

# The Door

“Sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ”



## Lenten Worship Times

### Ash Wednesday Service

March 1st - 7:00pm

### Wednesday Lenten Services

March 8<sup>th</sup> through April 5<sup>th</sup> – 5:45pm  
Soup Supper & 6:30pm Worship

### Palm Sunday Services

April 9<sup>th</sup> - 8:00am & 10:30am

### Maundy Thursday Service

April 13<sup>th</sup> – 7:00pm

### Good Friday Service

April 14<sup>th</sup> – 7:00pm

### Easter Sunday Services

April 16<sup>th</sup> - 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. 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.



# Pastor's Page



## A Single Point of Failure

By Pastor Ari Mattson

"If you have a single leader, you have a single point of failure." In January, my pastoral coach shared this quote through our Facebook conversation group. I've thought back to this quote many times since then as it speaks of the way I've been trying to adapt as a leader in recent years.

Coming out of seminary, I had a bit of hero complex. Like recent graduates of almost any school, with a head full of fresh knowledge and eagerness to put it to use, I often thought I needed to provide the answers to every problem. I acted as if I needed to be involved in every decision. The dark side to that was I was constantly making decisions that were little more than good guesses. No one can be an expert in everything and no one has infinite attention to devote to the many things that happen in a church, but the models for leadership I'd seen in my life and my training in seminary suggested that's what I was supposed to be. Be strong, be decisive, don't show weakness.

The darker side was that I was always scared of being wrong, of being revealed to be a fraud. I lived with the constant stress of believing that the well-being of a

congregation rested almost entirely on my shoulders and if I tripped up, the shame would surely kill me.

Thankfully, wise and loving people, humbling mistakes, and the undeserved grace I received after the mistakes, all taught me how stupid I was being. I am not called to be a savior. That's Jesus' job.

In hindsight, by pushing aside Jesus from his place as savior, I was sinning (one definition of sin is not acknowledging God's proper place in your life) and "the wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23). I was killing good ministry by wearing myself out. I was killing good ministry because I couldn't give proper attention to everything and I don't always have the best perspective on something. I was killing good ministry by sidelining people who were experienced and passionate about areas I wasn't.

Even though I would talk about delegation and sharing responsibility, I couldn't seem to do it myself... not until my failures piled up enough to convince me I had no other options.

Sometimes I'm a slow learner. But I've slowly learned that sharing responsibility creates for better outcomes. I've learned that asking questions is often more important than having answers. I've learned that risking the vulnerability of saying "I don't know" leads to deeper trust. I've learned that being honest about myself is more faithful than being perfect. I've learned that mistakes create space for grace to be practiced, and where there is grace, there is God.

In God's Amazing Grace,  
Pastor Ari

## Social Media

Pastor Ari's blog can be found at [arimattson.blogspot.com](http://arimattson.blogspot.com).

MLC's facebook page is [facebook.com/MartinLutherChurch](https://facebook.com/MartinLutherChurch).

MLC's twitter page can be found at [twitter.com/MLCMilwaukee](https://twitter.com/MLCMilwaukee).

Visit our website at [www.martinlutherchurch.net](http://www.martinlutherchurch.net) to view our Calendar, Worship Assistant Schedule, and more. From our website you can listen to recent sermons as well!

## Small Catechism for Lent

2017 marks the **500th Anniversary** of the start of the Reformation and the Lutheran church around the world is marking the occasion. During Lent, MLC will be revisiting Luther's Small Catechism for our midweek worship services.

The Small Catechism was written so that common people could learn the basics of faith in their own homes and it has been studied (and memorized) by generations of Lutherans of all ages. Our services will focus on five major themes within the Catechism: Ten Commandments, Lord's Prayer, Apostles' Creed, Sacraments, and Confession. Every week will feature dramas and readings around the themes. But you don't have to wait! Whether you remember nightmares about having to recite sections of the Catechism to your pastor or have never picked up a copy yourself, take Lent as an opportunity to read, reflect, and discuss this classic Lutheran text.

If you don't have a paper copy, you can download the Small Catechism app for your computer, tablet, or smart phone on the App Store or Google Play.

Join us in exploring the Small Catechism together!



## Our church is having a Reformation 500 Bookstore!

The 500th anniversary of the Reformation is fast approaching! Do you want to learn more about Martin Luther, his writings, and their impact on Christianity? Do you want to reflect on the ongoing impact of the Reformation today? Stop by our Reformation 500 Bookstore to shop for engaging books on the Reformation for readers of all ages and interests! Save up to 50% plus receive free shipping on all Bookstore titles.

Look for MLC's Reformation 500 Book Sale **March 19-April 2** to get fascinating books on the Reformation for you and your family.

Our Bookstore is sponsored by Augsburg Fortress, the publishing ministry of the ELCA. The books will include bestselling biographies like *Luther the Reformer* as well as an atlas of the European Reformations, a graphic novel for young readers, and primary sources from *The Annotated Luther* series.

# News, Events, and Outreach at MLC

## Music Notes

From Kelly



## Handchime Choir!

Led by Lani Knutson

We are a small but dedicated group and there is always room for one more!

We rehearse on Sundays after the 10:30 service (Approximately 11:45 - 12:45 on varying weeks).

If you would like to ring - but you don't read music - that's okay - we have on-the-job training!

Any questions you may have, contact Lani at 414-477-9364

## Women of the ELCA

**The Christian Action Quilting Group** meets on the first and third Thursday of each month from 10:00am to noon (March 2<sup>nd</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>, April 6<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>, and May 4<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>). No experience needed and 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 (March 9<sup>th</sup>, April 13<sup>th</sup>, and May 11<sup>th</sup>) 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** Meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month (March 20<sup>th</sup>, April 17<sup>th</sup>, and May 11<sup>th</sup> at 4:15pm. Pastor Richard Weeden Leads this Bible Study.

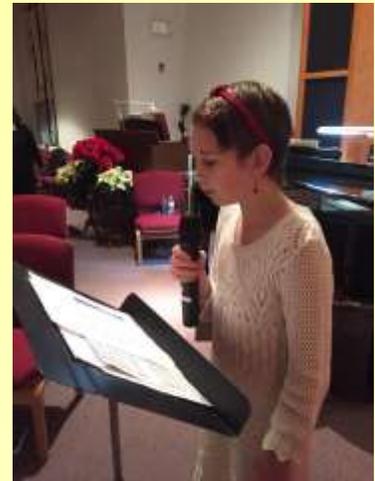
### Looking Ahead: Dates for Your Calendar

- Thursday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, WELCA Board Meeting at 7pm at MLC.
- Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, The WELCA Clusters I, II, III, and IV Spring Gathering will be held at St. Stephen the Martre Church, 8:30am Breakfast with Bible Study and Program to follow.
- Thursday, April 6<sup>th</sup> & May 4<sup>th</sup>, WELCA Board Meetings at 7pm at MLC.
- Sunday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, 9:00am – 10:15am – Easter Breakfast. We will be serving Breakfast casseroles, Belgian waffles, ham, rolls, cereal, pasteries, and beverages. We are looking for volunteers to make breakfast casseroles (you will receive a complementary ticket for making a casserole). Tickets will be available starting March 19<sup>th</sup> for \$5 for 12 and older and \$3 for those 6 – 11 (5 & under free!). At the door, prices will be \$6 & \$3.50.
- Sunday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> – May Banquet – Join us at 6pm for punch followed by delicious dinner catered by Bunzel's. For our evening's entertainment, we will be welcoming the "Dank" Milwaukee Folk Dancers and Singers. This German dance and song group ("DANK" stands for Deutch Amerikanisher National Kongress) is committed to preserving and celebrating German heritage, culture, and language in the US. Bis Dort (see you there)!

## Thanksgiving Baskets for Burbank School!



## Advent and Christmas at MLC



## Pastor Richard Weeden's MLC Bible Study Groups

Beginning in March:

### Men's Study Group –

2nd Monday of the month, 7:15pm - 8:45pm

### Women's Study Group –

3rd Monday of the month, 4:15pm - 5:45pm

## Lutheran World Relief

We are always looking for yarn to make sweaters for Knit For Kids. We could use more knitters (easy pattern). Got gently used sheets and blankets? Drop them in the Lutheran World Relief box near the elevator. Cash Donations always accepted as well! Any questions call Ginny Smeiska 414-453-4931



## Serenity Inn News

Spring cleaning time is right around the corner! When shopping for supplies pick up some extras for Serenity Inn: Pine Sol, Lysol, toilet bowl cleaner, dish soap, Tide, window cleaner...you get the idea. Bring your contributions to the box in the narthex.



**April 27th** is the 7th Annual Celebration of Recovery Dinner at the Italian Community Center. For more information talk to Carla Stensberg or Lyn South.

We are thankful to all of you who have been so supportive not only by joining us at the Fellowship Dinners but with contributions and with your prayers.

## Fellowship Opportunities Everyone is Welcome

Tuesday, March 28 – Pizza Night. 5pm.  
Mama Mia Italian Cuisine, 8533 W  
Greenfield Ave, West Allis.

Friday, April 7 – MLFryars Friday Fish  
Fry. 5pm. Butch's Red Mill, 1005 S. Elm  
Grove Rd, Brookfield.

Sunday, May 21 – Lunch Bunch. Noon.  
Radisson Hotel, Jimmy's Iguana Bar,  
Mayfair and North Ave, Wauwatosa.

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

## The 5th Annual Brothers K Fundraiser

Saturday, March 11 from 5-8pm at MLC. Join us for dinner, silent auction, raffle, and beer pull at 5pm. The live auction and program will be from 6:30-7:30pm. You can purchase tickets at the door but please RSVP to Tim or Lani Knutson. Adults are \$20 and kids are free. We hope to see you there!



## News from Tosa Cares

The next distribution at the Tosa Cares Food Pantry will be **Saturday, March 11th** at Mt. Zion Church. The focus for that distribution will be pancake mix and syrup.

Looking ahead, the following distribution will be **Saturday, April 29th** when the focus will be on laundry detergent and cleaning supplies.

We could use your help in packing and distributing food for a couple of hours on those dates starting at 8:30. If you are able to contribute food or gently used clothing, please see the Tosa Cares collection point in the narthex at Martin Luther.

Please contact Mary Felkner if you can help at a distribution or for further information.

## THE MERU GOLF OUTING



IT'S BACK! After a one year hiatus, the Meru Golf Outing will again take place on August 20, 2017 at Kettle Hill's golf course. Please put the date on your calendars to enjoy a day of golf, fun, prizes, and surprise's! Watch for further information on Listserve, from your Meru Coffee Ambassadors, and church announcements.

## 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reformation Celebration

**SAVE THE DATE .. SAVE THE DATE ..  
SAVE THE DATE**

I can't think of a better place to celebrate the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation and Martin Luther's posting of his 95 Theses but at Martin Luther Church. So, save the date of Saturday, October 28, 2017 for this event. Look for more details to come, including a celebration dinner and, of course, Martin Luther himself coming to share some of his thoughts and pronouncements.



## Drama Team Started

Martin Luther Church has a long history of creative people sharing their talents in many ways. This fall we took a step to better organizing and planning some of that creativity by starting a volunteer drama group. The idea has been floated several times over the years, but Kelly Taylor-Schaus stepped up to make it happen last year. The drama team debuted by presenting the series "Reflections" as part of our Advent midweek services in December. They are currently preparing to present "Luther's Table Talks" during Lenten Midweek worship. Based on actual conversations around Martin Luther's table, these dramas will explore major themes in Luther's teaching from the Small Catechism. If you are interested in joining the drama team, even on an occasional basis, please contact Kelly Taylor-Schaus or the church office.



# Cross+Generational News and Events

## January 29<sup>th</sup> Cross+Generational Sunday School Learning About Our Global Community



### The Faith of a Child

By Kate Mattson

A year ago, Martin Luther's Christian Formation Team decided to begin using a curriculum from Spirit and Truth Publishing Company for its third-sixth grade students. Last year, the students learned about the liturgy, and this year, they are exploring the church year, as well as parts of the Small Catechism, including: the Lord's Prayer and the Apostles Creed. They are also practicing how to orient themselves in the Bible. I believe this curriculum has had a profound effect on my daughter Aase and her faith development, and I'm profoundly grateful to her Sunday School teachers and Martin Luther for introducing it.

I began to see a deepening of Aase's faith through her participation in worship because of what she was learning about liturgy in Sunday school. When I was a youth minister, I worked at different churches than Ari. Although I had my then babies and friends, I often felt as though I was worshipping on my own. As Ari's partner, now worshipping at Martin Luther, I have sometimes felt that way as well. He is up leading and I am in the pew. This doesn't make me sad and isn't worthy of pity. It is the way it is. However, I felt a unique kind of joy the day that Aase stood beside me and followed along in her own bulletin, saying the prayers, singing, and reading the scripture. I quickly realized that she was not participating out of a sense of duty to me but out of an excitement to apply what she had learned in her liturgy class. In Sunday School, she had discovered why we do what we do in worship. The ritual, the rite, the mystery had a place in her heart and mind because she understood some of its history and

purpose. My heart soars when I hear her singing praise to God or as she participates fully in the call to the table. She even pays attention to the sermon and talks about it with us. I think any parent will attest that the moment your child wants to talk about how the sermon impacted her is a special moment. Aase's faith, and mine as well, has been enriched through worship at Martin Luther, and without the liturgy curriculum, I do not think it would have happened for her at such a young age or perhaps at all.

The second year of the Spirit and Truth curriculum has helped Aase continue to take ownership of her faith. As she has learned to orient herself in the Bible, a desire to read it more has grown. She reads the Bible almost every night. On nights when she is going to bed late or is very tired, she asks for permission to not read the Bible and just pray before sleep. I'd like to say that Ari and I kept up reading the Bible with Aase after her Spark Bible, but...now you know one of our secrets. Therefore, this bedtime ritual of reading the sacred text is one that Aase instituted for herself. Her Sunday school class has made her curious, engaged her spirituality, and empowered her to learn and grow on her own.

These past two years, Aase has become a faith model for me, which I think is a reflection of the Cross+Generational nature of Christian Formation at Martin Luther. We adults can learn so much from the burgeoning, innocent faith of the children and youth around us. Their eyes are still clear of skepticism and bitterness. They look to Jesus Christ with unburdened hope and faith. They embody the Holy Spirit and can teach us so much if we are open-hearted enough to let them.

## Cross+Generational Sunday School

December 4, 2016

We had a family service day and made Reverse  
Advent Calendars for Tosa Cares!



## Christian Formation Lenten Service Project

This year's Cross+Generational Sunday School theme is community. We celebrated World Peace Day; discovered our place in the Body of Christ; and collected goods for Tosa Cares using reverse Advent calendars. Most recently, we discussed our global community using a simulation in which participants were a community of African farmers relying on the generosity of our neighbors and Christian organizations like ELCA Good Gifts <https://community.elca.org/elca-good-gifts/show-all> to help us create sustainable agriculture. The children then decided on items from the Good Gifts catalog to send to communities around the world, including in the United States. The children gifted: honey bees, chickens, a goat, a pig, a rooster, school fees and a uniform for a girl, water purification tablets, a month of food for an AIDS orphan, and a clinic visit for a child. Their next goal is to purchase supplies and livestock for a family farm.

Coming up on March 19, we will again use Cross+Generational Sunday School to focus on our local community. Throughout Lent, we will collect material donations for Care Net Pregnancy Center of Milwaukee. This Pregnancy Care Center provides support for mothers during pregnancy and after the baby is born. They also continue to provide support for new mothers if needed. You can find out more about the center at <http://carenetmilwaukee.com/support/>. Care Net welcomes all donations of baby items and monetary donations are always needed to sustain the ministry. Currently their greatest material needs include:

- \* Baby bath products and hooded towels
- \* Baby food, rice cereal and formula
- \* Newborn clothes and size 2T clothes (new or gently used)
- \* Baby board books (new or gently used)

How can you help? Attend Cross+Generational Sunday School on March 19, from 9:15-10:15 a.m. to learn more about this service project and the Care Net Pregnancy Center of Milwaukee. Donate diapers (all sizes welcome), wipes, or materials from their "most needed" list above. Give a monetary donation online at <http://carenetmilwaukee.com/support/>. Finally, instead of giving up something for Lent, commit to giving toward this collection.

As always, the Christian Formation Team encourages people of all ages to join us for Cross+Generational Sunday School every six weeks as well as our Cross+Generational Sunday School openings every Sunday at 9:15 a.m. You do not have to have children to participate. We endeavour to structure our lessons so that people of all ages can take away something and grow in faith. Join us!

## BIRTHDAYS

David	Muller	March 01
Karen	Le May	March 03
Dennis	Brylow	March 08
Darlene	Ziemendorf	March 08
Michael	Coyle	March 10
Thomas	Meyer	March 10
Liz	Schanz	March 13
Cynthia	Solie	March 13
Robert	Goetzke	March 14
Thomas	Smith	March 14
Petra	Eccarius Brylow	March 16
Todd	Wenzel	March 17
Tim	Knutson	March 18
Nancy	Sack	March 18
Richard	Lein	March 19
Mark	Smeiska	March 21
Steve	Almond	March 22
Tara	Lee	March 24
Jared	Anderson	March 25
Ian	Moore	March 27
Chris	Lampien	March 28
Paul	Duwe	March 29
Paula	Kubiayk	March 29
Mary	Ihrig	March 30
Sandy	Svitak	April 01
Barry	Holat	April 02
Janet	Sellers	April 05
Lani	Knutson	April 07
Larry	Kubiayk	April 08
Joseph	Zabrowski	April 09
Nicolas	Reed	April 10
Matt	Moore	April 11
Rob	Buettner	April 13
Matt	Coyle	April 14
John	Hoppe	April 18
Ari	Mattson	April 18
Peter	Beitzel	April 19
Samantha	Hoppe	April 26

Aliyah	Rankin	May 04
Tony	Breitlow	May 09
Jacob	Maurer	May 09
Lowell	Williams	May 11
Bobby	Coyle	May 14
Carol	Henk	May 17
Dona	Smith	May 19
AJ	vonTaufkirchen	May 21
Beth	Halloran	May 23
Betty	Erickson	May 27
Jeff	Reed	May 27
Barbara	Baer	May 28
Parker	Shields	May 28
Jeffery	Haws	May 29
Jeremy	Summers	May 29



## ANNIVERSARIES

Name		Date	Years
		None in March	
Peter & Mary	Beitzel	April 09	29
Brooke & Matt	Moore	April 09	18
Bruce & Lyn	South	April 15	51
Kurt & Jodi	Smeiska	April 19	9
Chad & Deb	Burks	April 30	23
Ray & Karen	Le May	April 30	12
Lois & Robert	Goetzke	May 03	31
Lynne & Scott	Kivimaki	May 23	30
Jeremy & Rose	Summers	May 30	8

# UPCOMING CORNERSTONE EVENTS IN BRIEF

## Cross+Generational Sunday School March 19<sup>th</sup> at 9:15am



## Upcoming Tosa Cares Distributions

Saturday, March 11<sup>th</sup> & Saturday  
April 29<sup>th</sup>  
Beginning at 8:30am  
Zion Lutheran Church



March 1<sup>st</sup>  
Worship at 7:00pm

## Pizza Night



Tuesday, March 28 – 5pm.  
Mama Mia Italian Cuisine, 8533  
W Greenfield Ave, West Allis.

## The 5th Annual Brothers K Fundraiser

Saturday, March 11  
5 – 8pm

## MLC's Reformation 500 Book Sale

March 19-April 2

## Serenity Inns

April 27<sup>th</sup> is the 7th Annual  
Celebration of Recovery Din-  
ner at the Italian Community  
Center.



Wednesdays  
March 8<sup>th</sup> through April 5<sup>th</sup>  
5:45pm Soup Supper & 6:30pm  
Worship

## New Weeknight Bible Study

Watch for more information  
from Pastor Ari about an up-  
coming new weeknight Bible  
Study!



## 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://mar-  
tinluther-  
church.breezechms.com/give/online](https://martinlutherchurch.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—af-  
ter set up, any time you want to give, you  
will simply text the amount you want to  
give and send!

## 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  
Director .....414.477.9364

## 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