

The Door

“Sharing the Love of Jesus Christ with All People”

**Canadian Pacific
Holiday Train is
stopping again at
Harwood Avenue
Crossing on
December 7 at 4:15pm
to help Tosa Cares!**

**find out more on page 4*



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.

Advent and Christmas Events and Worship Times

Advent Wednesday Worship Times --
Wednesday, December 5th through Wednesday, December 19th We will have a Noon Worship at Redemption and a 5:45pm Soup Supper with 6:30pm Worship at Martin Luther.

Christmas Caroling – Saturday, December 8th at 3pm. Chili and Hot Cocoa at MLC upon return.

Children’s Christmas Program – December 16th during both services as well as a **Birthday Party for Jesus** - at 9:15am during our Sunday School hour. All are welcome to join us!

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services – 5pm and 10pm

Christmas Day Service – 10am

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

Pastor's Page



The Third Sacrament

In the Lutheran church, we acknowledge two sacraments: communion and baptism. Martin Luther felt there needed to be some Biblical basis for defining a sacrament and cut back on the total of Roman Catholic sacraments. The definition he settled on had three parts: a sacrament had to a) be commanded by Jesus, b) have a physical sign, and c) have a promise of grace attached to it.

A few practices and traditions that are important to us fail to be a full sacrament because they lack one of these three. Confession and forgiveness for instance is commanded by Jesus and has a promise of grace, but not a physical sign. Foot washing is commanded and has a physical

sign, but not a promise of grace.

Over the years of being a pastor, I've come to believe there is a third sacrament that should be acknowledged and celebrated in church. I believe it is a sacrament even though as far as I know it isn't acknowledged as one in any denomination. I believe the third sacrament is us, the Church itself, the Body of Christ.

I could spend more time explaining my thinking, but in short, I believe Jesus commands us to be together (John 14:20-21), promises us grace when we come together (Matthew 18:20), and there is a physical sign — each other.

I share this idea with you because we are heading again towards the seasons of Advent and Christmas. In these seasons, we share presents and carols and egg nog, but at their heart is an idea closely tied to this third sacrament: incarnation or God made flesh. In this time of year, we remember the arrival of God's son, Jesus, in human form. In taking on flesh, he became a blessing to those around him, a source of light in a time of darkness, and a sign of God's love to those in need.

In another time that feels full of darkness, there is comfort in this story. Our politics are a mess, natural disasters and mass shootings seem to happen weekly, wars continue to rage around the world and even allies don't seem as trustworthy as they once did. That God took flesh to offer hope and life in a similar time is a sign of grace, but we need also remember it is not in the past.

Jesus didn't just come in the flesh; he comes in the flesh. And just as he did in Palestine centuries ago, he still comes to be a blessing to those around him, a source of light in a time of darkness, and a sign of God's love to those in need. Because of the work the Holy Spirit continues to do in us, I believe we are a sacrament, a source of grace and life to each other and the world around us.

May we know the presence of Christ this holiday season. May we see Christ take flesh in those around us and may we be open to how God takes flesh in us. May we be surprised (have "epiphanies") about the ways God is working around us. And may God use us to be a blessing to the world around us.

In God's Amazing Grace,
Pastor Ari

What's in a Creed?

By Pastor Ari Mattson

During the season of Advent, the worship committee has decided to make a small change to the Creed. Since the Apostle's Creed is a central and foundational element of worship, we felt even a small change needed explanation.

The creed is meant to be a summary of our basic Christian faith. If someone were to hold up the Bible and ask, "What does all this mean?" the Apostle's or Nicene Creed could be an answer that Christians might give to that question. The creeds are not written in the Bible itself but were created by the early Church to define the faith.

The opening words of the three articles of the creed are "I believe..." As I have sometimes mentioned in sermons and Bible studies, the Greek word for "believe" — "pisteuo" (the Creeds were first written in Greek) — is the same root word as "faith" — "pistis." Since English doesn't have a verb for faith (we don't say "faithing"), we usually translate the word as "believe," but that's not the only translation.

I believe a better modern translation of "pisteuo" is "trust" because faith is a condition of both the mind and the heart, but "believe" has come to mean mostly a condition of the mind. We often say "I believe" to mean "I understand" or "I can prove this logically," but faith involves at least some mystery. I don't understand *how* Jesus shows up in the bread of communion or *how* he rose from the dead, but I trust that he does and that it matters to my life.

So during the season of Advent, we are changing the opening words of the Apostles' Creed to "I trust..." This is not because the traditional words are bad or wrong. We want the different words to help us hear the creed in a new way and maybe find additional meaning that we haven't before. Since faith is something that is always growing and shaping in us through the work of the Holy Spirit, we hope making this small temporary change will be a chance for faith to grow within our congregation.

Burbank Christmas Gifts

We are providing Christmas gifts for students at Burbank Elementary again this year. Check out the table in the narthex with the Christmas trees on it. Take a tag (or more!), purchase a gift for that child, wrap the gift, attach the tag, and return it to the table. All gifts must be turned in by December 16th. Contact Kate Mattson, Lani Knutson, or Tori Mallak if you have any questions. Thank you for your generosity!



The Canadian Pacific Holiday Train is Coming



The Canadian Pacific Holiday Train, also known as North America's largest rolling food bank, will once again roll into Wauwatosa. The 14-car train with hundreds of thousands of holiday lights will arrive at the Harwood Avenue crossing in the Wauwatosa Village area on Friday, December 7th at 4:15 in the afternoon, with a short program at 4:30. Guests watching the train will be encouraged to bring along a donation to benefit the Tosa Cares food pantry.

Look for Martin Luther volunteers at the collection truck near the small park area close to Yo Mama Yogurt. There will also be volunteers with decorated carts roving the area accepting donations. We are looking for additional Martin Luther volunteers to help with this event – from accepting donations at the truck site, unloading the trucks after the event, and organizing and sorting food the following week. A link to the volunteer sign up schedule will be on the Tosa Cares website, tosacares.org.

There will be a donation site in the narthex at Martin Luther and collection sites will also be all around the Tosa village area. Please help support the Tosa Cares Food Pantry.

If you are looking for more information, please contact Mary Felkner, mryflk@aol.com.

Homebound Christmas Cookies - Tradition continues with the baking of tasty Christmas cookies (without nuts) for our special homebound members and friends.

On Rally Day, many of you signed up to bake and deliver the tins of cookies. I will be counting on you! The cookie drop-off to the kitchen will be Sunday, December 16th. We will assemble your cookies between services that day. You may pick up your "assigned" name and cookie tin after church service that same day. You may deliver the tins any day (convenient for you) during the week before Christmas. Your cookies are so appreciated! Thank you.

Darlene Freels
Christian Care Chairman



Other Upcoming Service Opportunities at MLC!

Christmas Caroling – Saturday, December 8th. Meet at MLC for Caroling at 3pm. We will be returning to MLC at 5:30pm for Chili, Hot Chocolate, and Christmas Craft projects for those interested.

Burbank Christmas – Keep a lookout for the Christmas tree in the narthex with gift wishes for our children at Burbank. More instructions and info to come in our bulletin announcements.

Cookie Collection for Serenity Inn – We are collecting pre-packaged cookies for our friends at Serenity Inn. Look for the donation location in the Narthex through December 16th.

Tosa Cares –

SOUPERBOWL SUNDAY IS COMING!!!! Watch for more news as THE day approaches.

The next Tosa Cares distribution will be January 12th. Please consider helping at the distribution that Saturday morning. It only takes a couple of hours. In addition to the food distribution, we will be concentrating on distributing warm winter clothing. If you have any gently used winter jackets, gloves, scarves or hats, please put them in the distribution box in the narthex. Please also continue contributing food. It is greatly appreciated. Contact Mary Felkner (414-520-2378) for further information.

Hymn Sing at Felmers Chaney - on December 22nd a multi-congregational group will be gathering at Redemption at 6:30pm and driving together to Felmers Chaney to sing Christmas hymns to the men who are incarcerated from across the street. Please let Vicar David (262-909-5629) know if you are interested in participating in this event.



Have a PEABERRY Christmas

The Mt. Meru Coffee Project has a special treat for you, your family, and your friends. Only 5% of coffee beans picked are peaberry. These are single beans that have grown within the coffee “cherry” where two beans normally grown. These single coffee beans offer a richer coffee taste while being less acidic than standard coffee. The wonderful flavor of Mt. Meru Premium Coffee is the same but in a richer form.



These beans need to be sorted by hand and lightly roasted for the special flavor you can enjoy. These coffee beans are oval in shape rather than having a flat side on each bean. This means they roast more evenly. Both whole bean and drip grind peaberry coffee are available for the holidays. This coffee is packaged in a distinctive red package that is labelled “Have a Peaberry Christmas”. These special Holiday packages include a coffee scoop and sell for \$15.00.

MLC Fall Clean Up Days

Thank you to all -----The cleaning and organizing of the inside of the church certainly has made a difference – you saw the before and after pictures. Isn't it great?

Thank you also to the hard workers of Martin Luther, Redemption, the Mennonite congregation, Burbank School, and all others that helped in the outside landscaping project. So much was accomplished in just one day. We will continue the project in the Spring with planting and mulching. Such a difference!!! Check out the pictures of the hard-working people at the landscaping project.

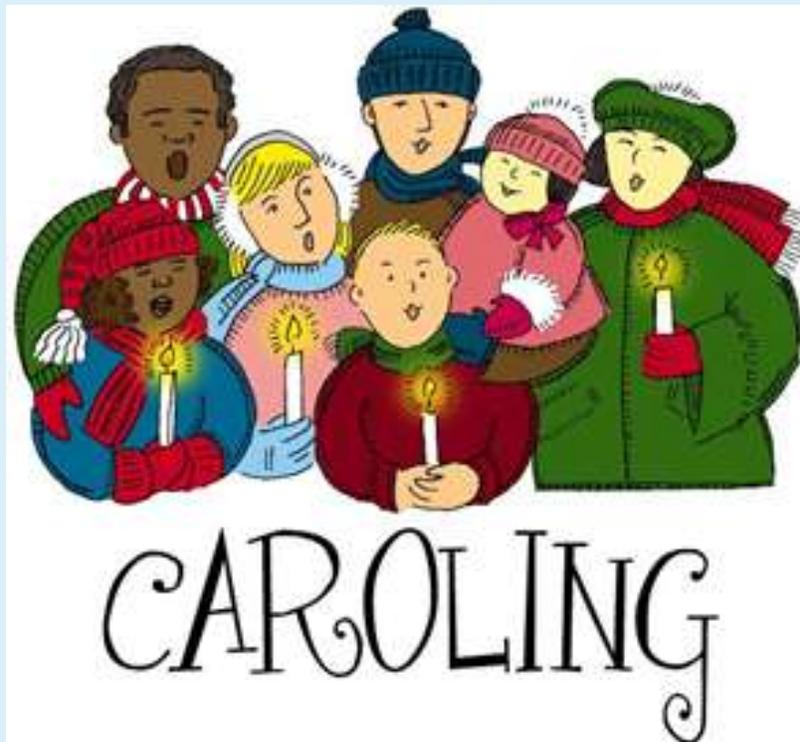


**Thanksgiving
Thank You - A BIG** thank you to everyone at Martin Luther and MMC for the food, gift cards, money, and time donated to the Burbank Elementary Thanksgiving program. Because of your generous hearts, we were able to assemble and deliver 33 food boxes with enough gift cards for each.

Hymn Sing at Felmers Chaney Correctional Institution on December 22nd

A multi-congregational group will be gathering at Redemption at 6:30pm and driving together to Felmers Chaney to sing Christmas hymns to the men who are incarcerated from across the street. Please let Vicar David (262-909-5629) know if you are interested in participating in this event.

Music Ministry



Saturday, December 8th

Gathering at 3:00

Returning at 5:30

*for Hot Chocolate and Chili
and Crafting*

*@ Martin Luther Lutheran Church
9235 W Bluemound Rd. Milwaukee*

Christian Formation – Sunday School News

Hello from your Sunday School friends! Wow, this year is “flying by” We have been very busy with our weekly lessons, our musical time together, some crafts and great family involvement during our “opening” times. (By the way, “opening” begins at 9:15am, so we can be in our classrooms by 9:30am. We appreciate your dedication to this time).

Our children’s offering donated money to the Burbank School Thanksgiving Food Drive (enough for 2 gift cards). We love to do our part in helping people in need!

December will be a very busy month, as we prepare to celebrate Advent and Christmas. **Please mark your calendars for our Birthday Party for Jesus**

on December 16 during our Sunday School hour. This is an intergenerational event that includes stories, crafts and a birthday treat for all. Look for more info to come – RSVP desired.



Note: there will be no Sunday School classes on December 23 and December 30.

P.S. Thanks again to all who donated plastic bins for our supplies – stop in anytime to see our “organized supply closet.”

Other Fun Fall Happenings at MLC

September Brewers Game



Ministry Fair



Biker Blessing at Redemption



School Supplies for Burbank School



Game Night and Potluck



Thanksgiving Baskets for Burbank School



Lutheran World Relief

Our church sent to Lutheran World Relief 32 school, 10 sewing, 30 baby, 13 personal kits and 2 boxes of small soap totaling 37 boxes.



Our ladies made 50+ quilts for Lutheran World Relief this year!!

LWR Auction - Beautiful Christmas Quilt - Need a gift? We are auctioning off a beautiful 60 X 80 Christmas quilt in time for that special someone. You can take the quilt home on Sunday December 16th the last day to submit your bid. Monies goes to buy more material to make more quilts for Lutheran World Relief.

We need your help! We are always in need of yarn to make sweaters and caps – our donation box is located in the Narthex!

Birthdays

Name	Date	Name	Date
Declan Halloran	December 01	Dee Jaeckel	January 09
Lynne Kivimaki	December 03	Tanya Falkowski	January 10
Jim McMahon	December 03	Tom Breitlow	January 12
Jen Coyle	December 04	Kathleen Zachow	January 12
Andrew Muhar	December 06	Kate Mattson	January 14
Dick Herrmann	December 08	Alexis Hoppe	January 18
Luke Wenzel	December 08	Diane Sack	January 18
Bennett Meyer	December 16	Jestine Langlas	January 19
Sarah Burns	December 21	Kathy Holat	January 20
Carla Stensberg	December 22	Keone Westfall	January 21
Peter Grob	December 26	Emily Summers	January 23
Tori Mallak	December 26	Sam Kivimaki	January 27
Zachary Summers	December 26	LouAnn Reed	January 28
Jennie Matrise	December 27	Scott Schuparra	January 28
Amy Burns	December 28		
Jean Maurer	December 29	Matthew Buettner	February 05
Erik Solie	December 29	Donna Hoppe	February 05
Nicholas Taylor-Schaus	December 30	Deanna Ingrelli	February 05
		Janet Pomush	February 10
Carol Moore	January 01	Paul Meyer	February 11
Tricia Summers	January 01	Scott Kivimaki	February 14
Sandy Elliott	January 03	Steve Selthafner	February 14
Jonah Lee	January 04	Karl Ihrig	February 18
Brooke Moore	January 05	Janet McMahon	February 21
Amaya Summers	January 06	Richard Weeden	February 23
Darlene Freels	January 09	John Borgwardt	February 25

Anniversaries

Name	Date	Years
Kim & Jay Shields	December 19	9
Beverly & Richard Weeden	December 28	62
Janet & Jim McMahon	January 6	40
Seth & Steven Westfall	January 26	17
Jill & Peter Grob	February 9	34
Marcia & Mark Smeiska	February 26	42
Sandy and Joseph Svitak	February 28	21

Deaths

Nancy Hansen	November 11, 1932 – August 17, 2018
Carol Williams	December 15, 1935 - October 3, 2018
Phyllis Nelson	June 30, 1926 - November 19, 2018

Women of the ELCA

- **The Christian Action Quilting Group** meets on the first and third Thursday of each month from 10 am to Noon. They will be meeting Dec 6th only, Jan 3rd and 17th, Feb 7th & 21st.. Please come to help 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 each month at 1:30 pm in the Conference Room on Dec 12th, Jan 9th, and Feb 13th. Pastor Ari continues to lead study on the Nooma Video Series by Rob Bell. The videos are excellent and lead to awesome conversations and fellowship, so please join us.

Looking Ahead: Dates for your Calendar

- Sunday, Dec 2nd , Welca Coffee Hour
- Wednesday, Dec 5th, Welca Board Meeting, 1:30 pm at MLC
- Wednesday, Dec 12th, Welca Bible Study, 1:30 pm
- Sunday, Dec 16th, Deadline for Packaged Cookie donations. We are again collecting Store Bought Pre-Packaged cookies without nuts for Serenity Inn.
- Wednesday, Jan 2nd, Welca Board Meeting, 1:30 pm at MLC
- Sunday, Jan 6th, Welca Coffee Hour – donations go to outreach projects so please be generous!
- Wednesday, Jan 9th, Welca Bible Study, 1:30 pm
- Sunday, Feb 3rd, Welca Coffee Hour
- Wednesday, Feb 6th, Welca Board Meeting, at 1:30 pm at MLC
- Wednesday, Feb 13th, Welca Bible Study, 1:30 pm in the Conference Room at MLC.

Fellowship Opportunities: Everyone is always welcome!

Tuesday, November 27th – 5:00 PM: **Pizza Night, Marty's Pizza**, 16680 W. Bluemound Rd., Brookfield, WI. Credit Cards NOT accepted; cash only!

Friday, December 7th – 5:00 PM: **Fish Fry, American Legion Post #449**, 3245 N. 124th Street,

Brookfield, WI

Cod (3 pieces) = \$12.99

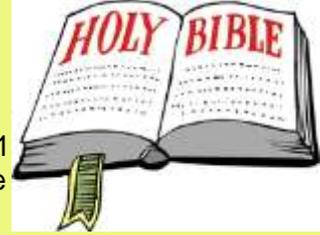
Cod (2 pieces) = \$9.99

Enjoy an evening of music, dancing and of course, fellowship!

Sunday, January 14th, 2019 – **Noon: Lunch Bunch, Pegasus Restaurant**, 7727 W. Greenfield Avenue, West Allis

Please join us; fine food and fellowship!

Bible Studies at MLC Come and Join Us!



The Women's Video Study meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 10:00am. The women will use the videos to lead a study on the Nooma video series by Rob Bell. The videos are awesome conversations and fellowship, so please join us.

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

Bible Study - 2nd Mondays of the month at 7pm.

Crossings Bible Study – Join us Wednesdays from 9:30am to 11:00am. All are welcome to join us as we study the weekly Gospel lesson using the Crossings method. Led by Pastor Steven Kuhl.

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://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—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

Vicar David Rebey, Redemption Lutheran

Church.....262-909-5629

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