

# The Portico

Dr. Martin Luther Church

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Oconomowoc, WI 53066

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Church Web Site: [drmartinlutherchurch.org](http://drmartinlutherchurch.org)

Cluster Web site: [lakecountrycluster.org](http://lakecountrycluster.org)

## February, 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

“Five loaves and two fish!” That is all that they had as over five thousand men, women, and children were gathered on the Galilee hillside. It was supper time. Jesus’ disciples wanted to shoo the people away and send them home to have supper. In view of the scarcity of their resources it appeared to be the practical thing, the realistic approach. But Jesus would have none of it. Perhaps He felt personally responsible that these people had been listening to him all day and were now in need. He wanted his disciples to also understand this need. So he said to them: “You give them something to eat.” But his disciples came back to him, “How can five loaves and two fish make a meal for so many people?” To which Jesus replied by taking the loaves and fish and blessing them and asked his disciples to distribute what he had blessed and broke. They all ate and were satisfied and, when they took up what was left over, they had over 12 baskets full.

When Martin Luther retold bible stories like “the feeding of the 5,000” to his family he would often ask his many children to play roles and act out the story. Alternatively, he would ask his listeners “who they identified with in the story? In applying this Scripture, what do you think it tells you to do?” I think that Dr. Martin Luther’s questions are worthwhile for us to think about in terms of our status in the world. I think that Jesus’ parable has a lot to tell us in terms of our view as both possessors and givers in the world. Try as I might to avoid it, it is clear to me that we are called to be disciples in the world today. We have been supplied with far more than we need. We have an abundance of blessings from God. Consequently, we can eat our fill, as at least one of the gospels says, as well as distribute from our abundance to others who have needs. Further, as we come to understand our many blessings, we will want to give not only from our leftovers, but from the fullness of all that we have.

I first read this interpretation of this gospel connected to our status as stewards and managers of all God has given us a few years ago. I have to admit that I got a little defensive about this interpretation and its implications for me. After all, it took a miracle by Jesus to make five loaves and two fish enough for all who were present on that hillside. I certainly need to keep most of what I have for myself and the needs of my family. I can see how it applies to those who have so much more than me, those who have resources enough to spare. I do not even have “five loaves and two fish” to spare. And, Jesus does miracles in the Bible, but those were simple days

and very little was needed and today we have so many needs and we have to also plan for a rainy day and hold on to almost all that we have.

Still, as I have reflected on this story I understand it to contain much truth for me. The main point of the Scripture is “you have more than enough.” I have to admit that is true. I also hear the implication “you give them something to eat” as an imperative for me to help meet the needs of others. Further, as a disciple of the Lord I can count on a gracious God who can do far more miracles, even to the extent of using me as a conduit to bless others.

If I can be so bold I would suggest that you are probably more like me than like many people who live with scarcity in the world today. We are truly among the blessed in so many ways. Among our blessings we can even count the fellowship of the church, gifted people who lead the church (some paid and some unpaid), and the vast majority of members and friends who can afford to be a blessing not only to their families, but to their church, their community, and the larger world.

Yet we often think of ourselves as not having enough. Or we raise the bar of “enough” so that we can never quite reach it. Could it be that part of our human sinfulness is that we are never satisfied with what we have, but always want to have more? Could it be that what seems to be good old-fashioned “horse sense”—that you “take care of yourself and your own first” or “that you pay the bills for the necessities first” is just the extension of the survival mentality that we share with the animals?

For myself I must answer “yes” to the questions I posed above. As someone who has been created by God to do more than survive, I believe that this leads me to turn my thinking around. I need to not think so much about what I don’t have or what I better watch out for and think more about my higher calling of discipleship and servanthood. In order to receive my full potential as a human being God wants me to learn to be a more sharing and caring servant of Him. As I learn to become a more gracious human being, then I discover not only that my needs have been well taken care of, but that God even gives me abundant leftovers.

I am excited about lifting up this “abundance theme” of “being blessed to be a blessing to others” in a stewardship commitment” program we will be doing during the next five weeks. Considering our role as steward with all that we have is a suitable theme for any time. Certainly during Epiphany when we remember the wise men giving their gifts to the new king, Jesus, we reflect on the gifts that we can bring the One who is the light of the world. Our reflection on this theme at this time will also fit well into the place in the interim that we are right now. Soon the call committee will be interviewing candidates and then within a few months hopefully a new regular pastor will be in place. Don’t we want a situation of strength when a new pastor begins rather than a position of weakness?

## From the Pastor continued

The Administration and Finance team is planning several components to this program on “giving from our abundance.” There will be two temple talks, one on the weekend of January 29 and 30 by Maggie Amin on “how I have been blessed as an individual” and one by Tricia Wright on the weekend of February 12 and 13 on “How I have been blessed through this church.” Rev. Larry Westfield, one of our members who is a pastor and works with major gifts to the larger ELCA, will serve as guest preacher on the weekend of February 26 and 27 on “How we are blessed to be a part of a larger synod and church.” I will preach a sermon on the final weekend of March 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> on “How Grace Transforms Our Lives.”

In the middle of February we will be distributing materials for each of our members of DMLC to consider how you can commit yourself financially to the church during 2011, as well as give of your time and abilities. On the weekends of February 26-27 and March 5-6 we will be offering you an opportunity to re-commit yourself to the Lord and your church. We ask that you prayerfully consider the abundance of gifts God has given you and how you may serve Him as a growing disciple.

We certainly can be used by God to distribute from our many blessings to others. As we think of ourselves as being richly blessed, we can become not only more faithful servants of God, but more trusting and less anxious in our daily lives. Then we will certainly become the special people of God that we were created to be!

Toward realizing our mutual abundance,

Pastor Roger Black

## 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.

Please keep this committee in your prayers as they begin this important work on behalf of the entire congregation.

## Next FREE Community Supper

Will be held on Monday, February 28<sup>th</sup> serving from 5:00—6:00 p.m. at First Congregational United Church of Christ, 815 S. Concord Road, Oconomowoc

## Calling all Scrap bookers!!!

If you love to scrapbook or want to learn, this is the day for you!

Bring your supplies or we can make them available.

All ages welcome!

New to scrapbooking? Let us show you how!

We'll play some games, have snacks, door prizes and lots of fun!

No charge!

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 9:00AM—4:00PM

Come and go as you please—we order out lunch.

Questions?

Call Connie Higgins at 567-3593 or Angie Lewein at 567-5629

## Young(er) Women's Fellowship Gatherings

(Feb. 6, Mar. 6, Apr. 3, May 1, June 5, 2011)  
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.

## Dartball Schedule: Mondays @ 7:30PM

February 7	DMLC at St. John's, Ashippun
February 14	Cross, Ixonia at DMLC
February 21	St. Mark's, Sugar Island at DMLC
February 28	DMLC at St. John's, Watertown
March 7	Make-up night
March 14	2nd place vs. 3rd place in each division
March 21	First round winners vs. 1st place in each division
March 28	Championship Match and Captain's meeting
April 4	League Banquet @ Plattdeutscher Hall 7:30 pm Buffet Style

## Annual Youth Ski Trip February 24–27

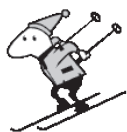
Join us for a weekend of fun! **Beginners and friends** welcome!

WHO: All youth, 6th grade & up

WHERE: Walesewicz Home in Hurley, WI

WHEN: 4:00 Feb. 24–5:30 Feb. 27

COST: \$100—includes transportation, meals, lodging and skiing.



Payment due by **Tuesday, February 14.**

Sorry, refunds not available

For more details contact Chris Lewein at 567-5629.

## 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.

## Quilting

The quilting group will meet on Wednesday, February 16th at 9:00 a.m. to make quilts for Lutheran World Relief. You do not need to know how to sew to help with this project.

## Oconomowoc Food Panty

Pantry Usage 2010:

Families:	3,830
Adults:	6,672
Children:	4,567
New Families:	272
Pre Packed Bags:	6,704

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

A new "wishing well" has been graciously designed, built and donated by Jerry Gaido at Outreach's desire. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you, Jerry! It is located in the narthex.

Each month there will be a different \$5.00 or less item for people of the congregation to put in the Wishing well. 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.

February's item of the month will be little lap blankets for children and adults to use in their cars or homes. They can be store bought, hand made or gently-used. (Note: B.A.G.S. would love any twin to king size bedding for homeless sleeping bags. Drop off is in the old daycare area.)

March's item of the month will be any gloves, mittens, hats or scarves. A lot of times items are wearing out, grown out of or one is missing. It is still cold. Many times parents hold out for the warmth of spring, but it is really a need often until the end of May.

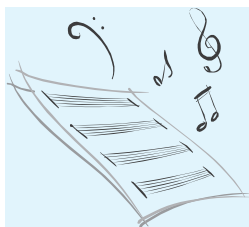
If anyone knows of a need that would be good for a certain month, please contact Natalie Everts, 920.262.2050 or if you would like to join us, please check the Portico for meeting times.

## College Goody Boxes

Head's up to all parents/relatives of college students! It's time to start preparing for our Spring Semester "goody boxes" for our college students. I'd like to mail them out by March 3rd. Please watch for good deals on small items that would fit into a medium size flat rate postal box. Microwavable food, candy, gum, small school supplies, \$5 gift cards to fast food places or visa/mc gift cards, are all suggestions. Cash donations towards the price of shipping or purchases are also appreciated. There will be a box in the Narthex for donations~please take cash or gift cards to the church office. Don't forget to turn in your students' name and address! I make a new list each time we send these out! ☺ Thanks for your support! POC Caroline Driscoll 646-5605 or [driscollmc@earthlink.net](mailto:driscollmc@earthlink.net)

## 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



## Music Notes

Greetings!

As our congregation approaches the date of our Annual meeting (January 30) we take a look back at numbers: attendance, offerings, expenses, baptisms, weddings, funerals and membership. I thought it would be a great time to look back at the number of members involved in our music programs at DMLC.

- 9 Youth handbell players
- 14 Adult handbell players
- 7 Roll the Stone (Praise Band)
- 45 Sunday School music
- 18 Instrumentalists
- 30 Vocalists
- 3 Pianists/Organists (not counting me!)
- 1 Babysitter (so others can participate!)

DMLC has talent! Every year the numbers increase as we build up our music programs. What a blessing it is to have so many people so willing to share their gifts with us as we praise the Lord together. Thank you to everyone who participates in and supports our music programs!

Heidi K. Graf

Director of Music



## Stewardship Report December, 2010

### Monthly

	Actual	Budget
Income	\$26,273.75	\$30,972.92
Expense	\$29,740.73	\$30,972.92

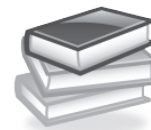
Monthly Income—Expense (3,466.98)

Year to Date	Actual	Budget
Income	\$298,762.76	\$371,675.00
Expense	\$327,333.80	\$371,675.00

Year to Date Income—Expense (\$28,571.04)

## DMLC Book Club Winter Reading

The book club will not meet in January or February. Instead we will curl up at home and read to dark nights away. Here are three suggestions.



### 1) *The Soloist*

By Steve Lopez

#### Description

The story of a news columnist and a musical genius who has schizophrenia. "... self-effacing humor, fast-paced yet elegant prose and unsparing honesty ...", Publishers Weekly

### 2) *Extraordinary, Ordinary People*

By Condoleezza Rice

#### Description

A memoir by the daughter of "Angelena, was a cultured teacher who taught her piano, while her father, John, was a Presbyterian minister and later a college administrator who, despite his Republican politics, strongly admired black radicals, developing a friendship with Stokely Carmichael.", Booklist

### 3) *Baking Cakes in Kigali*

By Gaile Parkin

#### Description

"Angel Tungaraza: mother, cake baker, pillar of her community, keeper of secrets big and small. Angel's kitchen is an oasis in the heart of Rwanda, where visitors stop to order cakes but end up sharing their stories, transforming their lives, leaving with new hope. In this vibrant, powerful setting, unexpected things are beginning to happen. ..." Books & Co.

In 2011, the DMLC Book Club will meet on the THIRD TUESDAY of the month. We will meet on March 15th at 6:30 PM at Books & Co. in Whitman Plaza. All are welcome.

### You are invited to the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Women's Ecumenical Breakfast

Saturday, February 12 9:00 – 11:30 a.m.

St. John's Lutheran Church  
W334 N6990 Stone Bank Road in Stone Bank

Breakfast will be served in the downstairs fellowship hall at 9:00 a.m. A program follows upstairs in the sanctuary featuring Reynold Kremer who will take us on a fascinating trip into Amish Country. *Please reply by Wednesday, February 9<sup>th</sup>* to St. John's Church office at 262-966-2034. If no one is in the office at the time of your call, please leave a message. We look forward to seeing you on February 12<sup>th</sup>.

The program: ***The Plain People: Hutterites, Mennonites and the AMISH*** Join us for an enjoyable morning with local author and speaker Reynold R. Kremer. Mr. Kremer will take us on a trip into the interesting world of the Anabaptists, (Amish, Old Order Mennonites, & Hutterites), with special emphasis on the history, religion, and heritage of the Amish people.

## From Our Parish Nurse, Sue Konkol

### The Bartender at the Corner Bar

#### Why we go to church?

***“My command is this: Love one another the way I loved you.”***

***-John 15:12***

This joke really made an impression on me when I heard a Priest tell it in church:

*“A woman asked her husband why he never attends church with her. He answered that he didn’t attend church because he didn’t like the new Priest. She responded, “But you don’t like the new bartender at the Corner Bar and you still go there every Friday night?”*

Good point! Why would a person continue to go to the Corner Bar if they didn’t like the bartender? **Because of what they experience when they get there!** (An escape from the stresses of everyday living; a sense of camaraderie and probably something that numbs the pain.- Remember the “Cheers theme lyrics, *“Making your way in the world today takes everything you’ve got; taking a break from all your worries sure would help a lot...wouldn’t you like to get away? Sometimes you want to go, where everybody knows your name, and they’re always glad you came. You wanna be where you can see, our troubles are all the same....”*). Hmm.. I wonder if these things are available to us at church?

I realize that most people come to church for “what they can get out of it”. I understand that, I do too. But I keep coming back because it totally enriches my life and my well-being! Actually, I get the same “perks” the man visiting the corner bar gets: a sense of belonging, camaraderie with others, a healing of my pain (that’s not temporary!); an escape from the stresses of my everyday living (in fact, church bolsters me to go out and face my week). I bring to worship all the unresolved issues from my past week and surrender them to Jesus. I experience emotional connection through prayer and music and all of you. I am nourished through communion and given a sense of purpose for my life. As a child coming from an abusive home, just the repetitive ritual of the liturgy brought me comfort each week, church was my “safe place”.

God dwells in people, not in buildings. We are all healthier when we gather regularly for worship. I believe that the sense of “community” and “belonging” and “connectedness” to God and others is imperative for our well-being.

*God, may the insights and considerations that these words cause us to ponder, assist in bringing this faith community into an even stronger, healthier, and more vital future.*

*In Jesus name, Amen*

*“The church has the challenge of providing God’s comfort and blessing for people who are in various needs.*

*How can we support others in the community of faith?”*

*-The Word in Season*

*Season*

**Healing Services will be held**

**February 12 and 13**

**along with Blood Pressure Screening**

**Portico News Deadline**

The deadline for the February issue of *The Portico* is Monday, February 14. All information for the month of March must be submitted by this date. Thank you.

## Seasoned Lutherans

will meet on Wednesday, February 23rd at 12:00 p.m. for lunch. The program will be presented by Pastor Roger Black.

## Income Tax done FREE

AARP TaxAide is pleased to announce our tax preparation service to our local community for the coming year.

Through the charter of the organization, we are trained to provide a wide range of service that supports most residential taxpayers.

The operation in Oconomowoc will be provided every **Tuesday** from February 1st to April 12th at the Oconomowoc Senior Center located at 210 S. Main Street.

This tax preparation service is done **by appointment only**.

Please call (262) 567-3287 between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. to set up your appointment.

## Thank You

### St. Ben's

Thank you to the following people for making St. Ben's another success this month: Kristi Meuer, Dorothy Westgard, Betty Peters, Pat Siebrecht, Gordon Fleury, Betty Toepfer, Jeanne Johns, Don and Phyllis Scharfenberg, Art Boettcher, Charlotte McMahon, Milene Wegner, Carol Potratz, Joyce Bahr, Leslie Boettcher, Lee Gallert, Dick Zautner and Glenn Shong.

The next time we serve the meal is on Wednesday, Feb. 2.

### Bulletins and Newsletter

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

# Festival Choir

Come and sing! Festival Choir is returning to sing for the Good Friday worship service (April 22, 7pm) and Easter Sunday (April 24, 9am). Entire families are invited to sing as well as children grades 3 and older.

We will be rehearsing for the 4 weeks prior on Tuesday evenings at 6pm. Rehearsals are March 29, April 5, 12 and 19. In order to plan ahead and insure that we have a sufficient number of voices, we need your commitment in advance. Please, fill out the form below and return to Heidi Graf before March 6.

Yes, I will sing with the Festival Choir.

\_\_\_ April 22 (Good Friday)

\_\_\_ April 24 (Easter Sunday)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate a voice part:

Child's voice \_\_\_\_\_

Women: Soprano \_\_\_\_\_ Alto \_\_\_\_\_

Men: Tenor \_\_\_\_\_ Bass \_\_\_\_\_

Return to Heidi Graf before March 6.