

# MARTIN LUTHER NEWS

MARCH 2010

Martin Luther Lutheran Church ~ 420 Clearmount Drive ~ Youngstown, Ohio 44511

330-788-8707 ~ fax 330-788-8708 ~ e-mail: mlcyoungstown@yahoo.com

## OUR MISSION IS

Martin Luther Lutheran Church shares the love of Jesus Christ in Word and Deed with each other, our neighborhood, community, and beyond.

## OUR VISION IS

Martin Luther Lutheran Church is a community of faith, a beacon of light, united in a unique ministry that breaks down barriers through the power of sharing God's love.

## FROM PASTOR PAUL HEINE

### The Cost of Discipleship

Thomas Friedman, well-known writer for the New York Times recently stated that we are now experiencing the "lean years." The gov-

ernment, and most other services, are taking back what we once received, and charging more fees for whatever services are left. I think he is right.

When I went to the office of the Bureau of Motor Vehicles at the

beginning of February to renew my license plates, I noticed a sign that said an extra twenty dollars would be added to the fee if license plates weren't renewed before the owner's birthday. It seems like everywhere

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## Wednesday Lenten Services

at 12:00 Noon,

followed by a light lunch of soup.

(free will offering taken to benefit MLC Women)

Take out available at

\$6.00 a quart.



## MARCH SCRIPTURE READINGS

*Below is a list of scripture readings for the Sundays in March, to allow you to prepare for worship.*



### **Sunday, March 7, 2010**

*Third Sunday of Lent*

First Reading: Isa 55:1-9

Psalm: 63:1-8

Second Reading: 1 Cor 10:1-13

Gospel: Luke 13:1-9

### **Sunday, March 14, 2010**

*Fourth Sunday of Lent*

First Reading: Josh 5:9-12

Psalm: 32

Second Reading: 2 Cor 5:16-21

Gospel: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

### **Sunday, March 21, 2010**

*Fifth Sunday of Lent*

First Reading: Isa 43:16-21

Psalm: 126

Second Reading: Phil 3:4b-14

Gospel: John 12:1-8

### **Sunday, March 28, 2010**

*Passion/Palm Sunday*

First Reading: Isa 50:4-9a

Psalm: 31:9-16

Second Reading: Phil 2:5-11

Gospel: Luke 22:14—23:56

JESUS SAID, "I TELL YOU, PETER, THE COCK WILL NOT CROW THIS DAY, UNTIL YOU HAVE DENIED THREE TIMES THAT YOU KNOW ME."

LUKE 22:34



# LENTEN AND EASTER WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

These forty days called Lent are like no other. It is our opportune time to return to the God who rescues; to receive the gifts of God's grace; to believe with the heart and confess with the mouth the wonder of God's love in Jesus; and to resist temptation at every turn. This is no small pilgrimage on which we have just embarked. It is a struggle Jesus knew. It is a struggle Jesus shares. The nearness of the Lord, in bread and wine, water and word, will uphold and sustain us.\*

**The theme of our Wednesday Lenten services will be "Here I Am Lord: Reflections On An Imperfect Life"**

(The remaining Wednesdays in Lent)

## March 3

**12:00 Noon**

*"Just Give Me A Sign of Hope"*

Numbers 21:4-9

## March 10

**12:00 Noon**

*"Do I Look Like A Fool?"*

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

## March 17

**12:00 Noon**

*"I Didn't Sign Up For This!"*

Mark 8:27-38

## March 24

**12:00 Noon**

*"The Devil Made Me Do It"*

Mark 1:9-15

**Martin Luther Church Women will provide a light lunch of soup following the Wednesday services.**

**The scheduled menu for the remaining Wednesdays is as follows:**

March 3

Ham & Bean Soup

March 10

Chicken Noodle Soup

March 17

Vegetable Beef Soup

March 24

Potato Soup

Take out available at \$6.00 a quart.

## HOLY WEEK

### Passion/Palm Sunday

**Sunday, March 28, 10:30 a.m.**

*The transition from Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem to his arrest and condemnation gives us a dramatic prelude to Holy Week. We begin with the Procession of Palms, and conclude with the Passion Story.\**

### Maundy Thursday

**Thursday, April 1, 12:00 Noon**

*With nightfall our Lenten observance comes to an end, and we gather with Christians around the world to begin the Three Days during which we participate once again in the saving power of Jesus' passing over from death to life. At the heart of the Maundy Thursday liturgy is Jesus' commandment to love one another. As Jesus washed the feet of his disciples, we are called to follow his example as we humbly care for one another, especially the poor and unloved.\**

### Good Friday

**Friday, April 2, 12:00 Noon and 7:00 p.m.**

*At the heart of the Good Friday liturgy is the passion story which proclaims Jesus as a triumphant king who reigns from the cross.\**

### Easter Sunday

**Sunday, April 4, 10:30 a.m.**

*The Festival Eucharist in Celebration of Our Lord.*

*"This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."*

\*Reprinted from *Words for Worship*, 2009 Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress license #14032-LIT.

## FROM PASTOR PAUL HEINE (CONTINUED)

*(Continued from page 1)*

you look, someone has figured out a way to charge you an extra fee for services rendered.

Mr. Friedman also observes that we are in a time when management is expected to trim, fire, or downsize services. Words like growth, expansion, redevelopment, and venture capital are dropping out of the American vernacular.

How does all of this interpret what we should be doing at church? Maybe we should get on board with the idea of charging new fees. Perhaps a five dollar pew rental every Sunday would be in order. Or, perhaps, a twenty dollar fee for absolution after our confession of sins. That brings up the idea of reinstating indulgences as a way of charging extra fees. For thirty dollars you could receive a document absolving you and your relatives of their sins for a week. What a great stewardship idea!

I can also imagine replacing the refreshments during our Sunday coffee hour with vending machines containing high-priced snack items. Wouldn't that be tasty and efficient! Then, there could be those parking fees. We can offer you a parking place for only two dollars for the first hour. Just park on a numbered space and put your money in the collection box.

On the other hand, as usual, perhaps the church should not be so quick to follow the trends of our secular society. Our counter-cultural approach to funding the ministries of our church is to ask people to give according to their



ability, and their level of gratitude for what God has given them. Walter Massey, chairman of the board of Bank of America, would probably think that is a risky way to operate. We don't. We know that the church has always been a place that continues to thrive because of the heartfelt response of people who want to give thanks for God's grace and the blessings of discipleship.

The cost of forgiveness, grace, peace, and a sense of belonging to God, has always been a commitment to Jesus Christ and his vision of the kingdom of God. There are no hidden fees; no extra charges. The church around the world continues to grow, redevelop, and renew itself, not because of oppressive business tactics to bilk people out of more money, but because people are generous in their thankfulness to a loving God.

## MEMORIAL & CELEBRATION FUND THANK YOU

Thanks to the family and friends of William Frank for their memorial contribution to Martin Luther's Special Music Fund.

Thanks to the family and friends of Evelyn Warner for their memorial contribution to Martin Luther's Endowment Fund.

Thanks to the family and friends of Rosina Lehner for their memorial contribution to Martin Luther's Organ Fund.

Thanks to the family and friends of Peter and Hanna Radakovich for their memorial contribution to Martin Luther's Youth Fund.

Thanks also to Bob & Eileen White for their celebration contribution to Martin Luther's Special Music Fund.

The Memorial Committee

# WORSHIP

## March Ushers—Team Three

Team Three: Tim Ritter, Peakes Family, Bob Patrick, Mike Temnick, Charles Lenz, Jimmy Hill

Please note: The Worship Ministry Team has assumed responsibility for scheduling the ushers and hopes to secure additional team members in the near future. Until that time, please follow the schedule noted in the newsletter, bulletin, and hallway. Should you wish to serve as an usher, please contact Anne Davis, Worship Ministry Team Chair.  
Thank you.

**Lenten Wednesdays** (March 3, 10, 17, 24)

12:00 Noon     Lector: Gordon Mitchell

**Sunday, March 7**     Altar Duties: Set up, Mardell Ritter; Clean up, Norma Lyden

10:30 a.m.     Lector: Jack Ritter

Communion Assistant: Amy Hamaker

Coffee Hour Host: Jim & Jan Buist

Counters: Team Four; Bob White, Captain



**Sunday, March 14**     Altar Duties: Set up, Mardell Ritter; Clean up, Norma Lyden

10:30 a.m.     Lector: Eileen White

Communion Assistant: Lois Klein

Coffee Hour Host: To be determined

Counters: Team One; Jerry Baker, Captain

**Sunday, March 21**     Altar Duties: Set up, Mardell Ritter; Clean up, Norma Lyden

10:30 a.m.     Lector: Jan Buist

Communion Assistant: Tim Ritter

Coffee Hour Host: To be determined

Counters: Team Two; Denny Lyden, Captain

**Sunday, March 28**     Altar Duties: Set up, Mardell Ritter; Clean up, Norma Lyden

10:30 a.m.     Lector: Mardell Ritter

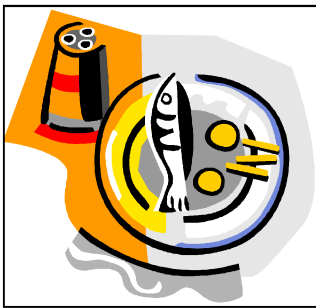
Communion Assistant: Jack Ritter

Coffee Hour Host: Cynthia Koonce, Carole Conatser & Charlotte Stahl

Counters: Team Three; Lois Klein, Captain

# Fish Fry Fundraiser

Martin Luther Lutheran Church



Friday, March 26, 2010

Fellowship Hall

5:30 pm-7:30 pm

Fried fish (locally caught walleye), fries or macaroni & cheese,  
coleslaw, pie for dessert and beverage

Adults: \$8.00 (in advance)\*  
(\$8.75 at the door)

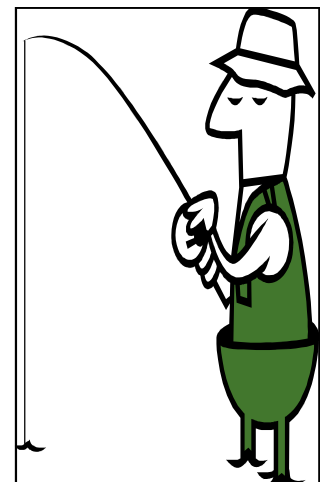
Kids 6-12 yrs.: \$3.95  
Under 6: Free

~~Take out available~~

Martin Luther Lutheran Church  
420 Clearmount Dr. Youngstown, Ohio 44511

\*Tickets available beginning March 7 at the church following  
10:30 a.m. worship on Sundays or during the week on Mondays  
& Wednesdays, 10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. through March 24.

Or see/call Jack Ritter @ 330-788-7992  
or the church office at 330-788-8707



## BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays are noted from the 16th day of the issue month through the 15th day of the following month to allow for advance planning in sending birthday wishes.

### BIRTHDAYS

(March 16-31)

Kendall Bailey	19
Sandra Samuels	19
Amanda Rusnak	20
Martin Poschner, Jr.	22
Trudy Kibby	23
Justin Fincham	24
Courtney Wasko	24
John Armeni	25
Katie Olenick	26
Miranda Vesey	27
Jack Kibby	28



### BIRTHDAYS

(April 1-15)

Mardell Ritter	1
Rick Straight	1
Anne Davis	4
William Neckerman	8
Esther Blice	10
Maria Boehm	15
Donna Poschner	15

We have a number of milestone birthdays to note.

Esther Blice will celebrate her 90th birthday on April 10th.

Maria Boehm will celebrate her 90th birthday on April 15th.

(Maria's family will host a special coffee hour in her honor on Sunday, April 11th.)

William Neckerman will celebrate his 100th birthday on April 8th.

Our Happy Birthday wishes go out to all three!

## THE WISDOM OF C. S. LEWIS

The following is taken from *A Year with C. S. Lewis*— a daily devotional with excerpts from *Mere Christianity*, *The Screwtape Letters*, *The Great Divorce*, *The Problem of Pain*, *Miracles*, *A Grief Observed*, *The Weight of Glory*, and *The Abolition of Man*.

### You Be the Judge

Let us try to be honest with ourselves. Picture to yourself a man who has risen to wealth or power by a continued course of treachery and cruelty, by exploiting for purely selfish ends the noble motions of his victims, laughing the while at their simplicity; who, having thus attained success, uses it for the gratification of lust and hatred and finally parts with the last rag of honour among thieves by betraying his own accomplices and jeering at their last moments of bewildered disillusionment. Suppose, further, that he does all this, not (as we like to imagine) tormented by remorse or

(Continued on page 9)

## WEST OF 50'S

West of 50's will return for a swing into spring on Thursday, March 18th. West of 50's is our monthly seniors program offered to men and women 50 years of age and older. However, all are welcome, regardless of age. West of 50's, which meets the third Thursday of each month, offers devotions, a social hour, informative and entertaining programs, lunch and an enjoyable activity.

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## PRAYER VENTURES

Due to limited space we have decided to include only the prayers for Sunday and festival days of the church from *Prayer Ventures* in the newsletter. *Prayer Ventures* can be accessed in its entirety on the internet at [www.elca.org/prayerventures](http://www.elca.org/prayerventures)

*Prayer Ventures* is a guide to daily prayer for the global, social, and outreach ministries of the church. The Sunday prayers, based on the New Ecumenical Prayer Cycle from the World Council of Churches, take us on a prayer journey through various parts of the world. *Prayer Ventures* is produced by ELCA Evangelical Outreach, Church in Society, and Global Mission program units, in cooperation with ELCA Communication Services.

### 7 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent

Holy God, we give you thanks for the witness of Christians in Austria, Liechtenstein, Switzerland, Andorra, Monaco, and San Marino. Grant renewal and strength to the churches in these countries, that the gospel might reach those who have not yet heard the words of our Lord.

### 14 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent

We lift up to you, merciful God, the members of the emerging Christian communities in Myanmar and Thailand, that they may expand their holistic ministries in their countries.

### 21 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent

We give you thanks, O God, for the vitality of the churches in Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam. Build up these dynamic communities, that they may encourage other churches within the Lutheran communion.

### 28 Palm Sunday

Lord, you entered Jerusalem with a peaceful heart. Be our example that we too can live as people of peace in this world.




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## PARISH RECORD

Martin Luther Church member May Zimmerman, who had been residing at Sunrise Assisted Living in Poland, died on Friday, February 12, 2010. Services were held at the Thompson Funeral Home with Rev. Heine officiating.



## COFFEE HOUR

Amy Hamaker, who has begun serving as chair of the Congregational Life Ministry Team, will be responsible for scheduling coffee hour volunteers. Please continue to use the sign up sheet posted in Fellowship Hall. Noting your name for a particular date as soon as possible is especially helpful for both Amy and the office. If you wish to reserve a date for a special celebration, (ex. birthday, anniversary, etc.) please notify Amy by phone (330-792-5599) or by email @ [applesauce1969@aol.com](mailto:applesauce1969@aol.com)

## C. S. LEWIS (CONTINUED)

even misgiving, but eating like a schoolboy and sleeping like a healthy infant—a jolly, ruddy-cheeked man, without a care in the world, unshakably confident to the very end that he alone has found the answer to the riddle of life, that God and man are fools whom he has got the better of, that his way of life is utterly successful, satisfactory, unassailable.

We must be careful at this point. The least indulgence of the passion for revenge is very deadly sin. Christian charity counsels us to make every effort for the conversion of such a man: to prefer his conversion, at the peril of our own lives, perhaps of our own souls, to his punishment; to prefer it infinitely.

But that is not the question. Supposing he *will* not be converted, what destiny in the eternal world can you regard as proper for him? Can you really desire that such a man, *remaining what he is* (and he must be able to do that if he has free will) should be confirmed forever in his present happiness—should continue, for all eternity, to be perfectly convinced that the laugh is on his side?

—————from *The Problem of Pain*

## THANK YOU

*Thank you once again to Bob Patrick for printing a large quantity of business window envelopes with the church building graphic and return address for us. We greatly appreciate the gifts of his time and talent.*

*We thank Peg Kelly for the donation of three United States flags for our outdoor flag pole. We also thank her for the donation of two Christian flags for our outdoor pole. The flags were given in loving memory of her husband, Jack Kelly.*

*Dear Pastor Paul, Ruth (Stevenson), & Members of Martin Luther,*

*Being a pastor's wife rarely allows me the opportunity to worship at other churches, but when I can slip away I enjoy, so much, worshipping at Martin Luther.*

*Pastor Paul, your sermons always speak to me. The message is surely God inspired, but the sense of humor is all yours. What a great combination!*

*Ruth, as a new choir director, I appreciate having you to talk to and I am grateful for your willingness to share your music. I hope Martin Luther and the choir know just how blessed they are to have such a "faithful" servant of God as their director. I am inspired!*

*To the Congregation, you are always so kind and gracious to me, my brothers and our family. Thank you for opening your church home and your hearts to us.*

*...and to the young members who occupy the first two pews...just so you know, your presence in worship does not go unnoticed. You brighten that front corner of the sanctuary. What a witness you are to all and to God! I pray that "worshipping" and "serving" God will always be an important part of your lives!*

*Thank you and God Bless,  
Janeen Williams*

# EASTER FLOWER ORDER FORM

## IN CELEBRATION OF EASTER, FLOWERS WILL ONCE AGAIN ADORN OUR SANCTUARY.

Flowers can be purchased *In Memory of* or *In Honor of* someone or *For Blessings Received*. Should you wish to purchase flowers, please complete this order form and place it in an offering plate, in the mail slot of the office closet door, or mail it to the church office. **Payment must accompany the order form.** Please make checks payable to Martin Luther Lutheran Church. **The deadline for placing orders is Sunday, March 14th. No extension will be made.**

### I/We wish to order

_____ Easter Lilies 6½ inch pot @ \$7.50 ea.	=	_____
_____ Tulips 6½ inch pot @ \$6.50 each	=	_____
_____ Hyacinth 6½ inch pot @ \$6.50 each	=	_____
_____ Daffodils 6½ inch pot @ \$6.50 each	=	_____
_____ Hydrangeas 6½ inch pot @ \$10.75 each	=	_____
_____ Mums 6½ inch pot @ \$7.50 each	=	_____
_____ Azaleas 6½ inch pot @ \$10.75 ea.	=	_____
_____ Ferns 10 inch hanging basket @ \$14.00 each	=	_____
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>= _____</b>



Your Name \_\_\_\_\_ Your Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

For Blessings Received: \_\_\_\_\_ (Check if this option is preferred)

Given By (as you would like it to appear in the bulletin): \_\_\_\_\_

**Note: Flowers may be picked up following the 10:30 a.m. service on Easter Sunday. If that is not convenient, call the church office @ 330-788-8707 to make other arrangements.**

**Martin Luther News**

**Martin Luther Lutheran Church  
420 Clearmount Drive  
Youngstown, Ohio 44511**

**NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
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Youngstown, Ohio  
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**MARCH 2010**

**Martin Luther Lutheran Church**

has served the Greater Youngstown communities for over 150 years proclaiming the message of Jesus Christ, supporting local ministries, and sharing His hope and love with all.

Martin Luther Lutheran Church is in partnership with The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) which is made up of nearly 5 million members in more than 10,000 congregations across the U.S., Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

**The Martin Luther News** is published monthly by Martin Luther Lutheran Church reaching out to members and friends.

**Church Office**

Church Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Phone No: 330-788-8707 ~ Fax: 330-788-8708

E-mail: mlcyoungstown@yahoo.com

Visit us online at: [www.martinlutherlutheranchurch.org](http://www.martinlutherlutheranchurch.org)

Pastor Heine can be reached at home at 330-788-4948

Pastor.....Rev. Paul W. Heine  
President of the Congregation .....Rick Vesey  
Church Administrator.....Susan Sheridan  
Interim Financial Secretary ..... Jack Ritter  
Organist..... Anthony Ruggiero  
Interim Choir Director .....Ruth Stevenson  
Sunday Youth Coordinator.....Loisjean Paige  
Custodian ..... Tom Davis

**Worship Schedule**

Worship/Communion ..... 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School ..... 9:00 a.m.

Nursery available during the 10:30 a.m. service

NOTE: If no one is available to answer your call, please leave a message on the answering machine. Your call is important to us and we will return your call as soon as possible. Martin Luther Lutheran Church is handicap accessible.



**Founded in 1859**