



Courier

September – November 2024



Martin Luther Church Ottawa

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Dear congregation,

for the German members of the congregation it is a well-known tradition in November – the Canadian members of the congregation don't really know what that is. St. Martin's Day – typically celebrated on November 11th.

Here in Canada, 11th of November is Remembrance Day, which commemorates the fallen soldiers and honors those who served in the war.

But who was St. Martin?

Martin was the son of a high-ranking Roman officer. He was born in 316 in what is now Hungary. Like his father, Martin served as a soldier in the Imperial Army. He was a good person and helped many people who were not as well off as he was.

Once, on a winter evening, he rode to the city of Amiens, in France. At the city gate he met a man who was dressed only in a few rags and was hungry. It was cold outside and the man was freezing and asked for help with a trembling hand. Martin had neither money nor food with him. So he simply took his sword and cut his warm military coat in two. He gave one half to the poor man, the other half he kept for himself. Both were happy: Martin that he had helped the freezing man in the emergency – the poor man that he didn't have to freeze to death. The following night, something strange happened. Jesus Christ appeared to Martin in his sleep. He wore one half of the cloak. To the angels who were with him, he said, "Martin, who has not yet been baptized, has given me this mantle."

After this experience, Martin decided to no longer remain a Roman soldier. He wanted to become a Christian. Martin was baptized and resolved to be there for Jesus and to serve Him. At the time, he was just 18 years old. He took lessons in the Christian faith and eventually became a priest. He withdrew into solitude and helped many poor and sick people. The people really liked him a lot. One day, people wanted to make him a bishop. But Martin didn't want to. It is said that he hid in a goose coop, but the geese betrayed him by their chatter. That's how people found him.

In 371 Martin became bishop of Tours on the Loire. He built several chapels and monasteries and made many people good Christians. He especially helped the poor. In 397, he passed away and was laid to rest in Tours. A large cathedral was later built over his grave. Soon after his death, people revered him as a saint.

And how do we celebrate St. Martin's Day?



In Germany, on St. Martin's Day (11 November), parades with many colourful lanterns take place in many areas in honour of St. Martin. They commemorate the popular bishop and his many good deeds. Most of the time, the story with the beggar is also re-enacted. In some areas, children go from house to house with their lanterns after the St. Martin's procession, sing St. Martin's songs and recite little poems. In return, they get sweets from the adults.

In some places, the St. Martin's fire is lit on the eve of St. Martin's Day.

To this day, many people eat a goose with friends or family on St. Martin's Day. The custom is said to have something to do with legend: Martin had the geese, which had betrayed his hiding place by their chatter, slaughtered and roasted without further ado.

This year, on November 9, we will celebrate St. Martin again in the evening in our church and hope for many children with lanterns. Then we sing the old St. Martin's songs and parade through the neighborhood with our lights. Afterwards we share cookies, maybe little St. Martin's geese this year!

ST. MARTIN'S GEESE BAKE YOURSELF

INGREDIENTS:

For the yeast dough:

30 fresh yeast, 70 g sugar, 500 g flour, 250 g milk, lukewarm, 60 g butter, 1 egg, size M, 1 pinch of salt

In addition:

- Some raisins or chocolate drops

PREPARATION

For the pre-dough, sift the flour into a large mixing bowl and form a well in the middle.

Dissolve the yeast in lukewarm milk with a little sugar. Put the yeast mixture in the well and sprinkle with a little flour from the edge. Cover the mixture and let it rise in a warm place without draughts for 20 minutes.

Now add the remaining ingredients to the dough and knead briefly. Add the butter to the dough at the very end! Knead the dough for a long time. Shape the dough into a ball by hand.

Place in a bowl, sprinkle with a little flour so that the dough does not dry out and let it rise covered for about 60 minutes.

Line two - three baking sheets with baking paper.

Now flour a work surface and knead the dough well again.

Roll out the yeast dough and cut out geese with a large cookie cutter and spread them on the baking sheets. Alternatively, cut out the outlines of geese on a piece of cardboard and use them to make the geese out of the dough.

For the eye of the goslings, press raisins into the dough. Alternatively, use non-melting chocolate drops

Cover the St. Martin's geese and let them rest for about 20 minutes.

Preheat the oven to 180° C top/bottom heat and then bake the geese in the oven for about 20 minutes until they are golden brown.



Report of the President

Dear Parishioners:

A beautiful summer is coming to an end. We all enjoyed this incredibly warm July and August, albeit mixed with a few days of torrential rain. Let us hope for a long and unforgettable colourful fall.

Not much happened in our church. The principal activity was the renovation of our basement. Under the guidance of Carmen Gruska aided by a construction committee consisting of Barbara Zabel, Klaus Moritz and Ute Davis our basement has been transformed. The cupboard on the side walls, for containing the belongings of our renter's church, has been moved and now can be found at the back of the stage. This means we can have access to the windows again and air out the basement. Very tasteful panelling and decorative shelves are on each side now. In addition, immediately on the right side is a long open cupboard to hang one's coats. When all is finished, you will find a very inviting and warm room that hopefully will see many activities and festivities.

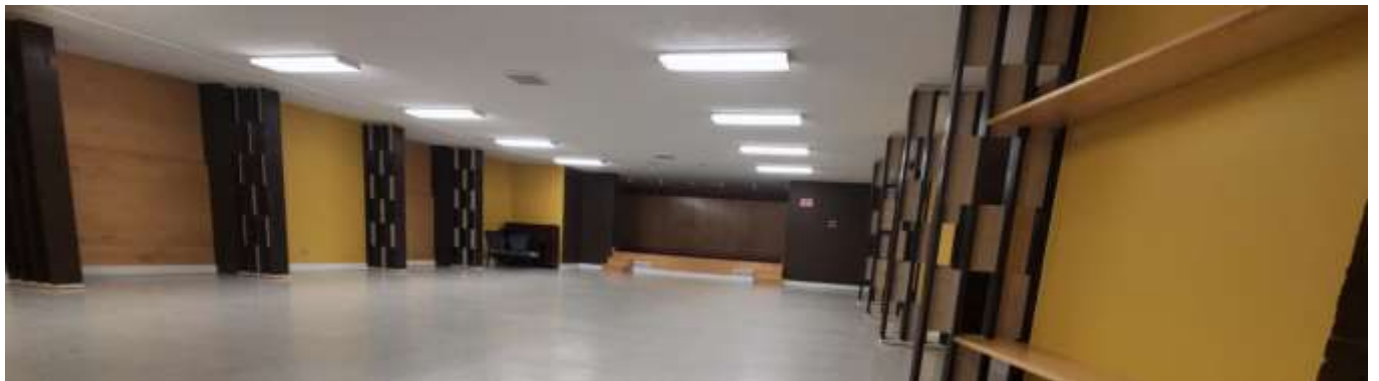
To allow people to use the side door entrance during activities, a new bar Panic Exit Device was purchased and kindly installed by Olaf. Now the door can be set for open from the inside. It is no longer necessary to am a brick into the door so that it stays open.

And most of us on July 12 enjoyed a great German Bratwurst sausage BBQ at the pastor's house. Many thanks Olaf and Judith.

Have a wonderful fall, enjoy a beautiful Indian summer

Your President *Konrad*

(A first impression – you'd better see for yourself!)



OUR GARDEN

Dear friends

Thank you to all who helped maintain the gardens through the summer. It will soon be fall and there are a few tasks for yard and garden at this lovely time of year. Based on previous years, there will likely be leaves to rake and gardens to trim by late October.

I propose that we hold a Fall Garden Cleanup the week after Thanksgiving,

Saturday October 19 at 10:00 am.

Let's plan to meet and enjoy some fall gardening.

There are geraniums in the raised beds on either side of the staircase off the parking lot.

I would suggest we put each of them in a pot and offer them to people to who might like to take one or more home for the winter. Eight inch pots would work best. This could be done anytime after Thanksgiving. The plants could be brought back to the church next spring to plant back into the boxes.

We have 2 Clematis plants that would better thrive if they had mulch at the base and a small bush planted in front of them to shade the roots. Ideas for this welcome.

Enjoy the rest of summer.

Marianne Thornton



The 95 Theses Are Posted

An article by: Gunther Bauer

The date always given as the beginning of the Reformation is October 31, 1517, and the reason for that date is invariably the assertion that on that day the Augustinian monk Martin Luther nailed his Ninety-Five Theses to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg.

The sound of the hammer blows was heard through the streets of the city, so we were told in school. That date was only selected based on Melanchthon's recollection. Melanchthon was not in Wittenberg in 1517, but he stated that this date is what he has heard over the years. Why then is the Reformation's beginning always given that date? Most probably because Martin Luther sent on October 31, 1517, an important letter, including the 95 theses, to the honorable Albrecht, Archbishop of Mainz, complaining about the sale of the papal indulgence letters in Saxony in order to pay for the construction of the St. Peter church in Rome. The church also assured the people that the purchase of these letters would give them eternal salvation of the soul. Luther thought the archbishop was in a position to do something about the sale of these letters, since they were financially a severe burden for the people.

But Luther did not know that the Archbishop was deeply involved and supported the sale of the papal indulgence letters. In order to become archbishop, Albrecht had to pay a bundle of money for that position, money that he did not have. But the 24-year-old Albrecht had a desperate desire to be the Archbishop of Mainz, so he borrowed the money from the rich business man Jakob Fugger. In order to pay back the loan, Albrecht sponsored the indulgence crusade in his territory, if he could keep half of the raised money. No one needed to know. And so it happened. Martin Luther, of course, knew nothing about this.

The Archbishop Albrecht allowed Luther however, to post the 95 theses on the church door, if it was an invitation for an academic discussion. The theses were probably posted in the first two weeks of November in 1517. They were written in Latin, the language of the church and scientists. The theses did explicitly state that they are an invitation for an academic discussion. Luther mentioned that briefly at the beginning of the theses, with the following words:

Out of love for the truth and from the desire to explain it, the Reverend Father Martin Luther, Master of Arts and Sacred Theology and ordinary Professor at the Wittenberg University, intends to defend the following statements and to dispute on them in that place. Therefore, he asks that those who cannot be present and dispute on them orally, shall do so in their absence by letter. In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.

Luther had sent copies of his letter to Albrecht, including the 95 theses, not only to Archbishop Albrecht, but to all academic allies and friends he respected. The Nuremberg humanist and printer Christopher Scheuerle was impressed with what he read. He had the theses translated into the German language, without asking for copyright permission, printed and distributed them. Luther was not aware of this. But copies were also printed in other cities, like Leipzig, Stuttgart and Basel.

The cat was out of the bag. The speed with which Luther's Theses appeared in Europe, were unprecedented in the world. The advent of printing advanced the Reformation and stunned everybody, certainly Luther.



Review and outlook

Summer is always travel time. Many of you were away and are still on the road and Pastor Kierschke was also on the road, professionally and then privately.

It started in June with a brief trip to TORONTO for the assembly of the ELCIC.



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By the way, this is the new LOGO of the ELCIC. All the pastors of the Eastern Synod were present at the assembly, as well as delegates from the congregations. A lot was elected and decided, as is customary at synods. Among other things, a new bishop was also elected. After Bishop Michael Pryse had been bishop of the Eastern Synod of the ELCIC since 1998, Carla Blakly was elected. In the picture you can see Carla Blakley (right) and National Bishop Susan Johnson (left).



In July, Pastor Kierschke was in Germany because there was a meeting of all German Pastors working abroad in Hofgeismar (near Kassel). This conference takes place every 2-3 years and the EKD Pastors have to go there. Besides content, it is always very interesting to meet colleagues from other countries and to find out again and again, even if they are in South America, Europe, Africa or Asia, the topics, joys and problems are similar in all congregations.

On a private note: After 4 years in Canada, our daughter Emma Kierschke has now graduated from High School in Ottawa and will study Physics in Germany, in Berlin at the Humboldt University in October.

And we grilled together this summer:

With Faith Ottawa Church



With the Catholic St. Albertus Church



And with Kierschkes in the garden



What is going on in the next months?

In September we want to celebrate a neighborhood festival and draw attention to ourselves in the area. We distribute these flyers and hope that many people will come. Come with family and friends too!

And of course, you can also take part in the photo competitions!



On Saturday September 14th between 12 and 3pm, we invite all our friends and neighbours to join us in our garden .

There will be sausages, face painting, and a photo booth where you and your children can dress up and be a work of art. The photos will be emailed to you, or you can come see the photos at the church service on Sunday, September 22 at 10am.
See who has the best photos.

Come and get to know your neighbourhood church. We look forward to meeting our neighbours.

Martin Luther Church, Ottawa

933 Smyth Road, Ottawa

What else is happening?

As in the past, we want to do something together with our neighbouring church **of St. Aidans** again in the next three months. Maybe Bible discussions, but maybe something else. However, since Pastor Rosemary Parker was on sabbatical from May to August, we could not think any further and could not make any appointments until the editorial deadline of this church newsletter. So I will announce it in the service, post it on the Internet on our homepage and tell you by email if and what we will do together with St. Aidans. Don't worry, you will be informed!

The **Zoom Bible Studies** with the congregations from Toronto and Washington DC in German and English will also continue. The dates are:

17 September – 15 October – 19.11 at 7 pm

The Zoom link will be sent to you by email.

Erntedankfest in the garden of the German Embassy

As it is already a dear tradition, we want to celebrate the German Erntedankfest in the garden of the German Embassy again this year.

The service will take place with the St. Albertus parish in the garden of the German Embassy on **September 29th at 2 a.m.!!** I look forward to seeing many of you there!



Dates in the Martin Luther Church September to November

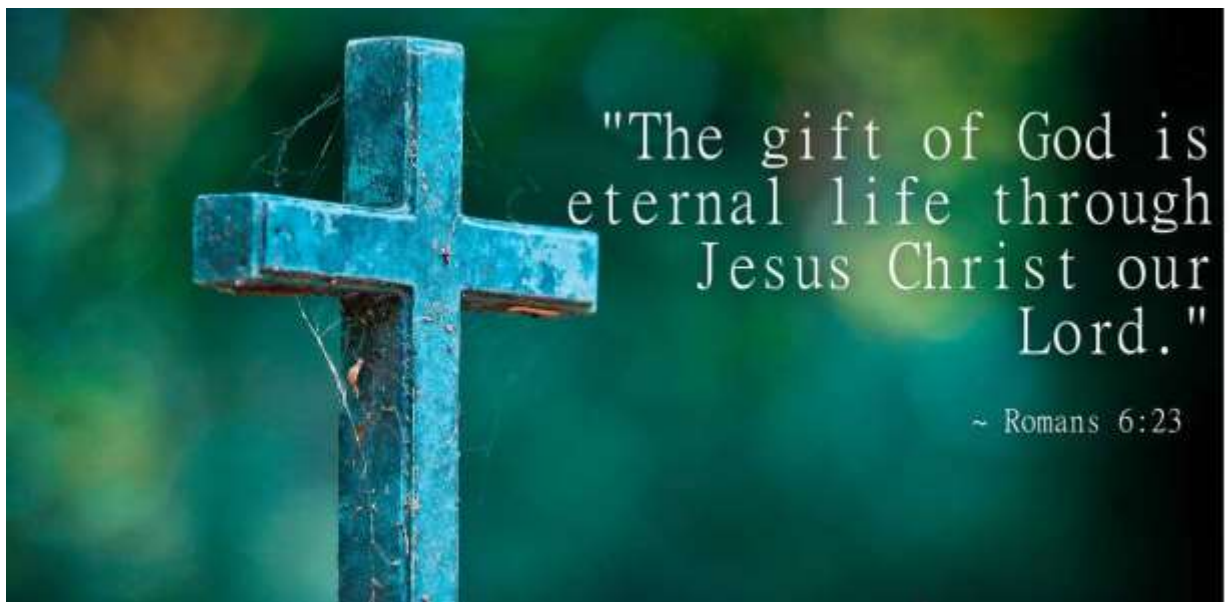
Sunday, 01.09.	10 Joint Service and Coffee	10 Joint Service mit Kaffee
Sunday, 08.09.	9.30 English Service	11 Deutscher Gottesdienst
Tuesday, 10.09.	12 Soup and Talk	12 Suppe und Gespräch
Saturday, 14.09.	12- 3pm Martin Luther Garden Party	12-3pm Martin Luther Garten Fest
Sunday, 15.09.	9.30 English Service	11 Deutscher Gottesdienst
Tuesday, 17.09.	7 pm Bible Study Zoom	7pm Zoom Bible Study
Sunday, 22.09.	10 am JOINT SERVICE with Coffee afterwards	10 am gemeinsamer Gottesdienst mit Kirchenkaffee
Saturday, 28.09.	Confirmation Class	Confirmation Class
Sunday, 29.09.	9.30 English Service	2pm Deutscher Erntedankgottesdienst im Garten der Deutschen Botschaft
Sunday 06.10.	10 Joint Service, Coffee afterwards	10 Gemeinsamer Gottesdienst mit Kirchenkaffee
Tuesday, 08.10.	12 Soup and Talk	12 Suppe und Gespräch
Sunday, 13.10.	9.30 Thanksgiving Service	11 Deutscher Gottesdienst
Tuesday, 15.10.	7 pm Bible Study Zoom	7 pm Zoom Bible study
Freitag, 18.10.		6pm Deutscher Kinoabend mit einem Film über Caspar David Friedrich
Saturday, 19.10.	10am Garden working day	10 am Garten Arbeitstag
Sunday 20.10.	9.30 English Service	11 Deutscher Gottesdienst
Saturday, 26.10.	Confirmation Class	Konfirmandenzeit
Sunday, 27.10.	9.30 English Service	11 Deutscher Gottesdienst
Sunday, 03.11.	9.30 All Saints Service	11 Deutscher Gottesdienst
Saturday, 09.11.		6pm St. Martin
Sunday, 10.11.	10 am Joint service with Coffee afterwards	10 Gemeinsamer Gottesdienst mit Kirchenkaffee
Tuesday, 12.11.	12 pm Soup and Talk	12 Suppe und Gespräch
Sunday, 17.11.	9.30 English Service	11 Deutscher Gottesdienst
Tuesday, 19.11.	7 pm Zoom Bible Study	7 pm Zoom Bible Study
Sunday, 24.11.	9.30 Christ the King service	11 Ewigkeitssonntag
Saturday, 30.11.		5 pm Probe Krippenspiel
Sunday, 01.12.	10 Joint Service and Advent Coffee afterwards	10 Gemeinsamer Gottesdienst und Advent Kirchenkaffee im Anschluss

THE FOLLOWING HAVE GONE HOME TO GOD FROM OUR
CONGREGATION:

Suanne Emma Margarethe Gräfin Finckenstein (02.05.1934 – 13.12.2023)

Judith Lila Eastman (14 June 1944 – 24. June 2024)

Carl Frank Kropp (03. July 1935 – 28. July 2024)



We are here for you:

Church Address: 933 Smyth Road, Ottawa ON K1G1P5

Phone: (613) 733 5804

www.glco.org

Facebook: Martin Luther Ottawa Congregation



Pastor: Judith Kierschke, (613) 552 9587

[pastorkierschke\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:pastorkierschke(at)gmail.com)

Please call or send an email if you would like a personal conversation.

Musician: MaryAnn Foley 613-225-2522 / macfoley(AT)rogers.com

President of the Church Council: Konrad von Finckenstein, (613) 744-5856 / finckenstein(AT)gmail.com

Co- President: Heidi Rausch, (613) 247-9102 / hrausch(AT)hotmail.ca

Treasurer: Marion Fraser / (613)2384648 / mdfraser(AT)bell.net

Other members of the church council:

Ute Davis, Carmen and Frank Gruska, Heather Ladouceur, Carole and Klaus Moritz
Sheri Pendlebury, Christina and Lutz Wendorff, Barbara Zabel,

Church and Financial Secretary: Heather Bent, (613) 248-0600 / heatherbent(AT)bell.net