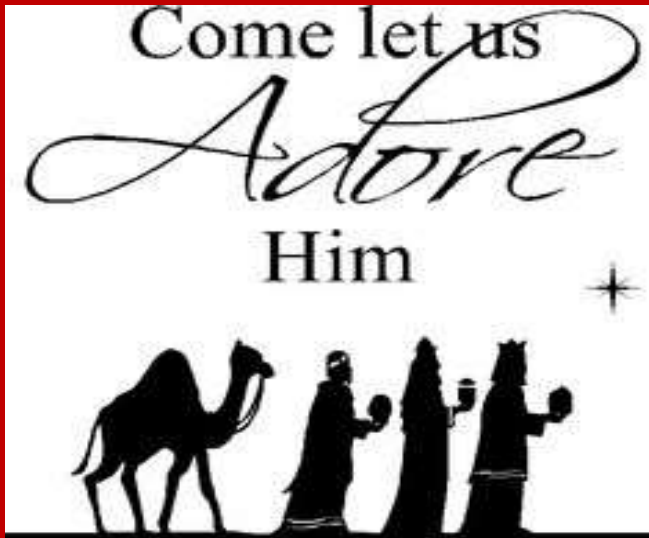


The Door

“Sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ”



Holiday Worship Times

Mid-Week Advent Services

6:00pm – Soup Supper

6:30pm – Service

November 30, December 7, 14, & 21

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

5:00pm & 10:00pm

Christmas Day

Lessons and Carols Service

10:30am

The Name of Jesus

Sunday, January 1

8:00am & 10:30am

Our 5 Cornerstones



Engaging The Bible
Giving in Service
Building Loving Relationships
Growing in Worship
Daily Acts of Faith

Martin Luther Church, as a congregation, welcomes and celebrates the richness and diversity of all God's people, regardless of where they've come from or where they are in their life's journey. Therefore, we follow the teaching of 2 Corinthians 5:18: "All this is from God who reconciled us through Jesus Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation." We believe that the good news of Jesus Christ is to be shared by all people without regard to age, race, gender identity, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, or physical or mental abilities. All are welcome as members of the Body of Christ as workers in the kingdom of God and at the table of our Lord.

Advent Midweek Worship

The MLC Worship Committee is trying something new this year for Advent. We will have midweek worship services at 6:30 pm on Wednesdays starting November 30. Worship every week will feature a dramatic presentation from our new drama team called "Reflections" and will be a chance to relax and reflect in the midst of a busy time of year. Soup supper will be served beforehand at 6:00. Come let us adore him!

Pastor's Page



Come Quickly Lord

It seems that I've spent this entire year bemoaning how quickly it is moving. Every time I feel I'm ready for the events of one month, it is already over. As we are swiftly moving through November into December, though, I'm beginning to think this may not be a bad thing. As a comedian I follow recently noted, this has been a pretty terrible year.

The comedian lamented the heart-burn-inducing election cycle in the United States, the Zika scare, the Syrian crisis, Flint water crisis, violence by and against police, and the fact that David Bowie, Alan Rickman, Prince, and Muhammed Ali all died this year. With a year like that, it's tempting to want to slip into December's ubiquity of egg nog and carols and pretend none of this has happened.

But this is where the Church can be important voice for all. Not because Christmas brings holiday cheer and seasonal warm fuzzies, but because it is the story of God warning death that it's days are numbered.

I recently came across an uncredited quote in some old notes that offered me hope: "Evil rages in this world not because it is powerful but because it is vulnerable." In Christmas, God pierced the power of evil by entering into our world and at Easter he blew it apart. Because of Christ coming into our world, God's revolution of new creation has begun, and evil has been weakening ever since. Because when people love one another, when they are transformed by hope and grace, evil cannot prosper. When societies become more stable, just, and healthy, evil struggles to find a foothold. Lives are continually being changed and made new by faith and baptism, and evil cannot—will not—win.

As Christians, we live in the now and the not yet. That is the message of Advent and Christmas, where we remember the waiting and celebration of Jesus made flesh in the past, but also waiting and celebrating for God's Kingdom to be made complete in this world in the future. We live with the faith that Jesus' death and resurrection have given us eternal life for today, but also faith in a future of perfection.

Evil may continue to rage and cause chaos and heartbreak as it has since time began, but we in the Church march onward through this year and the next because we trust that evil is vulnerable. Evil cannot win the day because Christ has died, Christ is risen, and Christ will come again. And so we continue to pray with the ancient church: "The Lord is coming. Come, Lord Jesus."

*In God's Amazing Grace,
Pastor Ari*

Social Media

Pastor Ari's blog can be found at arimattson.blogspot.com.

MLC's facebook page is facebook.com/MartinLutherChurch.

MLC's twitter page can be found at twitter.com/MLCMilwaukee.

Visit our website at www.martinluther-church.net to view our Calendar, Worship Assistant Schedule, and more. From our website you can listen to recent sermons as well!

Annual Meeting

Martin Luther Church's Annual Meeting will be held January 29, following the late worship service. We encourage all members of the congregation to plan to attend so we can conduct the business of the church.



Become Part of the Advent Conspiracy

By Pastor Ari Mattson

In 2006, a group of pastors decided to push back against the growing consumerism connected with Christmas and created Advent Conspiracy, an organization that encourages people to spend less on presents so they can give more love and time to loved ones and people in need. As we head into another season of Hope this Advent, consider finding ways to make this time more meaning-full for you and your family...

*Start by visiting AdventConspiracy.org to watch their cool video! If you're looking for some creative gift ideas, be sure to visit their Pinterest page (pinterest.com/advntconspiracy [no "e" in "advent"])

*Replace one gift to someone with a gift made in their name to a charity. Try giving to Burbank School, Tosa Cares, or find cool things at Lutheran World Relief's LWRgifts.org. (Hint: ask your children to decide where they'd like to send their "gift." They love getting to make decisions.)

*Find an Advent devotional or activity to do together. Look on www.VibrantFaithAtHome.org or www.bible.com/reading-plans.

*As a family or with your grandchildren, go shopping for a bag of groceries for Tosa Cares. Share with your children how Jesus fed the hungry and asks us to do the same.

*Give homemade coupons. Kids can give coupons redeemable for chores. Parents or grandparents can give coupons redeemable for two hours of "you and me time." Get creative.

*Give the gift of family time. Instead of getting crazy with cooking and shopping, intentionally set aside (quiet) time with family or friends to watch movies, play board games, share a meal, or talk about favorite Christmas memories. (Hint: include grandparents or other relatives.)

*Say a mealtime prayer where everyone gives thanks for one gift they received from God this year--that didn't cost anything.

*Read Luke 2 as a family and share what the Christmas story means to you. Your kids or grandkids will be interested to hear, even if they don't act like it!

Despite everything our culture tells us, Christmas doesn't have to be busy, overwhelming or expensive. It should be filled with the joy of God's love for us. Consider adopting one new thing to create an alternative Christmas. Who knows? You may start a new tradition!



Music Notes

From Kelly



Saturday, December 17th at 2:00 p.m.

Sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ in song



Following caroling, return to Martin Luther for hot chocolate, chili, and conversation!

any questions

Contact Lori Avila

630-917-3647

lorisylvia@yahoo.com

or

Fred Meyer

262-993-2309

Fred_Mary_Meyer@yahoo.com

News, Events, and Outreach at MLC

Attention Cookie Bakers!

Our annual homemade cookie bake for our homebound members is going to happen again. You are asked to bake a batch of your favorite cookies without nuts. Bring them to church Sunday, December 18th, and they will be plated with a greeting card from our Sunday School children. Last, but not least, we'll need a group (possibly a family) of volunteers to deliver the plates the week of Christmas. Please see Darlene Freels and say yes to helping with this so worthwhile project.



Burbank Christmas Gifts

Giving Tree Up for Gifts

Every year, our church collects gifts for students at Burbank School in the month before Christmas. This year, we are being joined by our friends at Milwaukee Menonite Church in collecting gifts for the school and so we will have even more tags on the tree to fulfill. If you'd like to get a gift, please take a tag from the tree in the narthex and sign your name by the number on the sign-up sheet so we can keep track of the tags. Return the gift wrapped by December 11 so we can get them to Burbank before the winter break. Contact David Hearn or Lani Knutson if you have any questions.

We are also in need of a couple people to deliver the gifts to Burbank School on Thursday, December 15. Contact Lani Knutson if you are able to help with the delivery.



Fellowship Opportunities Everyone is Welcome

Due to the busyness in December with the Holidays, some of our usual events will take a break during December and continue in the new year.

- January 6th, will be a Fish Fry at Pegasus Restaurant, 7727 W Greenfield Ave, West Allis at 5pm
- February 12th, Lunch Bunch will meet at a restaurant TBD
- March 28th, Pizza Nite will be at a restaurant TBD as well.

EVERYONE – single and couples – all ages are welcome. Come join us for fellowship and good food! Watch for sign-up sheets for reservations.

Drama Ministry

Martin Luther Church has long been blessed with artistic talent of many kinds and has had a history of using drama in worship. We are reclaiming that tradition with a new drama ministry being organized by Kelly Taylor-Schaus. The group will be providing the message in our Advent midweek worship services this year and are looking to bring skits and spoken word pieces into worship in the near future. If you are interested in getting involved (even occasionally), please contact Kelly Taylor-Schaus.



Serenity Inn News

The Packer Party has been rescheduled to Sunday, January 1, which is also New Year's Day, when the Pack is scheduled to play the Detroit Lions. The main course has not yet been selected but contributions of soda and snacks and cash donations are welcome. And of course, we also would love to have anyone who would like to join us at Bruce and Lyn South's condo community room in Cudahy and/or can help by driving the men from Serenity Inn. Signup will be in the narthex or call or text Lyn South at [414-241-3977](tel:414-241-3977) or e-mail her at rsouth@wi.rr.com.

In other news, the sign-up sheets for the Fellowship Dinners for December through March is on the table in the narthex. The dinners are a joyful and simple way to share your Christian love and fellowship. You prepare and bring the food to the table, the men do all the cleanup.

Our Women of the ELCA group will be collecting store bought cookies through December 18th for the residents of Serenity Inn to enjoy during the holidays. A red and white striped box is in the narthex waiting for your contributions!

And finally, we are always looking for cleaning supplies. They especially need laundry and dish soap, Pine Sol, and paper products, like toilet paper. Many thanks for whatever you can donate.



Ronald McDonald House

Keep saving and collecting your aluminum can tabs this holiday season! Please place the tabs in the box near the elevator. Thank You! For Info contact Ginny Smeiska, 414-453-4931 or ginnysmeiska1@gmail.com

Women of the ELCA

The Christian Action Quilting Group meets on the first and third Thursday of each month from 10:00am to noon (no meeting Dec. 15th). We can always use more hands, so please join us in MLC's Red Room to cut, sew, and tie quilts for Lutheran World Relief. Please call Barb Liedtke at 414-774-4245 if you have any questions.

WELCA Bible Study will be meeting on the second Thursday of the month (Dec 8th, Jan 12th, and Feb 9th) at 7:00pm in the Conference Room. Pastor Ari is leading a study on the Nooma video series by Rob Bell, so please join us for awesome conversation and fellowship.

The Women's Study Group has changed to the 3rd Monday of the month at 4:15pm, but is on hiatus until March. There will be a combined group meeting in February, so watch for more information!

Looking Ahead: Dates For Your Calendar

- Thursday, December 1st, WELCA Board Meeting at 7pm.
- Sunday, December 18th, please bring cookies without nuts to church by this date for the residents at Serenity Inns.
- Thursday, January 5th, WELCA Board Meeting at 7pm.
- Sunday, February 26th, Annual Phat Sunday Bake Sale.

News from Tosa Cares

Tosa Cares supports families in need by supplying food and personal care items such as clothing, toilet paper, diapers, tooth paste, shampoo, etc. Special collections of blankets, coats, jeans and school supplies are also distributed throughout the year. Services including blood pressure checks, nutrition, health and community resource information are also offered at some of the distribution dates as well as basic chiropractic and eye care.

Plan on attending the 2nd annual **Canadian Pacific Holiday Train** stop in Wauwatosa at the Harwood Avenue Crossing on **Tuesday, December 6th at 4:45pm** There will be music and live entertainment. The event will benefit Tosa Cares. **Visitors are encouraged to bring nonperishable food items for the Tosa Cares Food Pantry. Cash donations will also be accepted.**

Tosa Cares is looking for volunteers to help with this event – from accepting donations at truck sites, unloading the trucks, and organizing and sorting food. If you can help, please contact Mary Felkner, mryflk@aol.com.

Looking ahead to 2017 distributions, there will be a distribution on January 14th. In addition to food, Tosa Cares will be distributing new and gently used blankets. There will also be a distribution on March 11th, with an emphasis on pancake mix and syrup as well as regular food items. Distributions are held at Mt. Zion Lutheran Church, 12012 N. 120th Street, Wauwatosa. If you can volunteer your time for these donations, please contact Mary F.



Congregation Approves Mortgage Refinance

At a special meeting on October 23, our congregation unanimously approved a refinance of our mortgage with Thrivent Financial. The new mortgage cuts our rate by almost a full percent to 4.5% and will save us about \$1,400 per month on payments. As discussed at the congregational meeting, council passed a continuing resolution in November that the money saved will be placed in a special fund that will only be used for major repairs and improvements to the building as we anticipate greater expenses as our building ages.

Cross+Generational News and Events

New Orleans Trip for Young Adults

Pastor Ari will be co-leading the Greater Milwaukee Synod's young adult trip to New Orleans again this year from January 1-9. Anyone ages 18-25 (even if not a church member) is welcome to come with us as we spend a week repairing homes with SBP, practicing our faith and growing as a community. \$350 covers everything except a handful of meals and scholarships are available. If you are older than 25, we are also looking for a few adults to help with driving and be an example to the other participants. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Ari ASAP!

First Ever Stockholder's Dinner for Youth Trip Was a Hit!

On October 21, MLC's youth hosted the first ever Stockholder's Dinner for Youth. As a fundraiser last spring, our youth sold shares of stock for people to "invest" in the youth trip this summer to Minneapolis. Dividends included text messages and postcards from youth on the trip and an invitation to the dinner this fall. The dinner featured a catered meal, a slide show of the trip, and the chance for stockholders to learn more from the youth over dinner and in a panel discussion after. Look for a chance to invest in next year's trip in the coming year and thank you to Amber Anderson and Kate Mattson for planning the event.

Why Cross+Generational Ministry?

By Lani Knutson

"The closest our research has come to that definitive silver bullet is this sticky finding: high school and college students who experience more intergenerational worship tend to have high faith maturity" (Powell, et al, *Sticky Faith*, 2011).

"When adults in the congregation show an interest in young people and build relationships with them, young people feel welcomed and valued . . . and this influence continues into the college years (Powell, et al, *Sticky Faith*, 2011).

A teenager is 30-50% more likely to remain engaged with church if s/he has five or more adults invest time with them personally and spiritually (Search Institute, *Grading Adults*, 2007).

When I see these quotes and read research on faith development in children, I can't help but think, "Wow! Who knew the answer was so simple?" And yet churches still struggle to keep children, teenagers, and young adults engaged in faith, worship, and other church activities. So my next question is always, "What can we do at Martin Luther to keep children and teenagers engaged?"

The Christian Formation Team asks this question a lot too and is why we carefully plan Sunday School curriculum, Cross+Generational Sunday School, Intergenerational service projects, and other events where the generations can interact. Our goal is to engage people of all ages and get them to interact with one another. Why? **So our children and teenagers will have relationships with adults of faith!**

So maybe you still aren't convinced that the Cross+Generational events at MLC are for you. Maybe you think we are trying some newfangled idea and you just aren't buying it. But is it really a new idea? I think back to my faith development at a small town church in northern Wisconsin. We didn't intentionally plan intergenerational events; all church events were intergenerational because we were a small church and a family. I can list at least 5 adults who were important in my faith development and is probably why I still think it is important to go to church.

So what can you do? If you want our younger generation to stay active in the faith and in church, then we as adults need to engage them. Mentor them. Show interest in them. Encourage them. If you aren't sure how to do that, come talk to me. I've got a few ideas.

2017 Youth Trip!

All youth confirmation-age through high school are invited to attend an interest meeting for the 2017 Youth Trip to Wilderness Canoe Base. Join us on Sunday, Dec. 11 at 12 p.m. or Wednesday, Dec. 14 at 5:30 p.m. Please bring a parent and your calendar. If you have any questions or are unable to attend either meeting, please contact Amber Anderson (amber32501@gmail.com) or Kate Mattson (kateandari@gmail.com).



October Cross+Generational Sunday School

We participated in activities that helped us discover what it means to be the Body of Christ. We examined our gifts and the gifts of others. The lesson emphasized the importance of everyone to a community and that everyone has gifts to offer. Join us for our next Cross+Generational Sunday School on Dec. 4.



Cross+Generational Rally Day

This year, Rally Day fell on the 15th anniversary of 9-11 and International Peace Day. In order to honor both of these and begin our year-long look at the theme of community, we spent Cross+Generational Rally Day looking at how we, people of all ages and backgrounds, can be instruments of peace in the world. We focused on Matthew 5:9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God," and we finished the morning by tying our prayers for peace to one of the trees in MLC's front yard. Please join us for the next Cross+Generational Sunday School on Sunday, Dec. 4.



BIRTHDAYS

John Anderson	December 17
Kendall Baer	December 17
Chad Burks	December 29
Amy Burns	December 28
Sarah Burns	December 21
Jen Coyle	December 04
Peter Grob	December 26
Dick Herrmann	December 08
Lynn Jones	December 10
Lynne Kivimaki	December 03
Jennie Matrise	December 27
Jean Maurer	December 29
Bennett Meyer	December 16
Andrew Muhar	December 06
Leigh Anne Muller	December 17
Kori Smeiska	December 04
Erik Solie	December 29
Carla Stensberg	December 22
Zachary Summers	December 26
Nicholas Taylor-Schaus	December 30
Luke Wenzel	December 08
Carol Williams	December 15
Ben Ziemendorf	December 28

Steven Muller	January 16
LouAnn Reed	January 28
Diane Sack	January 18
Scott Schuparra	January 28
Amaya Summers	January 06
Emily Summers	January 23
Tricia Summers	January 01
Keone Westfall	January 21

Matthew Buettner	February 05
Donna Hoppe	February 05
Karl Ihrig	February 18
Deanna Ingrelli	February 05
Scott Kivimaki	February 14
Paul Meyer	February 11
Janet Pomush	February 10
Steven Selthafner	February 14
Kurt Smieska	February 13
Richard Weeden	February 23



*Anniversaries
and Birthdays*

ANNIVERSARIES

Tom Breitlow	January 12
Dennis Butler	January 10
Shirley Butler	January 12
Tori Cushing	January 14
Sandy Elliot	January 03
Tanya Falkowski	January 10
Darlene Freels	January 09
Clark Haasken	January 28
Kathy Holat	January 20
Alexis Hoppe	January 18
Dee Jaeckel	January 09
Sam Kivimaki	January 27
Carol Kunert	January 08
Jestine Langlas	January 19
Jonah Lee	January 04
Kate Mattson	January 14
Carol Moore	January 01
Stephanie Muller	January 16

Name	Date
Karen Ihrig & Ken Clayton	December 06
Jay & Kim Shields	December 19
Beverly & Richard Weeden	December 28
Dona & James Smith	January 19
Seth & Steven Westfall	January 26
Jill & Peter Grob	February 09
Marcia & Mark Smeiska	February 26
Sandra & Joseph Svitak	February 28

UPCOMING CORNERSTONE EVENTS IN BRIEF

Cross_Generational Sunday School

December 4th at 9:15am



Mid-Week Advent Services

6:00pm – Soup Supper
6:30pm – Service
November 30, December 7,
14, & 21

MLC Annual Meeting

Martin Luther Church's Annual Meeting will be held **January 29**, following the late worship service. We encourage all members of the congregation to plan to attend so we can conduct the business of the church.

Online and Text Giving!

MLC's online and Text Giving options are now available!

Online Giving - Simply go to this website to make a one-time offering or set up a weekly or monthly offering. <https://martinluther-church.breezechms.com/give/online>

Text Giving - Send a text to this number: 414-269-6599 (type anything you want in the message box and send). You will receive a text back. Follow the link to set up your giving information. You will only have to put in your info the first time—after set up, any time you want to give, you will simply text the amount you want to give and send!

Tosa Cares - Canadian Pacific Holiday Train - scheduled to arrive around 4:45 p.m. on Tuesday, December 6th at the Harwood Avenue crossing in the Wauwatosa Village – Bring non-perishable food items to donate to Tosa Cares!



Christmas Caroling

Saturday, December 17th
2:00pm – 5:30pm



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

5:00pm & 10:00pm

Christmas Day Lessons and Carols Service

10:30am

When You Need to Get in Touch

Email:mlc@martinlutherchurch.net
Rev. Ari Mattson.....414.476.9411
Cell/text: 262.501.3996
Email: pastor@martinlutherchurch.net
Rob Buettner,
Council President.....414.429.5506
Ronna Paradowski, Administrative
Assistant....414.476.9411
Kelly Kuhl, Organist &
Adult Choir Director.....262.642.6303
Lani Knutson, Children's Choir Director & Handbell
Director414.477.9364

Worship Service Times

8:00am Worship
9:15 Christian Formation
10:30am Worship

Martin Luther Church, ELCA
9235 West Bluemound Road
Milwaukee WI 53226-4406

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED