

The Door

“Sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ”

Ash Wednesday



Pastor Ari with Valery Meyer and Judy Borne at Stone Creek Coffee for prayers and ashes on Ash Wednesday.

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.



MLC Lenten Events and Worship Times

Wednesday Soup Suppers and Lenten Services

February 21st through March 21st - 5:30pm
Soup Supper, 6:30pm Worship

Palm Sunday Services

March 25th - 8:00am & 10:30am

Maundy Thursday Community Dinner and Worship Service

March 29th – 5:30 Dinner (bring a salad or dessert to pass), 7:00pm Worship

Good Friday

March 30th – Family Event 10am-noon,
Service 7:00pm

Easter Sunday Breakfast and Worship Services

April 1st – Breakfast 9:00am to 10:15am,
Worship 8:00am & 10:30am

Pastor's Page



Three Challenges

By any measure, 2017 was a very good year for MLC. We saw growth in our membership, worship attendance, and budget. All of those are bucking the trends of most churches in our country. There are many reasons we are doing well, but most of it I think speaks to a community of people who are listening for God's call, striving for spiritual growth and health, and willing to take risks for the sake of loving God and neighbor.

In my report at our annual meeting on January 28, I shared my pride in what our congregation is accomplishing and gratitude to God for guiding us. I also said I believe we are positioned to do even more and take some bold new steps forward into God's future. While that future is God's to shape and call us into, I believe there are three things we can be doing to discern what that future may be and prepare for any future God has for us. I tied these three things to the idea of stewarding our time, talents, and treasures. Since not everyone is able to attend the annual meeting, I share these again here to encourage all of us to practice these in the coming year.

Time: I'm asking everyone to take 10 minutes every Sunday you're here to build a deeper relationship with someone you don't know well in our congregation as an offering to God. We can forget what we didn't know when we first started and take for granted that everyone knows how to "church." At its core, the gospel of Jesus is about building relationships with God and with each other that bring forth new life. When we deepen relationships, we make that life possible. I am convinced that it is in those genuine conversations that the Holy Spirit often works, bubbling up ideas and connections for the good of the mission.

Talents: The church isn't a building, it's the people. The strengths of our congregation lies in the gifts God is developing in our community. Find one area to step up and grow, even if it's just self-education, personal devotion. I like to say that the job description of every Christian is: "Grow in your faith and help others do the same." Find out what that looks like for you this year and pursue it. Even if it's not something in this building.

Treasures: We don't exist to have a balanced budget and we don't exist to do constant fundraisers, but we do exist to do ministry and dollars make that possible. I want us to dream big about our budget. An additional \$50,000 per year would allow us to hire another staff person with benefits to help oversee ministry, recruit volunteers, and plan youth and Cross Gen activities. \$100,000 would let us expand and remodel our kitchen, not just for us, but what if we built a kitchen that could house a summer lunch program in connection

with the city or state? If we dream big, we can plan to do big things.

If I've learned one thing in my years of ministry it's that good ministry doesn't start from good answers, but from good questions and that growth comes not out of certainty, but curiosity. One of our strengths right now as a church is not from having perfect answers, but a lot of excitement about learning what God might be doing here and now. As it says in Hebrews 12, "let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith." God is cheering us on.

In God's Amazing Grace,
Pastor Ari



Personal reflection and devotion time can take a lot of forms and can be practiced by people of every age group.

~Drawing of Transfigured Jesus by Peter Knutson.

Lent: Between Love and Foolishness

Our Lenten theme for this year is “Between Love and Foolishness.” It’s playing on the fact that Lent happens to run from Valentine’s Day (Ash Wednesday) to April Fools’ Day (Easter) this year. But it’s also highlighting that Lent is a time of reflecting on God’s foolish act of love, the cross of Jesus Christ. Paul writes in 1 Corinthians: “The cross of Christ is foolishness...” The cross looks like defeat and death, he writes, but God has turned it into victory over sin and death and called us to also follow in lives of sacrificial love. In Lent we will be exploring this theme in our preaching and worship. For midweek worship, our drama team will be presenting a series called “The Games People Play,” which looks at how victory and greatness look different from God’s perspective. And during Lent we will be doing a community art project taking magazine ads and junk mail (especially ones that tell us what “success” looks like) and turning them into paper butterflies that we will be using to decorate at Easter, turning the foolishness of the world into signs of new life.

Partnership with Redemption Lutheran

In the last couple of years, our council leadership has repeatedly been asking if there are ways we can better partner or connect with neighboring ELCA congregations. We believe that we are all one church and to be our best in the 21st century we will need to find ways to share resources and ministry better. With that in mind, we are moving to try a new kind of partnership with Redemption Lutheran at Capital and Mayfair.

Redemption’s pastor retired in September, they cannot afford a full-time pastor right now, and they need some space to decide what the long-term ministry will look like for them. Working with the synod, our two churches have put together a plan where Redemption will get a full-time intern starting in June, and I will serve as the off-site supervisor. It is a model that has been used once before in our synod with much success in helping a struggling church turn around and go in a new direction. We have an intern in mind who is excited about the unique opportunity and the synod, seminary, and both councils are in favor of the plan. This will give Redemption a full-time minister in the intern and additional attention from the synod and myself to help them evaluate their ministry and plan a path forward; it gives the intern a chance to grow with a lot of responsibility at the church; and it gives MLC a chance to explore ways we can share strengths with each other and possibly build a long-term partner. I will still be at MLC every Sunday as usual and beyond a few hours of my time each week, MLC is not spending anything on this partnership. Nevertheless, this is something new for MLC and I encourage anyone who has questions or concerns to reach out to me directly. I also ask that you pray for God to guide this ministry and make it a blessing for all involved.

Gifts of Our Preaching Team

Over the past few months, we’ve had several new members of our preaching team sharing the Gospel in wonderful ways and we plan to have one member of our team preaching per month going

forward. Having a preaching team is an unusual idea (I’ve never had one before!) and a member recently asked me why we have one. The simple answer is that it helps to provide for spiritual growth for our congregation in a variety of ways.

Having a variety of preachers is a gift for the congregation because you get to hear from different people with their own voices and perspectives. There are many facets to the Bible and I often hear reflections of grace and love that I wouldn’t have seen myself in the text.

The preaching team is also a gift for the team. One of my goals as a pastor is to be a spiritual “coach” for the congregation. Faith isn’t a spectator sport for anyone and we are called to use our gifts in a variety of ways. As any preacher will tell you, deeply studying and preparing a text for a sermon can do a lot for spiritual growth. Though I don’t share the pulpit lightly, I know doing so helps some people come off the bench and practice their faith in ways they can’t otherwise.

Finally, having a preaching team is a gift to me as a pastor. I need to be fed spiritually too, and I love hearing God speak through others. I’ve found that having a week off from preaching makes me even more excited to get back into the pulpit the following week. And the weeks I’m not preaching I have five to ten more hours to devote to other aspects of MLC’s ministry, letting me do more with my time.

I thought a preaching team was a crazy idea when it was first proposed to me, but from what I see, it is a gift for everyone. May God continue to give us ways to practice our gifts and grow in faith.

We had a fantastic Advent and Christmas at MLC!





Group Art Project for Lent!

Lent is a time for us to reflect on the 'junk' in our lives that can keep us from seeing the true beauty of God's love. With that in mind, we invite you to participate in a Lenten art project that will turn junk mail into butterflies! Just bring catalog/junk mail images representing things getting in the way of your relationship with God (technology, food, shopping, etc.) and we'll show you how to turn it into paper butterflies. Slightly thicker paper works best (think magazine, not newsprint) and bright colors are recommended but not required. We'll have a table set up between services and during Soup Suppers with help and instructions, and we'll use the resulting butterflies to decorate at Easter. Afterwards, you can either take your butterflies home or we can recycle them!



2018 Council Members

Returning council members:

Amy Fox
Dennis Brylow
Fred Meyer
Steve Thinnes

New Members:

Maurice Schaus
Michael Lee
Tori Mallak

Officers:

Amy Fox-President
Dennis Brylow-VP
Steve Thinnes-Treasurer
Tori Mallak-Secretary

Exploring Membership Classes

Pastor Ari will be starting another round of Exploring Membership classes for those interested in joining Martin Luther Church. Classes will begin February 21 after the Mid-Week Lenten Services (which begin at 6:30pm). If interested, please RSVP to Pastor Ari.

MLC's NEW EMAIL!!!!

Important announcement! As many of you know, we are phasing out our old email account as it was causing us a lot of technical issues. Please do not use our old email address! We will not get your message! MLC's email address is now
mlc.martinlutherchurch@gmail.com

Bible Studies at MLC

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. Lead by Pastor Ari.



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

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

Men's Bible Study - 2nd Mondays of the month at 7pm. Lead by Tim Jorgenson.

Women's Bible Study - 3rd Mondays of the month at 4:15pm. Lead by Tim Jorgenson.

Notes from Kelly

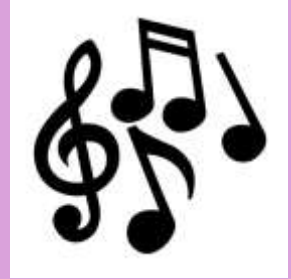
Hymns

As Lutherans, we have a history that is rich in singing about God's mercy to us through God's son Jesus. Martin Luther is known for praising God for the gift of music. Here is a quote of his, "Next to the Word of God, music deserves the highest praise." The gift of language combined with the gift of song was given to people that we should proclaim the Word of God through music.

When picking hymns, for our congregation, I use a set of questions as guidelines:

1. The words: Who is being glorified, ourselves or is it God?
2. The tune: Does the congregation know this tune? If the tune is new, will the congregation be able to learn the tune easily?
3. Words and tune: Does the text and tune dance together?

At Martin Luther we have folks that pick our hymns. **Perhaps you would like to share in this responsibility and join the team?** Let Pastor or myself (Kelly) know and we will work you in the schedule.



Summer Special Music

Would you like to share your music talents with MLC?

Summer is quickly approaching -
starting on Memorial Day weekend
ending on Labor Day weekend.

Pick a Sunday!

Not sure what you would sing or play?

Don't worry -

Pick a date and I will help you find music!

Contact Kelly

262-441-1861



Christian Formation

Good Friday Kids Camp

Kids of all ages and their caregivers are welcome to attend Good Friday Kids Camp on March 30 from 10am to Noon. Together we will learn about Good Friday, make a craft, and enjoy a snack. Contact Lani Knutson (lani.knutson@gmail.com) if you would like to help or want more information about attending.



Upcoming Cross+Generational Sunday School Events

March 4, 9:15-10:15am

April 15, 9:15-10:15am

May 20, 9:15-10:15am



Sunday School Choir

The Sunday School Choir rehearses each week after Sunday School classes from 10:10-10:25am. The choir will sing during the 10:30am worship service on March 4, April 29, and May 13. Contact Lani Knutson (lani.knutson@gmail.com) if you have questions.

Outreach at MLC

Serving Burbank Elementary School

For many years, Martin Luther has supported Burbank Elementary School, an MPS school that serves many low-income families. This fall and winter we have tackled several projects besides our usual Thanksgiving baskets and Christmas gifts.

In September, Burbank's social worker mentioned that the storage area where they keep extra clothing and shoes could use some reorganization. Thanks to the members of MLC we were able to give them storage racks and plastic bins to help with the reorganization. We also delivered many bags of underwear, socks, and sweatpants. Your contributions are much appreciated by the teachers and staff! Now their clothing search for their students is easier and faster!

Burbank Storage Organizing Day!



Burbank Christmas Gifts

Thank you to all who generously donate in order for our friends to have a very Merry Christmas!



ELCA Good Gifts

Ornaments on the global tree feature animals and their cost through the ELCA Good Gifts program

www.elca.org/en/Resources/ELCA-Good-Gifts.

Families were asked to choose an Oranament/ animal and send a wonderful gift to help other families around the world.



Lutheran World Relief

Here I am again asking !!!!

First thanks to those who donated articles and cash in the past for Lutheran World Relief kits. Please look at the list below. 25 boxes of kits and quilts were send in 2017. Can you help us send additional boxes?

Items List:

- Yarn for hats & sweaters

School Kits

- Notebooks (wide- or college ruled)
- Erasers (1x2 inches)
- Pencil Sharpeners
- Pencils (unsharpened)
- Pens (no gel pens)
- Scissors (blunt end)
- Rulers (foot-long with both cm and in)
- Crayons (16-24 box)
- Draw String Backpacks (Pattern available)

Personal Care Kits

- Bar Soap
- Toothbrush
- Comb (Sturdy)
- Metal Nail Clippers
- Bath Towels*

Fabric Kits

- 3 Yards of Material/Fabric
- Spools of Thread

Baby Care Kits

- Sleepers or Gowns* (up to 24 months, no feet)
- Sweaters or Sweat-shirts*
- T-Shirts & Under-shirts* (no onesies)
- Bar Soap (mild)
- Cloth Diapers
- Diaper Pins
- Receiving Blankets*
- Knit Caps
- Hand Towels*
- Socks*

*New or gently used

Cash or Checks are always welcome as well!

Also, don't forget to save TABS for Ronald McDonald House drop off in labeled box near the elevator.

Thanks Much!

~Ginny Smeiska

Tosa Cares

Facts and figures from 2017: Tosa Cares had a busy 2017. Food was distributed to 1,200 individual families, or over 3,600 individuals. We had an average of 172 families at each distribution. The largest distribution totaled 236 families at Thanksgiving. In addition to food and clothing, Saturday distributions have offered blood pressure checks, flu shots and health resources, voter information, massages, vision checks, school bags in September and decorations at the Christmas distribution. A children's librarian also presented story time for the children. Several organizations, including Irie Zulu restaurant, donated hot breakfasts at the distributions. The Canadian Pacific Holiday Train was also a great opportunity for Tosa Cares. Over 10,000 pounds of food was gathered at and before the event as well as a total of \$2,060. In addition, CPRail gave a generous contribution to Tosa Cares.

A special thank you to Kendall and Barb Baer and Karl and Mary Ihrig for preparing toiletry packets for the January distribution. Special thanks, too, to Ginny Smeiska for the hand made winter hats for the January distribution.

The next distribution at the Tosa Cares Food Pantry will be **Saturday, March 10th** at Mt. Zion Church. The focus for that day's distribution will be pancake mix and syrup.

Looking ahead, distributions are planned for April 29th and June 16th. Please consult the Sunday bulletin and Weekly Window for specific information.

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.

Fellowship Events

March 27, Tuesday Night for Pizza, 5:30pm Balistreri's Bluemound Inn, 6501 W Bluemound Rd, Milwaukee (414-258-9881).

April 6, Friday Fish Fry, 5:00pm Butch's Red Mill, 1005 S Elm Grove Rd, Brookfield (262-787-0622).

Sunday, May 6, The Falls Patio Players present Cole Porter's "**Anything Goes**". Our purchased tickets are **sold out!** The play is performed at **North Middle School Auditorium**, Garfield Drive off of Appleton Ave, one block south of Main Street in Menomonee Falls. Lunch is prior to the performance at **A.J. O'Brady's Irish Pub**, N88 W16495 Main St., Menomonee Falls (Off of Appleton Ave, across from the waterfalls). Arrive to the restaurant as soon as you can leave church (last service).

Any questions, contact Darlene Freels at 262-628-2627.

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 (March 1st & 15th, April 5th & 19th, May 3rd & 17th). Please join us in MLC's Red Room to cut, sew, and tie quilts for Lutheran World Relief. No experience is needed, and we can always use more hands. 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 (March 14th, April 11th, and May 9th) 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.

The Women's Bible Study Group is being led by Tim Jorgenson and will be meeting on the 3rd Monday of the month at 4:15pm (March 19th, April 16th, and May 21st).

Looking Ahead: Dates for Your Calendar

- Wednesdays, February 28th, March 7th, 14th, and 21st, Lenten Soup Suppers at 5:30pm before the 6:30pm Service.
- Sunday, March 4th, WELCA Coffee Hour
- Monday, March 5th, WELCA Board Meeting at 7:00pm
- Sunday, April 1st, Easter Breakfast served between 9am and 10:15am. Menu includes Breakfast Casseroles, Ham, Rolls, Cereal, Pastries, Waffles, Fruit, Juice, Milk, Coffee, and Tea. We need Volunteers to make Breakfast Casseroles so make sure to sign up! Tickets will be available starting March 4th – Advance prices are 12 and up \$5, 6-11 years \$3, 5 and under are free. Casserole makers receive a free ticket!
- Monday, April 2nd, WELCA Board Meeting at 7:00pm.
- Sunday, April 8th, WELCA Coffee Hour.
- Saturday, April 14th, Spring Cluster Meeting at St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Greendale.
- Sunday, May 6th, WELCA Coffee Hour.
- Monday, May 7th, WELCA Board Meeting at 7:00pm.
- Monday May 21st, May Banquet – Punch at 6pm, Dinner at 6:30pm. Join us for an evening of "A Little Bit of Italy" with delicious Italian food and entertainment by the "Brothers Russo"! Look for more info in the coming bulletins.

Easter Breakfast
Sunday, April 1st
From 9:00am to 10:15am



Birthdays

Name	Date	Name	Date
Karen Le May	March 03	Joseph Zabrowski	April 09
Dennis Benjamin	March 06	Matt Moore	April 11
Dennis Brylow	March 08	Rob Buettner	April 13
Darlene Ziemendorf	March 08	Matthew Coyle	April 14
Michael Coyle	March 10	John Hoppe	April 18
Thomas Meyer	March 10	Ari Mattson	April 18
Elizabeth Schanz	March 13	Peter Beitzel	April 19
Cynthia Solie	March 13	Barb Benjamin	April 23
Robert Goetzke	March 14	Carrie Anderson	April 24
Irene Kostiwa	March 14	Robert Anderson	April 25
Thomas Smith	March 14	Samantha Hoppe	April 26
Petra Eccarius Brylow	March 16	Aliyah Rankin	May 04
Todd Wenzel	March 17	Tony Breitlow	May 09
Timothy Knutson	March 18	Jacob Maurer	May 09
Nancy Sack	March 18	Louisa Cose	May 13
Richard Lein	March 19	Robert Coyle	May 14
Mark Smeiska	March 21	Ellan Halloran	May 14
Steve Almond	March 22	William Emmons	May 17
Tara Lee	March 24	Carol Henk	May 17
Jared Anderson	March 25	AJ vonTaufkirchen	May 21
Ian Moore	March 27	Mike Fox	May 22
Chris Lampien	March 28	Beth Halloran	May 23
Paul Duwe	March 29	Jeff Reed	May 27
Mary.Ihrig	March 30	Barbara Baer	May 28
Sandra Svitak	April 01	Parker Shields	May 28
Barry Holat	April 02	Jeffery Haws	May 29
Janet Sellers	April 05	Jeremy Summers	May 29
Lani Knutson	April 07		

Anniversaries

Name	Date	Years
Mary & Pete Beitzel	April 09	30
Deb & Chad Burks	April 30	24
Karen & Ray Le May	April 30	13
Brooke & Matt Moore	April 09	19
Lyn & Bruce South	April 15	52
Lois & Robert Goetzke	May 03	32
Lynne & Scott Kivimaki	May 23	31

Deaths

Sharon Schwab
Donalee Smith
Lowell Williams

Upcoming Cornerstone Events In Brief

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Tosa Cares

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Upcoming Cross+Generational Sunday School Events

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April 15, 9:15-10:15am
May 20, 9:15-10:15am

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 Church
The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
9235 West Bluemound Road
Milwaukee, WI 53226-4406
414-476-9411**

**Web site: <http://martinlutherchurch.net>
[and facebook.com/martinlutherchurch](https://www.facebook.com/martinlutherchurch)**

Church email: mlc.martinlutherchurch@gmail.com

Pastor Ari Mattson (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 & Choir Director.....262-441-1861

Lani Knutson, Children's Choir & Hand Chime Director

Lois Fuhrmann, Accompanist

Pastor Richard Weeden, Clergy member

**Give to MLC: [https://martinluther-
church.breezechms.com/give/online](https://martinluther-church.breezechms.com/give/online)
or MLC Text Giving: 414-269-6599**

Martin Luther Lutheran Church, ELCA
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Milwaukee WI 53226-4406

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