

Dec. 24th & 31st, 2017



**MARTIN LUTHER CHAPEL**  
444 Abbot Road  
East Lansing, MI 48823  
(517) 332-0778

**Pastors:**  
*The Rev. Curtis Dwyer*  
(mobile 870-450-1199)

*The Rev. David Dressel*  
(mobile 517-285-4166)

**Ministry Assistant:**  
*Dian Silvey*  
(mobile 517-420-3124)

**Office Administrator:**  
*Anne Owens*

**Office Assistant:**  
*Judah Pemble*

**Chapel Managers:**  
*Michael VanBemmelen*  
*Addie VanBemmelen*

**Evening Accompanist:**  
*Mary Grace*

**Music Director**  
*Yatidi Lightfoot*

**Wednesday ON FIRE**  
*Alexa Seeger, Coordinator*

**Int'l Student Ministry**  
*Rich Bearup,*  
*Executive Director*

**CHAPEL MANAGER POSITION AVAILABLE**

We are looking for an individual or married couple to serve as Chapel Manager(s) beginning in January of this year. **Applications are available in the entryway.** If you have questions or are interested, please mark your interest sheet or talk to Pastor Curt. Many thanks to Addie and Michael VanBemmelen who have been outstanding Chapel Managers since June! We wish them well as Michael begins a job in Zeeland in January!



# Chapel Chatter

*Christ - Students - Community Coming Together*



Sign up on your interest sheet or at the prayer desk if you'd like to purchase a \$35 floral arrangement in memory of or in honor of a loved one.

**THE STAFF OF MARTIN LUTHER CHAPEL**

pray that you and your family will enjoy the Lord's blessings in the New Year. May God be with you as we rejoice in the birth of the Christ child!

Pastor Curt Dwyer, Pastor Dave Dressel, Dian Silvey, Ministry Assistant Anne, Judah, Michael, Addie, Yatidi, and Mary



**HYMN SING** Next Sunday at the 10:30 am service, we will be having a Hymn Sing, so come prepared to request your favorite hymns! There will be NO 7 pm worship service next Sunday.

Today's Chapel Chatter includes some articles reviewing aspects of our ministry this past year. We hope this offers you a chance to praise God for the opportunities we had in 2017, and inspires our ministry for the coming year.

**HOLIDAY SERVICES**

**December 24th**

Worship Service.....10:30 am

Christmas Eve Concert.....7:00 pm

Candlelight Service.....7:30 pm



**December 31st**

Worship Service.....10:30 am

(December 31st NO evening service)

**MINISTRY FACTS**

- More than 290 people visited Martin Luther Chapel for the first time during the year; an average of 7 new people every week!
- We have been blessed with 9 baptisms (1 adult, 2 child, and 6 infants); 7 young people received their first communion, and 7 youth were confirmed this past May. In addition, 16 people formally joined the congregation by transfer or affirmation of faith.
- 712 different people have worshiped with us during 2017, a 9% increase over 2016.
- 550 people joined us for communion at the Lord's Table.
- 94 Chinese adults and children have joined us for worship and/or Bible study since January.
- 25 children and 20 adult volunteers worked to present this year's Children's Christmas Play, "The Little Drummer from Bethlehem"
- 12 youth and adults participated in an exchange program to Germany, traveling to Vlotho, Berlin and Wittenberg, where they participated in festivities marking the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the beginning of the Lutheran Reformation.
- Over 50 Martin Luther Chapel alumni visited for our Great Lakes Folk Festival service in August, some of whom can date their involvement with this ministry back to the 1950's.



**STEPHEN MINISTERS**

at Martin Luther Chapel are trained and equipped to give one-on-one, high-quality, confidential, Christ-centered care to people who are hurting. Stephen Ministers meet regularly with those in need of support as well as meeting with other Stephen Ministers for continuing education and peer supervision. Currently 12 people are receiving weekly or bi-weekly care. Stephen Ministers have invested more than 250 hours caring for people in 2017, and more than 200 hours in continuing education and ongoing training. A new training class begins on Tuesday, January 9. For more information, talk with Pastor Dave or one of the Stephen Ministers.

**BIBLE STUDY**

In January, a new Bible study called "Tell Me About Jesus" will begin, organized by Becky Armstrong and Pastor Dave. This group will meet every other week, and is especially designed for our friends who have cognitive or developmental challenges. The first meeting will be January 14<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 pm.



Poinsettias decorating the sanctuary for Christmas are given by:



**Jack and Madonna Burgess; Dave & Jan Dressel; Mira Edgerton**, in memory of her parents Tecla and Wilbert Binder; **Melody Frye**, in memory of Alice Frye; **Bill Joyce**, in memory of his wife Mary Bosser Joyce; **Peter and Yatidi Lightfoot; Deb Nault**, in memory of David Solberg; **Mike & Elaine Nevells**, in memory of Alec Nelson; **David & Susan Pinter**, in memory of Susan's sister, Nancy Chellen; **Cheryl & Denny Rapson; Jack & Charlotte Shade**, in memory of their son, Richard Shade; **David & Patty Thiele**, in memory of their daughter, Amanda Thiele; **Sue Waltersdorf**, in memory and honor of her husband Leigh .

## MINISTRY TO THE EAST LANSING COMMUNITY

- We held a 'Thank You' lunch for all City Hall employees in January, serving over 70 guests.
- We hosted over 1000 people during the East Lansing Art Festival when we opened our doors as a Family Rest Place. In addition, the Festival committee asked us to host more than 100 vendors for the opening day coffee and donuts.
- Each Tuesday, we host the Strike-A-Pose Art Class, which is attended by around 20 different individuals from East Lansing.
- We participated in the Great Lakes Folk Festival by holding our Sunday morning service in the Abbot Road venue.
- We supported Wellspring Lutheran Services and the foster families they serve with an Easter party, food boxes at Thanksgiving, and a Christmas party.
- Over 500 children and families received a Christ-centered treat and candy during the Great Pumpkin Walk in October (despite the bad weather).
- On every Election Day, we host East Lansing's Precinct #2.
- We hosted the East Lansing High School ELSingers for their end-of-the-year concert.

**20S & 30S 2018 SCHEDULE** Faith & Fellowship at Crunchy's (254 W. Grand River, East Lansing) on Mondays at 7 pm on January 8<sup>th</sup>, February 5<sup>th</sup>, March 5<sup>th</sup> and April 2<sup>nd</sup>. Bible Study dates at Martin Luther Chapel are TBA.

## GOALS FOR 2018

Some goals and projects we anticipate for the coming year:

- Call a new, full-time pastor, hopefully to begin in the Summer of 2018. (more information coming soon)
- Send 21 students in two teams to serve our neighbors in Texas and Mexico over spring break; one team to El Paso to build a house for a family in Juarez, MX, and one team to Rockport TX to assist in recovery efforts from Hurricane Harvey.

## BLESSING SESSIONS - January – February 2018

The Blessing Sessions are small group, conversational meetings, sponsored by the Stewardship Team, as an intentional effort to engage people in understanding their roles as God's stewards and how that drives our engagement at Martin Luther Chapel. The Blessing Sessions will focus on "*Sharing Ourselves, Serving Our Lord, Shaping Our Ministry*".

- *Sharing Ourselves*: Sharing how we have been blessed by the presence of God in our lives and our involvement at MLC
  - *Serving Our Lord*: Sharing our experiences with giving and serving, whether it is our time, talents or treasures.
  - *Shaping Our Ministry*: Discussing how we can continue to grow the ministry at MLC.
- The Stewardship team invites you to partake in one of the scheduled sessions next month, as detailed below with date/time, host and location.

## FRIENDSHIP HOUSE

The Friendship House is an outreach ministry to international students and their families sponsored by Martin Luther Chapel and several local Lutheran congregations.

Through English as a Second Language classes, cultural discussion and activity groups, and Bible Studies, the Friendship House shares the love of Christ with these students and their families.

☐Over the past four semesters the Friendship House has been averaging over 200 students per semester from an average of 25 different countries.

☐85 volunteers give their time as teachers, substitute teachers, conversation partners, Board members, bus drivers, other drivers and people who assist students in special circumstances.

☐For the coming semester, there will be 27 classes Sunday through Saturday.

☐Volunteers from Martin Luther Chapel give significant time, energy, and funding to support this ministry.

## CAMPUS MINISTRY LEADERSHIP

Martin Luther Chapel is a leader in encouraging and training campus ministries around the country. Here are some ways we serve the larger church:

Pastor Dave is the Chair of the English District Campus Ministry Task Force

In January, we hosted a Campus Ministry Summit, with representatives from 15 different campus ministries in attendance.

In February of the coming year, Pastor Curt will be presenting a workshop at the Best Practices for Ministry conference in Phoenix Arizona entitled, "Top Ten Tips for Campus Ministry (plus one)"

## CAMPUS MINISTRY

Fifteen student leaders (3 teams of 5 each) serve 4-6 hours/week this year, meeting once a week with a Pastor to plan ministry to the MSU community. This year they helped in the formation of other planning teams for four retreats and the weekly student Bible study; attended a Campus Ministry Leadership Conference at Valparaiso U.; planned outreach activities like sending personal letters to 225 incoming MSU students, making personal contacts, delivering gifts of microwave popcorn and hot chocolate, hosting women's nights, men's movie nights, and planning for the Spring Break servant event where they built a house for a family in Juarez, Mexico. At the conclusion of their studies at MSU, we celebrate and send graduates out from Martin Luther Chapel to bless the church, and the world, with the faith and leadership skills nurtured through our ministry.

Wednesday ON FIRE is our student-led Wednesday evening worship service. Six instrumentalists, five singers, and a student speaker lead our worship.

Last summer, the church office processed over 7000 Religious Preference forms collected from incoming MSU students, to distribute them to the appropriate campus ministry organizations.

Every semester we host numerous recitals for music students as they complete the performance requirements for their degree.

Date	Time	Host	Location
Thursday, January 18	7 - 8:30 pm	Matt Montney	The Montneys (Lansing)
Sunday, January 21	4:30 - 6 pm	Fred & Kathy Jernigan	Martin Luther Chapel
Monday, January 22	7 - 8:30 pm	John Engle	The Engles (Holt)
Tuesday, January 23	7 - 8:30 pm	Peter & Yatidi Lightfoot	The Lightfoots (Okemos)
Thursday, January 25	7 - 8:30 pm	Dan & Cindy Winter	The Winters (Williamston)
Sunday, January 28	12:30 - 2 pm	College Students	Martin Luther Chapel
Thursday, February 1	7 - 8:30 pm	Betsy Seeley	The Seeleys (East Lansing)