

# The Portico

Dr. Martin Luther Church

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Oconomowoc, WI 53066

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

## March, 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

There's an old Dutch proverb that goes something like this "We Grow Too Soon Old And Too Late Smart." How true that seems to be. I have served in ministry in at least eleven churches over a thirty-two year period, but it wasn't until about seven or eight years ago that I became aware of a movement within the church called "Healthy Congregations." Building on the work of Dr. Murray Bowen of the Georgetown Family Center in Washington, D.C. as interpreted through Rabbi Edwin Friedman, Lutheran Pastor Peter Steinke wrote a book called Healthy Congregations in 1996. This book spawned a series of seminars based on basic characteristics of healthy congregations. I believe the great wisdom of this way of thinking of the church is that it builds off of the same principles that effect the human body and how the natural world works. Most importantly, you can approach your church with some basic questions you might have when you look at your life and that of your family.

As Dr. Martin Luther Church begins the interviewing process toward calling a new pastor I thought a sharing of some of these nuggets of wisdom of healthy congregations might be helpful. It may serve as a reminder to how this church can become even healthier a couple of months before the transition to a new regularly called ("settled") pastor.

The first nugget of wisdom I have gained from "Healthy Congregations" is that a congregation needs to be mission centered, not clergy or professional leadership centered. I compare this to an individual having a plan for self-care or a family having a shared idea for living together.

I think that your previous "settled" pastor emphasized this through his emphasis on empowering the lay people in the congregation to do the work of ministry. Even though significant strides have been made, Lutheran congregations continually need to work on this area. What are some marks of the mission-focused congregation? Peter Steinke mentions: 1) having a clear focus on identity, mission, and destiny, 2) having interdependent decision making with clergy with responsibility for decisions being shared, 3) tolerating differences because the vision guides people and keeps them together, 4) seeing conflict as normal, essential, and able to be managed, 5) having an open system with lots of feedback given and information shared. 6) Responsibility being taken by all people taking as each is respected for their "I" (personal) positions, 7) Being flexible, 8) Meeting the needs of the people, 9) Clergy and congregation having separate identities.

Each person in the congregation could likely fill out his/her own report card on these characteristics of being mission centered or focused. Some measures of success could include how well the congregation functions during an interim period and whether or not the identity of a congregation is given to it by the pastor

who is serving the parish. During the interim period we try to keep the congregation leadership and communication open to the greatest amount of people we can. We also try to listen to a broad variety of voices representing old and young, long-term and short-term members, and leaders and the diversity of regular members. If the next regularly called pastor is to be called to serve the whole congregation, the entirety of the congregation and its voice should be involved in setting its direction.

The second shared wisdom I have experienced through "healthy congregations" is that the culture of the congregation is important to its health. The body principle that this relates to is that you cannot expect to be healthy being surrounded on a daily basis by the wrong kinds of food or unhealthy habits such as smoking. The family principle is that you need to communicate in the most direct way possible and as often as possible.

By far the most healthy culture for a congregation is one where they: a) have more open boundaries and mix of people and programs, b) can act quickly and think things out in the open on the go, c) take the spoken word as the most reliable communication, d) express faith easily in public. Other healthy, more introverted, congregations which: a) have a clear sense of space, territory, and boundaries, b) like to reflect inwardly and test thinking with their own group before acting, c) draw a tight circle and look inside for help when in trouble, d) express faith more readily in a one-on-one, personal context.

It is difficult to assess the culture of a congregation but the most important quality I have found is the openness. Here the healthy family is a guide, one where the boundaries are not closed to the rest of the world, but where each member goes in and out of the family. Communication at family meals is inclusive and the rituals of the family involve different people in different roles (like different ones saying prayers). Everyone is invested into the family system and no one chooses to opt out of that system. If someone brings someone else into the family system, for example through a dating relationship or marriage, the new person is welcomed in and receives full membership and involvement in that family. A healthy congregation will integrate new members into the family and include them in all aspects of the ministry.

The third nugget of wisdom I have discovered in a healthy congregation is how they handle problems or concerns. When an issue comes up in a healthy congregation there is an attempt to involve as many people in the solution as possible. All points of view are considered and the decision on the issue is communicated openly and with people taking personal responsibility. Transparent communication—saying this is the course of action we chose and why we chose it—is essential. Again, the healthy family is one where the parents do not say to their children this is the way it is going to be, but tell them why and engage in open conversation about the issue.

Fourth, healthy congregations have a strong sense of purpose that the majority of members know and can rally around. Families that share values and goals endure significant hardship and grow from that experience. The human body develops immunity to future diseases by having endured previous disease. Congregations that are healthy, like other healthy organizations, have a shared vision and mission in the community. Even though

## From the Pastor continued

they may disagree on ways to reach the goals of their mission, they do not hesitate to get involved in the ministry of the church.

How healthy are you? If you are involved in a family today, how healthy is your family? How healthy do you feel is the church? It is important to be aware of what leads to greater health, to be open to discussions about improving health, and have the commitment to see it through. Truly, the future of Dr. Martin Luther Church is a shared venture between whoever serves as the next lead pastor and the congregation and its leadership. When a new pastor is called don't expect the Lone Ranger to come in riding on his white horse to save the church. Each and every member of the congregation affects the congregation as a whole, from the minutest to the largest degree.

Here's to individual and group health!

Rev. Roger Black, Interim Pastor

## "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.

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.

## 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 continue this important work on behalf of the entire congregation.

## Journey with Jacob Bible Study

Join Pastor Larry as we journey with Jacob. Come and see what God can do with his conniving, but beloved chosen servant. We'll look at Jacob's struggles with his family and what he learns about God's grace in the process.

- Six sessions starting March 22.
- Morning (9:00-10:30 a.m.) or evenings (7:00-8:30 p.m.)
- Sign-up on clipboard in back of the church ... or just tell Larry you're coming!

## Lenten Series Features "Gifts Of Grace"

Lent, the forty weekday preparation for Easter begins with Ash Wednesday, March 9<sup>th</sup> this year. At Dr. Martin Luther we will have noon and 7 p.m. services each Wednesday from March 9<sup>th</sup> through April 13. This year Pastors Roger Black and Larry Henning will present messages on "Gifts of Grace," based on Romans 12. The series will be loosely based on Book of Faith Lenten Journey: Marks of the Christian by pastor and former Lutheran magazine editor, David L. Miller. The focus of the messages will be on how the church as a whole, as well as we as individuals, can more fully use our gifts from God. The first message on Ash Wednesday will be "I'm Yours, God" based on Romans 12:1, which says: "Present your selves as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship." Additional titles and basis in Romans 12 will be given in bulletin inserts and the Lenten flier.

Each Wednesday service will include Holy Communion. On Ash Wednesday there will also be the opportunity to receive the imposition of ashes. Regular midweek Lenten services will be briefer with a pared down order of worship compared to Sunday mornings. The noon worship alternative will be followed by a soup luncheon at 12:45 beginning on March 16.

Lent has been described as "a forty day walk in the wilderness." In recent years we have been returning to its original roots, as a dedicated time for growth in faith (renewal) for Christians. Holy Week is the time we concentrate on the passion (suffering and death) of Jesus.

The original word for Lent means "spring," and refers to the lengthening of days. The traditional color of Lent is purple, to suggest a more "laid back" ("somber and solemn") season. Sundays during the Lenten season are still "little Easter celebrations of the resurrection" so they do not reflect this solemnity.

Why not consider making a commitment to giving extra time to God during Lent through these midweek worship services? It will be time well spent. Perhaps it will lead you to "affirm your baptism and claim those gifts" that were probably spoken over you in some way at your baptism: "Sustain this child with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence." May we all use Lent as a time to "grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

# ASH Wednesday

March 9<sup>th</sup>

Begin Lent by Repenting, remembering  
that we are dust and to dust we will ultimately  
return.

Noon & 7:00pm

Imposition of Ashes and Eucharist



## 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

### 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.

### Seasoned Lutherans

will meet on Wednesday, March 23rd at 12:45 p.m. following the Lent service for lunch. The program will be presented by Christopher Buk telling us about his trip to Thailand.

### Quilting

The quilting group will meet on Wednesday, March 16th 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

### Next FREE Community Supper

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

### Dartball Schedule: Mondays @ 7:30PM

March 7	St Mark's 2 at DMLC
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

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

Our Epiphany stewardship commitment emphasis for 2011 will conclude on the weekend of March 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. All confirmed members will have the opportunity to make a commitment to God and specifically to Dr. Martin Luther Church at this time, or as soon as possible following the celebration of the Transfiguration of our Lord that weekend.

We are asking that you consider a commitment of financial gifts, time and abilities to the church. A growth challenge for each individual or family unit is to consider increasing your financial support to the church by one percent for the rest of this year. During this transitional time we want everyone to complete new time and abilities commitment sheets.

The materials for our commitment emphasis will be available on the back tables of the church on February 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. Those who do not pick up their materials at that time will have their materials mailed out at the beginning of the following week. On March 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> we will have a processional offering of our gifts. During the following several weeks there will be a slotted box on a table in the back of the church or commitments can be mailed or delivered to the church office during the week.

Most of us have truly been blessed with God's overflowing blessings. Let us use this opportunity to consider how we can “give back to the Lord” and be a blessing to our church and the world.

## Thank You

### St. Ben's

Because of the snow storm we did not go to St. Ben's in February. We do thank the following people for donating, making and deboning the turkeys, which have been put in the freezer for the March meal: John and Erlene Humphrey, Joan Keating, Pat Siebrecht, Gordon Fleury, Betty Toepfer and Jeanne Johns and Glenn Shong.

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

### Bulletins and Newsletter

Thank you to 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.

## DMLC Book Club

In 2011, the DMLC Book Club will meet on the THIRD TUESDAY of the month. We will meet on March 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM at Books & Co. in Whittman Plaza.



All are welcome.

## Stewardship Report January, 2011

Monthly	Actual	Budget
Income	\$23,855.65	\$29,914.75
Expense	\$28,143.93	\$29,914.75
Monthly Income—Expense		(\$4,288.28)
Year to Date	Actual	Budget
Income	\$23,855.65	\$29,914.75
Expense	\$28,143.93	\$29,914.75
Year to Date Income—Expense		(\$4,288.28)

## Young(er) Women's Fellowship Gatherings

(Mar. 6, 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.

## 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 week 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 contact Heidi Graf before March 6 if you are interested in singing in the Festival Choir.

## Health Ministry

### Taking Care of Your Health

By Health Ministry Member Betty Schumacher

The 2005 ELCA social statement [Caring for Health: Our Shared Endeavor](#), recognized that our health is a blessing from God who created us. Therefore each of us has a responsibility to be a good steward of our own health out of thankfulness for the gift of life. This means taking effective steps to promote our health and prevent illness and disease. For example, we should eat healthy foods, get adequate exercise and sleep and avoid bad habits which destroy or diminish our healthy state. It also means seeking care as needed, recognizing that disability, disease and illness does occur even to those who are good stewards of their health.

Your health is a shared responsibility between you, your doctor and your health care system. **When you decide you need to see your doctor**, a basic plan can help you make the most of your appointment and will help your doctor to more effectively plan for your care. This would be true if you are seeing a doctor for the first time or continuing with the doctor you have seen for years.

- **Make a list of your concerns and prioritize them.**  
Make a list of what you want to discuss. If you have more than a few items to discuss, put them in order and ask about the most important first. Don't put off the things that are really on your mind until the end of your appointment. Bring them up right away.
- **Take information with you.**  
Some doctors ask that you put all your prescription drugs, over the counter drugs, vitamins and herbal remedies or supplements in a bag and bring them with you. Others would like you to make a list of everything you take. Make a list of prior and current medical conditions you are being treated for. You should also take your insurance cards, names and phone numbers of other doctors you see and your medical records if your doctor doesn't already have them.
- **Make sure you can see and hear as well as possible.**  
If you wear glasses or hearing aids, be sure to wear them.
- **Consider bringing a family member or friend.**  
Your companion can remind you of what you planned to discuss with the doctor if you forget and can take notes for you and can help you remember what the doctor said.

- **Plan to update the doctor.**  
Let your doctor know what has happened in your life since your last visit. If you have been treated in the emergency room or urgent care or have seen a specialist, tell the doctor right away. Mention any changes you have noticed in your appetite, weight, sleep or energy level. Also mention any changes in medications and any side effects you have noticed.
- **Take notes**  
Be sure you understand everything the doctor tells you about your condition. Write down what you are being told. Ask for correct spellings of the condition and any medications being ordered for you. Make sure you understand the action of the medication and possible side effects you might have. If the doctor wants to see you for a follow up visit, schedule it right away.

Two forms are available from the parish nurse to help you organize the information to take to the doctor. "Prepare for Your visit to the Doctor" and "Personal Health Information". **These forms will also be available at the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on March 8th.**

### Lake Walk for Cancer will be held May 7

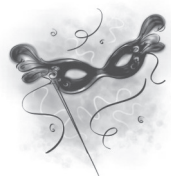
Registration for The Lake Walk has begun. You can register at Coffee Hour in the Fellowship Hall or forms will be available at the back of the sanctuary. Completed forms can be turned in to Mary in the office or dropped off during Coffee Hour. If you have already received a registration form in the mail you can also drop it off at that time. Anyone wishing to make a monetary donation can do so through a registered walker or at Coffee Hour. Thank you everyone for your continued support of The Lake Walk.

Diane Gaido

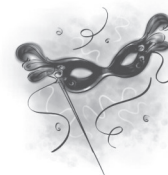
**Healing Services will be held**  
**March 12 and 13**  
**along with Blood Pressure Screening**

### Portico News Deadline

The deadline for the April issue of *The Portico* is Monday, March 21. All information for the month of April must be submitted by this date. Thank you.



# It's Mardi Gras Time!



Join the fun at Dr. Martin Luther Church

325 S. Main Street, Oconomowoc

(262) 567-3829

## SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

March 8



Serving from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

In Fellowship Hall

All the pancakes you can eat, plus sausage, applesauce and dessert



ENJOY A VISIT WITH "MOLLY PUTZ" the clown

There will also be games for children and  
chances to win Gift Baskets

### PRICES:

\$6.00 for anyone over 12

\$3.00 for Children 6 to 12

Under 6 – FREE



Health Ministry will provide Blood Pressure Screenings and Health Displays