

THE MESSENGER

MARTIN LUTHER LUTHERAN CHURCH

6850 W. Addison Street

Chicago, IL 60634-3796

Telephone (773) 777-8821

Web Page: www.martinluther.info

e-mail: mllcchicago@live.com



We welcome you to come ...

Worship With Us!

Sundays: 10:00 am

(Holy Communion every Sunday)

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!

FEBRUARY birthdays:

12 Lisa Neubert

15 Russell Schuessler

20 Barbara Winter

27 Jan Vlcek



FEBRUARY BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS

None recorded

DON'T FORGET – to visit our Martin Luther Lutheran Church Facebook page at www.facebook.com/mllc1918 and



SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Sunday Morning Bible Study – Do you remember your days of Confirmation? Would you rather forget it? It had no meaning, it was boring, and it was on Saturday mornings or Wednesday evenings, and my parents made me do it, but you went through with it much to your chagrin. Well, we are going to look at it again, but hopefully in a different way. Come join us as we discuss the Small Catechism that Martin Luther wrote for us that we may be in touch with our faith. Join us on Sunday, ?????????? as we continue with prayer. Join Pastor Joanne in the undercroft as we have our own Table Talks. See you there.



FEBRUARY 2ND – A SPECIAL DAY

As we peer into the calendar for 2021, we see that February 2nd is a Tuesday. So what makes it so special? Well, it's Ground Hogs Day! Will Punxsutawney Phil see his shadow or not? Will we have 6 more weeks of winter? Oh my!



2021



MLLC FINANCIAL SUMMARY - DECEMBER

Monthly Giving	Monthly Needed	Shortfall
\$4,233.00	\$10,336.00	\$6,103.00
YTD Giving	YTD Needed	YTD Shortfall
\$61,884.50	\$72,352.00	\$10,467.50

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.

A THANK YOU NOTE

"Pastor Joanne, Thank you for your care and prayers for Mary Rusch. She loved the church. Use as you like. Thanks, Linda Hail"

Received \$50.00 Memorial for Mary Rusch

Midweek Lenten Services – Places of the Passion

The places where the passion of our Lord took place have special meaning to Christians the world over. They remind us that Jesus walked this earth and stood in locations we can still find today to carry out his mission of salvation. This was no sightseeing trip for the Savior. There was a serious reason why he came to be at certain places and at certain times to suffer and die and rise again. He was fulfilling the will of his father who desired that we all be forgiven and given a place in heaven with him forever.

Ash Wednesday-the city of Jerusalem

Week 1 - Bethany

Week 2 - the Mount of Olives

Week 3 - The Garden of Gethsemane

Week 4 - The Courtyard

Week 5- Pilate's Judgment Hall

Please join us on Zoom at 11:00 am every Wednesday starting February 24th. An email will go out to all members from Pastor with a link on how to join the services either by phone or computer. A link will also be available in the weekly bulletin.

A NOTE FROM PASTOR JOANNE – MARTIN LUTHER CHURCH

Dear Sisters and brothers in Christ, members and friends alike,

Martin Luther Church has been a congregation that's been around for nearly 103 years and counting. We've been a part of the community as a Lutheran church for that whole time. We've done a lot, been there done that and have been for the community as a source of spiritual life – Vacation Bible School, Sunday School for all ages, Midweek Services during Advent and Lent, Sunday Morning Bible Study, just to name a few. In 1959 we built an addition as the congregation was growing and the space was growing smaller.

And in the last ten years we've had problems with stewardship both in membership and giving. It's been going down consistently. There was a consistent decline in both membership and stewardship. But since the start of the pandemic in late February, early March, stewardship has taken a significant downturn. The pandemic has had an even greater impact upon our already declining resources of active members and monetary resources.

From March on - it's been consistently on the "wrong side of the street." This has been a difficult year for us to say the least. We've had a couple of deaths who were strong members in the congregation; we've had a pandemic that is taking the life out of us. In the last couple of years we've talked about whether or not to close and at that time said no. This year the discussion was brought to the Congregational Council that maybe we need to look at this further and make a decision as a congregation. Do we close our doors or do we stay open hoping for something good to happen? Now what – do we know what to do?

In November the Congregational Council looked at the possibility of shuttering its doors. When I came to Martin Luther Church, at our first Congregational meeting, with me as the Pastor, a member asked me if I came here to close the church. I said "no that was your decision, that is a congregation's decision, not for me to do." And I truly meant that. We tried for a number of years to reach out to people in the neighborhood -- we had lunches and dinners to meet our neighbors; we had door knob hangers for several blocks around us; we even plastered our posters in the

neighborhood. Not only that there were Pancake days and luncheons and dinners and Holiday Fairs (we do like to eat) and plays and concerts. We even had a website developed in order to do outreach.

While all of this was a good effort, it didn't lead to the results we all had hoped and longed for in increased financial support and significant new members. But it was all to no avail. We had a few new members but not as many as we really should have, could have and/or would have. I feel bad because this is not something that I ever, ever, ever, wanted to see. This is very difficult for me as your pastor as I wanted, prayed and hoped that things would go differently.

At the November Council meeting we proposed that at the January 2021 Congregational Meeting, we should decide whether or not to close due to attendance and giving decreasing. We were averaging between 10 and 12 in attendance, and there were some who wouldn't do Zoom. In August we returned to in-person worship with the same numbers and some less attending due to COVID-19.

At the Congregational meeting held on January 24th the vote was 10 to 1 that we should close on Easter Sunday, April 4, 2021. This is a rather aggressive and maybe unrealistic timeline. I was hoping for something different. There is the farewell activity, cleaning and sorting, giving away special items that other congregations could use. A later date might be safer COVID-wise for us to have a final farewell in person.

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.

Philippians 1:3-6

Pastor Joanne Fitzgerald

Happy Valentine's Day

WHAT IS LENT?

Lent is the six week period leading up to Easter. It's one of the most important time of year for many Christians around the world.

While "Advent" is a celebration and a time of great anticipation, Lent is more frequently seen as a time of solemn observance and preparation for the celebration of the death and resurrection of Jesus at Easter. From its start on Ash Wednesday until its conclusion on Easter Sunday, Lent has been a traditional time for fasting or giving something up or abstinence. Just as we carefully prepare for events in our personal lives such as a wedding, or a birthday, Lent invites us to make our minds and hearts ready for remembering Jesus' life, death and body resurrection.

Ash Wednesday begins the Lenten season. The day gets its name from the traditional blessing of the ashes taken after burning the Palm branches from the previous year's Palm Sunday celebrations. The drawing of the cross on the forehead is reminiscent of the cross drawn on our foreheads at baptism. It is often done by repeating the words "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19).



Prayer Request

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

Cindy Rudolph
Doris Kemreit
Hella Rollinger
Patricia Neubert

Also include:

John Blaul, prayers for healing
Shirley Rupa (friend of Sashi Sangha), prayers for recovery
Sai, Carol and Aria Chetty, thanking God for their new home
Paul Shellhamer and John Stucky (family of Vern Stahl), prayers for healing
Barbara Winter, prayers for healing
Lorraine Saeger (friend of Carol Hohlen), prayers for healing
Anne Walker, prayers for healing
Laurie Strohmayer (sister-in-law of Heidi Rivera), prayers for healing
MaryBeth Trafficante (friend of Heidi Rivera), prayers for healing
Kathy Fournier (friend of Loree Azzaretto), prayers for healing
Debbie Parisan, prayers for healing
Barb Leindecker, prayers for healing
Brian Pallohusky (nephew of Karen Bucaro), prayers for safety and good health
Lillian Sangha, prayers for strength as she continues her studies away from home
Shirley Sangha, prayers of encouragement
Mary Ellen Grism (friend of Jan Vlcek), prayers for strength and healing
Lorraine (Wastel) Bone (cousin of Karen Bucaro), prayers for recovery
Chris Long (friend of Jan Vlcek), prayers for healing
Carol Clair (sister of Rich Pfursich), prayers for healing
Nicky Salpietro (son of Peggy Salpietro), prayers for good health
Anna Kirk
John Skarkus (brother in law of Frank & Karen Bucaro), prayers for healing

Patricia Ruttkay, 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
Joanne Walker (daughter of Anne), prayers for healing
Vern Stahl, prayers for healing
Joe Brumtmyer, prayers for healing
Russ & Lorraine Schuessler, prayers for good health
Carl and Beverly Storz (brother and sister in law of Lorraine), prayers of healing
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
Mary Hoenig (friend of Jan Vlcek)
Phyllis Pappas (friend of Loree Azzaretto), pray for healing
Jeff Kaplan, friend of Ron & Jan Vlcek
Barbara Blezian (Anne Walker's daughter), prayers for healing
Patti Pallohusky (sister of Karen Bucaro)
Emery Grace Planz (great-great niece of Karen and Frank Bucaro)



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

Worship and Music (usually 1st Sunday of the month)

David Hildner
Pastor Joanne Fitzgerald
You??

Church Council (3rd Sunday of the month)

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

MLLC Mission Team

Who will join us??

Appointed by Church Council

Monica Pesole, Treasurer
Ron Vlcek, Financial Secretary

Readers/Lectors

Members of Martin Luther

Ushers

Ron Vlcek
Vern Stahl
Richard Pfursich

Counter

Ron Vlcek

Sunday Morning Bible Study - All Members of MLLC

Bible Bunch (Tuesdays at 9:30am)

Pastor Joanne
John Blaul
Peggy Salpietro
Virginia Gessler
(All are invited to attend)

Altar Guild

Loree Azzaretto

WELCA - All women of Martin Luther Church

Stewardship Committee

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





 **February** 



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 9:30 am Bible Bunch 	3	4	5 7:00 pm Friends of Bill W.	6
7 5 th Sunday after Epiphany 10:00 am Worship	8	9 9:30 am Bible Bunch	10	11	12 7:00 pm Friends of Bill W. Lincoln's Birthday	13
14 Transfiguration of Our Lord 10:00 am Worship 11:15 am Burning of Palm Frons	15	16 9:30 am Bible Bunch	17 Ash Wednesday Service TBA President's Day	18	19 7:00 pm Friends of Bill W.	20 NATIONAL LOVE YOUR PET DAY 
21 1 st Sunday in Lent 10:00 am Worship 11:15 am Church Council	22 Happy Birthday  George Washington!	23 9:30 am Bible Bunch	24 11:00 am Zoom Mid-Week Lenten Svc	25	26 7:00 pm Friends of Bill W.	27
28 2 nd Sunday in Lent 10:00 am Worship						

With SHOES no one goes hungry!



St. Cyprian Food Pantry NEEDS YOU!!

“No one should go hungry”, this is our mission and we need **YOUR** help!!!

We are reaching out to the community. The pantry continues to serve our clients, providing them with fresh produce, fresh dairy, meat and bread.

We are collecting new or gently used wearable shoes to raise funds for the pantry AND help families and individuals in third-world countries become successful business owners.

Drop Off Location:

St. Cyprian Food Pantry

6535 W Irving Park Rd

Chicago IL 606034

Donation Days and Times:

Mondays and Thursdays 9am-11am

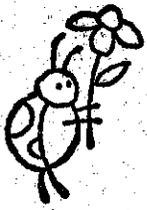
Wednesdays 10am-12pm

Joanne,

Thank you for everything. I am so happy my mom found your church, you were just what she needed.

Please accept this small donation in her memory.

Laura



Dear Pastor Joanne & Congregants,

Merry Christmas & Happier New Year

Let us adore the Christ Child by following His light, living in His love and rejoicing in the miracle of His birth!

Merry Christmas

Kindest Regards,
(w) Susan Engel

God Bless You & Thank You so very much for your wonderful & much appreciated gifts. I love them, & all of you for thinking of me & others in my group w/ Ms. Jaime Albergo (older Adult Sx - Lutheran Genl Hospital). She & you all are wonderful!

Thinking of all
the wonderful reasons
God's given us
to be thankful this Christmas,
and counting you
among them.

Have a Beautiful
Holiday Season

Ronald R Weber

4941 N. Ozark Ave.
Norridge, IL 60786
Dec. 23, 2020

I want to thank you for
remembering us Senior Citizens.
I'm enclosing a check for
\$10.00 (Ten Dollars) for a donation
to your parish.
I thank you very much.

Frances Chiappetta

P.S. I will enjoy all the
Christmas gifts to me.
Thanks Again

12-29-20

Dear Friends,
Thank you for the lovely
Christmas gift bag that was
delivered. It was so thoughtful
and nice. I really appreciate it.
I'm 92 yrs. old, and don't get
out to church anymore.
Thanks so much, and God Bless
you!
A healthy, happier New
Year to everyone.
Marilyn Quinter

December 17, 2020

Dear Pastor Fitzgerald & All congregants,

You are all so wonderful, kind & generous! Thank you for remembering me with the beautiful gift bag and with so many tasty & useful items!

You all, & Ms. Jaime Albergo (LGH-older Adult Services) are so very appreciated by me & I'm sure all the other recipients.

I hope you all be rewarded a million fold for your very great kindness, compassion & being Angels & Messengers of love from God! In this often very cold world - you are true beacons of light!

Please know I will never forget you. I hope and pray your church will thrive & be strong. I will be praying for that & for each of you collectively to have a happy Christmas & Happy New Year! Thank You!

P.S. If you can pls say a prayer for me - many serious health & financial problems

God Bless You & Many Thanks
& Love
Or Susan Engel

January 5, 2021

Dear Friends at Martin Luther Lutheran Church,

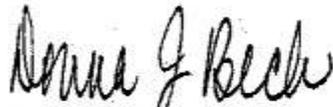
Thank you so much for your donation to Saint Luke Academy. We are grateful for your commitment to community and your desire to help. Your gift helps us in our effort to continue and expand our mission and our ministry at Saint Luke.

Please note that this is not a tax receipt for your donation. For tax purposes, a quarterly statement listing all deductible donations made to Saint Luke will be mailed separately. Thank you again for your commitment to Saint Luke Academy.

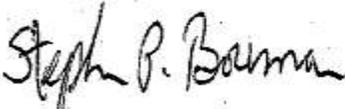
God bless you even as you have been a blessing to us

May the light of the Epiphany Star fill your heart and life with joy and peace.

Most cordially,



Donna J. Beck, Principal



Stephen P. Bouman, Pastor

Donation to Saint Luke Academy

Amount: \$2500.00 Check #22710 Date: 12/29/2020



Advocate Health Care

9375 W. Church St. || Des Plaines, IL 60016-4271 || P 847.296.0737 || F 847.824.8038

Older Adult Services

January 5, 2021

Martin Luther Church
Pastor Joanne Fitzgerald
6850 W. Addison St.
Chicago, IL 60634

Dear Pastor Joanne and MLC Congregation,

We write this letter with much gratitude. We appreciate your generosity and kindness. During this pandemic, each day has brought many opportunities for all of us to reflect on our blessings. Indeed, now more than ever is the time to acknowledge the good things in our lives including the kindness shown by others. With that, please know your donation is very important to us, and we are grateful. Your support to Advocate Older Adult Services helps the continuity of our commitment to enrich the quality of life of the older adult through a full range of services that appropriately responds to the person as he or she experiences needs and desires along the aging continuum.

With that, may this letter serve as a receipt document of your donation of \$1500. Thank you kindly.

Warm regards,

Mindy Haglund, MSW
Older Adult Services Manager

Jaime Albergo, MSW, LCSW
Program Coordinator



HONOR FLIGHT CHICAGO

9701 W. Higgins Road, Suite 310

Rosemont, IL 60018-4703

773-227-VETS (8387)

www.honorflightchicago.org

January 5, 2021

Rev. Joanne S Fitzgerald
Martin Luther Church of Chicago
6850 West Addison Street
Chicago IL 60634

Dear Rev. Fitzgerald:

On behalf of our entire Honor Flight Chicago organization, we would like to thank you and the congregation at Martin Luther Church of Chicago for your incredibly generous contribution toward our mission. This gift will fully fund a Day of Honor for a senior veteran on a future flight.

Though our flights are paused currently due to the pandemic, our mission continues. Throughout this year, our dedicated volunteers have personally placed over 2,500 yard signs and window decals at the homes of veterans on our waiting list to publicly thank them for their service and sacrifice. This has extended to our alumni as well so they know we still care deeply and are thinking of them. Additionally, we have expanded our "Operation Education" initiative with dozens and dozens of veteran video interviews and other resources for teachers and families to use as Veterans Day programming during remote learning. We also have hosted a Virtual Day of Honor on our website, launched "Honor. Thank. Inspire: A Veteran's Story Podcast" and publicly thanked our many medical volunteers who now are on the front lines of the COVID fight.

Your gift will help Honor Flight Chicago to recognize the service and sacrifice of America's veterans and build awareness and appreciation of the debt of gratitude our country owes these senior men and women. Through continued funding and support such as yours, we will fly again until every WWII, Korean War and Vietnam War veteran has visited their memorial. Again, with deep appreciation, thank you!

With Gratitude,

Edna Ho and Doug Meffley
Directors, Honor Flight Chicago

THANK You to all at
Martin Luther Church for your
generosity! You are making
an IMPACT on the lives of
our Senior veterans. GOD BLESS
and BEST WISHES for a happy
and healthy 2021! - 1
Doug
MEFFLEY

HONOR. THANK. INSPIRE.



MISERICORDIA

Heart of Mercy
Center

6300 North Ridge • Chicago, IL 60660-1017 • 773-973-6300 • fax 773-973-5214

www.misericordia.org

January 8, 2021

Martin Luther Church
6850 W. Addison Street
c/o Rev. Joanne S Fitzgerald
Chicago, IL 60634-3703

RE: Check No. 22714
Date: 12/29/2020
\$2,500.00 is tax deductible

Dear Friends of Misericordia:

On behalf of all those entrusted to our care, thank you for your generous donation to support the work of Misericordia. Each one of us is called to do something bigger than ourselves. Your gift makes it possible for us to offer our children and adults the highest quality of life that they deserve. For that, we are most grateful.

For families with a child who is intellectually or developmentally disabled, the worry of who will be there to care for their loved one as they grow older is of great concern. With your help, Misericordia can offer programs that range from independent living and work opportunities out in the community to round-the-clock care at our skilled nursing facility. Your support also helps Misericordia face the future with great hope and confidence as we find new ways to meet the needs of more than 400 families on our waiting list. Please know your generous donation makes such a difference, even more so during this health crisis. As we all face the many unknowns of Covid-19, I feel even more fortunate to count on your friendship and continued support.

You are truly a gift to all who call Misericordia home - and for wanting to make a difference on this journey we share. Together we are doing God's work and together we remain #MisericordiaStrong. Thank you again for supporting Misericordia. We ask God's blessings on you and yours, and look forward to a happy new year.

*Many thanks,
dear Friends,
for your generous
gift!*

Sincerely,

Sister Rosemary

Sister Rosemary Connelly, RSM
Executive Director

SRC: bd

Since no goods or services were provided in exchange for your kind gift, 100% is tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.



Seniors Assistance Center

Helping seniors maintain their independence

7774 W. Irving Park Road

Norridge, IL 60706

(708) 456-7979

Fax: (708) 456-8647

January 12, 2021

Rev. Joanne S. Fitzgerald
Pastor
Martin Luther Church
6850 West Addison Street
Chicago, Illinois 60634

Dear Rev Fitzgerald,

Thank you for your donation of \$2,500.00 to the Seniors Assistance Center on December 29, 2020. It is so heartwarming when we receive a gift from a generous donor that allows us to say "yes" to one more older adult experiencing hardship. Your gift is especially appreciated during this difficult time with the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Seniors Assistance Center is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization. Your contribution is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. No goods or services were provided in exchange for your generous financial donation.

Thank you for your thoughtfulness and support of the Seniors Assistance Center and the older adults and persons with disabilities that we serve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carole Creason".

Carole Creason
Executive Director

Almost Home
Foundation



Almost Home Foundation
www.almosthomefoundation.org

Jackie Guglielmo
Canine Director
jaccappi@sbcglobal.net
P.O. Box 308
Elk Grove Village, IL 60009
830-400-3979

Dear Reverend Fitzgerald,
There are not enough words
to express our gratitude
for your extremely generous
donation to the Almost
Home Foundation.

We saved 1,106 animals
in 2020, and will continue
working tirelessly to increase
that number this year. Your
donation will make this
possible, and we are so
grateful.

If possible, please thank the
congregational member for
recommending our organization.

God Bless you,
Jackie Guglielmo
Canine Director

Dear Rev. Fitzgerald,

Thank you for your recent donation
to PAWS Chicago! We
truly appreciate your tremendous
support. I would like to wish
you & your congregation a
wonderful New Year!

Betsy Morse

773.475.3320



Post Office Box 86
Gallup, New Mexico 87302-0001

January 6, 2021

Martin Luther Church
6850 W Addison St
Chicago, IL 60634

Dear Friend,

We do our utmost to distribute your precious dollars where they will do the most good or where specified. Helping people out of a horrible situation is the greatest act of kindness. When a crisis hits, a helping hand is one of the greatest experience we can have on this earth. Your contribution will indeed help with the poverty among the Native Americans a well as other charitable needs.

By this letter I, also, certify that we did not exchange any **"GOODS"** or **"SERVICES"** for your generous of donation.

Thank you, for the donation of \$2,500.00 we received on 01/06/21 words cannot express my deepest gratitude.

God Bless You,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Deacon Sherman Manuelito".

Deacon Sherman Manuelito

P.S. Please be assured that we pray for you everyday. It is the very least we can do for you, after the generosity you have shown and your precious dollars are credited to appropriate specification.

