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# The St. Martin Communicator

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St. Martin Lutheran Church, 322 Old Falls Blvd., N. Tonawanda, NY 14120

September 2021

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Pastor: The Rev. R. Devie Ellis   Church: 693-4415   Home: 264-4646   stmartinlutheran.org   stmartin@wny.twcbc.com

*Extol the Lord our God; worship at his footstool.  
Holy is he! - Psalm 99: 5*

The Old Testament followers believed that God's presence was in the place of worship symbolized by the Ark of the Covenant. God was so great that this box or chest, which held the two stone tables of the Ten Commandments, was but a footstool for God. God's glory (or presence) filled the temple, and the people would gather in the vicinity of God's footstool to worship, extol, and praise God.

Imagine a little child climbing up into the lap of a loving parent or grandparent. The child just wants to be close, in the presence of the one they love and who loves them. We are like that child, too, even if we don't have a physical lap into which to climb to experience God's presence. We, too, long to feel a touch from God, the closeness of God, and the active loving presence of God. Worship today at God's footstool; dwell in the holy presence of God.

Come and be part of the fellowship of believers that gathers each week at worship. If you have not attended since the pandemic began, we are safe and will continue to abide by the CDC recommendations. We ask that our young children, who cannot be vaccinated at this time, continue to wear a mask especially in Sunday School. Any questions or concerns, please contact Pastor Devie or a member of the council.

God's blessings and peace!  
Pastor Devie (see you at church!)

\* \* \*

**GOOD SOWERS** (Part of this article is from "The Christian Ministry" by Will Willimon)

On Sunday morning, after I'm done preaching, I retire to my appointed perch, the seat behind the second soprano where I blend into the woodwork. I often look up at the stained-glass window that depicts Moses. Moses' life is put before the congregation, the child raised by royalty, the angry defender of the oppressed, the liberator, the lawgiver, the leader of Israel to the Promised Land. But the scene that catches my attention, is the last window, where God prevents Moses from entering Canaan. God lets Moses get to the door but does not allow him to cross into Israel. As I look at the end of Moses's ministry, I am reminded of workers in the church.

A lot goes unfinished in the work of the church. There are many people who get "burned out" because they work so many hours but do not see results. We must be content, like Moses, with planting and leave the harvest to God. We worship, teach, sing, study, and share our gifts with the congregation. We sow the seed and then stand at the door and wait.

A man who works with teachers says the ones who are able to keep teaching over the years are those "who are good sowers rather than good reapers." Teachers, preachers, workers in the church must find meaning enough in the act of planting the seed and not have the need to be there for the harvest.

If preachers, choir members, council members, Sunday school teachers, all workers in the church are going to persevere at Christian ministry, we will do so only by having confidence that God really does work through us "earthen vessels." Even though we may not understand God's plan, even though we may not enter the promised land of concrete results and visible fulfillment, we can boldly announce the message of the ultimate triumph of God's good purposes as we sow the seed and God produces the harvest.



## September 12

**10:00am Worship - We hope for outdoor worship in the prayer garden. Bring a lawn chair. Members of Abiding Savior will join us.**

**Church picnic to follow. Meat & drinks will be provided. Bring a dish or dessert to share.**

**Also bring your favorite outdoor games. Fun for all! Most of all - pray for good weather!**



## ACOLYTES

Sept. 5 Mia Randles & Alex Goodman  
12 Nora Radhakrishnan & Zoey Cyphers  
19 Robbie Bohnstadt & Addison Ohrum  
26 Nicholas Haring & Jackson Randles

## READERS

Barb Bush  
Michele Thiele  
Jessica Dows  
Jim Wanamaker



HAPPY BIRTHDAY! to the following members who celebrate another year of God's blessings in September 2021:

Sept. 1	Rebecca Bush	8	Eric Weinheimer	26	Joseph Brant
2	Tom Wehling	12	Jacob Carter	28	Dan Ohrum
5	Heather Boehnke	16	Elaine Rokosky	29	Emily Knab
8	Virginia Broeker	20	Bill Hollenbaugh	30	Bill Feist
8	Laurel Dolpp	21	David Wanamaker		
8	Kristen Kania	25	Braydin Weaver		

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DAILY BREAD FOOD TRUCK

Come have breakfast with us on Sunday, September 26, from 8:30 – 11:00am. This ministry provides meals to hungry families in our community. The Daily Bread food truck is a not-for-profit food share truck. When you buy a meal, a meal is donated to someone in need! Worship is 9-10:00am and Sunday School is 10-10:45. Come early or stay after to eat for a great cause.

\* \* \*

BOOK CLUB will meet at church on Tuesday, September 7, at 7:00pm. Read *The Book of Longings* by Sue Monk Kidd. Join in fellowship and discussion.

\* \* \*

LUNCH BUNCH will meet at Country Cottage on Tuesday, September 7, at noon. Make your reservations with Barb Bush.

\* \* \*

HOPE CIRCLE will meet on Tuesday, September 14, at 10:00am, at church.

PEACE CIRCLE will meet Thursday, September 23, at 7:00pm, at church.

\* \* \*

THE NEXT Free Community Lunch will be Saturday, September 4, noon – 1:00pm. Get the word out! Drive-thru pick-up until further notice.

FIRST COMMUNION will be Sunday, October 31. Please see Pastor Devie if your child is in grade 2 or above and has not received instruction.

\* \* \*

CONFIRMATION CLASSES will resume this fall. If your child is in grade 7, please contact Pastor Devie. A day has to be determined for classes.

\* \* \*

WEDNESDAY MORNING Bible Study resumes September 15 at 10:00am. Our study is on the Book of Esther. (It's a short book, so read it ahead of time if you can.)

"You were made for this moment." You may be staring down an impossible situation. The question is not if God will prevail, but whether you will be part of the team. This video and workbook study on Esther will help us cultivate courage for challenging times and discover our role in God's story.

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## Invitation to Members of the Upstate New York Synod

**Service of Holy Communion  
Installation of The Rev. Lee M. Miller, II  
as Bishop of the Upstate New York Synod**

**Bethany Baptist Church  
149 Beattie St, Syracuse, NY 13224  
Saturday September 18, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.**

**Doors Open: 1:00 p.m., Pre-Service Music Begins: 1:30  
Reception follows at the church.**

**New York State and CDC gathering guidelines in effect  
on September 18 will be observed.**



Dear members of Saint Martin,

Thank you for letting me go to camp. It was so fun. I learned new songs and met new friends. My favorite part was going zip lining.

Thanks again,  
Robbie Bohnstadt

\* \* \*

Go. Serve. Love!! That is our theme for the year and is our call as Christians in this world! The world needs us to show God's love and grace more than ever! We are all up to the task with God's help and guidance. I am so excited for Rally Day on September 12th. Our worship service will be outside at 10:00 A.M. with the church picnic to follow. Come for a fun day of fellowship with our church family. There will be a sundae bar for all to enjoy at the picnic!



On Sunday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, we will kick off our Sunday School classes. We will meet after the worship service for Opening (10:10), sing songs, collect offering, and hear about our upcoming events. After Opening we will joyfully skip to our classes: PreK-K with Carol Wunderlich, 1st - 5th grade with Mrs. Wanamaker, and 6th - 12th grade with Mrs. Thiele. (If you would be willing to take one week each month to teach, please let me know.)

We will be wearing masks during Sunday School to keep our unvaccinated friends safe. Thank you for your understanding and for doing your part to help others stay healthy.

The last Sunday of every month is going to be Service Sunday! We will either go on an outing or participate in a service project at church during the Sunday School hour. Our first project will be for Journey's End Refugee Services. Please start collecting: coats, umbrellas, baby wipes, diapers, toiletries, cleaning and school supplies. God is so good and He has given us the gift of His grace! We serve others to show His love and to thank God for that beautiful gift!!

If you have ideas for service projects, events, and/or would like to be a part of the Family Ministry Team, please see Michele. Our next meeting will be on Sunday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, at 11:15 A.M. in the Fellowship Hall.

Go! Serve! Love!  
Michele Thiele, Sunday School Supt.

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## **CHIAVETTA'S CHICKEN DINNER**

**Sunday, October 3**

**Noon - 3:00pm**

**Drive-through Pickup of Dinners**

**Presale - \$11 At Door - \$13**

**Please get your presale tickets to sell to family & friends.**

**Your help will be needed. Sign up in the narthex.**

**Proceeds to benefit the NT Food Pantry and Haven House on Delaware Ave. in Buffalo - help for domestic violence survivors.**

**Any questions, contact Brian or Tammy Carter.**



## Church Council ~ Meeting Minutes for 06/14/21

7:05 PM Call to Order – Operating under social distancing protocols

Present: Pastor Devie Ellis, Jim Wanamaker, Jessica Dows, Sarah Bohnstadt, Mike Wendt, Sue Panek.

Pastor opened with devotions.

Approval of Minutes from the May meeting; minutes approved as amended.

### Officer's Reports:

Treasurer Report: \$3,400 above 2020 giving, \$1,500 above budget. Where is the PPE loan? Likely general fund. No information yet on whether we need to repay the loan.

Pastor - Need to think through ways to improve communication so it is clearer who is working on what and what progress has been made.

Elders - Communion this Sunday and 1st and 3rd Sunday in July.

Pastor has vacation August 8th and August 15th. Randy Milleville will supply. If we have communion on the 15th will need someone to set up. Jim will set up/clean up.

### Trustees -

Roof repair - Jim will call Dan.

Faucet on the 1st floor - tried to tighten but handles were too far back. Installed a new faucet.

Downstairs ladies room - put water in to reduce smell; longer term can remove toilet and cap it.

Need tables set up for Sunday - how to seat for the meeting and the coffee hour.

### Organization Reports:

#### Sunday School

Women of the Church - Tea 13th of July, 7:00 here with collaborative bible study

Luther League - Need to start looking at who is eligible for the Gathering. Reach out to regional youth group - get partnered up to go with them since the group is smaller for 2022.

### Committee Reports:

Memorial - Barb Bush would like to do something with the bushes and trees in Will's memory

Stewardship/Evangelism - Community Luncheon - about 10 meals given out; the rest were given to Niagara Falls Community Mission. They were very appreciative.

### Investment

Prayer Garden - Ask Wendy to make up sign-up to weed

Web Page - Approval to go ahead with GoDaddy for \$10-20 for transfer fee.

### Old Business:

COVID Protocols - Optional if vaccinated. Continue to distance as much as possible. Put the cushions and hymnals back. Remove strings off the pews. Current school standards are 3 feet.

Congregational Meeting/Elections – June 20 - Have the meeting in the fellowship hall live-streamed. Jessica will send out a link for folks to review.

Rally Day Picnic - Worship Service and Picnic outside.

July 11th @10:00 - outdoors at Abiding Savior.

August 1st @ 10 Outside with Coffee Hour

Graduate Celebration - Cake and Punch

Reconciling in Christ: <https://www.reconcilingworks.org/resources/ric/>

### New Business:

Summer meeting Schedule - Council Picnic - 8/16 @ Church

Updating the Constitution. Needs to be Updated and sent to Synod for approval. Need to get 2003 version.

Visioning Meeting on 6/28.

Adjournment

Next Meeting: 8/16/21

**Financial Report**  
**Year-to-date Sundays through 8/1/2021**

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Income to date	\$ 103,454
Amount needed for budget to date	104,440
Income is behind budget to date	<u>\$ (986)</u>

*Jeff Thiele, Treasurer*

Women <sup>of the</sup> ELCA   
*Niagara Frontier & Southwestern Conferences*



*Spiritual Renewal ~  
Centered  
in  
Prayer*

**Saturday, September 18, 2021**

*at*

**St. Paul's Lutheran Church**

6360 Route 242E, Ellicottville, New York 14731

*Program presented by*

**Contemplative Outreach Buffalo**

**9:30 AM - 3:30 PM**

*~ Closing Worship - 2:45 PM ~*

**Cost: \$10.00**

*~ Luncheon provided ~*

**Registration Deadline, September 18, 2021**

*~ Registration forms available by contacting ~*

**Ruth Schmidt**

**(716) 827-8694**

**e-mail: [Walrus1973@verizon.net](mailto:Walrus1973@verizon.net)**

# September 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 12:00 Will Bush Community Lunch
5 9:00 Worship with Holy Communion	6	7 12:00 Lunch Bunch at Country Cottage 7:00 Book Club	8	9	10	11
12 RALLY DAY! 10:00 Outdoor Worship 11:00 Picnic	13 7:00 Church Council	14 10:00am Hope Circle	15 10:00am Bible Study	16 6:00 Wedding Rehearsal	17	18 9:30-3:30 WELCA Niagara Frontier & SW Conference Program 2:30 Dixon/Holcombe Wedding
19 9:00 Worship with Holy Communion 10:00 Sunday School	20	21 OCTOBER NEWS-LETTER TYPED	22 10:00am Bible Study	23 7:00 Peace Circle	24	25
26 9:00 Worship Installation of Teachers & Council Members 10:00 Sunday School 8:30-11:00 Daily Bread Food Truck	27	28	29 10:00am Bible Study	30		



Dear friends,

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi owns seven primary schools located in remote parts of the country where Lutheran congregations are situated. The church is facing various challenges due to the increase in pupil enrolment in the ELCM schools. The ELCM Primary School project, with ELCA support, seeks to address the need for learning and teaching materials, sanitation facilities, especially for the girl-child, and a shortage of classrooms which hampers effective learning and teaching.

The project also conducts awareness and advocacy meetings with Parent/Teacher Associations and community members regarding the importance of education and the need for good role-models for boys and girls.

The picture was taken at one of the ELCM schools during a monitoring visit by the project coordinator. Peter (not his real name) is 11 years old and in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Last year the schools were closed due to the pandemic for almost nine months. Peter was very worried because he didn't know when classes would resume. This was a very challenging situation for learners, parents and teachers.



After the government of Malawi imposed a number of country-wide COVID-19 preventive measures, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi decided that one way of preventing the spread of the COVID-19 virus would be to provide buckets and hand washing soap (sanitation materials) to all the primary schools under the church's control. The learners were taught about the importance of washing their hands regularly, as well as masking up and social distancing.

Peter and his fellow learners are very happy to be back at school and are carefully following all the COVID-19 preventive measures.

*(In Malawi on 23 August 2021, there have been 59,399 confirmed cases of COVID-19 with 2,059 deaths, reported to the World Health Organization. As of 20 August 2021, a total of 848,791 vaccine doses had been administered, approximately 4.5% in a population of 19 million.)*

ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response programs continue to support sustainable development projects in Southern Africa to assist companion churches as they work to mitigate the impact of poverty, climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic in the communities they serve.

Thank you for your prayers, support and your participation in God's mission locally and globally.

Yours faithfully,  
Rev. Dr. Philip Knutson  
ELCA Regional Representative - Southern Africa  
Johannesburg, August 24, 2021

My blog page address is: <https://southernafricanconnections.wordpress.com/>  
Please visit my [fundraising page](#). (Note: This fundraising page is set up for individuals' gifts only.)  
If you are donating on behalf of a congregation or organization, please visit [ELCA.org/MissionaryGiving](https://www.elca.org/MissionaryGiving) for online giving.