

The Door

“Sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ”



MLC Christmas Events and Worship Times

Wednesday Advent Services –
December 6, 13, 20 at 6:30pm

Christmas Caroling –
December 16, 2017 – 2:15pm with chili
and cocoa to follow.

Children's Christmas Program –
December 17, 2017 at both services.
Children can join us between services
for a Birthday Party for Jesus!

Christmas Eve Worship –
December 24th – regular
worship at 8am. No 10:30
worship or Sunday School.
Candlelight worship at 5pm and 10pm.

Christmas Day Worship –
December 25, 2017 – 10:30am.

*All Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Offerings will
be divided between Mt. Meru, Tosa Cares, Serenity
Inns, and the Greater Milwaukee Synod.

Our 5 Cornerstones



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

Martin Luther Church, as a congrega-
tion, 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 Je-
sus 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



In Search of Peace

“Glory to God in the highest heavens. Peace on earth; goodwill to men and women.”
-Luke 2:14

Throughout my career as a pastor, there have been many times I've addressed newspaper issues—tragedies, disasters, and moments of national or international concern. This year, however, has felt like a non-stop string of major news.

Not just one, but three major hurricanes; violence and death in Charlottesville; multiple shootings at concerts, churches, schools, and more; D.C. is as dysfunctional and nasty as ever; nuclear war is openly discussed; racism and sexual harassment are no longer things of the past; and Americans act and feel more divided than we have in fifty years. I was lamenting with someone a few weeks ago that even football, which has always been a safe, neutral topic of conversation, has become politicized. By talking about the NFL game today, will I be seen as making a statement on our president, the flag, or Black Lives Matter?

I'm exhausted just writing that paragraph and that's only the major stories since summer started. With all that as background, I'm happy to be moving into the seasons of Advent and Christmas, with all the traditions of joy and love. The seasonal message of Peace on Earth seems deeply needed this year.

But we need more than a short-term escape from the news. Ignoring the problems in our world doesn't make them go away. We need ways of confronting this bad news, and this is where I believe the church can do some good.

One of the reasons I became a pastor is that I believe message of Jesus Christ leads us to live differently than we would and that the God-centered life is better — more meaningful, hopeful, confident, and good for all around us. And that God-centered life is rooted in the gift of peace that we have received. We can work for peace and seek it out because we have already received it from the Prince of Peace, our savior.

In a world that seems chaotic and divided, the church of God can be a source of hope. We have a gift to share with others. We already gather for worship across lines of age, gender, income, and political persuasion, and we strive to love one another and grow as a community. That's an example we can share. We work to provide food, education, and resources for people in need,

because meeting basic needs is one of the best ways to prevent violence and hatred. We promote and practice love of neighbor and living with a servant heart, which undermines the abuse of power and dehumanization that is present in racism and sexism. We follow the example of Jesus, who forgives, instead of seeking revenge or holding on to grudges.

May we continue to grow in peace and goodwill and may we seek to be a gift to a scared and hurting world. May we reflect the light of Christ and show there can be peace, there can be loving community and an alternative to the chaos and despair in the world. May the Prince of Peace be near to us all year round.

In God's Amazing Grace,
Pastor Ari

Leading Well: Resilience

By Pastor Ari Mattson

This November, I attended the third and final week of my three-year continuing education program, Leading Well. In addition to the week-long learning retreats, I had monthly coaching with a cohort of pastors and a mentor, which helped us shape goals and plans and share ideas we've found successful. The learning I've gathered has been invaluable and deep. There are still things in my notes from two years ago that I'm learning to put into use.

This year's retreat had many aspects. We discussed church financial well-being (one point: thriving churches have a clear mission, reach outside their walls, and are good at telling stories about their mission). We learned about our strengths and weaknesses and how to build

a team that compliments each other well. And we learned about "onboarding," how we intentionally welcome new staff and leaders so they have the training and education they need to succeed.

One of the best parts of the week for me, though, was about resiliency. On our first night, our facilitator spent time sharing how resiliency is one of the key values for a healthy leader, especially in a time of great change and unrest in the church. Most leaders seem to agree that the successful congregation of 2025 will not operate like the successful congregation of 1985, even though we don't know all that will mean. Being able to confront challenges, push through them and adapt to new realities will be key.

Resiliency was defined for us as being able to accept reality, a deep belief that life is meaningful, and a willingness

to improvise. The first and last of those made sense to me without much effort, but the middle one surprised me some. A belief that life is meaningful fuels the others because it suggests the struggle against obstacles is worth it, there is a reason to get to the other side.

Resilience is not a word I had associated with leadership much before, but my education provoked in me an idea that it should be encouraged and nurtured within a changing organization. Thank you to all in Martin Luther Church who made it possible for me to attend my continuing education. It has been a tremendous gift to me and my leadership and I pray it will continue to build me up as a leader in the coming months.

New Lights in Sanctuary for Christmas

Council has approved new lights for the Sanctuary just in time for Christmas!

Exploring Membership Classes in January

Pastor Ari will be starting another round of Exploring Membership classes for those interested in joining Martin Luther Church. Classes will begin January 21. If interested, please RSVP to Pastor Ari.

Men's and Women's Bible Studies Resume!

Tim Jorgenson will be taking over Pastor Weeden's Bible Studies! The Men's will resume with a slight time change, Monday, December 11th at 7:00pm (2nd Mondays of the month) and the Women's will resume Monday, December 18th (3rd Mondays of the month) at 4:15pm.

Christmas Caroling

Saturday, December 16th

2:15pm

With Chili and Cocoa
To Follow!



Christian Education

Sunday School Openings
with the Ms. Beverly are always
amazing and you never know what
is going to happen during the chil-
dren's sermon with Pastor Ari!



Martin Luther 500 Event



Reconciling in Christ News

ReconcilingWorks Assembly 2018

Register to attend the 2018 ReconcilingWorks Assembly taking place in Minneapolis, MN on June 21-24, 2018.

Go to www.reconcilingworks.org for more info.



For more information about what it means to be a Reconciling in Christ Congregation, check out the website above or speak with Valery Meyer or Pastor Ari.

Fellowship

January 5th – Friday **Fish Fry**, Pegusus Restaurant, 7727 W Greenfield Ave, Milwaukee.

February 11th – Sunday **Lunch Bunch**, First Watch, 17550 W Bluemound Rd, Brookfield.

March 27th – Tuesday **Pizza Night**, Balistreri's, 812 N 68th St, Milwaukee.

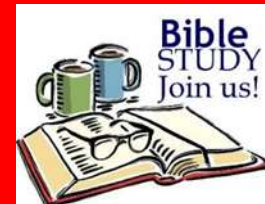
Falls Patio Players Presents:

Sunday, February 4th or 11th at 2pm. "Diary of Anne Frank" \$13.00 Seniors

Sunday April 29th or May 6th at 2pm. "Anything Goes" music & lyrics by Cole Porter. \$15.00 seniors.

Are you interested in attending any of these plays? Let Darlene Freels know.

Bible Studies



Learn the Story Bible Study meets the third Thursday of the month at 7pm. "Learn the Story" uses Bible

"storying" to hear the stories of the Bible in new ways and to put together the themes that run throughout the Bible. If you know nothing about the Bible or are looking for a different way to read it, there's something here for you.

The Women's Video Study meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 1:30pm.

The Adult Forum meets every Sunday between worship Services at 9:15.

Men's and Women's Bible Studies will resume! Tim Jorgenson will be taking over Pastor Weeden's Bible Studies! The Men's will resume with a slight time change, Monday, December 11th at 7:00pm (2nd Mondays of the month) and the Women's will resume Monday, December 18th (3rd Mondays of the month) at 4:15pm.

Hand Chime News

Rehearsals

December

3, 10 & 17 @ 11:45 - 12:45



Sunday School Christmas Program

Sunday, December 17, 2017

**Would you like to sing in the
choir for Christmas services?**



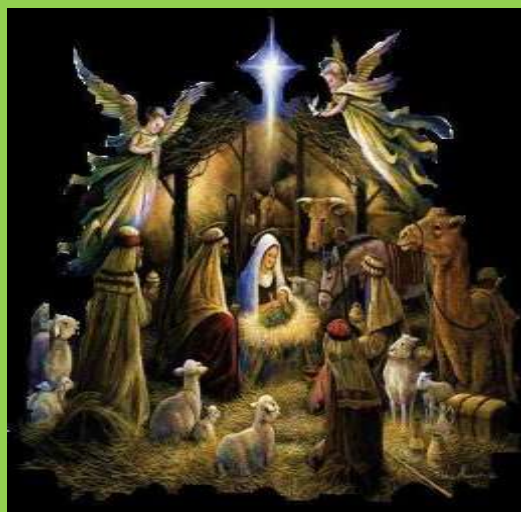
Advent Rehearsal times:

Wednesdays - 7:15 - 8:15 pm
December 6, 13, & 20

Choir Rehearsals after Christmas:

Wednesdays - 6:45 - 8:00pm

**Questions: Contact Kelly Kuhl
262-441-1861**



Christian Formation

Sharing the Holiday (Holy) Spirit

This Advent and Christmas, families of all kinds and people of all ages have several opportunities to share the love of Jesus Christ with other people:

Local/Global Giving Trees

Two giving trees stand in the narthex: one for our partner, Burbank Elementary School and one for ELCA Good Gifts. Families are encouraged to select one (or more) ornaments from both trees.

The local giving tree continues the tradition of providing Burbank students with Christmas gifts. Many Burbank students live in poverty, are immigrants, and/or have housing insecurity. By donating a gift, you are not only providing a child with something fun to open on Christmas morning, but you are also relieving some stress for the adults in that student's life. You aren't just giving a toy or an outfit, you are reminding a child and family that they are loved. Tags on the local tree indicate the name and age of a Burbank student. Take a tag, record your tag number, and then return the gift, wrapped, with the tag attached to the package.



The Sunday school students have, for many years now, designated their offering to ELCA Good Gifts (www.elca.org/en/Resources/ELCA-Good-Gifts). One year, Deanna Ingrelli built an ark and filled it with the animals students purchased to help people around the globe. Last year, the students made the ambitious goal of buying a whole farm! This year, our appreciation of this ELCA ministry extends to the Christmas season. Ornaments on the global tree feature animals and their cost through ELCA Good Gifts. You can personalize the ornament with your name on it and hang it on your tree at home. You can also dedicate the gift to someone and give them the ornament. Checks for the amounts on the ornaments can be made out to **MLC with ELCA Good Gifts and the name of your animal in the memo line**. They can be given to David Hearn, Lani Knutson, or Kate Mattson or put in the offering plate. Thank you for spreading the light of Christ locally and globally!

Birthday Party for Jesus!

On Sunday, Dec. 17, during Christian Formation time (between services), we will throw a birthday party for Jesus. Children of all ages are invited to this event, which will remind us that our Savior entered the world as an innocent, little baby.

Sunday School Christmas Program

The Sunday School program is during both worship services on Sunday, Dec. 17. Please fill out the quick survey to let Lani Knutson know your child's availability for the performances: <http://ti-nyurl.com/xmasprogram2017> Students will be rehearsing on Sunday, Dec. 3 and 10. Sunday school opening will begin at 9:15 a.m. as usual and rehearsal will begin at 9:30 a.m.

Cross+Generational Faith Adventure: The Sequel!



Cross+Generational Sunday School. We learned how for God all things are possible through the David and Goliath story and we made sling shots (kind of)



Receiving of Bibles



Outreach

Look at all the good we can do as the Church! Look at all the undies, socks, and sweats for the kids at Burbank!



WOMEN OF THE ELCA (WELCA)

The Christian Action Quilting Group meets on the first and third Thursday of each month from 10:00am to noon (Dec. 7, Jan. 4, Jan. 18, Feb. 1, and Feb. 15). 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 Wednesday of the month (Dec. 13, Jan. 10, and Feb. 14) at 1:30pm in the Conference Room. Pastor Ari is leading a study on the Nooma video series by Rob Bell. The videos are excellent and lead to awesome conversations and fellowship, so please join us.

Women's Bible Studies Resume! Tim Jorgenson will be taking over Pastor Weeden's Bible Studies! The Women's will resume Monday, December 18th (3rd Mondays of the month) at 4:15pm.

Looking Ahead: Dates for Your Calendar

- Friday, December 1st, WELCA Board Meeting at 7:00pm
- Sunday, December 3rd, WELCA Coffee Hour after 10:30am service. All donations go to Outreach and WELCA Programs.
- Friday, January 5th, WELCA Board Meeting at 7:00pm.
- Sunday, January 7th, WELCA Coffee Hour after 10:30am service.
- Friday, February 2nd, WELCA Board Meeting at 7:00pm.
- Sunday, February 4th, WELCA Coffee Hour after 10:30am service.
- Sunday, February 11th, Phat Sunday Bake Sale. We will need bakers and buyers so say yes when Kathy Holat asks you to bake for the sale and then come and buy!
- Wednesdays, Feb. 21, Feb. 28, March 7, March 14, March 21 we will again be serving Lenten Suppers (along with the youth group) before the Lenten services Soup Supper will begin at 5:45pm with worship at 6:30pm.

Serenity Inn News

THANK YOU SO MUCH to all of you for your support of Serenity Inns throughout the year! The men tell us how much they enjoy Martin Luther when we bring our hot meals and share conversation with them. In addition to food you also have made generous donations when we have asked for them for various parties and for our Cleaning Closet, and once again, we are calling on you for your help. In addition to our regular Thursday night signups, we have a **Pizza Party on Sunday, December 31**. Yes, it's a **Packer Party**, to be held at the Serenity Inn, so we don't need drivers. We will mainly need donations of soda, snacks, desserts and financial help to buy pizza. There will be a signup in the narthex. Call or text Lyn South with questions at 414-241-3977.



Christian Care Ministry

Darlene Freels, Christian Care Coordinator

It's that time of year once again, Holiday Cookies for our Homebound Members. We're asking you to bake your favorite Xmas Cookies (no nuts, please) and bring them to the Fellowship Hall, Sunday, December 17th. Our committee will assemble your cookies. Second, we need volunteers to deliver the cookie tins to our homebound members during the week before Christmas. Our Sunday School children will once again make greeting cards to accompany each cookie tin. Believe me, you bring many smiles and happy hearts to our homebound friends! There will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex. If you have any questions, please see Darlene Freels about them.



A special thank you to Malinda Eccarius, Phyllis Nelson and Darlene Freels for the many cards mailed throughout the year to our homebound and seniors and members recuperating after illness. You bring many smiles to our members letting them know they're forever in our thoughts and prayers. Thank you, ladies.

Tosa Cares

It's official – for the third straight year the Canadian Pacific Holiday Train will be making a stop in Wauwatosa to help Tosa Cares. The 14-car train with hundreds of thousands of holiday lights will arrive at the Harwood Avenue crossing in the Wauwatosa Village area on Sunday, December 3rd. The train is scheduled to arrive at 4:15 with a program beginning at 4:30. The purpose of the Holiday train is to raise awareness of food needs in the area and help increase donations to Tosa Cares. Tosa Cares will be looking for volunteers to help with this event – from accepting donations at truck sites, unloading the trucks, and organizing and sorting food the following week. The Tosa Cares web site, tosacares.org, has a calendar (Volunteer Sign Up for the Holiday Train) listing various volunteer opportunities for the event. Please check the site and sign up to help either that day or sometime in the following week to help organize and sort the food. If you can help or need more information, please contact Mary Felkner, mryflk@aol.com.



Looking ahead to January, the next Tosa Cares distribution will be Saturday morning, January 13th at Mt. Zion Church, located at 120th and North Avenue in Wauwatosa. In addition to food and clothing, emphasis will be on providing winter hats, mittens and scarves. Please consider helping, either at the Saturday distribution or providing food or clothing at the Tosa Cares bin in the gathering area of the church.

Lutheran World Relief

Big Thanks! 29 boxes went to the needy of the world sponsored by Lutheran World Relief. 61 quilts, 28 baby kits, 31 school kits, 32 health kits and 1 box of small soap equal to 29 boxes. It took 1 year to gather the articles and cash so THANKS to all who made it possible. The lists of articles needed are available on the mitten tree next to the elevator.

Also, don't forget: TABS TABS and more TABS are needed for **RONALD MC DONALD** house to be turned into CASH - Yes CASH!

Like to knit? We have yarn! Would you like to knit some caps and sweaters? Call Ginny Smeiska to find out what kind are needed. 414-453-4931 or ginnysmeiska1@gmail.com

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.martinlutherchurch.net to view our Calendar, Worship Assistant Schedule, and more. From our website you can listen to recent sermons as well!

Mt Meru Coffee

Mt Meru Coffee has a new slogan; **Supporting Families-Growing Futures-Changing Lives**. We do this by members of the congregation buying a Premium coffee that is packaged in 10 oz bags, 4 Lb bags or individual serving cups. We offer regular or decaffeinated coffee in whole roasted bean, Perk grind or drip grind. We also offer 4 flavors of coffee in drip grind regular or decaffeinated. For those so inclined we also offer 4lb bags of unroasted green beans in regular or decaffeinated. Stop by the display next to the coffee hour counter outside the fellowship hall and give us a look. We have a small on hand stock of regular and decaf 12oz packs in all styles or we can assist you in ordering your choice of style or flavor for delivery the following Sunday.

Great coffee and Fair Traded for you to serve, drink or give as a gift.



Birthdays

Name	Date	Name	Date
Lynne Kivimaki	December 03	Delores Jaeckel	January 09
Jim McMahon	December 03	Tanya Falkowski	January 10
Jennifer Coyle	December 04	Tom Breitlow	January 12
Kori Smeiska	December 04	Shirley Butler	January 12
Andrew Muhar	December 06	Kathleen Zachow	January 12
Richard Herrmann	December 08	Katherine Mattson	January 14
Luke Wenzel	December 08	Alexis Hoppe	January 18
Carol Williams	December 15	Diane Sack	January 18
Bennett Meyer	December 16	Jestine Langlas	January 19
John Anderson	December 17	Kathleen Holat	January 20
Sarah Burns	December 21	Keone Westfall	January 21
Carla Stensberg	December 22	Emily Summers	January 23
Peter Grob	December 26	Sam Kivimaki	January 27
Victoria Mallak	December 26	Clark Haasken	January 28
Zachary Summers	December 26	LouAnn Reed	January 28
Jennie Matrise	December 27	Scott Schuparra	January 28
Amy Burns	December 28	Matthew Buettner	February 05
Chad Burks	December 29	Donna Hoppe	February 05
Jean Maurer	December 29	Deanna Ingrelli	February 05
Erik Solie	December 29	Janet Pomush	February 10
Nicholas Taylor-Schaus	December 30	Paul Meyer	February 11
Carol Moore	January 01	Anneliese Kostiwa	February 12
Tricia Summers	January 01	Kurt Smeiska	February 13
Sandy Elliott	January 03	Scott Kivimaki	February 14
Jonah Lee	January 04	Steven Selthafner	February 14
Brooke Moore	January 05	Karl Ihrig	February 18
Amaya Summers	January 06	Janet McMahon	February 21
Darlene Freels	January 09	Richard Weeden	February 23

Anniversaries

Name	Date	Years
Kim and Jay Shields	December 19	8
Beverly and Richard Weeden	December 28	61
Janet and Jim McMahon	January 6	39
Dona And James Smith	January 19	66
Seth and Steven Westfall	January 26	16
Jill and Peter Grob	February 9	33
Marcia and Mark Smeiska	February 26	41
Sandy and Joseph Svitak	February 28	20

Baptisms

Name	Date
Rhea Brylow	September 24
Louisa Cose	October 8
Amanda Cose	October 8
Nala Burns	November 5

Deaths

Pat Denning
Betty Erickson
Dan Jones

Upcoming Cornerstone Events In Brief

Christmas Worship Times

Wednesday Advent Services
Dec. 6, 13, 20 – 6:30pm
Christmas Eve - 8am, 5pm,
& 10pm
Christmas Day 10:30am

Children's Christmas Program

Sunday, December 17th at
both Services

Tosa Cares Holiday Train

Sunday, December 3rd at
4:15pm
At Harwood Crossing in
Tosa
Bring a non-perishable
food donation!

Christmas Caroling

Saturday, December 16th
at 2:15pm

Learn the Story Bible Study

Every Third Thursday at
7pm.



Serenity Inns

Pizza Packer Party
December 31st

Upcoming Tosa Cares Distributions

January 13th

Online and Text Giving!

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

Regular Gifts can be given with our electronic simply giving program. Speak with Ronna in the office or Carla Stensberg.

Occasional Online Giving or Special Giving - Simply go to this website to make an 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!

When You Need to Get in Touch

Email:mlc@martinlutherchurch.net
Rev. Ari Mattson.....414.476.9411
Cell/text: 262.501.3996
Email: pastor.ari.mattson@gmail.com
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 Lutheran Church, ELCA
9235 West Bluemound Road
Milwaukee WI 53226-4406

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED