

# THE MESSENGER

## MARTIN LUTHER LUTHERAN CHURCH

6850 W. Addison Street

Chicago, IL 60634-3796

Telephone (773) 777-8821

Web Page: [www.martinluther.info](http://www.martinluther.info)

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*We welcome you to come ...*

### Worship With Us!

*Sundays: 10:00 am*

**(Holy Communion every Sunday)**

**8:00 PM December 24<sup>th</sup>**

**CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP**

**10:00 AM December 25<sup>th</sup>**

**CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP  
SERVICE**

### MARTIN LUTHER CHURCH CHOIR

Rehearsals take place at 9:00am 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.

### 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!

**END OF YEAR REPORTS** – End of Year Reports are due by December 31<sup>st</sup> from all committees. They need to be prepared for the Annual Congregational Meeting Sunday, January 27, 2019. Thank You

2018



**W/ELCA HOLIDAY PARTY** - Come one, come all! You are cordially invited to W/ELCA's annual Christmas party, December 12, at 12:00 noon in the overflow area at the back of the church. We will have an abbreviated meeting first, then lunch will be set out around 12:45. After lunch, we'll sing Christmas carols and play holiday-inspired games. If you would like to attend, please let Lisa Neubert or Jan Vlcek know so we can get a headcount, but feel free to drop by if you decide last minute to attend. Merry Christmas!

### 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, December 1<sup>st</sup> as we make Cherry Coffee Cake and join us for the fun and fellowship, and on Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> for our bake sale. Should be yummy to the tummy!

### MLLC–



Will meet on Sunday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>. Thank You.

DECEMBER birthdays:

- 08 Lorraine Schuessler
- 10 Patricia Neubert
- 15 Barbara Leindecker



DECEMBER BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS

- 14 Max Velazquez

**W/ELCA BAKE SALE** – will be on Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</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.

**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:

August 5, 1948 Ladies Aid Minutes

*The 30<sup>th</sup> or 31<sup>st</sup> are the days set aside to go to Nauchusa Orphan Home.*

October 7, 1948 Ladies Aid Minutes

*Order 1 dozen Line-Tites to be sold at the bazaar. Order 150 buns from Silvercup and 12 dozen hot dogs from Loubies.*



**HEROES OF THE BIBLE** – will be our Sunday morning Bible Study on December 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> following worship service. We will be discussing Lydia and Jeremiah, 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!

**C** is for the Christ Child born on Christmas Day

**H** is for the Herald Angels on that Night

**R** is for Our Redeemer

**I** is for Israel

**S** is for the stars shining so brightly

**T** is for the Three Wise Men who traveled from afar

**M** is for the Manger where He lay

**A** is for All that He stands for

**S** is for the Shepherds who came to see the Christ Child

Jesus is the **REASON FOR THE SEASON**.  
Christmas Day is because of Jesus born this day.

**CHANCEL DECORATING** This year we will repeat the decorating that we did last year, based on the readings from Isaiah "Come Let Us Walk in the Light of the Lord." In order to underline the themes of anticipation and preparations, we have a schedule for decorating the chancel tree.

- Advent 1 (12/2) the bare tree will be displayed in the chancel
- Advent 2 (12/9) the lights will be lit.
- Advent 3 (12/16) decorating - We will decorate the tree at that time.

Let us come, wait, and watch as Advent approaches and we wait for Jesus' coming.

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** – On November 4<sup>th</sup>, Michael DeRobertis made his Affirmation of Baptism declaring his faith. It was a 2 ½ year program every Saturday morning. We welcome him in our midst, not only as one of the baptized, but as an adult of the church. Please greet him at church and in the neighborhood with a greeting of God's peace. Michael graduated from Locke School and is attending Steinmetz College Prep as a freshman.

**THANK YOU** – to the cast who participated in our "Luther-A Play by John" at our October 28<sup>th</sup> Reformation Sunday Worship service.

- Anne Walker as the Prior*
- John Schumacher as Martin Luther*
- Ron Vlcek as Hans*
- Karen Bucaro as Lucas*
- Lisa Neubert as the Brother*
- Jan Vlcek as Tetzal*
- Virginia Gessler as Staupitz*



**MLLC FINANCIAL SUMMARY - OCTOBER**

Monthly Giving	Monthly Needed	Shortfall
\$4,860.00	\$9,180.00	\$4,320.00
Yearly Giving	Yearly Needed	Shortfall
\$47,046.93	\$82,620.00	\$35,573.07

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.

**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.



## A Note from Pastor Joanne – Changing!

As I write this message, the season is changing once again as it has so many times this fall. It is hard to know what to wear. Do we turn on the heat? Do we add more blankets to sleep under? Do we put on a heavy or lightweight coat? Lots of things to think about now.



We are fast approaching yet another change – the coming of the Advent and Christmas season. Can you believe it, Christmas Day is less than a month away. Christmas is about family and getting together and about presents, right? Or is there more? I would like to think so.

Toward the end of the 18th century the practice of giving gifts to family members became well established. Theologically, the feast day reminded Christians of God's gift of Jesus to humankind even as the coming of the Wise Men, or Magi, to Bethlehem suggested that Christmas was somehow related to giving gifts. For many, Christmas especially in the Eastern Church, was celebrated on January 6<sup>th</sup> or Epiphany. The practice of giving gifts, which goes back to the 15th century, contributed to the view that Christmas was a secular holiday focused on family and friends. This was one reason why Puritans in Old and New England opposed the celebration of Christmas and in both England and America succeeded in banning its observance.

It wasn't until the 4<sup>th</sup> century that the date of Christmas changed to December 25. There was too much partying and drinking. So why not change it to a celebration of the birth of Jesus. It was the time of the winter solstice when daylight hours were changing to longer days. And Jesus was the focus of the day, and people would be now going to church to worship the LORD.

Christmas is about celebrating the best and greatest GIFT to us, born for us, given to us by a gracious God. Jesus was birthed and came to live on earth so that we might have eternal life and live as a child of God. The future coming of Christ coming in majesty and glory is central to the message of Christmas for us.

How will you celebrate Christmas this year? How will you celebrate the birth of Jesus? How will you bring Jesus into your hearts and into the hearts of others? Have we lost the power of Christmas in our lives? Have we given into the secular culture and

changed the meaning of Christmas and took Christ out of Christmas? God did a marvelous thing.



God had a change of heart for God's creation. God chose to limit God's self to flesh and blood, to be born in the awful times and to become one with God's people so that we can be united with God. How will you open the greatest and best gift of all? Why not start by joining us for worship each Sunday and on Christmas Eve and Day where we can truly praise and celebrate the birth of Jesus together.

## A VERY MERRY AND BLESSED ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SEASON TO ALL!!!

*Pastor Joanne Fitzgerald*

**BAPTISM CELEBRATION** – On November 25<sup>th</sup> we welcomed John and Misty Fitzgerald and their family as we celebrated with them the baptism of their son, Michael Robert. His sponsors are Elizabeth Layden and Melanie Williams. We welcome them and offer congratulations on this blessed event in their lives.

## Good Gifts – Gifts that grow the church, fight hunger and transform lives.

You are probably thinking about Christmas now – what to get family and friends for gifts that are meaningful. As members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), we believe that God is calling us into the world – together. And with generous, loving hands, we can make a difference. ELCA Good Gifts is your opportunity to provide critical support to the ministries and programs that mean the most to you and the people you love. Just think – for \$10.00 - **Ten little chicks** make a big difference. Eggs are not only an ongoing supply of protein-rich meals, they also help bring in steady income when sold at the market. With this gift, things are looking up – sunny side up, that is. Or \$30.00 for a **piglet**- It doesn't take long for a tiny piglet to grow to 200 pounds or more. And when this not-so-little piggy goes to the market, it's worth a pretty penny. Should a family have a failed harvest, medical expense or other unexpected need, this gift can be cashed in to make all the difference. Or for \$500.00 and you can share the expense with friends and family -Just **one dairy cow** can produce as many as 3 gallons of milk each day. Nutritious, calcium-packed milk from a cow helps ensure that children grow up healthy and strong. Extra milk can also be used to make cheese, yogurt, butter and other dairy products to eat and sell for a steady source of income. With food and funds – not to mention fertilizer for fields – a cow is a total package for a family in need. And there are others. If you ARE interested, Pastor Joanne has a catalog in her office. What a great gift for those who are hard to buy for!

**A CHRISTMAS STORY** – During the Roosevelt era, times were tough. The president was promising a brighter moon, but the Beasley's hadn't seen it rise over their small town in the Texas panhandle.

So when he got the call that his son was ill in California and not expected to live, Bill Beasley didn't know how he was going to scrape together the money for his wife and himself to make the trip. Bill had worked as a trucker his entire life, but he never managed to accumulate any savings. Swallowing his pride, he phoned a few close relatives for help, but they were no better off. So it was with embarrassment and dejection that Bill Beasley walked the mile from his home to the filling station and told the owner, "The son is really sick," he said "and I've got no cash. Can you trust me for the phone call to California?"

"Pick up the phone and talk as long as you need to," was the reply. As he stared to dial, he was interrupted by a voice asking, "Aren't you Bill Beasley?"

It was a stranger, who had arrived at the filling station jumping down from the cab of a truck with out-of-state plates. The young man didn't look familiar, and Bill could only stare at him with a puzzled look and say, "That's right, I am."

"Your son was one of my best pals when we were young, we grew up together. When I went off to college, I lost all track of him." He paused for a moment and then continued. "Heard you say he's sick?"

"Real bad, from what we hear. I'm gonna call and try to make some arrangements for the wife to get out there with him." Then, as a matter of courtesy, he added "Real nice talking to you, have yourself a Merry Christmas."

Bill Beasley proceeded to place his call to the cousin on the West Coast, informing him that he or his wife, hoped to be out as soon as possible.

There was an obvious look of sorrow on Bill Beasley's face as he assured the owner that he would pay for the call as soon as he could.

"The call has been paid for," said the owner, "That trucker, the one your son used to pal around with, left me a \$20 and said to give you the change when the phone bill comes in. He also left you this envelope."

Bill Beasley fumbled open the envelope and pulled out two sheets of paper. One read, "You were the first trucker I ever traveled with, the first my dad trusted enough to let me go along with when I was barely five years old. I remember you bought me a Snickers bar."

The second sheet, much smaller in size, was a signed check with an attached message, "Fill out

the amount needed for you and your wife to make the trip....and give your son, my pal, a Snickers bar. Merry Christmas!"

—*Author Unknown*

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## **WARM CHRISTMAS WISHES AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE STAFF AT MARTIN LUTHER CHURCH TO YOU**

*Pastor Joanne*

*Monica Pesole*

**David Hildner**

*Joe Azzaretto*



# Prayer Request

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

Cindy Rudolph  
Patricia Neubert  
Doris Kemreit  
Hella Rollinger  
Margaret Wagner  
Doris Ove

Also include:

Beverly Venuso (friend of Ron & Jan Vlcek), prayers for healing  
David Hildner, prayers for healing  
Mary Rusch, prayers for recovery from recent surgery  
John Blaul, prayers for recovery from surgery  
Lillian Sangha, pray as she is preparing for USMLE exam  
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  
Beverly Storz, prayers for 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

Randy Heinz and The Webb Family (friends of June Lyons), prayers for healing and strength  
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)  
Karen Bucaro, prayers of healing  
Thomas Stephanides (John Blaul's friend)  
Carl Storz (Lorraine Schuessler's brother)



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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  
Heidi Rivera  
Lori Azzaretto  
Patricia Ruttkay  
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





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1  10 am Bread Making
2 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent 9:00 am Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship 11:15 am Fellowship Time/Bake Sale/Bible Study	3	4  9:30 am Bible Bunch	5	6	7  7:00 pm Friends of Bill W.	8
9 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent 9:00 am Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship 11:15 am Fellowship Time/Bible Study	10	11  9:30 am Bible Bunch	12  12 noon W/ELCA Christmas Party	13	14  7:00 pm Friends of Bill W.	15
16 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent 9:00 am Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship 11:15 am Fellowship Time/Tree Decorating	17	18  9:30 am Bible Bunch	19	20	21  7:00 pm Friends of Bill W.	22
23 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent 9:00am Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship 11:15 am Fellowship Time/Church Council	24  8:00pm Christmas Eve Worship Service 	25  10:00am Christmas Day Worship Service 	26	27	28  7:00 pm Friends of Bill W.	29
30 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas 9:00am Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship 11:15 am Fellowship Time	31  					

*Bending Towards the Light:*

Top Jazz Artists, Vocalists and Dancers

Jazz settings of Christmas carols  
tell the Christmas Story  
with angels, shepherds and kings

# JAZZ NATIVITY

FOR ALL  
AGES

Saturday, December 8 at 4PM



*A benefit for Chicago Canine Rescue*

**Saint Luke Church**  
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**Free Admission Free Parking**

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**Pets Welcome**

A freewill offering benefits  
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