

## Luther's Seal for all times and people

### A Rose by Any Other Name

Designed by Martin Luther, the Luther Coat of Arms has become the world-wide symbol of the Church of the Augsburg Confession, commonly known as the Lutheran Church. The Luther Rose, also known as the Luther Seal, is easily the most recognized symbol for Lutheranism, and for good reason. Martin Luther personally oversaw the creation of this symbol. It provides a beautiful summary of his faith, a faith that is common to all Christians, of every place and every time.

Luther explains: "As you desire to know whether my painted seal...has hit the mark, I shall answer most amiably and tell you my original thoughts and reason about why my seal is a symbol of my theology. The first should be a black cross in a heart, which retains its natural color, so that I myself would be reminded that faith in the Crucified saves us. 'For one who believes from the heart will be justified' (Romans 10:10a). Such a heart should stand in the middle of a white rose, to show that faith gives joy, comfort, and peace. In other words, it places the believer into a white, joyous rose, for this faith does not give peace and joy like the world gives (John 14:27). Such a rose should stand in a sky-blue field,

symbolizing that such joy in spirit and faith is a beginning of the heavenly future joy, which begins already, but is grasped in hope, not yet revealed. And around this field is a golden ring, symbolizing that such blessedness in Heaven lasts forever and has no end. Such blessedness is exquisite, beyond all joy and goods, just as gold is the most valuable, most precious and best metal. This is my compendium theologiae (summary of theology). I have wanted to show it to you in good friendship, hoping for your appreciation. May Christ, our beloved Lord, be with your spirit until the life hereafter. Amen."\* (see page 2)



Luther's Rose is brought to life at the altar as the German and English Speaking Congregations celebrate communion. Photo by Ekkehard Lagoda

The symbol we use for the ELCG was created by member Edwin Hassink and was inspired by the Luther rose. The re-interpretation of the symbolism Luther wanted to express, combined with the

particularities of our congregation, made him come up with a rose created by figures of people joining around the altar table; people holding hands, creating a circle, passing the bread and wine to each other; people dancing, joyfully celebrating in and around communion.

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## Reunion in Tokyo

During the recent visit to Tokyo by Noriko and Satoru Kishii, current and previous members of the the Japanese Bible Study Group of ELCG had a reunion and shared a great time of fellowship.

On the afternoon of 30 April 2005, thirty people (sixteen families) gathered at Ivy Hall (a.k.a. Aogaku Kaikan), across the street from the UN House in Tokyo. Those who gathered included the Katsuno family, Yoshiko Ando and her mother, Iwao Nakamura and his daughter Kozue, Kazushige Morimoto, Kohei Nakamura, the Mano

family, Hideaki and Haruno Nakagawa, along with those visiting from Geneva: Noriko and Satoru Kishii and Kumiko and Donat Stellfeld.

The gathering started with singing a hymn, conducted by Mayumi Katsuno, followed by prayer and a fellowship luncheon. While some of those present have just come home to Japan from Geneva, there were also other people who left Geneva sometime ago. They renewed their friendships and updated each other on their lives. Rev.

(Continued on page 3)

**The Rose** from page 1

\* Excerpt from Martin Luther, Letter to Lazarus Spengler, July 8, 1530, as included in the translation by Amy Marga from *Luthers Siegel: Eine elementare Deutung seiner Theologie*. The text used for this translation is from Johannes Schilling, Briefe, Auswah, Übersetzung und Erläuterungen in Vol. 6 of *Ausgewählte Schriften/ MartinLuther*. The text of Luther's letter is also found in the Weimar edition of *Luther's Works, Briefe* Vol. 5:444f and in English translation in *Luther's Works: American Edition*, Vol. 49:356-359.



**Thanks to Anika Sergel-Kohls for leading a candle making workshop on 24 June. The finished products were lovely. See page 8 for a picture of the group at work.**

**Visit our website at [www.genevalutheran.ch](http://www.genevalutheran.ch)**

Looking for a past sermon? Can't remember a meeting date? It's all on our congregation's website which is updated regularly. It's a great place to find information about what's happening and what did happen if you missed wor-

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Susan Singh

## **Reflection by The Reverend Lusmarina Campos Garcia**

Summer has arrived. Sunshine is abundant and days warm. The waters of the lake are refreshing in a 32° Celsius afternoon. It is time to have a break, to play, to travel, to get rid of the everyday routine that sometimes ties us up and tires us. More than appropriate, vacation sounds great!

Vacation is a time for recreation. When discussing a theme for this issue of the Geneva Lutheran, recreation came up as a perfect word. Not only for its usual meaning, but because of its theological implication: re-create. Recreation has to do with the processes of being created again, or with the fact of creation renewing itself. In this perspective, vacation and recreation take us back to the old biblical tradition of the Sabbath, Saturday, the resting day.

In the context of Genesis, the story of creation ends with God's rest on the seventh day. It is important to remember that the book of Genesis is a collection of material derived from different sources that started to be written in the fourth century before Christ and organized in a more final format after the captivity in Babylon (589 - 538 B.C.). As important as affirming faith in the Creator God was the affirmation of the right to rest. The concept of the Sabbath was born from the experience of slavery and captivity. It was a statement about the need of recuperating time to rest, to pray, to look at oneself and reflect about one's life, to build community with those who are not part of one's daily life. The Sabbath was a way of recuperating human dignity and of recognizing deep values in creation.

Creation has mechanisms of rest in itself. The seasons are the most evident form of nature breaking its own routine. In the south, where the seasons are not so obvious, there are constant processes of starting and ending, birth and dying. Day and night set the limits for each other. "Giving a break" and resting are requirements impregnating the whole of creation.

Throughout the centuries, Christian societies have developed rigid ethics of work that alter the notion of the Sabbath to some extent. The concept of "saving the world" either in an old-missionary-conversionist perspective or in a contemporary-human-rights type of framework, burdens those who work and makes the word "rest" almost sound sinful. If we consider a more secularized perspective, workers are constantly pressed under demands for success. Our notion of comfort and basic needs is increasingly expanding. Our concept of education is every day more complex and students have to adapt. No time is left in our daily calendars to return to nature and reconnect with the whole of creation as our ancestors wisely did. It is not surprising that so many people are diagnosed with stress-related diseases.

If our notion of work, studies and daily activities does not intrinsically include time for rest, we need to redefine it and change our behavior.

It is summer! Let us enjoy vacation! Let us enter the process of re-creation that God offers us through rest and joy.

*Lusmarina*



**Children's Sunday 22 May 2005**

## Bible Readings

### NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

**17 July 2005**  
Isaiah 44:6-8  
Psalm 86:11-17  
Romans 8:12-25  
Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

### TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

**24 July 2005**  
1 Kings 3:5-12  
Psalm 119:129-136  
Romans 8:26-39  
Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

### ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

**31 July 2005**  
Isaiah 55:1-5  
Psalm 145:8-9, 15-22  
Romans 9:1-5  
Matthew 14:13-21

### TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

**7 August 2005**  
1 Kings 19:9-18  
Psalm 85:8-13  
Romans 10:5-15  
Matthew 14:22-33

### THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

**14 August 2005**  
Isaiah 56:1, 6-8  
Psalm 67  
Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32  
Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28

### FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

**21 August 2005**  
Isaiah 51:1-6  
Psalm 138  
Romans 12:1-8  
Matthew 16:13-20

### FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

**28 August 2005**  
Jeremiah 15:15-21  
Psalm 26:1-8  
Romans 12:9-21  
Matthew 16:21-28

### SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

**4 September 2005**  
Ezekiel 33:7-11  
Psalm 119:33-40  
Romans 13:8-14  
Matthew 18:15-20

### SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

**11 September 2005**  
Genesis 50:15-21  
Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13  
Romans 14:1-12  
Matthew 18:21-35

### EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

**18 September 2005**  
Jonah 3:10-4:11  
Psalm 145:1-8  
Philippians 1:21-30  
Matthew 20:1-16

## Reunion in Tokyo (Continued from page 1)

Satoru Kishii related recent developments in Geneva. Six families living in the vicinity of Tokyo could not participate in the reunion this time. There are plans for another gathering in the near future - *Hideaki Nakagawa*

## Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

### Week 30: 17-23 July

Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico

### Week 31: 24-30 July

The Caribbean: Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago

### Week 32: 31 July-6 August

Canada, USA

### Week 33: 7-13 August

Aotearoa New Zealand, Australia

### Week 34: 14-20 August

The Pacific Islands: Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Western Samoa and the French Overseas Territories of New Caledonia (Kanaky) and French Polynesia (Tahiti)

### Week 35: 21-27 August

Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania

### Week 36: 28 August-3 September

Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia

### Week 37: 4-10 September

Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Slovenia, Yugoslavia

### Week 38: 11-17 September

Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania

## Refreshment Duties after Worship

Every week a neighbourhood group prepares refreshments after worship. If you are not sure which group you belong to, please contact the church.



**July 24** Group A  
(Nyon, Coppet, Crans, Gex, Ferney, etc.)

**July 31** Group B  
(Versoix, Bellevue, Chambésy, etc.)

**August 7** Group C  
(Meyrin, Vernier, Châtellaine, Lignon, etc.)

**August 14** Group D  
(Grand-Saconnex and Petit-Saconnex)

**August 21** Group E  
(Servette, Paquis, Vermont, Délices, etc.)

**August 28** Group F  
(Centre Ville, Jonction, Carouge, Eaux-Vives, Acacias, etc.)

**September 4** Group G  
(Chêne-Bougeries, Florissant, Coligny, Vésenaz, etc.)

**September 11** Group H  
(Lancy, Onex, Bernex, France Haute Savoie, etc.)

**September 18** Group A  
(Nyon, Coppet, Crans, Gex, Ferney, etc.)



## Regular Church Activities

### Every Sunday morning

Christian education programme

\*8-14 yrs. old, 10:00 *at the church*

Adult forum, 10:00 *at the Spaghetti Factory, Rue de la Fontaine 13 (close to the church)*

Sunday worship, 11:00

### Every Thursday

\*Bible study, 9:30-11:00 *at the home of Lynn Granke, Chemin Jacques Attenville, 12 in Grand Saconnex*

\*Junior choir, 18:30 *at the church*

\*Adult choir, 20:00 *at the church*

### Every Friday

Confirmation class, 18:30 *on the third floor of the church*

### Monday-Saturday

Open Church, 12:00-13:00 *at the church*

### Third Tuesday of each month

Japanese Bible study, 20:30 *at the home of Thomas and Koko Taylor, 11 chemin Gamay, Bernex*

### First Saturday of each month

Worship in French, 18:00 *in the cave routée at the church*

### Third Sunday of each month

Concerts for Peace, *at the church*

\* Activities resume in September.

# Concerts **for Peace**

**21 August** 20h00  
Chorale Internationale Gospel de Geneve  
Gospel Concert

**18 September** 20h00  
La Brante  
musique villageois de Bernex

**16 October** 17h00  
Regine Kummer, Michel Piuz & Pierre Villard  
Organ and alphorn trio playing Swiss music

Concerts are held on every third Sunday of the month. There is a time for reflection at each concert on the theme of peace – peace in our world, between nations, between people, and in our hearts – and a time for lighting a candle to symbolize the presence of Christ who is our peace.

**Mark your calendars  
for the  
Congregational  
Retreat!  
8-9 October 2005**

**Open Position  
Church Secretary  
See the website  
for details.  
[www.genevalutheran.ch](http://www.genevalutheran.ch)**

## FETE DE LA MUSIQUE

Thanks to the organizing efforts of Ingrid Keller and Monika Güsewell along with the generosity of many volunteers, Fete de la Musique was a fun and successful weekend from 7-9 June. The church was abuzz as hundreds of people passed by to hear a concert, have a snack and share some conversation. Thanks to all who participated.



Kiki Lawal explains the recipe for a favorite childhood treat at Fete de la Musique. This was a joint project between the English and German Speaking Congregations that raised more than 2700 CHF for the general fund.



## Plans for a hope and a future...

The future looked bright at ELCG as we joined in celebrating the Confirmation of Vivienne Moore, Ruben Schep, Aditya Manchala, and Brett Granke pictured here with Pastor Lusmarina. This outstanding group of young people spent months preparing for this moment. As their community of faith, we offer our continued love and support and embrace them in our lifelong journey to be the body of Christ in Geneva.

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” *Jeremiah 29:11 NIV*



## SUMMER FUN



## Eghbet Hyab

(Eghbet signifies "SATISFACTION" and Hyab signifies "GIFT")



14 January 2005  
23h41  
3.5 kg  
50 cm

Mother: Seare Saba  
Father: Nemariam Ghirmaleoul  
Grandparents: Nemariam Haile and Seare Paulos

## Mathias Olivier Barbe



26 June 2004  
23h15  
3.8 kg  
50 cm

Mother: Klara M. Posfay Barbe  
Father: Remy P. Barbe  
Grandparents: George & Emese Posfay and  
Edouard & Jacqueline (deceased) Barbe

## Deborah Shui Hei Taruli Sitorus



8 June 2005  
14h45  
3.53 kg  
50 cm

Mother: JoAnne Lam  
Father: Bismark Sitorus  
Grandparents: Rev. Karl Shu Sang Lam & Mrs. Iris Lam  
and Dr. Bistok & Mrs. Jeny Sitorus



## David Richard Speicher Woolgrove



25 June 2005  
03h18  
2.75 kg  
6lbs 1oz

Mother: Sara Speicher  
Father: James Woolgrove  
Grandparents: Fran & David (deceased) Woolgrove  
and Marianne & Richard Speicher

## Noah Christopher Gorrell



7 June 2005  
21h18  
3.42 kg  
51 cm

Mother: Lynn Gorrell  
Father: Michael Gorrell  
Grandparents: Richard & Shirley Nabors  
and James & Barbara Gorrell

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What is your child's future occupation? What would you change about the world for your child? What is the best part of parenthood so far? For the new parents' answers to these questions, check out the website at [www.genevalutheran.ch](http://www.genevalutheran.ch) and add your own comments and advice.

## RE-CREATION

The birth of a child makes even the most cynical spare a smile. A fresh generation that may see the end of poverty, hunger and injustice. Humankind starting anew. Our hope is rekindled by their innocence.

But there is freshness even for those of us a bit older. Apoptosis. From the Greek words *apo* meaning “from” and *ptosis* meaning “falling”, it is the programmed death of our cells. Cells are amazing things. Most of them live less than a month – our bodies are constantly renewing themselves. Even though brain cells are with us for life (and, unfortunately, always decreasing in quantity – think fast), even the substance of these cells is constantly renewed. According to Bill Bryson in “A Short History of Nearly Everything”, “it has been suggested that there isn’t a single bit of any of us – not so much as a stray molecule – that was part of us nine years ago. It may not feel like it, but at the cellular level we are all youngsters.”

Since old skins are no good for new wine, let us rejoice that God continually recreates us inwardly and outwardly to be ready to receive the outpouring of His blessings through the Spirit. *-Editor*

### We Have Hope *(Continued from page 8)*

the General Board of Global Ministries in New York, first asked me if I could play this for morning devotions. I tried, but I must confess I hadn’t caught the “body” of the music nor the force of its rhythm. After coming to work for the WCC, I heard it played on a tape by Latin Americans. I started practicing how to make that sound and how to catch that atmosphere. One morning in the chapel of the WCC, we sang the Tango. Everyone could hear Emilio Castro, the General Secretary at the time, singing at the top of his lungs. He later told me that it was the moment when he realized that I was not just a North American musician. So this Tango is part of my liberation too.

Pablo Sosa, the great composer from Argentina, told another story of the Tango. Rosario, the home town of now Bishop Pagura, held a festival in his honor. But Bishop Pagura didn’t just soak in the honors; he used the occasion to berate the town officials about their woefully inadequate concern for the poor and elderly – and with such power that the town officials got angry and cut the microphone. So Pablo, leading the band and choir assembled for the grand occasion, launched into the Tango. The official cut the microphones for the choir as well. But the song could not be stopped. Without amplification, the huge crowd together joined in singing the Tango. “So nothing can hold back his mighty story nor his eternal kingdom tomorrow. So we today can trust we have a future, so we have hope.”

*See the GenevaLutheran online at [www.genevalutheran.ch](http://www.genevalutheran.ch) for Pastor Lusmarina’s recounting of her experience with Pagura’s Tango.*



## Staying Connected: A Collection of Emails

Dear Pastor Lusmarina,  
My family and I have been receiving and reading the Geneva Lutheran with joy ever since it became a regular mail-gift to us from ELCG, during our time in Zimbabwe and now Zambia. At times though, its arrival within a 'reasonable' period following its dispatch has been affected by the postal service delays. Now I can download the newsletter, complete with colour and all, exactly as it is in paper form, and I think it is only reasonable to notify you to discontinue the mailed format. I will unfortunately miss having it lying around at home for others to read as well!

I would like to thank you and the Congregation for keeping us all your old friends and fellow worshippers informed about the ELCG life and its members. Reading Pastor’s reflections, retreats, activities or visitors lectures (eg Dr Chung’s 'Lutherans are boring!') many a time lights up one’s day, week, etc. We will forever remember you all, and trust that you also will always remember us in your prayers.

**Calson, Maria and Thabiso Mbegabolawe**  
Lusaka, Zambia

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From an associate in Brussels:

Is your pastor still Lusmarina? She sounds like a wonderful person from your website. By the way, your website is just top rate. Who manages it?

Peace, **Jake**

*(Editor’s Note: Our webmaster is Stephen Padre.)*

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"Warm greetings from Seattle and to those wonderful folks in Geneva who may still remember Ruth and me.

**Paul Bartling**

(former pastor ELCG English-Speaking Congregation)

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Dear Pastor Garcia,

I was a member of the Lutheran Church in Geneva from late 1963 thru about mid 1965 and I was totally amazed at your web site. I was in Geneva with Chrysler International and became very close during that time with several members of the church.

Back then, Dr. Wm. VanHorn Davies was the pastor and following his rather sudden death, the various pastoral members took turns in conducting Sunday worship services. Among them were Yoshiro Ishida, Peter Kjeseth, Carl Mau, Ruben Pedersen, Arne Sovik and others that I cannot recall now.

What led me to finding your website is that I'm planning a short visit to Geneva in September and was trying to get updated on changes that have occurred to things that my family was familiar with. To say the least, I was overwhelmed by the information on your site and so very pleased to see that the church has survived and apparently flourished.

Is there a way to know now if anyone who was a member back then might still be in Geneva? If so, it would be wonderful to get to meet them again. At any rate, congratulations on your excellent website and hope to meet you when we are in town.

**Jack Crichton**

*(Please call the office for Jack’s contact information.)*

Send your news and updates to  
[newsletter@genevalutheran.ch](mailto:newsletter@genevalutheran.ch).  
The Geneva Lutheran is published bi-monthly.

## We Have Hope by Terry MacArthur

That's the title of the song, but I always call it the tango. We sang it for the service during the Fête de la Musique. Maybe people struggled with the words on the fourth page and the music on the first three, but probably no one seemed shocked. But when Pagura and Perera first composed the words and music for this song, it was shocking on two accounts. Although the language is coded, the words were an attack on the military dictatorships which ruled Argentina and Uruguay at the time. "Because he [Christ] drove the merchants from the temple, denouncing evil and hypocrisy; because he raised up little ones and women and put down all the mighty from their seats, . . . we have hope." The language is an allusion to the Magnificat in Luke 1 and to the story of the cleansing of the temple, but it was also a warning against those in power. When people were being thrown into the ocean from

planes, even Biblical language could be considered treasonous.

But there was also a shock for people of the church. The music was tango. No one had ever played tango in church. Tango was that sensuous, bawdy music of the bordonello. It was impossible to imagine such a rhythm in church. God would surely be mortified by such music. Such was the courage of Pagura and Perera that they dared to bring a message of liberation in the dress of the tango. "So we today have hope and expectation. So we today can struggle with conviction. So we today can trust we have a future, so we have hope in this our world of tears."

The song caught on. It was part of the worship at the Vancouver Assembly of the World Council of Churches in 1983. I can remember when a Latin American colleague at

*(Continued on page 7)*



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downloaded as a pdf file from our website.

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**Summer has arrived at Geneva Lutheran. It's time for fun, a season for recreation, rest and refreshment. A candle workshop was just one of the many activities planned in our community.**