

# 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)

e-mail: mllcchicago@live.com



*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.

MLLC-



Will meet on Sunday, February 16<sup>th</sup>. Thank You. Council members will be installed on February 2<sup>nd</sup> at the 10:00am worship service. See you then.

### Bread Making – Beware of the Yeast

Join us on Saturday, February 1<sup>st</sup> at 10am as we make Cranberry Orange Coffee Rolls. Join us for the fun and fellowship, and on Sunday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> for our bake sale. Should be yummy to the tummy!

2020



### 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!



**W/ELCA BAKE SALE** – will be on Sunday, February 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.

**Congratulations to the Chettys** – Carol and Sai are the proud parents of a baby girl – Aria Sahasra. Their princess was born on January 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:02 am. Please keep the Chetty Family in your prayers as they welcome this bundle of joy into their family and for Carol as she recovers.

FEBRUARY  
birthdays:

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



FEBRUARY BAPTISMAL  
BIRTHDAYS

None recorded

**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
- #5 Islam: A Faith Hijacked
- #6 Christians and Islam

Please join us on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> for #4 and #5, and on March 1<sup>st</sup> for #6 following worship. See you then. We will meet Pastor Joanne in the Undercroft by the coffee and goodies. There is always room for you.

**MEALS ON WHEELS RECIPIENTS –** Please see the back of this messenger for the personal thank you letters we have received from different recipients. We are very grateful for the volunteers that gave of their time and talent in helping our Senior Assistance Center in Norridge and Advocate Older Adult Center of Lutheran General.

"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."  
Ephesians 2:10

**FEBRUARY 2<sup>ND</sup> – A SPECIAL DAY**

As we peer into the calendar for 2020, we see that February 2<sup>nd</sup> 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! But there is more to the day-come and worship and hear!



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

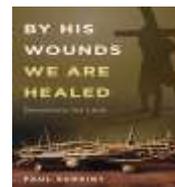


**MLLC FINANCIAL SUMMARY - DECEMBER**

Monthly Giving	Monthly Needed	Shortfall
\$6,939.00	\$9,601.00	\$2,662.00
YTD Giving	YTD Needed	YTD Shortfall
\$57,150.50	\$115,212.00	\$58,061.50

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.

**NEW LENTEN SERIES –** Please join us for our Lenten Midweek Services, starting on Wednesday, Ash Wednesday, February 26<sup>th</sup> and every following Wednesday thru April 1<sup>st</sup> at 1pm as we present "*By His Wounds We Are Healed*".



Our Lord and Savior suffered mortal wounds as punishment for the commandments broken by us. Yet, those very wounds are the means by which our sins are forgiven and we are made whole again. We will hear and learn how to reflect on how the wounds of sin affect relationships with God and with others and how, through graceful healing, our Lord restores us once more.

Before every service at noon, 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!

**Ahlan Wa Sahlan—Welcome to a Palestinian Day**

A Palestinian Day Fair will be held at Our Saviour's Lutheran, 1234 N. Arlington Heights Road, Arlington Heights, IL 60004, on Saturday, February 29, 2020, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The event will feature several speakers. Mr. Nazir Chahin, Imam/Resident Scholar at the Islamic Society of the Northwest Suburbs will give an overview of Islam. Dr. John Kahler, co-founder of the non-profit MedGlobal and 2019 American Red Cross Disaster Services Hero, will talk about the situation facing Palestinian children. There will be a Palestinian dance dancing traditional Palestinian dances; the showing of films related to the situation in Palestine and the Holy Land; olive wood, olive oil, and other artifacts for sale; and advocacy opportunities. Middle Eastern food will be available for purchase. The day will

conclude with a short prayer service in Arabic and English. It will be a great day; you won't want to miss. Need a ride? Contact Pastor Joanne. The Palestinian Fair is being sponsored by the Metropolitan Chicago Synod's Working Group on the Middle East. It is being hosted by the Global Mission Team of Our Saviour's. For more information, call the congregation at 847-255-8700.

### **A Note from Pastor Joanne – “What are you looking for? Go And Tell!”**

*The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. John 1:35-39*

Come and see! All are welcome! Go and tell! Jesus' first words appear in the form of a question, an ordinary question with extraordinary significance: "What are you looking for or better yet seeking?" Jesus' ministry begins not with a command to silence a demon; nor with a sermon to the crowds; and not with a quotation from Isaiah, but it begins with a question: "What are you seeking?" What are you looking for? What do you need? It is a question worth wrestling with since our answers will have a great deal to do with what we find as well as with the journey we take to get there. What are you seeking? What motivates you? What is that you really need, not just on the surface, but deep down into the core of your being? What are you looking for?

That Word made flesh is Jesus. That Word that was invisible becomes visible when God's great plan comes to fruition and suddenly the Word comes into focus. What John wants to do is to show us, through a series of signs, how the Samaritan woman at the well, the blind man who is granted sight, the sisters Mary and Martha at the raising of their brother Lazarus, and even Nicodemus after Jesus is crucified come, along with doubting Thomas, to see Jesus clearly at last! Just as it took a planet-wide telescope to make a black hole visible, so it takes a gospel full of believers from different situations to help us

see God clearly at last in the Word made flesh — Jesus!

Jesus sees a Samaritan woman as a real person. Jesus sees the blind person unlike people who believed it was a sickness or disability caused by sin. Jesus sees the sisters Mary and Martha and they in turn see Jesus for who he is, the Savior of the world.

Are we willing to see the outcasts, the oppressed, the suffering, the abused, the forgotten, the reviled, the depressed? Will we see God in Jesus or for that matter Jesus in any of us?

What do we see in our congregations? What do we see in our communities? On our way to work, to club meetings, to our exercise classes, or going shopping? Are we inviting others to come and see? Do we feel like children, tugging on the purse strings — come and see my room, my new toy, my baby sister? Are there places we need an invitation to see?

And what do we not see? What do we overlook? What are we excited to lift up or tuck away, hoping no one will notice? Do we ask others to come and see?

Perhaps this is a good time to reflect on the opportunity to create a new vision in our spaces. Do you know where Jesus is staying? Is it nearby? Watch! Seek! Behold! See! Revealing! Witness! Let us work together to get the word out. We are the hands and feet and mouth for Jesus' ministry in this community.

*Pastor Joanne Fitzgerald*

### **MARDI GRAS CELEBRATION**

**“Mardi Gras”,** also **“Fat Tuesday”,**



in English, refer to events of the Carnival celebrations, beginning on or after the Epiphany or Kings day and culminating on the day before Ash Wednesday. *Mardi Gras* is French for **Fat Tuesday**, referring to the practice of the last night of eating richer, fatty foods before the ritual fasting of the Lenten season, which begins on Ash Wednesday. The day is sometimes referred to as **Shrove Tuesday**, from the word *shrive*, meaning "confess."

We will be celebrating Mardi Gras on February 23<sup>rd</sup> following worship. We will first begin the celebration (weather permitting) with the burning of the palm fronds left over from last Palm Sunday. And then we will be eating creole/cajun food – Jambalaya, Dirty Rice, Gumbo, King's Cake, etc. There is a sign up sheet in the Narthex if you would like to help provide the food.

**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 loved 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*

## 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  
Patricia Neubert  
Doris Kemreit  
Hella Rollinger

Also include:

*Marion Lorenzin* (Friend of Pastor Joanne), prayers for strength  
*Laurie Strohmayer* (sister in law of Heidi Rivera), prayers for strength and healing  
*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  
*Thomas Rudolph*, prayers for healing and recovery  
*Chris Long* (friend of Jan Vlcek), prayers for improved health  
*Doris Kemreit*, prayers for healing  
*Carol and Sai Chetty*, prayers for the birth of Aria  
*Carol Chetty*, prayers for recovery  
*Linnie Kolinski* (Lisa Neubert's sister-in-law's mother), prayers prayers for strength and healing  
*Lorraine (Wastel) Bone*, (cousin of Karen Bucaro) prayers for recovery  
*Carol Clair* (sister of Rich Pfursich), prayers for healing  
*Nicky Salpietro* (son of Peggy Salpietro), prayers for good health  
*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)  
*Emercy 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**

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

**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??

**Disciples of Jesus** – All members of Martin Luther Church





# February



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 10:00 am Bread Making
2 Presentation of Our Lord Sunday after Epiphany 10:00 am Worship 11:15 am Fellowship Time/Bake Sale/Bible Study	3	4 9:30 am Bible Bunch	5 10:00 am Worship at Harbor Chase, Naperville	6	7 7:00 pm Friends of Bill W.	8
9 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany 10:00 am Worship 11:15 am Fellowship Time/Bible Study	10	11 9:30 am Bible Bunch	12 10:00 am Worship at Harbor Chase, Naperville  <i>Lincoln's Birthday</i>	13	14 7:00 pm Friends of Bill W.  <i>Happy Valentine's Day</i> 	15
16 6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany 10:00 am Worship 11:15 am Fellowship Time/Church Council	17 	18 9:30 am Bible Bunch	19 10:00 am Worship at Harbor Chase, Naperville	20	21 7:00 pm Friends of Bill W.	22
23 Transfiguration of Our Lord 10:00 am Worship 11:15 am Fellowship Time 11:30 am Mardi Gras Celebration	24	25 9:30 am Bible Bunch  	26 <b>7:30 PM ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE</b>  10:00 am Worship at Harbor Chase, Naperville	27	28 7:00 pm Friends of Bill W.	29 10 am – 3 pm Palestinian Day At Our Saviour's, Arlington Hts.  



Seniors Assistance Center

*Helping seniors maintain their independence*

7774 W. Irving Park Road

Norridge, IL 60706

(708) 456-7979

Fax: (708) 456-8647

## **THANK YOU**

---

Lisa Neubert  
4725 N. Ozanam  
Norridge, Illinois 60706

Dear Lisa:

I can't thank you enough for brightening my client's day!!!!  
They were so excited to receive the gifts you made. How very  
nice of you to do this every year.

Thank you and may God Bless you always for your wonderful thoughtfulness.

SENIORS ASSISTANCE CENTER

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Arleen', is written in black ink.

Arleen Newhouse  
Home Delivered Meals Coordinator

Thanks so much to the  
all the wonderful people  
of your church for such a  
thoughtful gift bag. We  
love the blanket, we really  
needed it. The other "goodies"  
were much appreciated too



Happy & healthy New year

"...they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh."

MATTHEW 2:11

Dear Pastor & Congregation,  
I am deeply  
appreciative of the very  
generous & beautiful

And you will have joy and gladness,  
and many will rejoice at His birth...

~LUKE 1:14

gift bags you provided  
for us poor homebound  
people. Thank you so much  
for not letting us feel so  
poor, so lonely, & even so  
physically ill. You all  
are like God's angels giving  
us warmth, kindness &  
through actions - showing you care,

Wishing you joy  
at this  
holy time of year.

Sincerely,

Mr. & Mrs. A. Baldasso

Merry Christmas &  
Happy New Year

Dear Pastor Fitzgerald/<sup>Martin</sup> Luther  
Lutheran Church & All,  
Wishing you a blessed

Christmas and a New Year  
filled with peace and love.

Warmly with  
greatest appreciation  
and thanks,

Susan Engel MD  
Client of Jaime Albergo-  
Lutheran Gen Hospital -  
Older Adult Services)

God Bless You Special,  
Susan

From Jaime Albergo  
Thursday 1/9/20

To the Congregation of Martin Luther Church:

It is with sincerest gratitude that I write this note of thanks for the holiday gifts that were provided to my program clients. Many of my clients shared with me that it was such a nice surprise to receive the gift. They commented on the beautiful, shimmering ornament and the assortment of items in the bag. For quite a few of them, it was their only gift received this holiday season, and they were beyond appreciative.

Please know that this act of kindness touched many lives. Your holiday spirit provided a ray of sunshine to many older adults who are often debilitated by the darkness of their isolation and physical frailties. Thank you for sharing your warm heart, kindness, and friendship.

With much appreciation,  
Jaime



**Jaime Albergo, MSW, LCSW**

*Information and Resource Coordinator, Older Adult Services*

*Philips Lifeline Coordinator*

Advocate Lutheran General Hospital Outpatient Center

9375 W. Church St.

Des Plaines, IL 60016

O: 847.296.0737 (internal: 24-0737)

F: 847.824.8038



Dear Ones,

Thank you so much for the generous contents of the Christmas bag that your Santa left for me. The soft throw, the adorable dish towel, the goodies and the toiletries are all greatly appreciated. I hope that your Christmas was a happy one & that your New Year will be a healthy & happy one.

So God Bless! Lorraine Strazo.

RECIPIENT OF MEAL-ON-WHEELS

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Enclosed please find a check in the sum of \$10.<sup>00</sup> (a Ten Dollar Donation) for the Friends of Martin Luther Lutheran Church. I want to thank you very much for the gift. God Be With You,

Frances Chiappetta

Thank  
You

To Martin Luther Lutheran Church,

Thank you so much for sharing the holiday spirit with your generous donation of the gift bag I received through the Meals Program for Lutheran General Med. Center.

(Jaime Albuja, Meals Program Coordinator, should you address -)  
It had so many lovely presents in it!

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I was surprised as you are in the Chicago area - quite a distance from Lutheran General. It shows that your Christian love has no boundaries. (I use to teach at your "neighbor" - St. Prescilla many years ago).

Hope 2020 is a good year for you all & your church. Many hurdles may get to befall me as I age but I am lucky to have blessings like you.  
Henry Malch



January 14, 2020

Rev. Joanne Fitzgerald  
Martin Luther Church  
6850 N. Addison St.  
Chicago, IL 60630

Dear Rev. Fitzgerald,

On behalf of everyone at The Night Ministry, and especially the people we serve, I would like to thank you and Martin Luther Church for your generous in-kind gift of hygiene items, hats, gloves, socks, and candy. Your generosity empowers The Night Ministry to provide essential services and compassion to thousands of our neighbors in need.

In the past year, The Night Ministry served over **6,050 individuals**, providing them with housing, health care, and human connection. Our volunteers served **82,990 meals**, and **20,006 bed nights** were provided across our five shelters. In addition, our Outreach and Health Ministry programs **prevented 344 visits to the Emergency Room**. Numbers like these demonstrate how important The Night Ministry is to our community. Your gift allows us to continue and expand our efforts in the coming year—thank you for partnering in our mission!

We want to keep you informed about how your generosity is making a difference. You can expect The Night Ministry's print newsletter on a quarterly basis. Please visit our website at [www.thenightministry.org](http://www.thenightministry.org) to learn more about our programs, and follow The Night Ministry on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/thenightministry](https://www.facebook.com/thenightministry) to receive updates on special events, success stories, and much more.

I am aware that you have many options when you make a charitable donation, so thank you for choosing The Night Ministry. Your gift truly will make a difference.

Gratefully,

Paul W. Hamann  
President & CEO

*Thank you. and Best Wishes!*



P.S. If you have any questions about your donation or about The Night Ministry in general, please give us a call at (773) 784-9000. Thank you again!

AHLAN  
WASAHLAN!



# WELCOME TO A PALESTINIAN DAY IN ARLINGTON HEIGHTS



## Palestinian Fair

Saturday, February 29, 2020

10:00am to 3:00pm

### Featuring

Speakers: Imam Nazir Chahin & Dr. John Kahler

Chicago Ramallah Club Debke (Dance) Group

Food and Artifacts for sale

Films and Advocacy Opportunities

### Held at

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church  
1234 N. Arlington Heights Road  
Arlington Heights

Sponsored by ELCA Metropolitan Chicago Synod  
Working Group on the Middle East