

The Portico

Dr. Martin Luther Church

325 S. Main Street

Oconomowoc, WI 53066

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Church Web Site: drmartinlutherchurch.org

Cluster Web site: lakecountrycluster.org

April, 2011

Interim Pastor

Roger Black (847) 707-3331

Pastoral Assistant

Larry Henning (262) 716-6179

Parish Nurse

Sue Konkel (262) 569-0505

Director of Music

Heidi K. Graf (414) 380-1886

Administrative Secretary

Mary Engel

Volunteer Coordinator

Bobbie Dierbeck

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:

Saturdays 5:00 PM Chapel Service

Sundays 9:00 AM Worship

10:15AM Education Time

10:30 AM Praise Worship

Worship Schedule

Saturday 5:00 PM Chapel Service

traditional format

Sundays 9:00 AM Worship

Includes a variety of musical styles, a blend of hymns and contemporary songs so that there is something for everyone at each service.

Sundays 10:15 AM Education Time

Sundays 10:30 AM Praise Service

“Roll the Stone,” our Praise Band continues to perform. Join us at this upbeat and energetic service.

From the Pastor

Why in the world would anyone be an interim pastor? If you were going to be in the ministry, why not just serve as a fulltime pastor in your own church? Why serve in the church beyond your retirement years? These questions surfaced recently for me from a number of different fronts. First of all, there was the death of one of my colleagues in interim ministry during my first couple of years in Greater Milwaukee Synod, Pastor Paul E. Peterson. Pastor Peterson served as your interim pastor for over a year and a half (2004-2005). I know that Pastor Paul was shepherding a long-term Lutheran church into its retirement when he could have been enjoying complete retirement with his family. But he chose to remain in ministry in a reduced, but stressful capacity. What could have motivated him to do so? Second, the question comes up because the first of my classmates who is my age retired in January and is already back helping out in a church in a kind of interim capacity. He is actually surprised that he is enjoying ministry in this reduced time capacity. Third, this comes to mind as relatives and friends are preparing to retire this spring from the related field of teaching. I do not foresee retirement in the near future, even though I still get lots of questions in my interim ministry settings as to whether I am already retired. Why would I want to serve in the church in an ongoing way, and why specifically do I prefer to be an intentional interim pastor?

I believe the overwhelming first response to these questions has to do with feeling called to do something. I do not believe that only pastors are called to their vocation. All people are called into their particular stations in life, including vocations that relate to work. In other words people are called to be teachers, musicians, farmers, factory workers. They also have a calling to home and family. Seeing a person's setting as a place to serve God and help others in God's name is my identification of a vocation. However, pastors are called to a particular vocation to preach and to administer the sacraments, to visit the sick, and to teach. All of these tasks remain endearing to pastors long after they lose the taste for committees, council meetings, counseling situations, and a myriad of other tasks that are part of being a regular parish pastor today. With regular ministry comes the pressure to perform with tangible results, which are often not present in today's church. Congregations want to see an increase in worship attendance, membership, and financial gifts—all of which may be hard to "deliver" in an ELCA Lutheran Church today.

Rev. Larry Westfield, a member of our congregation, recently gave an excellent stewardship sermon at our church on "what the larger church means to me." When he got done preaching I thought that "the church he proclaimed is what I feel called to serve. A church where we can preach the gospel, share Jesus' love in word and deed, and lift up the church around the

world is one that I feel called to over and over and over. Unfortunately, the reality is that our congregations are not like that. We are at odds over politics—both inside and outside the congregation, we are constantly trying to get people to think in larger circles, old and new church forces continually conflict with each other. And our work seems to be less pastoral and more administrative. All of these things depreciate the role of the pastor that we would like to take. They lead many of us into specialized ministry, some full-time and some part-time, where we can be more intentional about ministry as we see it to be and where we can call people to the greater vision and mission of the church.

Interim ministry meets many of these desires of being a pastor for me. Congregations need guidance for the interim transition. What better pastors to supply this guidance than pastors who have served in three, four, or five congregations, who have left those congregations or even have had pastors leave their congregations! Having these gifts and experience (another gift), many of us feel the call and the compulsion to keep on serving and to do it in congregations that often reflect our greater vision of what the church should be.

Like any other vocation, the interim pastor's role has its limitations. There is the travel, which no matter how you ease it with things you can safely do while you are driving, is often difficult. There are the farewells. When I leave a congregation I really try to model what I think is the best approach to leaving a parish where you are no longer the pastor. Even the members you have cared for in short-term interim congregations are no longer your members. They can be friends, but that is a precarious and often difficult relationship to maintain when the church relationship is taken out of it. There is the constantly having to start over again and get to know new people by name and moving stuff and disconnecting from those you have worked closely with for a while in order to reconnect with new folks whom you can only serve best by making them part of your current vocational life. There is the uncertainty of where the next position may be, having to trust that God will show you the next step of your journey.

Many of the things I have shared are a part of everyone's vocational life I know. I constantly am reminded of the similarities particularly between interim ministry and having students in a class for one calendar year or so. You make an impact, or you think you do, you enjoy one another's presence, but this role was designed to end within a relatively short time. I think of the closure of one of my favorite movies that reflected on this, Mr. Holland's Opus where Mr. Holland, a music teacher played by Richard Dreyfus, was retiring and finally he had an orchestra play the composition he wrote, even as he was retiring. I'm not sure what Pastor Peterson's Opus was or Pastor Dave Bacon's or my wife's brother-in-law's will be. I do not even know what my Opus will be. But I do know it has a lot to do with working to make life better for the people we serve. I know that for pastors—parish or specialized, full-time or part-time—it has to do with sharing the love of God for others and God's desire for us to serve God and to care for one another. That is very hard to get out of our bones... young, older, or old. It is the worthiness of that call which keeps us going day by day, inside or outside of our jobs, and that leads us to look at every Sunday as Easter Sunday, another opportunity to celebrate God's love and care for all people.

From the Pastor continued

As we enter what most likely will be my last season at Dr. Martin Luther (spring, I mean) my thoughts have turned to the reflective mode. But I also am thankful for not only the renewal God offers with each new season of spring and summer, but the ultimate promise we have of resurrection. Martin Luther once said that “the promise of the resurrection is written in every leaf of springtime.” More importantly the promise of the resurrection is in the words of Jesus “Because I live, you will live also.” It is because of being a part of the communion of saints here and in eternity that we can fondly remember those who have gone before us—pastors and laypersons in the church, family members and friends who are no longer with us—and that we can walk confidently into our future. We have a Lord who has overcome everything that could separate us from others (“Nothing can separate us from the love of God”). Our Lord walks with us throughout our whole lives and even carries us over the threshold of death into life. Even though in all of our humanness we continue to be challenged by difficulties in life, Easter is about victoriously living and serving God and being freed from any burdens. May God bless you with the full celebration of the Easter victory and the joy of being Easter people!

Living together during our shared interim!
Rev. Roger Black, Interim Pastor

“Gifts Of Grace: “Marks Of The Christian”

We continue our Lenten journey during the second half of Lent with Wednesday messages on how we can reflect Christ in our daily lives. On March 30th the message will center on “Hope,” as we reflect upon Romans 12:12 and Matthew 12:22-28. The emphasis on April 6th will be patience, based on Romans 12:12-13, as well as Mark 4:26-32. The final presentation in the series during Lent will be on April 13th as we lift up hospitality. The series will conclude on Maundy Thursday, April 21st, with the theme of “Living the Christ-Like Life.”

Lenten services continue to be held on Wednesdays at noon and 7 p.m. through April 13. Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services will be held at 7 p.m. each. All will culminate on Easter with a resurrection service at 7 a.m. and a festival service at 9 a.m., with an Easter continental breakfast served from 8 to 8:45 a.m. that day.

Call Committee

The members of the committee are: Jo Schneider, Dick Zautner, Connie Higgins, Rick Hankins, Lauren King, Tricia Wright, Kristi Meuer, and Andy King. Gavin Zastrow was chosen as an alternate, with the possibility of his stepping in as a regular member of the committee if someone is unable to serve. Tricia Wright is serving as a representative from the MET team and Andy King is a special representative of the council.

Waukesha County Launches Prescription Discount Card that Can Be Used by All Residents

Discount Cards Offering Average Savings of 24 Percent off Retail Price

Thank you to Julie Ausprung, a parishioner here at DMLC, for making it possible to have these cards available to you right here in our sanctuary, in the Parish Nurse Office, and on the bulletin board outside the Parish Nurse Office. **Please help yourself.**

The discount card program was launched by Waukesha County to help consumers cope with the price of prescriptions. The cards may be used by all County residents, regardless of age, income, or existing health coverage and are accepted at approximately 80 County pharmacies. A national network of more than 60,000 participating retail pharmacies also will honor the NACo prescription discount card.

There is no enrollment form, no membership fee and no restrictions of limits on frequency of use. Cardholders and their family members may use the card at any time their prescriptions are not covered by insurance.

The NACo prescription discount card offers significant savings for the uninsured and underinsured residents of our County and even those fortunate to have prescription coverage can use the card to save money on medications that are not covered by their health plan. County residents can call toll free 1-877-321-2652 for assistance with the program.

“Blessed To Be A Blessing: Giving From Your Abundance”

Thanks to all who pledged their times, talents, and treasures to the Epiphany season commitment effort. As you contribute in all of these ways in 2011 you will reflect the light of God’s glory and bring light to the church and the world.

If you have not yet taken the opportunity to fill out materials for your commitment, you can still do so using materials available on the back tables of the church. You may then place your commitment in a slotted box on a table in the back of the church. Alternatively, commitments can be mailed or delivered to the church office during the week.

We hope that this has given you the opportunity to consider how you can “give back to the Lord” and be a blessing to our church and the world.

Next FREE Community Supper

Will be held on Monday, April 25th serving from 5:00–6:00 p.m. at First Congregational United Church of Christ, 815 S. Concord Road, Oconomowoc

Office Closed

The church office will be closed on Good Friday, April 22 and Monday, April 25.



Wednesdays in Lent:

Noon and 7:00pm

A Soup lunch will follow the noon service.

Lenten

Weekend Worship

Sat. 5:00pm

Sun. 9:00am and 10:30am

HOLY WEEK

The Foundation of Our Lives



Palm Sunday, April 16/17

5:00pm Saturday: Worship

9:00am and 10:30am Sunday: Worship & recitation of Passion Narrative



Maundy Thursday, April 21

7pm Worship & First Communion



Good Friday, April 22

7pm Tenebrae Service



Easter Sunday, April 24th

7:00am Resurrection Service

9:00am Festival Liturgy

Easter breakfast served

From 8:00 - 8:45am

No Saturday Service April 23rd

No Sunday 10:30am Service April 24th

Seasoned Lutherans

will meet on Wednesday, April 27th at 12:00 p.m. for lunch. The program will be presented by City of Oconomowoc Detective Cris Harnisch who will talk about fraud, scams and what we can do to protect ourselves. Please bring your questions for him with you.

Quilting

The quilting group will meet on Wednesday, April 20th at 9:00 a.m. to make quilts for Lutheran World Relief. You do not need to know how to sew to help.

College Goody Boxes

Thank you so much for all the donations to the College Goody Boxes! We sent out 11 boxes this time, filled with goodies and gift cards. The college students appreciate the gifts, and it's nice to keep the connection with them. Many thanks to our supportive church family! Caroline Driscoll

Child sponsored through Compassion, International

Outreach has sponsored Silenat Temesgen, age 8 yrs from Ethiopia. You are invited to write Silenat, forms and information are on the kiosk. All correspondence should be sent to: Child Correspondence Dept., Compassion International, Colorado Springs, CO 80997-0001

Thank You

St. Ben's

We thank the following people for donating, making and deboning the turkeys and serving the meal: Dorothy Westgard, Jim and Arlene Johnson, Betty Peters, Kristina euer, Carrie Pflanzner, Joan Keating, Mike and Caroline Driscoll, Don and Phyllis Scharfenberg, Betty Toepfer, Pat Siebrecht, Milene Wegner, Joyce Bahr, Charlotte McMahan, Carol Potratz, Richard Zautner, Lee Gallert, Pegi Drays and Glenn Shong.

The next time we serve the meal is on Wednesday, April 6.

Bulletins and Newsletter

Thank you to Carol Navine, Betty Till, Joan Keating, Pegi Drays, Charlotte McMahan, Esther Neumann, Kathleen Kimball, Milene Wegner and Kathy Vogt for assembling the bulletins and newsletter this month.

"I wish I may, I wish I might. Have the wish I wish tonight."

Each month there will be a different \$5.00 or less item for people of the congregation to put in the Wishing well, which is located in the narthex. Items will be given to the Lake Area Free Clinic and/or the Oconomowoc food pantry, as well as Pastor and Sue Konkell to distribute as they see the need, depending what the item is.

April's item of the month is sealed Ibuprofen and Tylenol at the request of the free clinic.

If anyone knows of a need that would be good for a certain month, please contact Natalie Everts, 920.262.2050 .

Men's Bible Study

You are invited to participate in a great casual learning and fellowship experience that takes place on the **SECOND Saturday of every month** at the Pabst Farms YMCA from 7:30 - 8:30 am. You do not need to be a member of the YMCA to participate. Please contact Chris Butschke (262.966.0270) or Mike Driscoll (262.646.5605) for directions/additional details.

Young(er) Women's Fellowship Gatherings

(Apr. 3, May 1, June 5)
4:30—6:00PM in the Education Wing

Come when you can, leave when you must, childcare will be provided if requested

A gathering for young(er) women (define that as you choose) to gather for conversation, mutual support and a glass of wine. Meet to talk, listen, pray, laugh, relax, and enjoy time together to reflect on lives as women and children of God. Feel free to bring a favorite snack, dessert or bottle of wine. This group recognizes the crazy schedules many women keep, so come when schedules permit, enjoy the time set apart.

Stewardship Report February, 2011

Monthly

	Actual	Budget
Income	\$21,822.81	\$29,914.75
Expense	\$26,955.53	\$29,914.75

Monthly Income—Expense (\$5,132.72)

Year to Date	Actual	Budget
Income	\$45,678.46	\$59,829.50
Expense	\$55,099.46	\$59,829.50

Year to Date Income—Expense (\$9,421.00)

Health Ministry

My Parents Refuse to Talk About Moving – What do I do? By Adele Lund

Home for many seniors equals independence, so the thought of having to move can be extremely emotional.

When you consider that some seniors view their move to a retirement community as “their last move”, you can understand why they have no interest in discussing it. Talking about change is never easy, but in my experience, what’s *even more stressful* is having a sudden health crisis force unexpected decisions upon a family.

I’ve had the pleasure of working with many families over the years, and I’ve come to understand that even the most loving families don’t necessarily have a history of honest conversations. I’m talking about sharing feelings and talking openly about the “tough stuff”.

When you suggest to your parent that “maybe it’s time to consider making a change” ...does the room get quiet? Does the tension increase? You love them, you want to honor their wishes, and the last thing you want or need is to have them angry with you. So would it be easier to take a step back, drop the subject for a while and enjoy the peace and tranquility that would give you? Probably, but the problem is that a potential crisis may be lurking around the corner, and we all know that **having a plan**, even if you don’t have to use it for a while, **can avert the stress of crisis management**.

While a conversation about a parent’s living situation can be difficult, it does not have to be adversarial. I have been witness to many family discussions that have honored the experience and feelings of everyone involved and achieved a successful outcome for the entire family.

Consider what your parent’s reluctance to talk about moving really means. Are they trying to be difficult, or is it something else? **It’s important to recognize that when someone is “being difficult” they are often acting out of fear** - fear of change or maybe fear of the unknown. What you see as hitting the proverbial brick wall with a parent can be a line of defense for them. *What if I move and I don’t like it? What if I don’t fit in? What if I can’t afford it?*

The most successful conversations start with a mind set of wanting to listen. I look forward to sharing more thoughts on “Difficult Conversations” in May’s Portico.

Adele Lund has worked with older adults and their families for over 28 years. She currently serves as Director of Business Relations for the Laureate Group, the largest provider of senior housing in southeast Wisconsin.

The following letter is from a Parishioner who gave this to me with her permission to put it in the Portico. This parishioner gave permission to use her name but I chose not to.

Unless they have worked with me directly, often parishioners don’t know of my work because it is confidential. I don’t share and don’t ask others to share their experiences either.

However, I am always open to sharing if parishioners want their experience shared so that the congregation might better understand the Parish Nurse Role that DMLC has so compassionately included as part of its mission, not only to your own congregation, but as part of your outreach into the community.

Parish Nurse, say what?

I often wondered just exactly what does a Parish Nurse do. Well, let me tell you about what our Parish Nurse did for me. I attended an amazingly eye opening Breast Awareness Talk. This was truly informative and for me life changing!

I learned about breast health through pictures, spoken conversation, and “props” (breast models with varying size lumps). In just a short time I had learned a ton!

I also learned that our Parish Nurse works with other Community Health Nurses and about how many women they had helped. (Between April-Oct of 2010, out of 33 women sent for screening, 6 had tested positive for cancer)

By “helped” I mean that there are several programs that the nurses can get you in touch with for screenings that help maintain your health. This is exactly what our Parish Nurse did for me. I found out that I was eligible to enroll and be accepted into a Women’s Wellness Program that provided me some invaluable health screenings and tests free of charge.

It was a fabulous experience and for that I am very grateful to DMLC for supporting a Parish Nurse Program. What a blessing to find out what a Parish Nurse can do! Thanks Sue!

FYI – In the one year that ProHealth Community Outreach Nurses implemented this program, we had nine women that were referred and received services through DMLC.

**Healing Services will be held
April 9 and 10
along with Blood Pressure Screening**

Portico News Deadline

The deadline for the May issue of *The Portico* is Monday, April 11. All information for the month of May must be submitted by this date. Thank you.

The DMLC Book Club meets on the 3rd Tuesday evening at 6:30 pm in the Books and Co. store, 1039 Summit Avenue. Transportation available. Call Ginny Scholtz, 567-5538, with suggestions, questions, etc.



In April we will read: **Wingshooters**, By Nina Revoyr
A story of conflict over race and culture told through the eyes of a Japanese-American girl in small town Wisconsin. Has been likened to Harper Lee's "To Kill a Mockingbird".

In May : **The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks**, By Rebecca Skloot
Scientific research using "HeLa" cells helped medicine to combat polio, cancer, viral illness and other physical ailments. All the cells have been derived from the daughter of slave who has been dead for over 60 years. A look at the ethical challenges of modern medicine.

In June: **Major Pettigrew's Last Stand**, By Helen Simonson
Story of a blooming friendship between an English country gentleman and a Pakistani widow. A relationship that challenges tradition and cultural norms.

We haven't chosen titles for the rest of the season, but there are a lot of good books waiting for us. We chat, informally about the book of the month, other books we like and other stories we know.

Waukesha County Drug Collection will be held May 14, 2011 at Oconomowoc Memorial Hospital (9 a.m. - 12 pm.) 791 Summit Ave., Regional Cancer Center Entrance.

You can bring: Prescription medication, over the counter medication, ointments, sprays, inhalers, creams, vials, herbals, pet medications and mercury.

Do Not Bring: Biohazardous material (including sharps), household hazardous waste, bulk prescription drug samples and personal hygiene products.



2011 LakeWalk

May 7, 2011

Fowler Park, Oconomowoc, WI 53066

Easter Breakfast, 2011

Menu: ham and rolls, pastries and fruit bowl, coffee, milk and juice.

We are asking people to donate any of the following items. Please turn this slip into the church office by April 17. Please drop off your food donations in the church kitchen by Noon on Saturday, April 23.

All proceeds will be given to the Oconomowoc Food Pantry. Thrivent Financial for Lutherans will match dollar for dollar up to \$500.00. Please give generously.

The breakfast will be served on Easter Sunday from 8:00 – 8:45 a.m.

Fresh Blueberries

Pastries

Fresh Strawberries

Gallon Milk

Apples

Sliced Ham

Oranges

Rolls

Fruit Cocktail

Monetary Donation \$ _____

Name _____ Phone # _____