

The Door

“Sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ”

Worship Times and Adult Forum continue as usual this Summer!

8:00am Worship Service
9:15am Adult Forum
10:30am Worship Service

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.



Our gardens are looking beautiful! Thanks to Scott Schuparra for the volunteering and constant hard work to keep our place so welcoming! Martin Luther will also be taking on the gardening of the new triangle that is under construction on the street outside the office. A small outreach to beautify our neighborhood! Thanks to Scott S. for orchestrating that as well!

We are always looking for and needing families to volunteer their time during the Spring and Summer to cut the grass and do other small jobs around the building. There will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex for grass cutting. Please contact Ronna in the office at 414-476-9411 to find out about the other summer projects that need attending to as well.

Something new is coming...

Look for a big announcement from our Marketing and Communication team by the end of summer.

Pastor's Page



I have been blessed to serve as both student and pastor in a variety of congregations. In Philadelphia, I spent a year each in an Episcopal congregation with 100 members and a Lutheran one with 700 members. My first call was to a church in Sussex with 1200 members and for the past six years I've been at MLC, which has about 300 members.

Knowing only the churches' sizes, can you guess at which church I heard the following comments?

-"I like how small this church is. I feel like I can know everyone."

-"I don't think we've met before. My name is ____." (Spoken between two members at a committee meeting.)

-"This church is like my family."

Any guesses? The first and last come from one of the small churches and the second is from one of the bigger churches, right? Wrong. I've heard some variation of these statements at every congregation I've served, big or small.

Despite the differences in size, staffing, worship styles, and demographics, I've seen that any size congregation can feel welcoming and comfortable, yet still be big enough that you don't know *everyone* intimately.

I share this story because one thing I've heard repeatedly at Martin Luther in my time here has been a fear of growth, a fear that growing larger will make us lose our sense of community and the relationships we have. Since we did grow by over 10% last year in both membership and worship attendance, I think it's important to address this fear.

For starters, getting bigger doesn't mean we lose connections to our community. The key, I've learned, is that people just need to feel connected to 10-20 people outside their immediate family and that most others look familiar. Every church I've served has had most people in that category and most people have been very happy with their church and felt at home.

Unsure of what I say? Then consider that our records indicate that twenty years ago, our membership and worship attendance were about 60% larger than now (about 500 members and almost 200 in weekly worship), but I've never heard anyone suggest that we were too big when Pastor Nycklemoe was here. In fact, it's named as one of the high points in our history. People felt loved then just as they do now.

What I'm trying to say is there isn't a perfect size for a congregation. Successful congregations adapt through growth in ways that help people build meaningful relationships and feel like they are known and loved. The size of staff and the roles played by staff and volunteers may shift, but a healthy church has a way of finding the Goldilocks zone: just right.

One thing to keep in mind is that we don't control the growth of MLC; God does. Paul once wrote, "I planted the seed, [Pastor] Apollos watered it, but God has given the growth" (1 Corinthians 3:6). It is God that makes things grow and while we can get in the way, that's not being faithful to our mission as followers of Jesus. We have a healthy and vibrant congregation because we earnestly seek to grow in our relationship with Jesus; and healthy and vibrant congregations usually grow.

I don't know what the future holds for MLC, but I know it rests in God's good hands and that if we continue to faithfully seek God and share love with one another, it will always feel like home.

In God's Amazing Grace,
Pastor Ari

Stewardship Update

This year has been an exciting one for MLC. We've continued our partnerships with Burbank School, Serenity Inn, and Tosa Cares, working to improve lives in our cities. We've grown our preaching team, our drama team led midweek worship for Lent, and our choir has taken it to a new level this year. We are beginning a new partnership with Redemption Lutheran by supervising an intern who will serve there while they plan for the future and we are preparing for a youth trip this summer. We are grateful for all that we are able to do and it is because of the generosity of our members. Thank you for giving to this ministry and helping us share the love of Jesus Christ will all people.

That said, council wanted to keep the congregation aware of giving patterns in our congregation. As you can see from the chart, our giving isn't far off from our historical patterns for the first trimester of the year. And we are grateful for that fact. However, we also passed an increased budget for this year in order to maintain the momentum we've felt in our ministry the past few years and historical trends will not keep us on track to do all the ministry we have planned this year. Before we get too far into the summer, we'd like to close the gap with our budget to stay on track for our ministry this year.

If you've fallen behind in your pledge, please give careful consideration to catching up to support our ministry. If you can, please consider an additional offering as a one-time sum or increased regular giving. Thank you.

First Quarter Giving at MLC

SUMMARY	January Actual	February Actual	March Actual	April Actual	Actual YTD Total	Budget Amt YTD	Difference
Total Revenue w/o Exchg	\$23,123.26	\$17,716.00	\$22,018.77	\$28,434.92	\$91,292.95	\$96,868.33	-\$5,575.38
Total Expenses w/o Exchg	\$21,182.02	\$22,431.10	\$24,679.03	\$23,483.32	\$91,775.47	\$94,375.89	\$2,600.42
Total Surplus/(Short) w/o Exchange	\$1,941.24	-\$4,715.10	-\$2,660.26	\$4,951.60	-\$482.52		-\$2,974.96

New Partnership Beginning With Redemption Lutheran

Redemption Lutheran on Mayfair and Capital will be getting an intern starting June 1 named David Rebey. Because they do not currently have a called pastor, Pastor Ari will be supervising the intern and working with Redemption's leadership during the year. A similar model was recently used by two churches in Waukesha County and helped revitalize the intern congregation. Vicar David Rebey will be primarily focused on RLC, but we will look for opportunities for Martin Luther to meet him, too. Please pray for Redemption, Vicar David, Pastor Ari and for the Holy Spirit to be present in the process.

Youth Trip in August

Our youth and three adults will be traveling to Bethphage Village in Axtell, NE, August 4-11. They will be working with staff and residents of Bethphage, which is a full-time care facility for adults with developmental disabilities. Please pray for their travel and work and look for opportunities to support the trip in coming months.

Good Friday Kids Camp was a great success!



Confirmation

May 20th

Abby Buettner, Tommy Meyer, Keone Westfall



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. They will meet June 7th but the rest of summer they will meet when available. Please call Barb Liedtke at 414-774-4245 if you have any questions.

WELCA Bible Study will be meeting on Wednesday, June 13th and Wednesday, August 15th at 1:30pm in the Conference Room. There will be no Study in July. Pastor Ari continues to lead 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. Watch the bulletin for summer dates.

Looking Ahead: Dates for Your Calendar

- Sunday, June 3rd, WELCA Coffee Hour
- Wednesday, June 6th, WELCA Board Meeting, 7pm @ MLC
- August 17th-19th, Women's Weekend Retreat at Pine Lake Camp in Waupaca, WI. All women are invited to come and share in "Freedom to Forgive" through Bible Studies, Taize Worship Services, meditation, massage, free time, Book Club, and much, much more! Our Chaplain and Bible Study Leader will be Pastor Alexis Twito, Coordinator of the Milwaukee Police Chaplaincy Program through the Salvation Army. Registration fees post-marked by July 24th (which includes all meals and lodging) are \$120 for Juniper Lodge and \$155 for Evergreen Lodge. After July 24th, fees will be \$130 for Juniper Lodge and \$165 for Evergreen Lodge. Look for registration pamphlets on the sign-up table in the Narthex or call Kathy Holat at 414-258-6362 with any questions. Camper-ships are available.
- Saturday, October 13th, greater Milwaukee Synodical Convention at St. John's Lutheran Church in Brookfield.



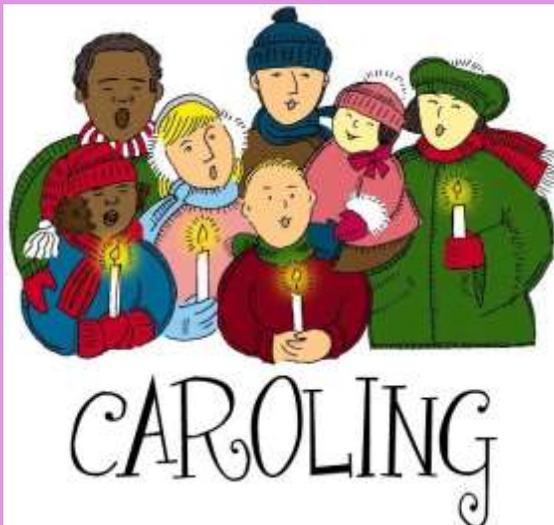
Choir News

Semi - Virtual Choir

For many of us, we are pulled in many directions for our time. Our employment, our families, and the list goes on.

Over the past several years I have spoken to several folks that would love to be part of choir, but are unable to commit because they have small children. This I understand. So, we have had older children of members of the choir watching over the younger children.

This year one of my choir members is unable to continue in the choir because she has received a promotion and the promotion changes her shift from first shift to second shift. This sparked my thinking...perhaps I could record the soprano, alto, tenor, and bass parts and send a mp3 so folks could work on the music at home and join us on the Sunday we sing at church. If you would like to try this, please contact me, Kelly Kuhl at: kuhl.kelly@gmail.com or text/call 262-441-1861



*Christmas Caroling –
Look for the date and
time in future
newsletters.
Just remember
December is the month.*

Christian Formation

Dear Congregation,

I have had the privilege of leading the Christian Formation team for the past several years. I'm very proud of the work we have done from Cross+Generational Sunday School to service projects to weekly education classes. However I feel that it is time for me to step down as the leader of this team. Recently I have been making changes to my professional work and volunteer obligations so that I can place more attention on my family and their needs. I look forward to being involved with Christian Formation at MLC but in a smaller capacity. I appreciate your support in this decision.

If you feel called to leading this ministry please contact Pastor Ari. I will work directly with you to get you started. In addition, the team is looking for a new volunteer to lead Cross+Generational events as Kate Mattson is stepping away from this role. If you have a passion for teaching and learning together for all ages, contact Pastor Ari.

In faith,
Lani Knutson

Sunday School Wrap-Up

Sunday School this past school year has been full of learning, growing, and developing our faith. During Cross+Generational Sunday School, we learned more about how all things are possible for God by exploring the stories of Jesus' mother Mary, Peter's escape from prison, and Saul's conversion. During opening time each week, we learned new songs, heard stories from our leaders, and shared our ideas and thoughts with each other. And don't forget about those group hugs!

In class, students ranging from age 3 to 11 have read Bible stories, made crafts, and learned more about God and our faith. The Confirmation class explored a new curriculum focusing on the Ten Commandments, the Apostles Creed, and more. Three Confirmation students have met regularly with their mentor and made an Affirmation of their Baptism on May 20th. The Adult Forum has delved deeper into the Gospel lesson each week and resulted in many wonderful conversations.

Whew! It's been a full year! I'm so thankful for all the volunteers who have spent countless hours making all of this happen. You are a blessing!

Cross+Generational Faith Adventure Coming in August!

This past Christmas many of us purchased animals, tools, and educational supplies through the ELCA Good Gifts program. But have you ever wondered where those gifts go and how they help others around the world? During CGFA this August we will explore these questions and more. Watch for dates, times, and more details coming soon!

Want to help plan CGFA? Contact Lani Knutson if you are interested.

Birthdays

Name	Date
Ray Le May	June 02
Tom Moore	June 03
Kenneth Sack	June 03
Jay Shields	June 04
Barry Burns	June 05
Beverly Weeden	June 05
Sawyer Fox	June 07
Bruce South	June 07
Kathleen Almond	June 08
Kyle Manske	June 08
Kelly Taylor-Schaus	June 10
Veda Fox	June 13
Karen Smeiska	June 13
Peter Breitlow	June 15
Claire Manske	June 15
Zebedee Summers	June 16
Barry Dahlgren	June 19
Emily Taylor-Schaus	June 20
Douglas Gallus	June 21
Tracy Kubiayk	June 21
Carla Meyer	June 21
Scott Wenzel	June 21
Peter Knutson	June 22
Nancy Ring	June 22
Laura Browne Manske	June 23
Elaine Franzen	June 23
Lyn South	June 23
Lauren Kivimaki	June 27
Marie Emmons	June 29
Phyllis Nelson	June 30

Barb Kroupa	July 01
Kendall Baer	July 06
Alexis Parkinson Shields	July 09
Patricia Lampien	July 12
Michael Knutson	July 14
Ethan Moore	July 18
Keith Maurer	July 21
Jasmine Zabrowski	July 21
Luke Kostiwa	July 22
Erica Maurer	July 24
Ryder Rankin	July 24
Rhea Brylow	July 25
Kegian Fox	July 25
Alyssa Lampien	July 25

Name	Date
Jacob Burks	July 26
Kim Shields	July 26
Amber Anderson	July 27
Nala Burns	July 27
Lois Daute Orndoff	July 27
Ginny Smeiska	July 29
Angelo Masullo	July 30
Austin Moore	August 03
Mary Meyer	August 05
Kylie Restrepo	August 10
Bill Kroupa	August 11
Valery Meyer	August 11
Madeleine Drewek	August 18
Marcia Smeiska	August 18
Nicholas Schanz	August 20
Paul Solie	August 20
Michael Lee	August 23
Barbara Liedtke	August 23
Tyler Meyer	August 23
Holly Vogel	August 23
Jerry Smeiska	August 25
Samara Summers	August 27
Killian Restrepo	August 29



Anniversaries

Name	Date	Years
Carla & Paul Meyer	June 03	18
Liz & Nick Schanz	June 04	7
Barbara & Kendall Baer	June 05	64
Kate & Ari Mattson	June 07	15
Irene & Wade Kostiwa	June 15	22
Jasmine & Joseph Zabrowski	June 15	5
Petra Eccarius Brylow & Dennis Brylow	June 19	14
Mary & Tom Smith	June 20	37
Tori & Lenny Mallak	June 25	30
Kelly Taylor-Schaus & Maurice Schaus	June 26	25
Tony & Sarah Breitlow	July 02	13
Carrie & Rob Anderson	July 09	2
Jen & Matt Coyle	July 12	6
Beth & Mike Halloran	July 14	6
Barb & Dennis Benjamin	July 17	52
Wendy & Rob Buettner	July 18	20
Cindy & Scott Fenske	July 19	38
Kathy & Barry Holat	July 26	32
Deb & John Anderson	August 05	40
Katy & Steve Almond	August 07	25
Jill & Barry Dahlgren	August 08	48
Barb & Bill Kroupa	August 16	38
Robin & Dick Herrmann	August 18	45
Jean & Keith Maurer	August 27	35
Lori & Homero Avila	August 30	10
Jane & Peter Breitlow	August 30	43

Births

Name	Date
Ava Mae Shields	April 26 th

Deaths

Shirley Meiritz

Outreach at MLC

Tosa Cares

A special thank you to Jane Breitlow for knitting children's sweaters for our friends at Tosa Cares. They are prominently displayed in the clothing room on distribution days.

Thank you to all that have been contributing food and gently used clothing and household goods. A contribution point is set up at the Tosa Cares display in the narthex at Martin Luther.

The next distribution at the Tosa Cares Food Pantry will be **Saturday, June 16th** at Mt. Zion Church, 12012 W North Ave. The focus for that day will be summer grilling. In addition to the regular food distribution, we will be distributing hamburger and hot dogs, buns, catsup and mustard.

Looking ahead, distributions are planned for August 11th and September 29th. Help is always needed in packing and distributing food for a couple of hours on distribution days starting at 8:30. Please consult the Sunday bulletin and Weekly Window for specific information

We could also use the help of the youth of Martin Luther to assist in carrying out food boxes on distribution days. It only takes a couple of hours on Saturday mornings.

If you can help or if you'd like further information, please contact Mary Felkner.

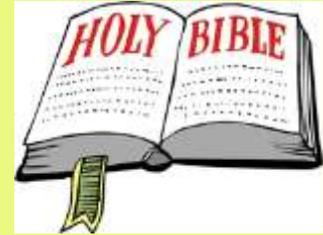
Serenity Inns

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE who continues to support Serenity Inns with your contributions and your help at the Fellowship dinners. We hope that when you go shopping for your supplies for spring cleaning you will add a few extra items to your shopping carts for the Inn. A list with suggested items is near the basket in the narthex. Also, we always welcome you to the Fellowship Dinners. The signup list is in the narthex. Talk to someone whose name you see on the list. They will share their experience with you. We always have a great time! And talk to Lyn South for details. Call her at 414-241-3977 or e-mail her at rsouth@wi.rr.com.

Lutheran World Relief

WATCH for the display of articles needed to make up kits for Lutheran World Relief. They will be near the church front doors. A list of needed articles will be available to take home. Quilters still need sheets flannel or cotton. Flannel makes good diapers we make. Any questions. 414-453-4931 or ginnysmeiska1@gmail.com

Bible Studies at MLC Summer Info



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 – there will be no meeting in July. 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. There will be no Study July or August. Lead by Tim Jorgenson.

Women’s Bible Study - 3rd Mondays of the month at 4:15pm. There will be no Study July or August. Lead by Tim Jorgenson.

Crossings Bible Study – Join us Wednesdays in June from 9 to 11:30 to look at the Gospel Lesson for the upcoming week. Crossings will be on hiatus July and August.

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

Office Email:

.....mlc.martinlutherchurch@gmail.com

Rev. Ari Mattson.....414.476.9411

Cell/text: 262.501.3996

Email: pastor.ari.mattson@gmail.com

Amy Fox,

Council President414.791.4870

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