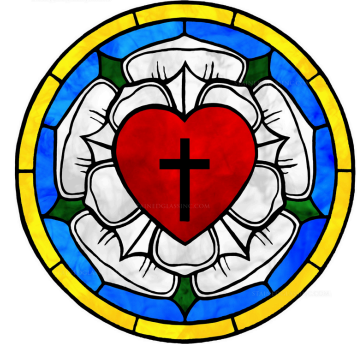


FEBRUARY 2025

LUTHER'S LETTER

Monthly publication of Martin Luther Lutheran Church, Carmine, Texas



MLLC's Mission Statement: Martin Luther Lutheran Church, called by the Spirit to be a community of faith, welcomes all to a ministry of Word and sacrament, that together we may grow in faith, and be equipped for service to God and our community.

PASTOR DAVID TINKER FAREWELL SUNDAY

YOU ARE INVITED TO GATHER WITH THE PEOPLE OF
MARTIN LUTHER LUTHERAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY,
FEBRUARY 9, FOR A TIME OF THANKSGIVING AND
GODSPEED. PASTOR DAVID TINKER AND HIS FAMILY,
JENNIFER, MILES, AND JAMES, WILL BE WITH US ON HIS
FINAL SUNDAY AMONG US.

AT WORSHIP THERE WILL BE A TIME OF PRAYERFUL END
TO OUR MINISTRY TOGETHER.

AFTER WORSHIP THERE WILL BE A DINE IN ONLY CATERED,
FELLOWSHIP MEAL. PLEASE RSVP TO THE CHURCH OFFICE
BY FRIDAY, JANUARY 31ST. CONTACT THE OFFICE STAFF IN
PERSON, AS YOU ARE ABLE. YOU MAY ALSO CALL: 979-278-
3388. PLEASE LEAVE A MESSAGE IF NO ONE IS ABLE TO
ANSWER WHEN YOU CALL. YOU MAY ALSO SEND AN EMAIL
TO: MLUTHER@INDUSTRYINET.COM TO SHARE THE SAME
INFORMATION.

Dear Friends in Christ,

"I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now."

Philippians 1:3-5

These words of St. Paul ring true today for us all. As this season of ministry together comes to a close I give thanks for our sharing in the Gospel together. As most of you know my final Sunday with you all is February 9, for I have accepted a call to serve as pastor of Christ Lutheran Church Elm Creek, Seguin, Texas.

First, last and always I give thanks to our loving God for the opportunity to know him and to be one of his disciples. We respond to God's love both individually and as the community of faith. We live our thanks through worship, fellowship, and discipleship.

I also say thanks to you all for our nearly 13 years of ministry together. We have served faithfully along side each other for the building up of the Kingdom of God and for the glory and praise of the Lord. I make special note of my thanks for all church council members who have worked alongside me in leading ministry.

Teaching the Word of God has always been important to me. I wish to thank all the leaders, teachers, and volunteers who have put in tireless hours to share God's Word with all generations. I am especially thankful for my students in the Catechism program over the years. My "kids" always have a special place in my heart.

This season of ministry has included great service with wonderful staff. I am thankful for Vickie Neutzler, Nancy Eilers, Kristen Holub, Sarah Makowsky, June Makowsky, and Danielle Nelson, who are currently serving. I remember with thanksgiving the previous staff members, including Carol Carmean, Nancy Rosenbaum, Audrey Sternadel, Kelli Meinholdt, Nikki Pohl, and the numerous school staff members; Brenda Medack, Jolene Wickel, Diane Tovey, Tania Hardaway, and Jack, Bobbie, and Jessica Weidemann.

I am truly thankful for the ministry we have all done together. It takes many caring volunteers to honor God, love our neighbors, and to build up our life together. There are dozens of people who have given so much time and love for the ministry of the Gospel here at MLLC. I truly appreciate all of the time and energy given to the Glory of God.

I will miss you all very much as I move to Seguin, Texas with Jennifer, Miles, and James. Thank you for the opportunity to have served as your pastor during these years.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor David Tinker

Mailing Address for Tinker Family:

You can always send mail to the church address below.

Pastor David, Jennifer, Miles and James Tinker

We will have a home contact available later at the MLLC office as needed.

Christ Lutheran Church of Elm Creek
3305 Church Road
Seguin, TX 78155
830-303-4669 – church office
713-461-8007 – cell – Pastor David Tinker
Email: pastordjt@gmail.com

The Changing Pastoral Relationship By Pastor David Tinker

Whenever there is a change of call for a pastor there are relational changes which take place. I recognize that these changes are both necessary and sometimes a bit difficult. Even so, it is an important thing that I share with you the plans and promises for our future way of relating.

The foundation of all that I share is reverence and love for God, the broader church, this congregation, and the congregation which I will be serving in the future.

It is important that members and friends of Martin Luther Lutheran Church of Carmine, Texas, and Waldeck Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ledbetter, understand and accept the terms of this plan in order that relationships with new pastoral staff develop in positive ways. As of February 28, 2025, I will relinquish all pastoral and administrative duties as Pastor, and I will no longer function as the pastor of either MLLC or Waldeck. I am determined to be completely supportive of the future pastoral and lay leadership of both Waldeck and MLLC. I will not receive negative comments or participate in any conversation or activity which might undermine any program or person of either church.

Any future contacts which may occur will be simply as friends. I will not participate in any weddings, funerals, or baptisms, nor will I engage in any hospital or pastoral visitation with the people of either congregation. This is because it is important that the new pastoral leader bond with the congregations through these ministry functions. This standard is founded in love and care for all involved. I will need to be focused on what God and Church have called me to be doing at Christ Lutheran of Elm Creek. If I were to be heading back to do pastoral duties, I would be both neglecting my called ministry in Elm Creek and interfering with the ministry of Waldeck and MLLC.

I assert this standard because of my deep affection for you all. I also assert this standard because of my care for future pastors. It has not happened at MLLC or Waldeck, but at some previous congregations where I have served, former pastors were often seeking to be involved inappropriately in weddings and funerals. These actions prevented opportunities for the me and the family to grow a pastoral connection. Everybody missed out on good things due to this.

Founded in respect for God and the Church, I lovingly request that you refrain from asking me to come back to perform any pastoral duties.

Anniversary events for either congregation are a different thing altogether. It is common and friendly to invite former pastors to visit when a special event occurs. For example, in 2019 I accepted the invitation to the 150th Anniversary event for the church I served in Ohio. I saw other former pastors at that event as well. If invited, I would be honored to participate in such events.

These plans and promises are offered to the people of both MLLC and Waldeck, for the sole purpose of strengthening mission and ministry in the future. It grows out of deep gratitude for the past 12+ years at MLLC and the past 8+ years at Waldeck, and for our significant ministry in these congregations. If you have any further questions, please contact me.

MLLC Church Council Meeting Minutes
January 14, 2025, 6:00 pm

Members Present:

Josh Eckert, President; Blake Dooley, President-Elect; Jason Schroeder, Secretary; Danielle Nelson, Treasurer; Mia Williams, Christian Education; JoLynn Schoenberg, Outreach; Vickie Neutzler, Stewardship; and Joys Baird, Worship

Members Absent:

Pastor Tinker

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm by Josh.

The devotion and prayer were led by Mia.

Previous Meeting Minutes:

The minutes from the December 10, 2024 meeting were reviewed. Blake moved to accept the minutes with a second by Mia. All approved.

Treasurer's Report:

The treasurer's report was reviewed. Jason moved to accept, with a second by Blake. All approved.

Pastor's Report:

None

Committee Reports:

Christian Education Committee:

The Christmas Eve service and program by the LYO was good and well received. The committee did not meet during the holidays. On January 4th, the LYO Souper Bowl of Caring was started.

Worship Committee:

The December 22nd service of songs went very well. The noisy offering for 2025 will be going to Lutherhill.

Property Committee:

The urinal in the fellowship hall bathroom has been repaired as well as the last pew in the back of the church.

Stewardship Committee:

The offering envelopes are ready to pick up located on the table at the back of church.

Outreach Committee:

There will be a catered meal on February 9th for Pastor's farewell.

Jason moved to accept the committee reports with a second by Joys. All approved.

Old Business:

The nominating committee talked about filling the open council positions, needing a person for President-Elect.

New Business:

The budget for 2025 was discussed.

There will be no Lent services here at MLLC but are going to join Round Top and Shelby for their Lent services.

The transfers of Floyd and Cheryl Etzel and RaChelle Kuecker to Salem Lutheran, Brenham, were received. Blake moved to accept these transfers with a second by Vickie. All approved.

A motion was made by Blake to have the council meetings on the second Sunday of each month at 11:30 am, starting in March. Jason seconded and all approved.

In regards to the training on the TV monitors, Mia is going to reach out to the people who have shown an interest.

A proposal for buying a new printer was presented for \$550. Blake moved to purchase a Brother Printer Business Color Laser All-in-One with duplex printing and wireless networking for this amount with a three year warranty. Vickie seconded the motion and all approved. The old printer will be retained for one month.

The pulpit supply list was reviewed and expenses will be split with Waldeck at 50/50. Pastor Tracy will be serving on February 16th and March 2nd. Josh is checking with other supply pastors in the area to fill in.

A meeting will be held on February 2nd or 3rd at 6 pm with Bishop Rinehart and Pastor Tracy.

Blake will give the devotion at next month's meeting on February 11th at 6 pm.

Jason moved to adjourn the meeting with a second by Blake. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 pm, followed by The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Jason Schroeder, Secretary

WOMEN OF THE ELCA

Rebekah Group will meet on Thursday, February 13, 2025, 2:00 pm

The Bible Study Theme: "Faithfulness in these days"

Session 2: Psalm 22

The meeting will be hosted by: Dianna Gerland and Joann Ullrich

Bible Study will be led by: Jennifer Tinker

Leonita Sanders will present the Offering Meditation.

- Quilting Day - Monday, February 10, 2025, 9:00 am
- AMEN Ingathering



REMEMBER IN PRAYER: **Billy Coufal** (health issues, friend of Darrel & Vickie Neutzler), **Mallory Nicholson** (health concerns, a former member of the Carmine Community), **Valerie Moore** (health concerns), **James Roemer** (health concerns), **Kathrine Cordes** (health concerns, Ruby Juergens sister), **Bobby Berkley** (brother of Jolene Wickel, health concerns), **Betty Webb** (cousin of Jolene Wickel, cancer, declining health), **Mark Hinze** (recent brain surgery, son of Kenny Hinze), **Fritzie Jones** (recent surgery), **Lillie Mae Voight** (hospice, relative of the Bathe family), **Herbert Handrick** (Sheryl Pratt's brother, health concerns), **Charlotte Allen** (health concerns, a friend from our community), **Angie Colpetzer** (health concerns), **Kathryn Raeke** (health concerns, friend of Susan Ray), **Paula Barrick** (health concerns).

SYMPATHY to the family of **Kermit Crenwelge** (Melissa Nedbalek's father).

January 2025 Memorials Designated Gift Fund

General Fund - Members

In Honor of Wade & Nancy Eilers 50th

Wedding Anniversary \$ 225.00

Sunday School

Alvis Meuller \$ 70.00

Daily Bible Readings for February 1 thru 28

February 1:
Matthew 12:22-32
Malachi 2:13-17
Psalms 78:41-72 † 80
Daily Chapter: Genesis 32

February 2
Luke 2:21-40
Malachi 3:1-7
Psalms 24, 81 † 84
Daily Chapter: Genesis 33

February 3
Matthew 12:33-37
Malachi 3:8-18
Psalms 83 † 85
Daily Chapter: Genesis 34

February 4
Matthew 12:38-45
Malachi 4:1-6
Psalms 86,87 † 88
Daily Chapter: Genesis 35

February 5
Matthew 12:46-50
Hebrews 12:12-28
Psalms 89:1-52
Daily Chapter: Genesis 36

February 6
Matthew 14:1-12
Hebrews 13:1-25
Psalms 90 † 91
Daily Chapter: Genesis 37

February 7
Matthew 14:13-21
Zephaniah 1:1-11
Psalms 92,93 † 94
Daily Chapter: Genesis 38

February 8
Matthew 14:22-36
Zephaniah 1:12-18
Psalms 95,96 † 97,98
Daily Chapter: Genesis 39

February 9
Matthew 15:1-9
Zephaniah 2:1-15
Psalms 99,100,101 † 102
Daily Chapter: Genesis 40

February 10
Matthew 15:10-20
Zephaniah 3:1-13
Psalms 103 † 104
Daily Chapter: Genesis 41

February 11
Matthew 15:21-31
Zephaniah 3:14-20
Psalms 105:1-45
Daily Chapter: Genesis 42

February 12
Matthew 15:32-39
Romans 1:1-15
Psalms 106:1-48
Daily Chapter: Genesis 43

February 13
Matthew 16:1-4
Romans 1:16-32
Psalms 107:1-43
Daily Chapter: Genesis 44

February 14
Matthew 16:5-12
Romans 2:1-16
Psalms 108, 110 † 109
Daily Chapter: Genesis 45

February 15
Matthew 16:21-28
Romans 2:17-29
Psalms 111,112 † 113,114
Daily Chapter: Genesis 46

February 16
Matthew 17:1-13
Romans 3:1-8
Psalms 115, 116, 117 † 119:1-24
Daily Chapter: Genesis 47

February 17
Matthew 17:14-21
Romans 3:9-20
Psalms 14, 53, † 119:25-48
Daily Chapter: Genesis 48

February 18
Matthew 17:22-27
Romans 3:21-31
Psalms 119:49-88
Daily Chapter: Genesis 49

February 19
Matthew 19:1-12
Romans 5:1-11
Psalms 119:89-128
Daily Chapter: Genesis 50

February 20
Matthew 19:13-15
Romans 9:1-13
Psalms 119:129-176
Daily Chapter: Hosea 1

February 21
Matthew 19:16-22
Romans 9:14-33
Psalms 118 † 120,121
Daily Chapter: Hosea 2

February 22
Matthew 19:23-30
Romans 6:1-11
Psalms 122, 123 † 124, 125,126
Daily Chapter: Hosea 3

February 23
Matthew 21:23-32
Romans 6:12-23
Psalms 127,128 † 129,130,131
Daily Chapter: Hosea 4

February 24
Matthew 21:33-46
Romans 7:1-6
Psalms 132, 133 † 134,135
Daily Chapter: Hosea 5

February 25
Matthew 22:1-14
Romans 7:7-12
Psalms 136 † 137,138
Daily Chapter: Hosea 6

February 26
Matthew 22:15-22
Romans 7:13-25
Psalms 139 † 141,142
Daily Chapter: Hosea 7

February 27
Matthew 5:1-12
Romans 8:1-11
Psalms 140 † 143
Daily Chapter: Hosea 8

February 28
Matthew 5:13-20
Romans 8:12-25
Psalms 144 † 145
Daily Chapter: Hosea 9

Month: December 2024

Total Income \$ 26,502.33
 Total Expenses \$ 23,643.84
 Net Income/(Loss): \$ **2,858.49**

Year to Date: October 31, 2024

Total Income \$ 303,527.43
 Total Expenses \$ 389,628.49
 Net Income/(Loss): (**\$ 86,101.03**)

October Expense Highlights:

Outreach \$ 34.03
 Office Expenses \$ 856.64
 Designated Offerings \$ 2,334.98
 Stewardship \$ 1,282.58
 Staff Salaries & Benefits \$ 16,270.87
 Property Maint./Utilities \$ 2,283.84
 Worship \$ 232.40
 Reimbursed Expenses \$ 348.50

*\$22,811 for Sound System (April and May)

*\$31,000 towards New Roof (August)

*\$20,570 towards New Roof (September)

Fund Balances

General Fund \$ 13,636.00
 Building Fund \$ 19,501.00
 Designated Gift \$ 73,746.00

Attendance & Contributions

<u>DATE</u>	<u>ATTENDANCE</u>	<u>GENERAL</u>	<u>ONLINE</u>	<u>BUILDING</u>
12/01	28	\$ 3,845.00		
12/04	21	\$ 117.00		\$ 57.90
12/07	5	\$ 550.00	\$ 48.17	\$ 57.90
12/08	83	\$ 5,311.00	\$ 49.52	\$ 150.00
12/11	12	\$ 385.00	\$ 50.00	
12/14	8	\$ 935.00		
12/15	41	\$ 3,731.00		
12/18	24	\$ 145.00		
12/21	10	\$ 565.00		
12/22	44	\$ 651.00		\$ 100.00
12/24	132	\$ 1,010.00		
12/25	26	\$ 325.00		
12/28	13	\$ 575.00		
12/29	35	\$ 3,137.00		\$ 140.00

Crossroads Shared Lutheran Ministries

January 2025 Happenings

Waldeck Lutheran Church – St. Paul Lutheran Church – Shelby

Bethlehem Lutheran Church – Round Top – Martin Luther Lutheran Church – Carmine

Next Shared Ministry Meeting – February 8, 2025, at Carmine – 9-10:30 a.m.

PowerPoint Tech

We are looking for people interested in running a PowerPoint presentation on the TV screens during church service. Minimal PowerPoint knowledge is needed as training will be given. This would also be a great opportunity for our older youth to share their talents! Please let the office know if you are interested in helping with this new endeavor.

Saturday Night Services

Starting in February 2025, the Saturday night services will be cancelled until further notice.

February Birthdays

02/01 Tiffany Brooks

02/02 Leonita Sanders

02/03 Jon Wunderlich

02/04 David Krause

02/05 Marlee Leonhardt

02/05 Randy Zingelmann

02/09 Gracie Eckert

02/09 Lane Jacob

02/10 Aden Diehl

02/10 Breanna Leonhardt

02/11 Tana Brooks

02/11 Brody Dooley

02/12 Rene' Zwernemann

02/13 Vickie Neutzler

02/17 Tori Brooks

02/17 Ora Lee Levien

02/18 Sara Eilers

02/18 Randall Kohring

02/18 Joshua Aranzolo

02/20 Caden Medack

02/22 JoLynn Schoenberg

02/23 Clint Etzel

02/23 Rebecca Meyer

02/24 Ila Nell Kieke

Birthday Blessings

Luther's Letter

a monthly publication of Martin Luther Lutheran Church

P. O. Box 362, 211 Luther LN, Carmine, TX 78932

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e-mail: mluther@industryinet.com

website: mlccarmine.com

Rev. David Tinker, Pastor

Cell phone#: 713-461-8007

e-mail: pastordjt@industryinet.com

Office hours: 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Monday-Thursday

Vickie Neutzler, Secretary

Worship schedule:

Saturday Worship w/Holy Communion 6:00 p.m.

Sunday School for all – Sundays 9:00 a.m.

Sunday worship w/Holy Communion – 10:00 a.m.

Church Council: Josh Eckert-President; Blake Dooley-President-elect; Jason Schroeder-Secretary;

Danielle Nelson-Treasurer; Joys Baird-Worship Committee; Vickie Neutzler, Stewardship Committee;

Amelia Williams-Christian Education Committee; _____-Property Committee; JoLynn Schoenberg, Care Outreach Committee

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please email us at mluther@industryinet.com or call the church office.

If you prefer receipt by e-mail only and are not already on the e-mail list, please provide a current e-mail address.

MLLC

P.O. Box 362

Carmine, TX 78932-0362

