

Martin Luther's Quarantine

Did you know that Martin Luther was once quarantined for almost a year? Not because of Covid-19 or any plague sweeping through Europe. It was the year 1517 and Luther was at a meeting in the German city of Worms. He had been called there to defend his beliefs and was asked if he would renounce his theological positions. He did apologize for the harsh rhetoric he used at times, but would not recant the substance of his writings. In response, the Holy Roman Emperor Charles V declared him a heretic and an outlaw, which put his life immediately in danger.

On his way home, he was kidnapped by a group of men who whisked him off to the Wartburg Castle overlooking the city of Eisenach. In reality it wasn't a kidnapping at all. Supporters of Luther staged it to look like a kidnapping in order to hide Luther safely away until things had calmed down and it was safe to return to Wittenberg.



What did he do during this almost year-long, forced "quarantine"?

He got into God's Word. Seriously. Specifically he used that time to translate the New

Testament of the Bible from the original Greek into a fluent, readable translation for the German people. It was a tremendous accomplishment, not only for the short amount of time it took him to complete, but also because it gave the German – speaking people another opportunity to get into God's Word themselves. The blessings it brought were noteworthy. More people were able to learn of their Savior. More people were able to compare the teachings of the Church with the teachings of God's Word. And Luther himself grew in grace, his knowledge of the Bible and his appreciation for God's love in his Son Jesus.

Living almost 500 years after Luther's time at the Wartburg Castle, we have plenty of sound English translations of the Bible for reading and studying. But we want to grow in the knowledge of the facts of the Bible. We want to grow in our appreciation for God's grace. And we want to know Jesus better every day so that "by believing (we) may have life in his name." (John 20:31) Just like Luther did at the Wartburg.

Take these forgettable – yet unforgettable - days of 2020 and use them for good, as you grow spiritually through God's Word. Like Luther did.

Congregational News

Basement Remodel If you haven't been down in the church basement lately, you won't recognize it. The drywall is up, taped, mudded and a texture coat of orange peel has been applied. As this is being typed, we have a crew in the basement painting. Once the painting is done, permanent treads on the stairs will be installed with the rest of the flooring, the plumbing and electrical needs will be completed with the finish carpentry and then we'll need to furnish it. What a blessing that the majority of the work has been volunteer labor from our members. Thank you to all who have helped in any way!



You're welcome to check the progress out the next time you're in church. Just walk through the back of the church and head downstairs. Once completed, we hope to put it to good use for Sunday School, Catechism classes, small groups or meetings, etc... Please check the bulletin in the near future to see how you may be able to help finish the project once and for all.

Bible Study When the Gospel is preached and shared with people, the reaction is not always what we hope. Other times it is received joyfully. Whose fault – or what is the problem - when it is rejected? Join us on Sunday mornings at 8:45 a.m. as we follow St. Paul and his companions on his missionary journeys. We spend time discussing questions like this one

and many others (we talk about any topic – politics included) in a relaxed, informal setting in the classrooms outside the fellowship hall. You'd be hard-pressed to find a better way to spend 45 minutes...growing in knowledge and peace from God's Word.

Virtual Sunday School If you haven't started yet, it isn't too late! Take an active part in your children's spiritual instruction at home by picking up the printed materials from church in the conference room and then pairing them with the free Sunday school Lesson Videos for grades PreK-K, 1-2, 3-4, and 5-6. The web link to the video lessons can be found at



www.youtube.com/c/NorthwesternPublishingHouseMilwaukee/playlists.

We will be meeting this month to re-evaluate our present virtual Sunday School plan this month to see

when we are able to get back to a "normal" Sunday School routine. Until that time, parents, you are encouraged to use the materials provided and take the lead in the spiritual growth of your children.

Work Day Mark the morning of November 14th on your calendar as we spend a couple hours cleaning up inside and outside of church for our annual fall work day. Whether you prefer inside or out, there will be work to do, from cleaning out roof gutters, raking leaves, trimming bushes, edging sidewalks,

Want to Make Someone's Day? In the dreary, colder days that are coming, think about your church family members who are at home, unable to come to church or get out any longer. There are sheets on the table next to the kitchen again with their names and addresses. They would love a card to let them know their church family is thinking about and praying for them.

Altar Flowers Looking at the last three months of the year, there are a number of openings on the altar flower calendar. If you would like to sponsor the altar flowers to remember a special day or in memory of someone, the calendar sign-up is still on the bulletin board in the entryway.

Endowment Fund

Why do people make gifts to Zion's endowment fund? Here are several reasons...

1. In doing so, we are **giving thanks to God**. Our gifts recognize that all we have is from God for the purpose of bringing him glory. He deserves it.
2. In doing so, we **leave a lasting legacy**. Because the fund is permanent, the legacy of support for Christ's work here at Zion will carry forward in perpetuity and benefit future generations of Zion members, maybe your grandchildren and great grandchildren.
3. In doing so, we **continue regular giving**. Many people realize that their regular gifts to the church will be missed once the Lord takes them to heaven. Instead of that happening, these wise givers create an estate gift that is many times the amount they currently give. Once the endowment gift is made, their inflation-adjusted annual distributions continue in perpetuity.
4. In doing so, we **show wise stewardship**. The endowment fund is managed similar to a retirement fund, providing needed income in a predictable way while seeking to grow the amount and not have it eroded by inflation.
5. In doing so, **our church is strengthened**. Every year Zion needs funding to support missions, Christian education, support our local ministries, regular maintenance, etc... That need will always be there. The endowment fund will eventually ease some of the financial pressure and allow our leaders to better plan for the future ministry here at Zion.



Want to know more? Pick up a brochure from the cabinets in the entryway or contact one of our committee members: Matt Feucht, Mallory Lindert, Bea Pamperin or Pastor Bode.

WELS News

Exciting news from Martin Luther College New things are happening at Martin Luther College (MLC)! Rev. Richard Gurgel began his new role as MLC's president in July. Although the circumstances surrounding his first responsibilities are unique, he is excited to support and encourage the faculty, staff, and students in their faithful service.



To celebrate the college's 25th anniversary, MLC and the Conference of Presidents invites all churches and individuals to prayerfully participate

in a two-year capital campaign, "Equipping Christian Witnesses" (ECW). The goal of this campaign is to re-energize student recruitment so that even more Christian witnesses are equipped to share Christ's love. Learn how you can support current and future called workers at mlc-wels.edu. Learn more about MLC and its mission in this month's edition of *WELS Connection*.

WELS Family Devotions Get your family into God's Word during the week! WELS has developed short devotions for the entire family to use. Each devotion comes complete with a set of questions for different age groups, a prayer, and hymn verses that can be sung or spoken. Downloadable printable versions are also available. Find the family devotions at www.wels.net/family-devotions

KML Korner

Fall Play Don't miss KML's fall play, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, on Friday and Saturday, October 30 & 31, at 7:00 PM and Sunday, November 1, at 2:00 PM! We have so many talented students that we have double-cast this show! Each cast will have the opportunity to perform the show at least once. Ticket information is coming soon. For the most up-to-date information regarding tickets and performance information check www.kmlhs.org/theatre

Postponed The annual Trivia Night, Grandparents' Days and Veterans Day Observance have all been postponed or canceled due to Covid-19. Check www.kmlhs.org for the most up-to-date information.

Events, Invitations & Opportunities

Martin Luther College Concert The Martin Luther College Music Division will present a "Homecoming Music Showcase" on **Sunday, October 4**, at 2:00 pm. Featured ensembles include the College Choir, Wind Symphony, Chorale, Männerchor, Women's Choir, and Hosanna Ringers. The students will present an eclectic program of music highlighting their work in the first half of the semester. The concert will be streamed at <http://mlc-wels.edu/concerts>.

The Best 30 Minutes You'll Spend... Christian Family Solutions is providing resources for individuals, families, and anyone who is interested in better mental health for yourself and those around you. This is your opportunity to meet and learn from some professional counselors who are experts in their fields. Through the series, we'll address mental wellness for children, teens, and adults. The first session will be on Thursday, October 8th at noon. Dr. Ashley Schoof will address practical skills and strategies for mental wellness in children in a world full of challenges.



The second session will be on November 12th at 12 p.m. with Karen Fischer, focusing on mental wellness in adults. Part three will take place December 10th at noon with Jeremy Long, focusing on mental health wellness in teenagers. January 14th, also at noon, will be a panel discussion with all three of the counselors for discussion and Q & A.

If you have questions, contact Bre Gruenewald at bgruenewald@wlcfs.org or at 262-415-7739.

Forward in Christ Highlights A pandemic and presidential election, riots and racism—the year 2020 is filled with things that can divide even your congregation's members. This month, *Forward in Christ* authors write

about some of these issues:

- How do we love fellow Christians when different opinions divide us? Read about it on page 12.
- Can a Christian vote for a political candidate who supports abortion? Read about it on page 14.
- Does the church see color? Find out on page 5.

These articles and more, such as the always-popular “Confessions of Faith” series and the bible studies included in each issue, are what makes the Forward in Christ such a worthwhile part of your regular reading. Pick one up today from the table near the kitchen.

Campus Ministry History You’re invited to be a part of the WELS Historical Institute annual meeting and a presentation on the 100th Anniversary of WELS Campus Ministry on Sunday, October 11th, at 3 p.m. (Central Time). The best part is you don’t even have to leave your home if you have a computer and an internet connection. Pastor Christopher Royce of Messiah Ev. Lutheran Church in Olympia, Washington will present a paper in commemoration of the centennial of WELS campus ministry, 1920–2020. The business meeting, with elections, will begin at 3:00 PM followed by Pastor Royce’s presentation. To register, go to https://wlcfs.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_1PBjQLWuQSmSQ7zFT4935g

Marriage Moments Every marriage needs moments of encouragement and refreshment. *Marriage Moments* are short, weekly videos highlighting one biblical marriage thought accompanied by a discussion question. The free videos start this month. Couples may subscribe to receive the videos as a weekly e-mail. Watch a video introduction and subscribe to receive the videos directly to your e-mail at www.welscongregationalservices.net/marriagemoments

Help Wanted Christian Family Solutions is looking for caring, compassionate & dependable individuals who are looking to make a big difference by supporting others' dignity & quality of life. Our Caregivers & Resident Assistants/CNAs are supported in a Christian environment, which

sets us apart from the others.

- **Home Care Aides** are responsible for light housekeeping, personal cares, meal preparation, hygiene assistance, companionship, and medication reminders in the client's home.
- **Resident Assistant / CNAs** provide each resident with high quality care in a family-centered Christian atmosphere.

They are seeking individuals to work in Beaver Dam, Juneau, Fox Lake, Mayville, Hartford, Slinger, Waukesha, Brookfield, and Wauwatosa. Workers must be 18+ years of age. If you know someone who might be interested in these positions with our faith-based organization, please forward on this email and share the information.

For questions, please contact Renae Hemken, Human Resources Generalist, at 262.202.0184 or RHemken@wlcfs.org.

