

# THE MESSENGER

## MARTIN LUTHER LUTHERAN CHURCH

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*We welcome you to come ...*

### Worship With Us!

*Sundays: 10:00 am*

**(Holy Communion every Sunday)**

### MARTIN LUTHER CHURCH CHOIR

Rehearsals take place at 9:00 am every Sunday. If you have not joined yet, please consider being part of this ministry. We would love to have you sing with us! Let us sing praises to our Lord.

**MLLC-**



Will meet on Sunday, February 17<sup>th</sup>. Thank You. Council members will be installed on February 3<sup>rd</sup> at the 10:00 am worship service. See you then.

### TUESDAY BIBLE BUNCH

Have you ever really read the weekly Sunday lessons? Have you ever given them a second thought and how they relate to your everyday daily life? Have you talked about them with other people of faith? Why not start this Tuesday morning at 9:30 am? Come join us in Pastor's office. Bring a Bible and a willingness to talk. We'll have a great time. Join us!

2019



### WORSHIP ASSISTANCE NEEDED

We are looking for people to sign up to read the lessons, ushers, bread providers, greeters, and more, during Worship. Please consider signing up for a Sunday or two. All readings are sent to you ahead of time to familiarize you with the text. You will find the sign up sheet on the narthex bulletin board. Please sign up today! Thank You.



### Bread Making – Beware of the Yeast

Join us on Saturday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> as we make Challah Bread and join us for the fun and fellowship, and on Sunday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> for our bake sale. Should be yummy to the tummy!

**W/ELCA BAKE SALE** – will be on Sunday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> before and after worship. They are looking for all of you bakers to assist them. If you would like to bring some baked goodies, bring them to church on Sunday, wrapped and priced please. Thank You.

FEBRUARY birthdays:

- 12 Lisa Neubert
- 15 Russell Schuessler
- 20 Barbara Winter
- 27 Jan Vlcek



**MARTIN LUTHER CHURCH 100 YEARS OF MINISTRY**

As we continue this year long celebration, we try to find some interesting and fun facts about the goings on at the church.

Karen Bucaro has found some interesting highlights from the Ladies Aid journal. Here are a few entries:

December 1949 Ladies Aid Minutes  
*Betty (Wastel) Houser ended term as President – New Officers chosen.*

April 1950 Ladies Aid Minutes  
*Agree to give the Glee Club of Steinmetz High School permission to use the kitchen and our Silverware for their party providing they clean up after themselves.*

June 1950 Ladies Aid Minutes  
*Ice Cream Social July 27<sup>th</sup>. Ladies bring pie or cake. Order 3 gallons of ice cream- 10cents a dish, pie 15 cents and coffee 5 cents.*



**HEROES OF THE BIBLE** – will be our Sunday morning Bible Study on February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 24<sup>th</sup> following

worship service. We will be discussing Sumaritan Woman at Well, Jonah, and Syrophoenican Woman respectively. Grab a cup of Joe and meet in the undercroft of the church. You won't believe who those heroes are! See you there!

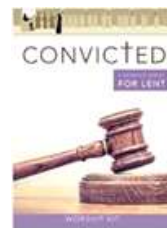
**MLLC FINANCIAL SUMMARY - DECEMBER**

Monthly Giving	Monthly Needed	Shortfall
\$6,739.51	\$9,180.00	\$2,440.49
Yearly Giving	Yearly Needed	Shortfall
\$58,500.44	\$82,620.00	\$24,119.56

In an effort to be transparent about our finances at MLLC, we will be giving you a summary so that you may be aware of our situation. In Sunday's bulletin we will continue to give you the weekly giving.

**OUR SYMPATHY** – To the family and friends of Margaret Wagner, who was called to the church triumphant on December 27<sup>th</sup>. She was a new member recently transferred from Grace Lutheran Church. Services were conducted by Pastor Jeff at Bethesda Nursing Home.

**NEW LENTEN SERIES** – Please join us for our Lenten Midweek Services, every Thursday, starting March 6<sup>th</sup> thru April 11<sup>th</sup> as we present "Convicted".



*Convicted* is a themed Lenten series that includes full worship liturgies and sermons that enable you, the congregation, to step into a court room starting Ash Wednesday and the following five weeks of Lent. Each *Convicted* service puts a different Biblical person on trial, accused of a 21st century crime. An overall guiding question leads the arguments of each case while the congregation serves as the jury. After every service, we will gather for fellowship with a "bring your own lunch" gathering. We hope to see you there for this very interesting and exciting new Lenten series!

**A Note from Pastor Joanne – A New Day?**

Matthew 28:18-20 - *And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."*

The great commission. We are commissioned following our baptism to go out and reach out to someone, to baptize in the name of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. To bring them to know and talk about our Lord Jesus. I wonder where are our churches would be if we all did just that.

Then there are those doctors who tell us to drink half of our weight in ounces of water - that seems like a lot, doesn't it? Eat so many servings of fruits and vegetables a day. Limit the carbs and fats, but then eat healthy carbs and fats, whatever those are. That's almost too much to think about but we have to think about our hearts, kidneys, brains, and lungs and the

rest of our bodies. The same holds true for our congregation.

On January 27, 2019, we had our annual congregational meeting. We discussed the written reports along with or with reports given orally. Before the vote on the budget we had a lengthy discussion on the status of our congregation. What is the answer to that? Where do we want to go from here? That's the burning question that we all need to ask ourselves. How do we stay healthy and live up to the great commission, to do our Lord's work, to be the hands and feet, the ears the mouth to the church and even to the unchurched and those who have fallen away from the church? It's all difficult to not only ask but also to answer. What is your wish list? How would you proceed? This is all weighing on our hearts and our minds, especially for the leaders of Martin Luther? Can we still be a congregation? What then should our mission be to God, the neighborhood and the world. We have to decide that. How do we answer the call to the Great Commission? What is our next step or steps? God has promised to have our backs as we do the work.

How do we get the good food and nutrients into our congregation? How do we build up the body with the gifts that we have in our congregation? How will or can we for fill our baptismal promises? It is up to us to define how that looks. We have a lot of work to do in the coming year.

*Pastor Joanne Fitzgerald*

**HISTORY OF VALENTINE'S DAY** In the third century, the Roman Empire was ruled by Emperor Claudius II Gothicus. He was nicknamed Claudius the Cruel because of his tendency for getting into wars and abusing his people. In fact, he was getting into so many wars that he was having a difficult time recruiting soldiers.

He believed that recruitment was down because Roman men did not want to leave their loves ones behind, so he canceled all marriages and engagements in Rome. Thousands of couples saw their dreams of matrimony dashed by the single act of a tyrant. And no one seemed interested in standing up to the emperor.

A Christian priest named Valentine did come forward and stood up for love. He began to secretly marry soldiers before they went off to war, despite the emperor's orders. In 269 A.D., Emperor Claudius found out about the secret ceremonies and had Valentine thrown into prison and put to death.

As Valentine was awaiting execution, he fell in love with a blind girl who happened to be the jailer's daughter. On the eve of his execution, with no writing instruments available, Valentine is said to have written her a sonnet in ink that he squeezed from violets. Legend has it that his words made the blind woman see again. It was a brief romance because the next day Valentine was clubbed to death by Roman executioners.

St. Valentine gave his life so that young couples could be bonded together in holy matrimony. They may have killed the man, but not his spirit. Centuries after his death, the story of Valentine's self-sacrificing commitment to love was legendary in Rome. He was granted sainthood and the Catholic Church decided to create a feast in his honor. They picked February 14 as the day of celebration because of the ancient belief that birds (particularly lovebirds, but also owls and doves) began to mate on that very day. It's surprising to know that Valentine's Day is really founded on the concept of love and marriage. On this Valentine's Day, what are you doing to keep the love in your marriage burning? While giving a gift and card, having a candlelight dinner, and sharing special words of love are all important, the true spirit of Valentine's Day needs to last throughout the year.

*Happy Valentine's Day*

**DON'T FORGET** – to visit our Martin Luther Lutheran Church Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/mlc1918](http://www.facebook.com/mlc1918) and "LIKE" us.



# Prayer Request

Members of the congregation who are in nursing, retirement facilities, or homebound:

Cindy Rudolph  
Patricia Neubert  
Doris Kemreit  
Hella Rollinger  
Doris Ove

Also include:

Cindy Lange (friend of Pastor Joanne), prayers for healing  
Jennifer Erdt (friend of pastor Joanne), having a difficult pregnancy, prayers for good health  
Nicky Salpietro (son of Peggy Salpietro), prayers for good health  
Karen Bucaro, prayers for a speedy recovery  
Laura Strohmeier (Heidi Rivera's sister in law), prayers for healing  
Anna Kirk (friend of Richard Pfursich), prayers for healing  
Ron & Jan Vlcek, prayers for healing  
David Hildner, prayers for healing  
Patricia Keady (friend of Lorraine Schuessler), prayers for healing  
Beverly Venuso (friend of Ron & Jan Vlcek), prayers for healing  
Mary Rusch, prayers for recovery  
John Blaul, prayers for recovery  
John Skarkus (brother in law of Frank & Karen Bucaro), prayers for healing  
Lovie Kustak (friend of Jan Vlcek) prayers for improved health  
Patricia Ruttkay, prayers for healing  
Barb Winter, prayers for healing  
Karen-Jo Roll (niece of Frank & Karen Bucaro), prayers for recovery after stroke  
Joyce Nickiel (friend of Ron & Jan Vlcek), prayers for healing  
Anne Walker and Joanne Walker, prayers for healing  
Vern Stahl, prayers for healing  
Frank Bucaro, prayers for healing  
Joe Brumtmyer, prayers for healing  
Russ & Lorraine Schuessler, prayers for good health

Christine Storlie (niece of Patricia Ruttkay), prayers for comfort and improved health  
Carl and Beverly Storz (brother and sister in law of Ruth Mehnert (Anne Walker's niece), prayers for healing  
Michael Keady (friend of Lorraine Schuessler), prayers for healing  
Shirley Bristow (friend of Vern Stahl), prayers for healing  
George Avent (friend of Loree Azzaretto), pray for healing  
Desiree Salpietro Gigl (Peggy Salpietro's granddaughter), prayers for healing  
Carrie Keady (friend of Lorraine Schuessler), prayers for healing  
Mary Hoenig (friend of Jan Vlcek)  
Phyllis Pappas (friend of Loree Azzaretto), pray for healing  
Janice Phillips (friend of Peggy Salpietro), prayers for peace  
Jeff Kaplan, friend of Ron & Jan Vlcek  
Barbara Blezien (Anne Walker's daughter), prayers for healing  
Doris Moss (friend of Lorraine Schuessler), for healing  
Carol Clair (Ruth Pfursich's daughter)  
Patti Pallohusky (sister of Karen Bucaro)  
Emery Grace Planz (great-great niece of Karen and Frank Bucaro)



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If you wish to **ADD OR REMOVE** names, please so indicate and return to the church office.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Need \_\_\_\_\_  
Requested by: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Staff at Martin Luther**

Pastor The Rev. Joanne Fitzgerald  
Office Administrator Monica Pesole  
Sexton Joe Azzaretto  
Music Director/Musician David Hildner

### **Church Council (3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month)**

Richard Pfursich  
Ron Vlcek  
Jan Vlcek  
Heidi Rivera  
Lori Azzaretto  
Peggy Salpietro  
Pastor Joanne Fitzgerald

### **Appointed by Church Council**

Monica Pesole, Treasurer  
Ron Vlcek, Financial Secretary

### **Readers/Lectors**

Members of Martin Luther

### **Ushers**

John Blaul  
Vern Stahl  
Michael DeRobertis  
Guy Neubert  
Richard Pfursich

### **Counter**

Anne Walker

**Sunday Morning Bible Study** - All Members of MLLC

### **Bible Bunch (Tuesdays at 9:30am)**

Pastor Joanne  
John Blaul  
Peggy Salpietro

(All are invited to attend)

### **Acolyte**

John Blaul

### **Altar Guild**

Loree Azzaretto

**WELCA** - All women of Martin Luther Church

### **Stewardship Committee**

Guy & Lisa Neubert  
Ron & Jan Vlcek  
Pat Ruttkay  
Peggy Salpietro  
Pastor Joanne

### **Choir Members**

#### **(Practice Sundays at 9:00am)**

Pastor Joanne  
Guy Neubert  
Lisa Neubert  
Judy MacPherson Schumacher  
(Is your name here? Can we count on you as a member of the choir?). Are you interested in starting a handbell choir??

### **Worship and Music (usually 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month)**

David Hildner  
Pastor Joanne Fitzgerald  
You??

### **MLLC Mission Team**

Who will join us??

### **Centennial Anniversary Team**





John Schumacher  
Pastor Joanne  
Jan Vlcek  
Lisa Neubert  
David Hildner  
Karen Bucaro





# February



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 7:00 pm Friends of Bill W.	2 10 am Bread Making Ground Hog's Day
3 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany 9:00 am Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship 11:15 am Fellowship Time/Bake Sale/Bible Study	4	5 9:30 am Bible Bunch	6 10:00 am Worship at Harbor Chase	7	8 7:00 pm Friends of Bill W.	9
10 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany 9:00 am Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship 11:15 am Fellowship Time/Bible Study	11	12 9:30 am Bible Bunch 	13 10:00 am Worship at Harbor Chase 12 noon W/ELCA Mtg.	14 	15 7:00 pm Friends of Bill W.	16
17 6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany 9:00am Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship 11:15 am Fellowship Time/Church Council	18 	19 9:30 am Bible Bunch	20 10:00 am Worship at Harbor Chase	21	22 7:00 pm Friends of Bill W. 	23
24 7 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany 9:00am Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship 11:15 am Fellowship Time/Bible Study	25	26 9:30 am Bible Bunch	27 10:00 am Worship at Harbor Chase	28		

# Coming Soon



## LENT & HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### FOR 2019



**Ash Wednesday Service**  
Wednesday, March 6 at 7:30 pm

**LENTEN MIDWEEK SERVICES - "Convicted"**  
Thursday mornings at 11:00 am with bring your own lunch to follow  
March 14, 21, 28; April 4, 11



**Palm Sunday**  
Sunday, April 14 at 10:00 am



**Maundy Thursday**  
Thursday, April 18 at 7:30 pm



**Good Friday**  
Friday, April 19 at 7:30 pm



**The Resurrection of our Lord - Easter Sunday**  
April 21 at 10:00 am

