

THE MESSENGER

MARTIN LUTHER LUTHERAN CHURCH

6850 W. Addison Street

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We welcome you to come ...

Worship With Us!

Sundays: 10:00 am

(Holy Communion every Sunday)

TUESDAY BIBLE BUNCH

Tuesday mornings at 9:30 am in Pastor's office. Join Pastor Joanne as we look at the assigned texts for the following Sunday. This is your opportunity to help create a sermon! The discussion is faith-affirming and the laughter warms our hearts. We might even have hot coffee. All are welcome. Please note we will NOT meet on December 3rd.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, January 26th, 2019.

Please mark your calendars and plan to join us for our Annual Congregational Meeting. Besides voting on the budget and reviewing reports, we will be voting on various charities in which to donate. Immediately following our worship service, please proceed downstairs to Luther Hall. Light refreshments will be served.

Anyone who has committee reports that they would like included in the Meeting Packet will need to have that information to the church office no later than January 2nd so that we can have the packets ready for the congregation on January 19th. **Everyone is encouraged to attend. Especially members.**



WORSHIP ASSISTANCE NEEDED

We are looking for people to sign up to be assisting ministers, 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. We need you!



MLLC-



Will meet on Sunday, January 19th. Thank You.



2020



JANUARY
birthdays:

- 03 Doris Kemreit
- 04 Robert Fitzgerald
- 04 Patricia Ruttkay
- 14 Cindy Rudolph



DECEMBER BAPTISMAL
BIRTHDAYS

- 04 Justin Rivera

Bread Making – Beware of the Yeast

Join us on Saturday, January 11th at 10am as we make Cinnamon Raisin Bread. Join us for the fun and fellowship, and on Sunday, January 12th for our bake sale. We have made it before and boy is it yummy to the tummy!

New Sunday Morning Bible Study has begun – Understanding Islam

We will be looking at different DVDs that tell the story of Islam. It should be interesting and eye-opening at the same time.



- #4 African Americans and Islam – January 12, 2020
- #5 Islam: a Faith Hijacked
- #6 Christians and Islam

Please join us in January following worship as we study #4, and #5 and #6 in February. See you then. We will meet Pastor Joanne in the Undercroft by the coffee and goodies. There is always room for you.

W/ELCA BAKE SALE – will be on Sunday, January 12th 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.

POINSETTIA PLANTS – Thank you to everyone who helped adorn the altar for Christmas with poinsettia plants. What a warm and inviting feeling they have given to the sanctuary. Thank You.

THANK YOU – From Pastor Joanne to all who presented cards and gifts to her family during the season of Advent and Christmas. You are so thoughtful.

MLLC FINANCIAL SUMMARY - NOVEMBER

Monthly Giving	Monthly Needed	Shortfall
\$4,698.00	\$9,601.00	\$4,903.00
YTD Giving	YTD Needed	YTD Shortfall
\$50,203.50	\$86,409.00	\$36,205.50

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.

Save the Date – Christmas De-decorating Party – January 5th following worship.

THANK YOU – Once again it's that time of the year, for our 20 Maine Township and 118 Norwood Park Township, Meals on Wheels recipients to receive their gift bags. Lisa and I want to THANK everyone who shopped, filled, and checked or tied the ornaments and candy canes to the ribbon. We couldn't have done this without you. Thanks again for all your much needed help. Loree and Lisa.

YOUR 2020 OFFERING ENVELOPES – Are now available for pick up on the table in the Narthex. If you have not already done so, please pick up your box today. Thank you.

DON'T FORGET – to visit our Martin Luther Lutheran Church Facebook page at www.facebook.com/mlc1918 and



FEBRUARY 2ND – A SPECIAL DAY

As we peer into the calendar for 2020, we see that February 2nd is a Sunday. 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!



A Note from Pastor Joanne - God's Surprises!

And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ⁴⁶And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; ⁴⁹for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. ⁵⁰His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. ⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. ⁵²He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; ⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. ⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, ⁵⁵according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever." Luke 1:28-29, 46-55

A week before Christmas they arrived at the Nashville airport to head home. During the previous days, her husband and she had spent many long hours helping with disaster response after tornadoes had to run through their area. They were exhausted and left with little time to prepare to celebrate Christ's birth. As they enter the airport, they came upon a children's choir singing familiar Christmas carols. She was moved to tears. In an unlikely place, God surprise them with those lovely voices her preparation for Christmas had begun.

God is full of surprises in the Christmas story. Mary was startled at the visit of Gabriel. Joseph was surprised at his visit by an angel. I'll except the religious scholars were surprised that the Christ child will be born in Bethlehem, a lowly city, the city of David. We too can be surprised by God. If we look, we may see God in the expectant eyes of a child or the desperate look in the face of someone who is homeless or hungry. We too can bring God's presence into the emptiness where relationships are broken or into the loneliness of families grieving the death of a loved one. During Advent we looked beyond our busyness

to see God in unexpected places now and Christmas we can only imagine how Mary felt on the day godson, Jesus, was born. I am convinced that God is still in the business of performing miracles - healing the sick, giving sight to the blind, making the lame walk, and caring for God's children. Nothing can limit God's power. We have God to thank for the world greatest gift. How can we be witnesses of God's love to all? How can we grow closer to God each day? Dear God, give us eyes to see, ears to hear and minds to recognize your presence even in our busyness of our everyday lives. Help us to sense your nearness each and every day. Thank you for being with us on our journey. In Jesus' name.

Pastor Joanne Fitzgerald

Prayer Request

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

Cindy Rudolph
Patricia Neubert
Doris Kemreit
Hella Rollinger

Also include:

Mary Ellen Grisim (friend of Jan Vlcek), prayers for strength and healing
Gail DuPlessis, prayers for strength and healing
Cindy Rudolph, prayers for healing
Cathy Godomski (friend of Peggy Salpietro), prayers for healing
Anna Kirk (friend of Richard Pfursich), prayers for healing
Betty Gravenstine (aunt of Pastor Joanne), prayers for healing
Thomas Rudolph, prayers for healing and recovery
Chris & Dennis Long (friends of Jan Vlcek), prayers for improved health
Doris Kemreit, prayers for healing
Carol Chetty, prayers for a healthy baby
Linnie Kolinski (Lisa Neubert's sister-in-law's mother), prayers prayers for strength and healing
Shashi Sangha, prayers for good health
Lorraine (Wastel) Bone, (cousin of Karen Bucaro) prayers for recovery
Carol Clair (sister of Rich Pfursich), prayers for healing
Gail DuPlessis, prayers for strength and healing
Nicky Salpietro (son of Peggy Salpietro), prayers for good health
Frank and Karen Bucaro, prayers for healing
Patricia Keady (friend of Lorraine Schuessler), prayers for healing
Beverly Venuso (friend of Ron & Jan Vlcek), prayers for healing
John Blaul, prayers for recovery
John Skarkus (brother in law of Frank & Karen Bucaro), prayers for healing
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
Joe Brumtmyer, prayers for healing
Russ & Lorraine Schuessler, prayers for good health
Carl and Beverly Storz (brother and sister in law of *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 Blezien (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
Lori 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

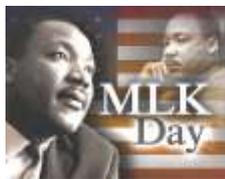
Lisa Neubert
Ron & Jan Vlcek
Pat Ruttkay
Peggy Salpietro
Pastor Joanne





January



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 	2 FINAL DAY For Annual Reports	3 7:00 pm Friends of Bill W.	4
5 Epiphany of Our Lord 10:00 am Worship 11:15 am Fellowship Time/De-Decorate Sanctuary	6 	7 9:30 am Bible Bunch	8 10:00 am Worship at Harbor Chase	9	10 7:00 pm Friends of Bill W.	11 10:00 am Bread Making
12 Baptism of Our Lord 10:00 am Worship 11:15 am Fellowship Time/Bake Sale	13	14 9:30 am Bible Bunch	15 10:00 am Worship at Harbor Chase	16	17 7:00 pm Friends of Bill W.	18
19 2 nd Sunday after Epiphany 10:00 am Worship 11:15 am Fellowship Time/Church Council Annual Reports ready	20 	21 9:30 am Bible Bunch	22 10:00 am Worship at Harbor Chase	23	24 7:00 pm Friends of Bill W.	25
26 3 rd Sunday after Epiphany 10:00 am Worship 11:15 am Fellowship Time/Annual Congregational Meeting	27	28 9:30 am Bible Bunch	29 10:00 am Worship at Harbor Chase	30	31 7:00 pm Friends of Bill W.	

