



Courier Sept – November 2023



Newsletter of Martin Luther
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The Berlin Picture „The dance of the Death”



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

We still feel the sun on our skin and hear people and animals outside enjoying the summer to the fullest. Everything is blooming and full of life!

We know that next comes autumn. On the one hand a time of saying praise and thanks (Thanksgiving) but then in November the day of remembrance for the dead (All Saints Sunday).

An eternal cycle of becoming and dying. Almost like a round dance - a dance of death.

In Europe in the Middle Ages there were pictures of a so-called dance of death. One of them can be found in the Marienkirche (St Marys Church) in Berlin (see pictures). It is dated to the year 1490!

It is located right in the entrance area of the church. All visitors are greeted by this medieval painting, a dance of death painted all around on the wall. Death invites everyone to dance in the painting, including people from different backgrounds. Memento Mori - remember that you must die, the dance of death calls out to the living.

A painted Franciscan friar points the way to the Dance of Death, faded but still recognizable on the wall of the tower hall. His hand shows the way, it could

also be a gesture of blessing. Those who have gone this way, those who will still go it - they shall be blessed. It is the path that all walk.

"You wanted to live without great worries, now you have to suffer the bitter death."

So begins the text under the picture.

A good two meters high and over a length of 23 meters, we can see the dance.

In the center, we find Christ on the cross. And we find death again and again. You see all the people who lived in Berlin at that time, how they dance with death and how they talk with death. They speak directly to death and tell him that it is not yet time to die. They tell him what they have achieved in their lives, in wonderful verses that can only be seen very pale on the wall.

Death is the same for everyone. It doesn't matter who you were or what you did in life. In death you all become the same. Once in line, you are not alone in this dance of death in the entrance of St. Mary's Church.

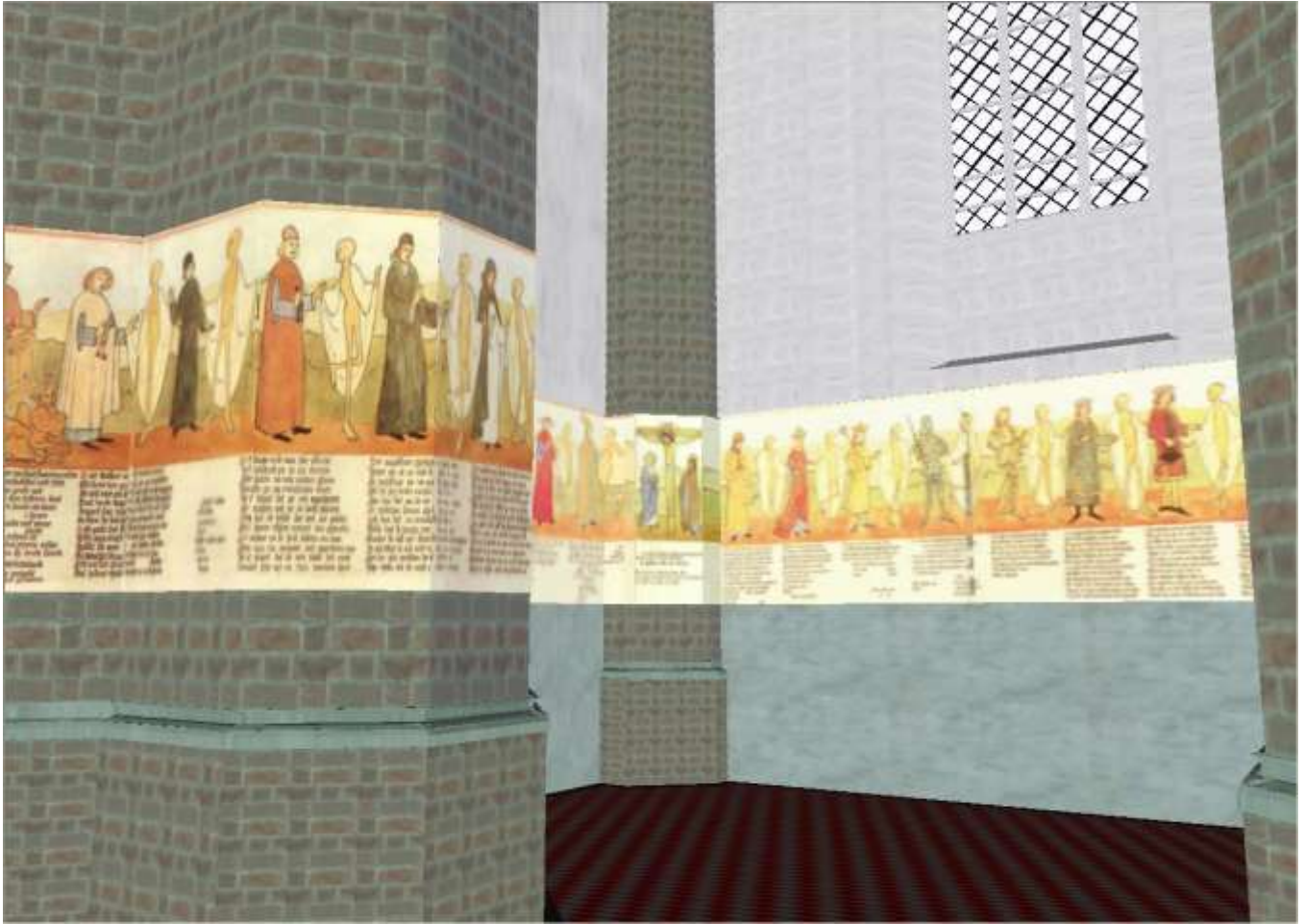
Despite all the differences in education, status and prestige, you are among your own kind in the face of death. Conceived as a circle dance, no matter where one moves, one is in the same proximity to the center, the crucified Christ.

In the cross there is a great consolation, that is the story of Good Friday, that by seeing Christ on the cross we see God suffering with us. In this center there is Christ who always looks, so to speak, from the cross and says: I know your situation and I accompany your situation, you are not alone in it.

It is a dance with death, that is quite clear. It's not about postponing death or delimiting it, it's not about ignoring death either, but understanding death as something that belongs to our life. Death does not come into our lives only at the end, but it surround us. The image goes further and says: death is not the end, death is a transition into another time, in Christian terms into eternity.

The dancing death leads those who don't stop at the tower hall of St. Mary's Church to become part of the dance and enter the church with it.

All the gathered people dance with death into it and in a certain way dance towards the East. The place where the resurrection symbolically becomes bright on Easter morning. In this direction of eternity the whole round dance moves and when you enter the church you move with these people. In other words, you do not stop at death, but you experience the walk with death together towards life, through death, to eternal life with God. Amen



President's report

Dear Parishioners,

I hope you are enjoying the wonderful, albeit short, Canadian summer. As usual, not much is happening in our church during these months.

The new council was installed and is busy planning for the fall. Unfortunately, we lost A. Popp, K. Edenhoffer, K. und C. Moritz and s. Schwartz . New to the council are Carmen and Frank Gruska and Heather Ladouceur came back to council.

Carmen Gruska, who is an interior architect, is exploring ways in which we can make our Mount Calvary Hall more user-friendly. Dividing it into two halves with a partition is desirable, but that has to be done without disturbing the ceiling. Various options are being explored and we will inform you later in the fall. Fortunately, the Mennonite church, which uses our church in the afternoon on Sundays, is prepared to support partitioning costs.

The rear portion of the parking lot in front of the elevator entrance is being redone. The statement of work reads:

This service begins by pulverizing the old asphalt. Sub-grading will then commence using granular (A) stone to ensure proper elevation, compaction and positive drainage. Approximately 50 mm of Road-Grade Asphalt (HL3 Commercial) will be applied prior to compaction

Once this is done, any water pumped out by the sump pump under the elevator will flow away from the building instead of icing in front of the entrance. This work should be done before September.

While this is expensive, it saves us money and time. Connecting the sump pump to sewers would have been more expensive, required getting permits from the city and would have caused crossing under neath Smyth Road, where unfortunately the sewer is located.

Olaf Kierschke has kindly agreed to repaint the elevator entrance in the same red that was used to paint the entrance doors.

The council will hold a retreat on October 16 at my cottage. Rev Snook of the ELCIC has kindly agreed to act again as our moderator.

I wish you a splendid fall

Konrad von Finckenstein

Summer 2023 in our congregation in some pictures

In the summer there is not much going on in our church life. Some church members were on vacation and in their cottages. Nevertheless, we had nice worship services and events during the last months.

Here are some highlights:

In June we met with Martin Luther Church Toronto in Rockport. After a small devotion in the beautiful church in Rockport we made a boat trip - during best weather - over the 1000 Islands.



One Friday evening we took an evening walk together in Mere Bleue. Again, we had wonderful weather and mosquitoes kept within limits.



And here is a picture of the barbecue in Pastors Garden. After we had to postpone it for a week, the weather cooperated well and it became a nice evening.



The Miracles of Jesus

By: Gunther Bauer

The 35 miracles in the New Testament were called signs, wonders, or miracles, and Jesus (Mathew 11: 2-6) and others (Luke 7: 16) considered them as godly works. All four evangelists described these miracles in the bible. Jesus possessed the divine capacity, given him by God, to perform these miracles. They indicated that having this capacity must be a divine gift, setting Jesus apart from all other men. But that difference is also a sign of God who sent him and to whom Jesus whole life was an increasing revelation. It was as Jesus said, a greater thing to believe in him for his own sake than to believe in him for his miracles (John 12: 44-50 and 14: 10-11).

We can divide the miracles Jesus made into five categories: Exorcism, Healing, Faith, Resurrection, and Control over Nature. The four Gospels do not each give an account of all the 35 miracles and also not in the same detail. It seems they were selective. But all four evangelists describe the raising of the three persons from death: Lazarus (John 11: 1-54), Jairus daughter (Mark 5: 21-43) and the son of the widow of Nain (Luke 7: 11-17).

Jesus didn't give the Pharisees a sign from heaven and told his disciples that they and the Pharisees didn't understand his mission. He also said that he's the living bread from heaven and whoever eats it will live forever (Mark 8: 11-21).

According to the *Life of Jesus by Strauss* and the *History of Religions by Hurst*, there seems to have been an abundance of miracles performed by Jesus, more than those reported in the present Gospels. Such a wealth of choices might have given the Evangelists a selection in recording their miracles. One also consider that the Evangelists have written their Gospels in different times.

Some miracles were unique and others happened rarely. Only once is Jesus walking on the sea (Mathew 14: 22- 23) and only twice has Jesus fed a multitude of people. First, five thousand people, besides women and children. This event is recorded in all four Gospels. The second time, it was a group of four thousand people (Mark 8: 1-8). Supposedly, these could have been different recordings of the same event. But both Mathew and Mark tell us, that these were different events.

Without doubt, the greatest miracles Jesus performed were the raising of the three persons from death. Even today, some people would like to believe that there must have been a "natural" explanation for these three cases. Could it not have been that none of the persons were actually dead.

In the case on Jairus (Mathew 9: 18) it may have been that Jesus words "She is not dead, but sleepeth", could have been true.

From the best recognitions of all these miracle records, facts and possibilities, it can be said, the evidence is overwhelming that Jesus performed these miracles.



What's going on in autumn?

That's how quickly the summer passes again and we have arrived in autumn. But again, we have some great events planned for you and with you:



Do you remember the Bible discussions with our neighbouring church, St. Aidans Church, in February of this year? They were interesting meetings and we all wished we could do that together again.

In October we will meet again four times with St. Aidans Church, each Thursday from 1-3 pm and talk about the sermon text for the next Sunday. We will meet and alternate between St. Aidans and our home.

The dates are:

October 5 -12-19-26 from 1-3 pm

FUNDRAISING DINNER

BRATWURST & SAUERKRAUT (\$ 35 P.P.)

14TH OF OCTOBER - 6PM

AT MARTIN LUTHER CHURCH OTTAWA

(PLEASE REGISTER UNTIL OCTOBER 3RD)





On Friday, November 10

at 6 pm in the Martin Luther Church

An Invitation especially for kids (a German tradition).

First, we'll listen to St. Martin's story and then walk around the church's neighborhood with lanterns while singing St. Martins songs.

At the end we share pastries and warm up with delicious children's punch.

Don't forget your lantern!

(In case of heavy rain, we will stay in the church, but the event will still take place!)

Advent Crafting - Baking - Market and Singing.

On Saturday, **December 2 at 2 pm** we plan to sing at the start of the Advent season!

After that we want to sell baked goods and odds downstairs in Mount Calvary Hall as a fundraiser.

We need your help and preparation. You can help in a variety of ways:

1) You can bake (Christmas cookies or a delicious cake) and bring it with you on Saturday so we can sell it. Please register this with Pastor Judith so we know how much we can sell.

2) You can help craft. Let's make advent crafts to sell on December 2. Join us on Saturday, **November 18th at 5pm** in Mount Calvary Hall. If you have ideas (what is nice and easy to do in crafts) please contact Pastor Judith.

3) We're selling Christmas decorations on December 2. Donate yours to us if they still look good but you don't need them. Remember to tell Pastor Judith.

4) And of course, you all come to our advent event, **on December 2**, sing along and maybe buy something - and bring friends and acquaintances!





Anton Reitenbach

19.01.1925- 16. 08.2023



Anton is predeceased by his wife Regina. Loving father of Erwin and his wife Lorraine. Sadly missed by his grandchildren Ray (Darcy), Monica (Garfield) and great-grandchildren Kieffer, Maggie and Samuel. Friends may visit at the Garden Chapel of Tubman Funeral Homes, 3440 Richmond Road, Nepean, between Bayshore and Baseline Rd. on Thursday, August 24, 2023 from 11:00 a.m. until time of service in the Chapel at 12 p.m., followed by a reception.

Dr. HASSO HAGEN,
08.02.1932 – 19.06. 2023



He was born in 1932 in Leipzig, Germany. After the war, Dr. Hagen studied in Frankfurt, Germany and became an Olympic decathlete and member of the German Junior Olympic Team who participated in the 15th Olympiad in 1952 in Helsinki, Finland. In 1954 he emigrated to Montréal, Quebec. He graduated with a law degree from McGill University and became a member of the Quebec Bar, practiced law in the private sector as Corporate Secretary in the insurance industry until he joined the federal Public Service, in National Defence's office of the Judge Advocate General.

He leaves in deepest mourning his partner in life of four decades, SuzAnne Doré, as well as his surviving children Mark Hagen, Kristina Gabellini, their loving mother Renata Hagen and their much adored granddaughter, Lola Heather Brooklyn Lomonte, of Ottawa.

We as a congregation will greatly miss Hasso Hagen as a dear member and former Church Council President, but we now know him in the arms of his Good Shepherd.

His funeral was held on the 26th of June 2023.

Dates for Martin Luther Church

September – November 2023

Sunday, 3. September 10 am	Joint Service	Gemeinsamer Gottesdienst
Sunday, 10 September	9.30 English Service	11 Deutscher GD
Tuesday 12. September	12 Soup and Talk	12 Suppe und Gespräch
Thursday, 14. September 7pm	Zoom Bible Group The 4 Gospels	Zoom Bibel Gruppe Die 4 Evangelien
Sunday, 17. September	9.30 English Service	11 Deutscher GD
Sunday, 24. September	9.30 English Service	11 Deutscher GD
Saturday 30. September	Confirmation Class	Confirmation Class
Sunday, 1st October 10 am German Erntedankfest	9.30 English Service	2 pm Deutscher Gottesdienst im Garten der deutschen Botschaft
Tuesday, 3 October	12 Soup and Talk	12 Suppe und Gespräch
Thursday, 5 October 1-3 pm	Bible Talk with St Aidans	Bibelgespräch mit St. Aidans
Sunday, 8 October	Thanksgiving 9.30 English Service	Erntedankfest 11 am Deutscher Gottesdienst
Thursday 12. October 1-3 pm	Bible talk with St. Aidans	Bibelgespräch mit St. Aidans
Thursday, 12. October 7pm	Zoom Bibel Study The New Testament letters	Zoom Bibel Gruppe Die neutestamentlichen Briefe
Saturday, 14. October 5pm	Bratwurst Dinner Fundraising Event	Bratwurst Essen Fundraising Event
Sunday, 15 October	9.30 English Service	11 Deutscher GD

Thursday, 19 October 1-3 pm	Bible Talk with St Aidans	Bibelgespräch mit St. Aidans
Sunday 22. October 10 am	Church on the way Place will be made known later	Kirche unterwegs Ort wird noch bekannt gegeben
Thursday, 26. October 1-3 pm	Bible Talk with St. Aidans	Bibelgespräch mit St. Aidans
Saturday, 28. October	Confirmation Class	Confirmation Class
Sunday, 29. October	9.30 English Service	11 Deutscher Gd
Sunday, 5. November	9.30 English Service All Saints	11 Deutscher GD
Tuesday, 7. November	12 Soup and Talk	12 Soup and Talk
Thursday, 9. November 7 pm	Zoom Bible Study	Zoom Bibel Gruppe
Friday, 10. November 6 pm	St Martin Lanternwalk	St. Martin Laternelaufen
Sunday, 12. November	9.30 English Service	11 Deutscher GD
Saturday, 18. November 5pm	Crafts Evening	Bastelabend
Sunday, 19. November	9.30 English Service	11 Deutscher GD
Sunday 26. November	Christ the King	Ewigkeitssonntag
Saturday, 2. December 2pm	Advent singing and Advent market in Mt. Calvary Hall	Adventssingen und Adventsmarkt in Mt. Calavary Hall
Saturday, 2. December 5 pm		1. Probe für das Krippenspiel
Sunday, 3. December 10 am 1. Advent	Joint Service Cake afterwards	Gemeinsamer Gottesdienst und anschließend Adventskaffetrinken und Kuchen

Wir sind für Sie da:

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Bitte rufen Sie an oder senden Sie eine Email, wenn Sie ein persönliches Gespräch wünschen.

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