

# May 2026 Newsletter

# Martin Luther Chapel

## Pastor's Letter

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

The Gospel reading for the Ascension of Our Lord tells us that after Jesus appeared to His disciples, He gave them this charge: *"Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation"* (Mark 16:15). Then, after He had spoken to them, *"He was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God"* (Mark 16:19).

On Ascension Thursday, May 14, the Church celebrates that the crucified and risen Lord now reigns over all things for the good of His people. He sits at the right hand of the Father, ruling, interceding, and sending His Word into the world. And He continues to work through His Church as the Gospel is preached, the Sacraments are given, and His people live together in faith and love.

Over the last several months, we have seen many reminders of the Lord's care for Martin Luther Chapel. We have welcomed many visitors and seasonal guests into worship with us. We have gathered around the Word and Sacrament of God and the gifts of Christ. Together, the congregation purchased and installed three new mini split AC units for the church, added new lighting in the parsonage garage, and completed many other repairs and improvements around the property.

We have also rejoiced together in fellowship and celebration: Easter services and breakfast, November Fest, the Knox wedding and reception, Game Day, and Paint and Sip. In these gatherings, we have enjoyed one another's company and found opportunities to support and serve our community.

All of these things matter. They are signs of a congregation living together under the care of the risen and ascended Lord. Christ gathers us. Christ serves us. Christ sends us. And as Mark tells us, the disciples *"went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them"* (Mark 16:20).

That remains our confidence. The Lord is still at work with His Church. He is at work when His Word is preached. He is at work when guests are welcomed. He is at work when members serve, repair, cook, clean, plan, give, and encourage one another. He is at work when the Gospel is confessed not only with our lips, but also in our life together.

We give thanks for all that the Lord has done among us. And we continue in joy, knowing that our ascended Lord reigns, His Gospel goes forth, and His promise of eternal life is sure.

In Christ,



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## Sunday Worship Schedule:

**10:00 am Divine  
Service  
Coffee, refresh-  
ments, Fellowship &  
Bible Study  
to follow**

# PRAYER

## list...

Thanks and praise to our Lord Jesus Christ:

- For Carl and Barbara, Newlyweds.
- For our congregation leadership and those who volunteer their time.
- For all of our households. Blessings on our homes, that all who enter our homes enter into the presence of Jesus Christ.
- For answered prayers: Thanksgiving for the increase in the study of Scriptures in our Community.

Heavenly Father, we ask that you would

- Grant Healing and strength to Harold Taube. Harold has cancer
- Grant Healing and strength to Jamie Irwin. Jamie has stage 4 colon cancer.
- Grant Peace and comfort to the family of Brian Bowser. Brian passed away.
- Grant Healing , Peace & Trust in Jesus for Joe Kazz, Doug Dabrowski
- Grant us the boldness to invite our family, friends and acquaintances into the Word and Sacramental ministry at Martin Luther Chapel.
- Grant us all with a stronger desire to read, study and learn about your holy Word.

And Jesus said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore, pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send our laborers into his harvest.

Let us pray:

For young men to enter the pastoral ministry. That young men and women would be drawn toward Jesus and worship him and honor the estate of Holy Matrimony. Let their homes be blessed and their children raised to be godly men and women.

Into your hands O Father, we commend all our prayers to Your holy will, trusting in Your mercies that are new every morning.



5/01 Caleb Mandile  
5/09 Marlene Swaidan  
5/13 Matthew Mandile  
5/14 Jason Dixon

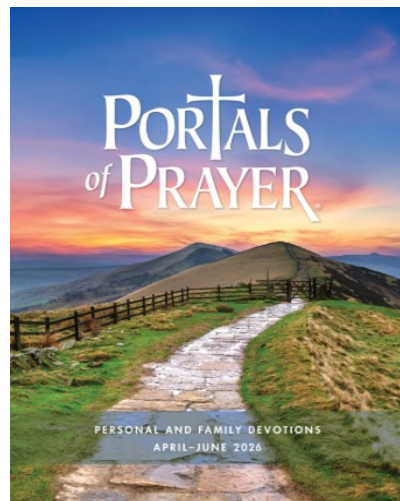


5/10 Ken LaRose & Cheryl Burke

*If we have missed a birthday, anniversary or special occasion please let us know so we can be sure to add it to our next newsletter!*



Join us for coffee and snacks after service on Sunday. There is a signup sheet if you would like to help out!



Don't forget to pick up a copy of Portals of Prayer Devotional from the back of the Chapel!

## EASTER SUNDAY

*Alleluia! The Lord Jesus is risen from the dead! Alleluia!*

On Easter Sunday we began at 6:30am at Curry Hammock State Park. We had the Easter Sunrise service right by the water looking east as the sun rose. Even though it started to rain, we all just moved in closer under the pavilion and continued on. The skies cleared in time for the sunrise. After leaving Curry Hammock State park we travelled back to Martin Luther Chapel and had our Easter Breakfast. What a feast! The food was incredibly tasty. After breakfast, we celebrated Easter Sunday with the Divine Service, great hymns and Holy Communion. On the way out from worship we ended the morning with an easter egg hunt. The children were very excited to take part in the activity. You can see the joy in their faces, and their parents and grandparents' faces too.



# EASTER

Egg Hunt



On Sunday April 26th Carl Knox and Barbara Smith committed themselves to each other in Holy Matrimony. Congratulations and many blessings to Carl and Barb.



*We want to express our gratitude to everyone that enjoyed the "Feast" with us and for all the wonderful comments!*

The Paint & Sip Silent Auction was a wonderful evening! Fourteen guests joined us to showcase their creativity while enjoying delicious food and fantastic auction items. We raised a total of \$995.00 along with many generous donations for KAIR. A portion of the proceeds were donated to the Domestic Abuse Shelter of the Florida Keys, Marathon Office.



Sheryl Schwab, CEO, Domestic Abuse Shelter with Kathy, Karen & Penny

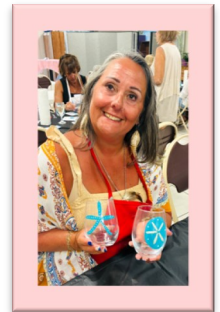
Special thanks to Karen and Penny for making this event possible—your tireless efforts made it a true success! With sincere and heartfelt gratitude, thank you to Beth, Marsha & Lisa for your generosity!

***Thank you to the businesses that donated our auction items:***

- Starfish Designs
- Beautifully Balanced Hair Salon
- The Midas Touch
- Alo Jewelers
- El Siboney Restaurant
- Sweet Savannah's
- Food for Thought
- Big Pine Key Boat Rentals
- Beth Smith—Lily Pulitzer Bags
- Dorothy Eastabrook—Pamper Basket



# Paint & Sip Silent Auction





## 2025–2027 MISSION GRANTS

<https://www.lwml.org/assets/attachments/543899>

On the first Sunday of each month we will have an LWML mite box collection. These LWML Mite Boxes are closely tied to mission grants. The mite offerings are freewill gifts given above and beyond a congregation's regular support, and that nationwide, these offerings "amount to millions of dollars" used to fund district and national mission grants and carry out the LWML program. Local groups gather these offerings, districts retain 75% of mites for district mission work, and national mites help fund more than \$1 million in grants that support Gospel outreach.

St. Paul speaks of the spirit of Christian generosity: "their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity" and "excel in this grace of giving" (2 Corinthians 8:1–7). Through your mites, even small gifts become mission grants for Christ's work.

What follows is a description of two of the mission grants LWML has pledged to support over the 2025-2026- 2027 three year period. Each month we will focus on two different mission

**The Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) is an official auxiliary of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Since 1942, the LWML has focused on affirming each woman's relationship with Christ, encouraging and equipping women to live out their Christian lives in active mission ministries and to support global missions.**

### **Mission Statement**

As Lutheran Women in Mission, we joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions, and equip women to honor God by serving others.

### **Vision Statement**

The LWML is the leading group for LCMS women where each woman is welcomed and encouraged to use her unique God-given gifts as she supports global missions and serves the Lord with gladness.



2025-2027 MISSION GRANT NO. 14

## REACHING JEWISH PEOPLE WITH THE GOSPEL IN ISRAEL THE APPLE OF HIS EYE MISSION SOCIETY, ASIA | \$100,000



### *Reaching The Jewish Community with God's Saving Word*

The Apple of His Eye Mission Society exists to share the Good News of Jesus with the Jewish community. They perform the vital work of ministering to the Jewish people by bringing them the Gospel. This is accomplished through partnering with LCMS World Mission to plant Lutheran churches. They also develop resources for evangelism and for training new leaders for service in the church. The Apple of His Eye Mission Society has distributed over one million Gospel tracts, and they rely on God to provide resources through churches and individuals to carry out their mission efforts.

It is a unique time in Israel. There are six million Jewish people living in Israel today and there is an unprecedented openness by younger Jewish people to hear the Gospel. Requests for copies of the New Testament are at an all-time high. This makes the work of The Apple of His Eye Mission Society more important than it has ever been. They are meeting people where they are with lifesaving materials to share the Good News of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

This grant will help advance plans to plant a new Lutheran church in Tel Aviv, which is one of the most expensive cities in the world. The church will be led by an Israeli Jewish Christian who is finishing his Master of Sacred Theology degree at Concordia Theological Seminary in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. He already holds Vespers services in Tel Aviv and has a group of individuals preparing for Baptism. Grant funds will go towards recruiting and training volunteers to support this important work. Volunteers will also have the opportunity to provide ongoing short term mission support. In addition to short term missions, The Apple of His Eye Mission Society will support church leaders and volunteers, provide support and encouragement, and track metrics to make sure the efforts stay on track.

*And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation" (Mark 16:15).*

# MAY 2026



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3 Sunday Worship 10:00 am LWML Mite Colleciton	4	5 Online Bible Study 1:00 pm	6 Online Bible Study 11:00 am	7	8	9
10 Sunday Worship 10:00 am	11	12 Online Bible Study 1:00 pm	13 Online Bible Study 11:00 am	14	15	16
17 Sunday Worship 10:00 am	18	19 Online Bible Study 1:00 pm	20 Online Bible Study 11:00 am	21	22	23
24 Sunday Worship 10:00 am	25	26 Online Bible Study 1:00 pm	27 Online Bible Study 11:00 am	28	29	30
31 Sunday Worship 10:00 am						