

The Portico

Dr. Martin Luther Church

325 S. Main Street

Oconomowoc, WI 53066

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Email: dmlc@globaldialog.com

Church Web Site: drmartinlutherchurch.org

Cluster Web site: lakecountrycluster.org

July, 2011

Senior Pastor

Larry Harpster

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

Summer Office Hours

Mary will be in the church office Monday through Thursday from 7:00 AM to 2:00 PM. The church office will be closed on Fridays.

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 10:30 AM Praise Service

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

Sunday, July 3rd there will not be a 10:30am Praise Service

From the Pastor

Summer is my favorite time of the year. I like the warmth of most of the days and the sunshine which is abundant with it during most of that time. I especially enjoy the lazy, hazy, crazy days which lead us to reflect on our favorite things in life. As a country boy, I like the cool of evenings (when there are no mosquitoes) and the smells of campfires, charcoal grilling, and corn on the cob. It is a time when I can truly say I feel alive and thankful for the many blessings that God has given me.

As my eleven months of interim ministry with you come to an end, it is a time for which I am thankful as well. For you as a congregation it is a time to look forward to the coming of a new lead pastor, Rev. Larry Harpster, and to the journeys and adventures that you will go on together. As our closure litany on July 10 will put it, after I leave the pastoral office here that day I will continue to pray for you and, hopefully, you will continue to pray for my ongoing ministry as an intentional interim pastor.

I thought I would use the rest of this newsletter to lift up “my favorite things” about Dr. Martin Luther and my experience here. I know that I have shared a lot of things about myself during the last months. I do not know if I have shared with you how much I enjoy a good musical and a good song from a musical. One of my favorite musicals is *The Sound of Music* and one of my favorite songs is “My Favorite Things.”

Raindrops on roses and whiskers on kittens
Bright copper kettles and warm woolen mittens
Brown paper packages tied up with strings
These are a few of my favorite things

Cream colored ponies and crisp apple strudels
Doorbells and sleigh bells and schnitzel with noodles
Wild geese that fly with the moon on their wings
These are a few of my favorite things

Girls in white dresses with blue satin sashes
Snowflakes that stay on my nose and eyelashes
Silver white winters that melt into springs
These are a few of my favorite things.

As I share what I feel is the “abundance of grace” God has given Dr. Martin Luther I hope it will lead you to reflect on your own list of favorite things about DMLC.

First and foremost, I appreciate the caring community that is DMLC. There are many people in the congregation that genuinely care for the church and its people. Evidently, many of you have “gotten” Paul’s writings directly to the church at Corinth about “faith, hope, love abide, but the greatest of these is love.” Second, this caring and compassion is evident in wanting to help those who have great needs. I only got to go to St. Ben’s

once, but I regularly see the lists of things needed for this ministry, as well as other ministries, and people coming through to help. I know vicariously from how people have ministered to Tricia Wright that the bucket of love and caring is deep. Third, I appreciate the breadth and depth of worship here. Every service communion is great and I believe it sets a tone for worship that is Christ-centered. The variety of worship experiences is good and the music enhances the worship experience. With the addition of the booming voice of your new pastor, as well as his mission development experience, I look forward to hearing even greater things in this regard.

My favorite things about Dr. Martin Luther include that which you might take for granted. First, its location, which is smack dab in the middle of a city with lakes. There is excellent single-family dwelling housing and abundant multiple housing in the community as well. Its location still makes it accessible from nearby Dousman and Ixonia, as well as many of the housing developments surrounding it. Second, the church building itself. Its white pillars and architecture make it unique in the area among Lutheran congregations. When you are inside the nave and sanctuary you feel like worshipping God. Third, the fellowship hall (with kitchen and stage) provides opportunities for multipurpose use with a modicum of movement. It has potential for all kinds of activity of the people of God, both inside and outside the congregation.

Now moving toward my personal experience of favorite things, I would begin with being able to lead worship and share my understanding of the good news with you. I count it “part of my joy” to have a variety of experiences of “telling the old, old story of Jesus and His love.” After all, I am an interim pastor in part because I like the variety that it provides. Second, I would “count it part of my joy” to have a primary experience of relating to the staff at DMLC. Although they are quite varied in personalities and interests, they are all caring individuals. Third, the individual “grace-filled” moments—messages to (and sometimes from) the children, blessed worship moments (confirmation and first communion and baptisms and funerals and weddings), times for food and fellowship (in between services, seasoned Lutherans and for special events such as Lent), opportunities to visit one on one in hospitals or homes or other situations, times for instruction (confirmation and first communion and other situations), and times to plan and carry out the work of the church (council, ministry teams, MET team, and other experiences). I appreciate these ministry opportunities at Dr. Martin Luther. (continued page 3)

From the Pastor (continued)

“These are a few of my favorite things and experiences.” I think it is important to reflect on these things, but also to reflect on experiences with people. After all we journey together through life, and sometimes that is a “big chill” experience. I would like to close by thanking you for this journey for almost a year and wish you God’s greatest blessings.

May you also take the time to reflect on “your favorite things” in your life and about your church. Let me close by sharing with you the lyrics of a song that Felice Mancini once wrote for her parents:

“Sometimes, not often enough
We reflect upon the good things
And those thoughts always center
Around those we love.
And I think about those people
Who mean so much to me
And for so many years have made me
So very happy.
And I count the times
I have forgotten to say
Thank you, and just how
Much I love them.

Pastor Roger Black

Next Step For Pastor Roger

Pastor Roger Black will be completing his work as interim pastor at Dr. Martin Luther on Sunday, July 10th following the 10:30 service. DMLC is the fourth congregation he has served in interim ministry for the synod since beginning at Cross Lutheran in Burlington August 15, 2006. The last three interims (including DMLC) have been fifty to sixty mile commutes one way. Consequently, Pastor Roger is happy to report that his one-way commute will be almost cut in half as he begins his interim service in a kind of shared ministry at two Racine churches, St. Paul Lutheran and Zion Lutheran, right away in mid-July. Meanwhile his residence will remain the same in Antioch, Illinois. Surely his 2009 Honda Civic, which now has **94,000** miles, will be thankful for the new placement as well.

Young(er) Women’s Fellowship Gatherings

**August 7, September 11, October 2, November 6
and December 4, 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.

Thank you for your contributions!

Thank you to all who donated to our Lent and Self Denial offerings. These monies have been distributed as follows:

Parish Nurse Discretionary Fund, \$500
Tricia Troops, \$500 (given through Golf outing so that funds will be matched by Thrivent)
Outreach for Hope (Greater Milwaukee Synod), \$200
Compassion International, \$500
Lutherdale Camp, \$300
Lake Area Free Clinic, \$400
Oconomowoc Food Pantry, \$300
Oconomowoc Urgent Need Fund, \$200
St. Ben’s ID Program, \$238
Guatemala Mission Trip (Amanda Mouradian), \$100

Total Amount Distributed: \$3,238.00

Holy Baptisms

Natalie Jean Helser, daughter of Jamie Saeger and Justin Helser, was baptized on Sunday, June 5th. Sponsors for Natalie are Nicholas Saeger, Anthony Owens and Samantha Multhauf. We pray God’s richest blessings be with Natalie as she grows.



**One Lord,
One Faith,
One Baptism.**



Braden Tyler Golombowski, son of Daniel and Laura Golombowski, was baptized on Sunday, June 26th. Sponsors for Braden are David Golombowski and Lisa Taylor. We pray God’s richest blessings be with Braden as he grows.

From Our Parish Nurse, Sue Konkel

Introducing “The Conversation” for Improving the Quality of Life for Your Parent

When a family reports that they cannot discuss a parent’s living situation because he or she is leery of having this conversation, I suggest to them that they may have gotten stuck in a *conversational cul de sac*. This is understandable when you stop to think of what most of us do when preparing for what we expect to be a difficult and uncomfortable conversation.

See if any of this sounds familiar:

What do you tend to do when preparing to broach the subject of moving with your parents?

- Play out the conversation in your head in advance?
- Prepare arguments and your best come backs? (Because you know you’re right! Right?)
- Once the actual conversation starts, feel compelled to say everything you rehearsed regardless of the other person’s responses?
- Stop listening; *we are more intent on what we are saying?*

This style of communication is common to many relationships.

Your parent is most likely engaged in the same preparation for the conversation as you are, running through various scenarios that have been created before. It does not take long for a parent to recognize the signals that you are about to bring up their living situation. Should it be a surprise that they, too, have rehearsed their lines and deliver them on cue?

If you have had several conversations that have generally gone along the same predictable path, you may have started a list of phrases in your head that you think are flash points or language that shuts things down. Avoiding highly charged language is advisable **but more importantly, consider how much time you have spent listening. Only by changing mindsets can we get beyond the impasse.**

It is most important that your parent feels your compassionate listening response to their fears and concerns! They need to know you are listening and hearing!

In wanting to discuss a parent’s living situation, adult children are acting out of love and concern. Most feel sympathetic that their parents are undergoing a transition in life that can be emotional and challenging. **But, it is important for adult children to remember that they too may be experiencing a changing of roles that can be difficult to manage. It is possible to feel as though you are switching back and forth between being the child and being the parent of your parent, all in the course of a few minutes.**

I spend a lot of time with families in their homes, helping guide conversations. Part of the assistance I can impart is to help adult children sort out their own feelings about their parent’s situation.

Take Jane for instance. She lives in Florida, but her mother lives in Milwaukee, in the home that Jane grew up in. Jane visits as often as she can, but with the distance and her full time job, she doesn’t get back home nearly as often as she’d like. Her mother Julia is in her mid 80’s, has had some recent health setbacks, and as a result doesn’t get out of her home very often.

Jane had seen a change in her mother; less energy, less social, and though still a lovely person, a little less joy in her eyes. But every time Jane talked about a move, her mother changed the subject or got quiet. After many conversation stops and starts on the subject of moving, Jane was exasperated. She’d always been the good child. She loved her mother dearly. They had always been very close. But every time Jane had to leave to go back to Florida, along with packing her suitcase she’d pack her guilt about not being there for mom. Frankly the guilt weighed a lot more than her personal belongings, and she was wearing out from that burden. It was her turn to take the lead in this relationship. It was her turn to do for her mother what her mother had done for her for so many years.

(continued page 5)

From Our Parish Nurse, Sue Konkel (Continued)

I told Jane she had *three possible options* to consider:

1. She could make the decision for her mother and force her to move, thus returning home knowing that mom was likely mad at her, temporarily, but know that she was safe and in a better place.
2. She could return to Florida and decide that she could no longer accept the guilt, she had done all she could, and she had a right to her own life the same as her mother did.
3. Or she could pursue a third option (which she later did) and find the strength to pursue a very honest yet honoring conversation with her mother. She not only talked about why her mother should move, but how she felt every time she returned to Florida, and how much the worrying was impacting her personal life.

The conversation was not one of transferring guilt, but rather one of honestly sharing her love, her caring, and helping her mother see the situation through different eyes. *It was the same exercise her mother had led Jane through many times in her younger years.*

Throughout life we are constantly changing roles, some we welcome, and others we don't. One of the greatest lessons I've learned from the many families I've interacted with is, **if we talk less and listen more, if we wear our roles with dignity and caring, the result is usually one of more common understanding and stronger relationships.**

Our family relationships have been built on a foundation of both joyous and troubling times. **I have come to believe that the most difficult part of aging, of this life transition period, is having honest yet honoring conversations.**

Stay tuned for a future article in which I will share some of the wisdom I've gained from families on **how to build the bridge to a better life for everyone through a loving yet productive conversation.**

Adele Lund

The Laureate Group

Quilting

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

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

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

Next FREE Community Meal

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

Thank You

St. Ben's

We thank the following people for donating, making and deboning the turkeys and serving the meal: Betty Peters, Schulz Family, Betty Toepfer, Pat Siebrecht, Barb Lee, Charlotte McMahon, Joyce Bahr, Milene Wegner, Cheri Conners, Pegi Drays, Lee Gallert, Dick Zautner, Art and Leslie Boettcher, Don and Phyllis Scharfenberg and Glenn Shong.

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

Bulletins and Newsletter

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

Grass Mowing Schedule

JULY 7-9.....Dave Graupman
 JULY 14-16.....
 JULY 21-23..... Julie and Andy King
 JULY 28-30..... Gordon Fleury
 AUGUST 4-6.....
 AUGUST 11-13.....
 AUGUST 18-20..... Julie and Andy King
 AUGUST 25-27..... Dave Graupman
 SEPTEMBER 1-3.....Gordon Fleury
 SEPTEMBER 8-10.....Dave Graupman
 SEPTEMBER 15-17.....
 SEPTEMBER 22-24..... Bill Post
 SEPTEMBER 29-OCT 1...
 OCTOBER 6-8.....Todd Rosch
 OCTOBER 13-15..... Bill Post

We have a few dates still open. If you would like to sign up please call the church office (567-3829). Thanks.

"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 Konkol to distribute as they see the need, depending what the item is.

During the month of July and August we will be collecting eye protection: Sunglasses, caps or hats. (New or gently used)

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

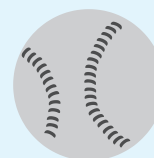
Men's Bible Study

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.

Portico News Deadline

The deadline for the August issue of *The Portico* is Monday, July 18. All information for the month of August must be submitted by this date. Thank you.

DMLC Softball Schedule



July 5		Rain Make-up or Off Week
July 12	6:00 p.m.	DMLC 2 vs. DR Crusaders at Lake Country Lutheran High School
	6:00 p.m.	Oakwood Red vs. DMLC 1 at Legion, Delafield
	7:00 p.m.	St. Catherine's vs. DMLC 1 at Legion, Delafield
July 19	6:00 p.m.	DMLC 2 vs. DMLC 1 at Fireman's, Delafield

Stewardship Report May, 2011

Monthly		
	Actual	Budget
Income	\$25,047.53	\$29,914.75
Expense	\$29,161.72	\$29,914.75
Monthly Income—Expense		(\$4,144.19)
Year to Date	Actual	Budget
Income	\$123,592.68	\$149,573.75
Expense	\$140,546.28	\$149,573.75
Year to Date Income—Expense		(\$16,953.60)

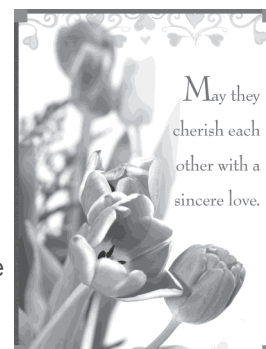
Summer Office Hours

Mary will be in the church office Monday through Thursday from 7AM—2PM. The church office will be closed on Fridays.

Wedding

On July 9th Coral Suckow and Jeremy Seufzer will be united in marriage.

We pray God's richest blessing be with these newlyweds.



DMLC 7TH Annual

Golf Outing

To Benefit



Join us for a day of fun, food and prizes! Gather a foursome or we can set you up with one. ALL are welcome, pros and beginners alike, for best ball—shot gun start!

Paganica Golf Course

Oconomowoc, WI

July 10, 2011

12:00 Shot Gun Start

Buffet and Awards to Follow
Feel free to attend the Buffet only

All funds will be matched by Thrivent Financial
and donated to our very own Tricia Wright's
Cancer Connection!

Visit their website at Triciastroops.org

I cannot attend but would love to
contribute to Tricia's Troops!

My donation of \$ _____ is enclosed.

Name _____

Address _____

Make your check payable to DMLC.



Vacation Bible School 2011

Monday – Thursday

August 1st – 4th 9:00am – 12:00pm

Children Travel Back in Time!



Imagine the chance to go back in
time to the Home Town of our Savior.

To walk through the market place
where Jesus walked. With the scent of frankincense and
myrrh in the air you try your hand at carpentry or wool felting.
And the best part...you are blessed to sit with Mary and listen
to all the tales only the Mother of Jesus could know. The sto-
ries of Jesus growing up – just like you and me!

To register your child/children go to the website
www.groupvbspro.com/vbs/hl/dmlc. Registration deadline is
July 18th.

Vacation Bible School Volunteers and Decorations Needed!

Volunteers needed include:

Fun and Games Leader: 12th grade & up to lead fun activi-
ties as you help kids discover games that kids like Jesus
played.

Shopkeeper: 12th grade & up: In the marketplace shops,
you'll guide tribes in making unique hands-on craft projects in
one of the following: carpentry, shop, bead bazaar, wool
shop, rock quarry, olive oil shop, farmer's field, or if you have
small farm animals to share...the barnyard!

Tribe Leader: 12th grade & up to lead a small group through-
out the day and help make the connection between what they
learn in Nazareth and their everyday life.

Assistant Tribe Leader: 7th grade & up

Greeter: Greet kids and help find their tribe leader, check
kids in each morning, crowd control/help finding parents at
end of the day.

Call or email for details on any of these positions. There will
be a training meeting in early July. Contact Angie Lewein at
(262) 567-5629 or chrisandangie97@hotmail.com

Decorations Needed (donated or borrowed)

To transform DMLC into Hometown Nazareth we need lots of
decorations! Think Biblical times!
Small & large pottery and baskets, 6-10 canopy tents, ancient
looking tools, plastic fruit, real or faux palm trees/plants,
striped or colorful rugs and blankets, plain flat bed sheets, hot
knives, scrap wood blocks/2x4, wooden bowls, mortar & pes-
tle, anything that would enhance the look of our Nazareth
Market Place!