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# The St. Martin Communicator

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

April 2021

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

*If Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. But in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ."*

I Corinthians 15:14, 20-23

They put him in a cave on Friday afternoon after he had died. They rolled a huge stone against the entrance. Now he was dead. Let no one disturb his body. They even stationed guards at the grave to make sure that no one would smuggle the body away.

They had underestimated the power of God. God had sent His Son on a mission which included death, but death was not the end of the errand. God raised him from the dead, burst open the grave, and sent him out to invade and capture the hearts of people down through the centuries.

Death is destroyed! It does not have the last word. The effect of Christ's resurrection is that a new life is in store for everyone who asks...everyone who seeks...everyone who knocks (Matt. 7:7).

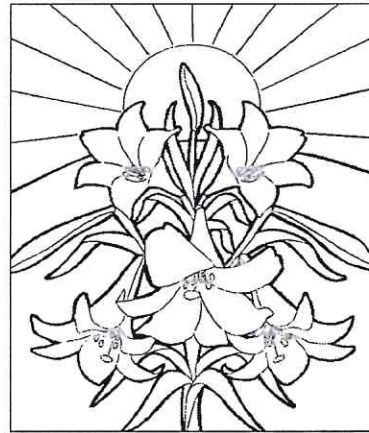
We need not wait until death has done its worst before we taste this new life. The power of the resurrection is with us now! Just as it marks the defeat of death, it also marks the defeat of sin and evil and all that threatens to destroy faith, trust, hope, and all that could be noble in our lives. Hatred loses its hold, greed begins to retreat, old grudges melt away, fear loses its absolute terror. We can sense even now that something is dying deep within us and something new and exciting is rising...hope, love, joy, courage, faith, and trust.

The Lord is alive and is with us! We have been changed because death does not have the last word. We cling to the Risen Christ and have our hope restored. We cling to the risen Christ where we find strength and courage to trust and obey. There is forgiveness, victory, and an everlasting future!

This is Easter! Christ is Risen, he is Risen Indeed!

Ta-Da!!

Easter Blessings,  
Pastor Devie



*"Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him."*

Mark 16:6

## HOLY WEEK AND EASTER WORSHIP

### MAUNDY THURSDAY – April 1

7:00pm – In-person and Live-stream Worship with Holy Communion

### GOOD FRIDAY – April 2

7:00pm – In-person and Live-stream Tenebrae Service

### EASTER SUNDAY – April 8

Sunrise Service - 8:00am, in the prayer garden, rain, snow, or sunny (pray for sun & warm temps). This will be a short service but will give those who are not comfortable in a confined space a chance to worship. Bring a lawn chair or blanket.

Communion Service – 9:00am, In-person & Live-stream. 35 people in the sanctuary. Any overflow will be seated in the narthex, cry room, choir room, and fellowship hall.

If these worship times are too early, join Pastor Devie at Abiding Savior at 11:00am.

No Sunday School on Easter.

\* \* \*

## HE DIDN'T RISE FROM THE DEAD TO HUNT EASTER EGGS!

**This year, instead of getting on your knees to hunt Easter eggs, rise up and join us in thanking God for the gift of everlasting life.**

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

Apr. 1 Minnie Sattelberg  
2 Alex Goodman  
2 Maya Radhakrishnan  
3 Lloyd Dolpp  
3 Linda Prohaska  
4 Nancy Smith

6 Aaron Wunderlich  
7 Mia Randles  
9 Nicholas Haring  
12 Mona Belling  
12 Diane Stillinger  
13 Andrew Peterson

20 Eileen Belling  
20 Jeff Borton  
20 Alyssa McManus  
23 Marlina Belstadt  
24 Kirk Parkes  
28 Ann Zimmerman

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#### MEMORIALS RECEIVED:

In memory of John Leaver – Jane McDermott & James McDermott II

In memory of Will Bush – Marilou & James Hollub

\* \* \*

BOOK CLUB will meet Tuesday, April 27, at 7:00pm, at church. Read *The Book of Lost Names* by Kristen Harmel and join us for fellowship and discussion. All safety measures observed.

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#### APRIL CIRCLE MEETINGS:

Hope Circle: Tues., April 20, 10:00am at church

Peace Circle: TBA

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40 DAYS OF GIVING FOR WORLD HUNGER: Fill your boxes or place in an envelope marked "40 Days of Giving" in the offering plate. Bring your donations to church on Easter.

\* \* \*

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY will resume on May 5 at 10:00am.

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ABIDING SAVIOR will have a Yard Sale on Saturday, May 15, from 8:00am-3pm. If you have any items to donate, they can be taken to Abiding Savior any time after April 25. Leave the items on the porch.

\* \* \*

Jeff & Michele Thiele no longer have a home phone. Their cell numbers are 983-5069 (Jeff) and 983-4759 (Michele).

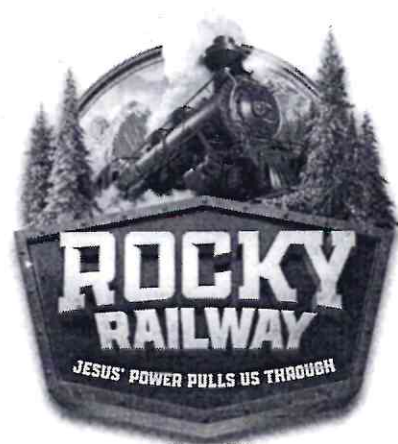
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LUNCH BUNCH will resume on May 4 with a visit to the Olive Leaf Restaurant in Lockport at noon. For reservations, directions, or to arrange for transportation or carpooling, please call Barb Bush at 731-5028 or 946-8419. We can meet at church at 11:20 and leave there at 11:30. Hope to see you then (don't forget your mask).

## All Aboard for Vacation Bible School!

**Save the Date for July 26 - 30 at St. Paul Lutheran.**

**Stay tuned for more details and information about registration!**







Dear St. Martin Members,

Thank you very much for your gift of \$1,500 in support of our 2021 Leadership Council campaign. Over the past twenty-one years we have raised over \$7.9 million dollars for the Niagara Lutheran Health Foundation, and your compassion and generosity makes this all possible. This year's campaign will support collaboration with other non-profit organizations which will expand our footprint in the community, expansion of workforce development programs for our employees, remodeling of GreenField Health & Rehabilitation Center to ensure the best possible resident experience, and acquisition of land for the advancement of our mission.

David McMullen, Exec. Dir. Of Development and Marketing  
Niagara Lutheran Health Foundation

St. Martin Lutheran Church,

Thank you so much for your recent donation to Community Missions. While support like yours is always appreciated, it is all the more impactful during these unprecedented times. Your donation ensures that our neighbors in need always have a place to turn. Such community support enables us to pursue our mission of meeting people where they are and helping them to find and elevate their place in the world. Thanks again, take care, and stay safe!

Sincerely,  
Christian

Dear Friends,

Your recent gift of \$500 is deeply appreciated. Thank you for remembering Buffalo City Mission and those we serve. Every day brings new faces to our doors. In some we see hunger. In others, despair. In many, distrust and fear. Yet in every one of them, we also see opportunities for restoration and transformation. Because loving friends like you support our Christ-centered programs and services, we can help troubled souls find peace with the Lord...and themselves. We can meet their physical needs – nutritious food, a safe place to rest, warm clothing – and guide them in building new purpose-filled lives.

Have a blessed Easter,  
Stuart Harper, Exec. Director

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This Sunday School year is flying by! It is hard to believe that we really only have a couple of months before the end of our year. As you are writing dates on your calendar, take note that we will not have Sunday School on Easter Sunday.



Our April service project will benefit an animal shelter. We plan to visit the shelter to take our donations on Sunday, April 25, during Sunday School. We will also collect bottles and cans to turn in for the shelter. Please double bag your bottles and cans and bring them to church for us. Stay tuned for more details about the shelter, what we are collecting for them, and the visit. Thank you to Sue Ohrum for coordinating April's mission project for us!

We are so excited! Eight of our children of God from St. Martin will be attending LCLC together this summer the week of July 4th - 9th. It is sure to be a wonderful time for all of them to experience together. Thank you to Sarah Bohnstadt for the wonderful idea!

We have had such a faithful bunch this year, remotely and in person. I am so happy that through a challenging time, we have been able to grow in FAITH and learn all about Jesus and how He was sent to save us and to show us how to live our lives for God.

Every Morning is Easter Morning...From Now On!!  
Michele Thiele, Sunday School Supt.

## Good News!

**Caroline Thiele** has received the Edward G. Kinkel Scholarship Award for 2021. Congratulations!

If YOU have Good News to share, email or phone it into the church office.

THE CHURCH COUNCIL has advised that we can begin our Community Lunches once again! I know I have truly missed this outreach! Let us honor Will and keep this Community Outreach program that he was so passionate about going strong!

Our first Community Lunch will be Saturday, May 1, and the format will be a little different due to Covid-19. We plan to do a drive-thru take-out lunch, with pick-up running from 12 to 1 pm. We will cook the entire meal in our kitchen and we will not be accepting outside donations of food or desserts at this time. We are planning on packaging 100 meals.

We will be needing a limited number of volunteers to help cook, package the lunches, direct traffic in the parking lot, and deliver the meals to the people in their vehicles. We will sanitize, maintain social distancing protocols, and require masks and gloves be worn by all volunteers.

We would need three sous chefs to begin at 9:00 on May 1st to help prepare the meal. Our menu will be Baked Ziti with homemade sauce, green beans, roll & butter, and a brownie.

We will also need volunteers for the following jobs:

- 10:45 - 4 volunteers to move tables (inside and out) and set up the packaging line in the fellowship hall and then help with packing meals
- 11:00 - 2 volunteers to package brownies into Ziplock bags
- 11:15 - 3 more volunteers for the packaging line
  - 2 volunteers to run the lunches outside (up and down stairs!)
  - 4 volunteers to work outside delivering food to cars and controlling the traffic in the parking lot - thinking of two lines if needed

Once meals are all packaged, we can tear down the line and clean up the kitchen utilizing the volunteers already there.

We will have a sign-up sheet in the narthex for volunteers or you may call or text me at 716-622-5860 and let me know how you would like to help!

Blessings!  
Carol Wunderlich

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## St. Martin Financial Report

3/8/2021

**Congregation income - through following number of weeks -**

**9**

	Total
Income to date	\$ 25,529
Amount needed for budget to date	30,321
<b>Income is behind budget to date</b>	<b>\$ (4,792)</b>

We received our second PPP loan, amounting to \$23,943.65, on February 4, 2021. Please contact me with any questions you might have.

*Jeff Thiele, Treasurer*



## Church Council Minutes for February 8, 2021

Meeting called to order by President Jim Wanamaker

Present were: Jim Wanamaker, Jessica Dows, Pastor Devie Ellis, Mike Wendt, Sarah Bohnstadt, Tim Giberson, Brian Carter

Pastor led devotions - Healing of Peter's mother-in-law; Bringing good news to people

Treasurer - Approved for 2nd PPE Loan for \$23K. This loan may need to be repaid

Elders - Sunday, Feb 21st - Ron O'Hara will be here

Trustees -

Roof leaks - Dan checking in on companies to find where leaks are coming from.

Everything seems dry right now

Refrigerator - not fixed. Orville's coming Wednesday to look at it

Sunday School -

We are offering both in-person and Zoom options for Sunday School. This is especially helpful to Carol Wunderlich and the littlest members. We have a very dedicated group and attendance is fairly regular for everyone. We were able to assemble 47 warm fuzzy kits for Lockport CARES Homeless Shelter and our shut-ins. For February, we are collecting peanut butter and jelly for our local food pantry. (We are also collecting peanut-free spreads.)

Women of the Church - Hope Circle meets February 9th, Peace Circle meets February 18th

Memorial - Sarah to serve on committee. Meet as needed. Review approved projects

Stewardship -

Carol W. - Start up community luncheon. Pick-up meal instead of sit down. Can only have a couple of people in the kitchen and no outside food brought in. Need to work out a timeline to start up and Thrivent card for supplies

Investment - Mike to serve on committee

Web Page & App -

Have majority set to go live. There is an issue switching domains that needs to be resolved before we go live. The app will be in Tile format. Looking to go live next month.

Souper Bowl of Caring - 73 quarts sold with additional \$301 in donations for a total raised of \$1031. 56 food items were collected. The voting was 2 to 1 for Kansas City. Ran out of chili around 10:45 am

Live Streaming - comments: going great, sound and video are good. Need to schedule people that want to learn how. Steps are documented

Congregation Meeting - Sending e-mail - repeat on Thursday and Saturday with Zoom link in it. Go live with meeting at 9:45 on Sunday. Jennifer will help with Zoom meeting.

St Martin Mission/Visioning meeting - February 22nd at 7pm

Reopening -

We are very well prepared. Extra person is needed in narthex along with someone running computer. Communicate sending e-mail and updating Facebook along with calling people to let them know we are open.

How to do communion - Cannot find wine prefilled containers. Might not start communion until end of March.

Ash Wednesday will be online. Each Wednesday will be streamed from pastor's home

Virtual Baptism - February 20th at 11am

Adjourned 7:55

Dear friends,

It is almost a year since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic and the implementation of lockdowns and other measures by most countries in the world to curb the spread of the virus.

Globally, as of 10:15am CET, 26 February 2021, there were 112,456,453 confirmed cases of COVID-19, including 2,497,514 deaths, reported to the World Health Organization (WHO). <https://covid19.who.int/> South Africa has reported about 1.5 million infections and over 50,000 related deaths.

Several coronavirus vaccines have been developed and approved for use but access, cost and distribution are matters of deep concern. In an open letter to the leaders of the G7 countries The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) General Secretary Rev. Dr Martin Junge noted: "Wealthy countries have secured their doses, sometimes in more quantities than they need, while other countries and their populations have inadequate or no access at all." <https://www.lutheranworld.org/news/covid-19-until-all-are-safe-no-one-safe>

The ELCA's Lutheran Disaster Response has responded to appeals from companion churches in Southern Africa to support several programs during the first and now second wave of the pandemic. Activities include distributing relevant information about the pandemic, Personal Protective Equipment and food hampers to vulnerable communities. Lockdowns and restrictions on the numbers of people allowed at funerals and church services have also affected the pastoral, financial and evangelism work of the churches.

However, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi reported that evangelism training workshops were held in 2020 for pastors, evangelists and youth leaders. The report stated, "The evangelism work has been hard especially during this period of Covid-19. But despite this... trainings and meetings have been going on very well." The report included the story of Mr. Kwayera who attended one of the training workshops. He is an elder and Confirmation teacher in a local congregation. (In the photo Mr. Kwayera is holding up Sunday School and Confirmation resource books translated into Chichewa, the official language in Malawi.)



In a recent email ELCM Bishop Joseph Bvumbwe wrote: "Kindly please convey our appreciation to the Global Mission office in Chicago and the ELCA members who always support our efforts for the sake of the mission of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

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, February 26, 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.



# April 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	Pastor Devie will be on vacation April 5 -18.			1 MAUNDY THURSDAY 7:00 Worship with Holy Communion, In-Person & Live-Stream	2 GOOD FRIDAY 7:00 Tenebrae Service In-Person & Live-Stream	3 9:00am-Noon Bring Your Easter Plants to Church
4 EASTER! 8:00 Sunrise Service in Prayer Garden 9:00 Service with Holy Communion In-Person & Live-Stream No Sunday School 11:00 Worship at Abiding Savior	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 9:00 Worship In-Person & Live-Stream Supply Pastor - Ron O'Hara 10:15 Sunday School In-Person & Zoom	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 9:00 Worship In-Person & Live-Stream Supply Pastor - Rev. Mary Ellen Larson 10:15 Sunday School In-Person & Zoom	19	20 10:00am Hope Circle  MAY NEWSLETTER TYPED	21	22	23	24
25 9:00 Worship In-Person & Live-Stream 10:15 Sunday School In-Person & Zoom	26	27 7:00 Book Club	28	29	30	1 Noon-1:00 Free Community Luncheon