sheri Pendlebury, Christina Wendorf and Barbara Zabel.**

New to the council are Frank and Carmen Gruska. Heather Ladouceur is also now back after a year's hiatus.

You might have seen Mr. and Mrs. Gruska in the service or at musical events. In this picture, they played at our Christmas service.



Alfred Popp, Klaus Edenhoffer, Klaus Moritz and Carole Moritz have left the Church Council. Many thanks for the years of work that especially Alfred Popp and Klaus Moritz have invested in the church. Klaus Moritz has put a lot of work into the electronics of our church, especially in the last few years, and the fact that the stained glass windows in the front of the sanctuary now light up without any problems is also thanks to his skill! Many thanks! Many thanks to Klaus Edenhoffer, who took good care of the finances for a long time and many thanks to Carole Moritz, who was the secretary of the council for the past year.

In April Pastor Kierschke was in the USA for 2 weeks at a conference of German pastors working in North, Central and South America. This year the conference took place in Washington DC and dealt with the topic "White Privilege". Of course, we also took a look at the city of Washington DC.



## What are confirmation classes actually like in Germany?

By Felix Merfert, May 16, 2023



My first day in Ottawa, February 10, 2023

Hello, my name is Felix Merfert. I'm 14 years old and I've lived in Berlin my whole life so far. My hobbies are for example soccer and handball, but also creative activities. I moved to Canada with my family 3 months ago because my father took a job in Ottawa. Now I am well settled in the school and the whole everyday life. I would like to introduce to you my Berlin church and confirmation class in Germany.

I started my confirmation classes in Berlin and will continue them in the Martin Luther Church Ottawa. My congregation in Berlin is called Berlin-Waidmannslust and is located in the northwest of Berlin in the district of Reinickendorf. I started taking confirmation classes back in August 2022. Due to the move, I had to pause my classes.

The Waidmannslust parish is part of a cooperation of three parishes - Waidmannslust (my parish), Lübars and Alt-Wittenau. The confirmation classes will work over one and a half years (August 2022 - May 2024) in a monthly system. Always alternating, we have confirmation classes for one hour every Thursday for one month. This takes place separately in each of the three home churches. The following month, the confirmands from all three churches do an activity together, such as an excursion, an activity in the church, or a joint game

night. In this month there are no additional weekly classes, only this long appointment, which often takes place on a Saturday afternoon.

In the very first month, we explored our church, Queen Luise Church. We found out the story behind some items, climbed the bell tower, and got to know the pastor and each other. Already in the second month, we spent a weekend together with the two other churches on a confirmation trip with get-to-know-you games and joint activities. I enjoyed that very much. We exchanged ideas on Christian topics and in the evening, we had a campfire and sang. At the beginning of this year, the confirmands from the three congregations worked together to create a church service, which was prepared in different groups. These groups were engaged in artistic activities or discussion topics.

For me, this was the conclusion of my confirmation period in Berlin. I am happy to be able to continue my confirmation classes here without any problems. I hope I was able to give you a brief insight into the lessons in **Berlin**.





### **Looking for new confirmands**

Confirmation classes will start again in September.

Do you have children or grandchildren who are of confirmation age (12-15 years)? Then we would be happy if you would like to join us or drop in. After the summer (start September 2023) is the best opportunity to do so! The course is in English and in German.

We learn about faith, the Bible, Jesus Christ, but also where faith itself affects us. We can pray, that can relieve us. We learn about the church feasts and their meaning, we think about what gives us hope, or why and how the world was created.

We also want to go on trips and meet other people from the community.

There are no prerequisites for this class, no prior knowledge is necessary.

If you have any questions or would like to register your child, please contact Pastor Kierschke.

## **Gunther Bauer talks about his life**

It was an oppressively hot week in July 1952 in Germany. I had turned sixteen years of age in April and was now old enough to drink a beer in a pub legally. I was working during the school holiday for a company in road construction in the blazing sun. Thank God, it was Friday, and my friend Harald and I were looking forward to stay cool near a swimming pool during the weekend. But we knew that in the local pool, we would have standing room only and the noise of the children, would be worse than the heat. So, we decided to bike early on Saturday morning to the historic town Miltenberg in Bavaria on the Main river, a two-hour bike ride from our hometown. In Miltenberg, we had a choice of two pools, one even on the banks of the Main river. We would stay there for two nights in the youth hostel, as we had done before. But there was only a change in plans. Harald had to work this weekend. Therefore, early on Saturday morning, I went by myself, pushing my bike uphill for 1.5 hours through the deciduous Odenwald forest. But I was rewarded with a downhill ride into the Main river valley. Miltenberg has the oldest continuously operating hotel in the world, the "Hotel Riesen", that had once accommodated two emperors as uests, Charles V, in Martin Luther times and in 1812, Napoleon Bonaparte. To get to the youth hostel I had to bike along the Main river passing a church in Miltenberg. As always, I stopped at the church to refill my water bottle at the outside fountain. But this time, I felt I had to go into the church. Maybe it was the heat. But once inside, "a voice" told me to go to the altar. I walked slowly down the aisle between the worn wooden pews to the altar table made of red sandstone, the rock formation underlain the hills of the Odenwald. But I was not interested in the altar with the three-part panels, nor the sandstone baptism font. I was drawn to look behind the altar. There was a painting, probably of medieval origin, depicting Jesus on the cross. What shocked me, was not the blood all over Jesus' body, nor the enormous size of the painting. But the painter had spared none of the gory details of the crucifixion one can imagine. Jesus' legs had been twisted apart and the feet had been turned sideways and nailed through the ankles. Spikes were also driven through the hands and blood was running down his arms. The figure appeared slumped and broken and a Roman soldier had pushed his spear into Jesus side to see if he was still alive. Apparently he was from the blood gushing out of the wound. The fragility deeply moved me and the helplessness of the whole figure. The face of Jesus showed an impression of pain and agony. His eyes were filled with blood dripping from the thorn crown. I had to sit down because I felt sick in my stomach. I do not know, how long I was sitting there staring at the painting when I felt a hand touching my shoulder. It was a priest, who asked

softly: " Do you mind, my son, if I sit with you". The only reply I was able to give was, to point at the painting and say: " How can humans be so cruel and do this to another person". The priest nodded his head and replied: " Yes, my son, that is what people have done to the son of God". I got up and walked slowly out of the church into the bright sunlight. This meeting with Jesus has caused me pain for a long time. I had only experienced such pain during the war when my father had never returned. I was only seven years old then.



### Sermons about art in July

Gunther Bauer's impressive experience leads us to our art services. During the entire month of July, we will look at a piece of art in our sermons. Something different and certainly very interesting and not as bloodthirsty as the picture above described.

I have chosen the following pieces of art, on the last Sunday in July the picture is still open, so let yourself be surprised - or give me a picture to preach about!

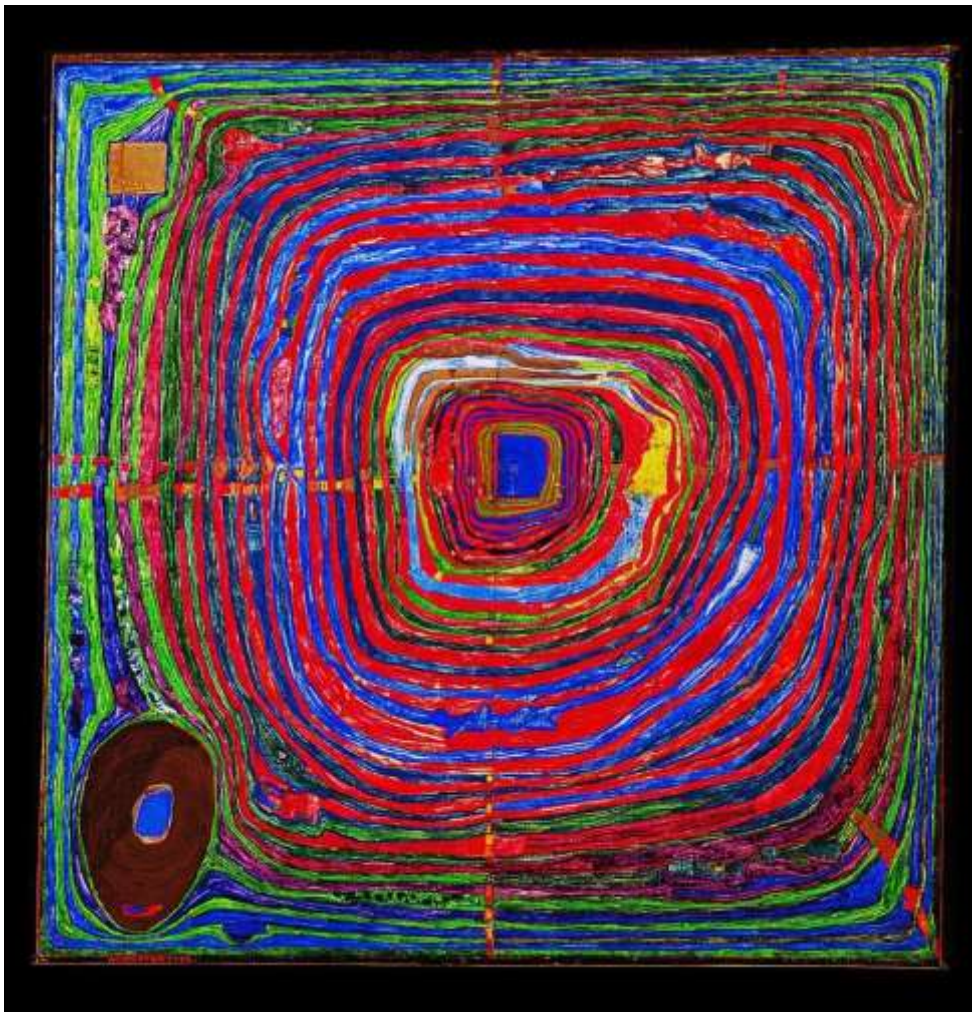
02 July F. Hundertwasser "The great way".

09 July C.D. Friedrich "Cross in the Mountains

16. July Icon of the Virgin Mary so called Hodogetria

23 July El Loko "Man

30 July A surprise painting



### **Other summer events in our church**

This summer we have a varied program. Keep the Friday evenings free, we have a wide variety of offers and surely there is something for you!

Here are the offers from June to August:

**Saturday, June 10 Start 10 am Cleanup in the church garden.**



The weather is getting better and it's time to do something in our church garden. If you would like to help, you are welcome. Join us on Saturday, June 10, beginning at 10 am. Feel free to bring your own garden tools, but we'll have some there in a pinch.

I look forward to seeing you on June 10!



# Music for a Summer's Eve

**CONCORDIA CHOIR OTTAWA  
MONTAGNA SINGERS  
QUODLIBET CHOIR OTTAWA  
PARKDALE UNITED CHURCH CHOIR  
OGS GUITAR ORCHESTRA**

**Friday June 16th, 2023 - 7.30 pm  
Parkdale United Church - 429 Parkdale Ave.  
Tickets \$15 from Choir Members or at the door**

**Karin Germann (819)-561-0669 [khgermann@sympatico.ca](mailto:khgermann@sympatico.ca)**

Several of our church members (including Pastor) are singing in the choirs and would appreciate a good attendance. Tickets are available for purchase from Pastor Kierschke. Please note that this concert will be held at Parkdale United Church.



**Friday, 23. 06 at 6 pm**

Dr. Andreas Buß invites you to a discussion evening in German "Diskussion über das Lügen".

Address 1248 Maitland Avenue parking next door on Henry Farm Drive.

Genesis 12:11

"Now when they were near Egypt, Abraham said to Sarai his wife:

Behold, I know that thou art a fair woman. Now when the Egyptians see thee, they will say This is his wife, and will kill me, and let thee live.

Say then that thou art my sister, that it may go well with me for thy sake, and that I may live."

**Saturday, 24.06 Ecumenical summer barbecue**

Joint summer picnic with the Catholic German St. Albertus parish. Feel free to bring salad or a dessert, the sausages are already here! We are meeting at Gaby Kaindl's house (9 Wild Acre Lane in K2W02K Kanata). Between 11-12 is arrival and then as long as anyone would like. Please bring your own chairs, plates and Cutlery if you can and then potluck like some salad or drink or cake. A pool is also available for swimming!

**Friday, July 14 Evening Walk, beginning 6pm.**

Remember our 2022 New Year's walk in Mer Bleue. It was very cold. Let's do the walk together again this summer and it will be very different.

Meet at 6pm in the Mer Bleue parking lot at the end of Ridge Rd, Ottawa, ON K0A 2Y0.

**Friday, July 28 BBQ at Pastor's Garden, starting at 6pm (address 2034 Beaverhill Drive).**

Even though we already grilled with the Catholics in June, you can't eat enough sausage in the summer. So we're barbecuing again (as we did last year) in our backyard. Please bring salad or dessert and a folding chair. The meat is already on the grill.

**Friday, August 11 Book night "The Fifth Mountain" by Paulo Coelho, starting at 6pm.**

If you are attending, it would be good if you have read the book beforehand so we can talk about it.

I have the book in German, if anyone wants to borrow it, gladly.

It can be read in German or English (The fifth mountain). We will make the evening bilingual, so everyone can participate.

It is a small book and really good to read. It's about:

In the ninth century BC, the Phoenician princess Jezebel orders the execution of all prophets who refuse to worship the pagan god Baal. Elijah is told by an angel of God to flee Israel and seeks safety in the land of Zarephath, where he unexpectedly finds true love with a young widow. But this newfound happiness is short-lived, and Elijah must watch as all his hopes and dreams are irrevocably extinguished when he is caught in a maelstrom of events that threaten his very existence.

**Friday, August 25 Playing cards together, beginning 6 pm.**

Depending on who comes and what you are in the mood for, we will play Skat, Romy, Kanasta....



## **ATTENTION FRAUD**

Periodically, you will receive an email with my name on it. In it I ask you for help or that you should buy some gift vouchers.

This is a scam email. You might also get them with other senders (not only my name, but also from other acquaintances and friends). Unfortunately, it happens quite often and there is nothing you can do about it. But it is not a big deal. Just do not react!

Please remember in general: Never transfer money or gift cards to a person based on an email!

Unfortunately, this also might apply by phone, you will already know.

If you are not sure about an email or a phone call, please call me or talk to me personally in the church!




My number is here in the church newsletter or on the internet. Do not call other numbers that are new or that you do not know.

If you receive emails which might be fake, please do not answer them! It is best not to respond at all, then nothing else will happen.



**Dates June – August 2023**

During July we will have our normal services, but the sermon will be about a piece of art – that’s why it’s called art service.

04.06.	No service Trip to 1000 Islands	Keine Kirche Ausflug nach 1000 Islands
Tuesday 06.06, 	12 Soup & Talk	12 Suppe und Gespräch
Thursday 08.06.	7 pm Zoom Bibel Study	7pm Zoom Bibelgruppe
Saturday 10.06 Gardening Clean Up 	Meeting at 10 Everybody is welcome who want’s to help	Garten aufräumen, jeder der kommt ist willkommen!
11.06.	9.30 English Service	11 Deutscher Gottesdienst
Friday 16.06 7.30pm 	Music for a Summer’s Eve Parkdale United Church	Music for a Summer’s Eve Parkdale United Church
18.06	9.30 English Service	11 Deutscher Gottesdienst
Freitag 23.06. 6pm		Herr Dr. Buß lädt ein zu einem Gespräch über die Lüge
Saturday 24.06	BBQ with the german catholic St Albertus church 9 Wild Acre Lane in K2W02K Kanata). Starting 11-12	Deutsches Sommerfest mit der katholischen St. Albertus Gemeinde zusammen
25.06	9.30 English Service	11 Deutscher Gottesdienst mit Abendmahl
02.07. Art Service Kunstgottesdienst	10 am Joint Service and Coffee afterward	Gemeinsamer Gottesdienst und Kaffee

	Painting: F. Hundertwasser The big way	und Kuchen im Anschluss Bild: F. Hundertwasser Der grosse Weg
04.07. Soup and Talk 	12 Soup and Talk	12 Suppe und Gespräch
09.07. Art Service	9.30 English Service Painting: C.D. Friedrich Cross in the mountains	11 Deutscher Gottesdienst Bild: C.D. Friedrich Kreuz im Gebirge
Friday, 14.07. 6pm 	Evening walk at Mer Bleue Meeting Point End of Ridge Rd, Ottawa, ON K0A 2Y0	Abendspaziergang Mer Bleue Treffpunkt: End of Ridge Rd, Ottawa, ON K0A 2Y0
16.07. Art Service	9.30 English Service Painting: Icon of Mary Hodogetria	11 Deutscher Gottesdienst Bild: Marienikone Hodogetria
23.07. Art Service	9.30 English Service Painting: El Loko ,Human	11 Deutscher Gottesdienst Bild: El Loko, Mensch
Friday 28.07 6pm BBQ in Pastors Garden	6pm BBQ in Pastors Garden	6pm BBQ in Pastors Garden
30.07. Art Service 	10 am Joint Service in the Church Garden outside Bring your chair and a hat (if it's raining we are inside)	10 gemeinsamer Gottesdienst im Kirchengarten. Bringen Sie ihren Stuhl und eine Mütze. Wenn es regnet sind wir in der Kirche.
06.08.	10 am Joint Service	10 am Gemeinsamer Gottesdienst und Kaffee und Kuchen im Anschluss
Friday, 11.08. 6pm Book Evening		

13.08.	9.30 English Service	11 Deutscher Gottesdienst
20.08.	9.30 English Service	11 Deutscher Gottesdienst
25.08 6pm Playing Cards in Church	Playing Cards in the Church	Kartenspielen in der Kirche
27.08.	9.30 English Service	11 Deutscher Gottesdienst

**We are here for you**

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[www.glco.org](http://www.glco.org)

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