
The St. Martin Communicator

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

March 2018

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

Wait for the Lord; be strong and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord! – Psalm 27:14

It's Lent. We wait for death. Many of us are looking out our windows and see the dirty snow and soggy yards with last year's dead leaves. Yes, we have a few warm days here and there, but not much sun. The ominous gray clouds drag along the tops of bare trees. All around us is the dirge of death.

Wait!

Even in our Sunday worship we put away the "Alleluia" during the 40 days of Lent. The somber purple of the altar paraments, the sad hymns, and the story of the Passion all remind us that we are waiting for a death.

We wait for the death of Jesus. And then, He died! Can you place yourself with the disciples? With his mother? With the children who were blessed by him? Jesus died and they wept. A friend, a teacher, and a son was gone. A dream that the Messiah had finally come, that He would sit on the throne in Jerusalem, was not fulfilled.

For three days darkness hung over Mary, Peter, the remaining disciples, and you and me.

Yet...still we wait.

The Psalmist says, "Be strong and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!" Yes!!

The clouds are lifting, there are the new leaves opening. Can you see the purple crocus poking through the snow? The driveways and parking lots are dry – no boots today!

Open your window! Can you hear the sound of life? We wait 40 days; it is good for us to wait and to reflect. The earth waits too – still and dark and empty.

The sun will soon rise higher and brighter. The daffodils, hyacinths, crocuses will soon be blooming. This year on April 1 we will raise our voices higher and brighter because Jesus Christ is risen from the dead.

He died for you and for me.

Wait.

He lives for you and for me.

Rejoice, as we continue on our Lenten journey. Because the best is yet to come!

Wait!
Pastor Devie

MID-WEEK LENTEN SERVICES

Thy Will Be Done

Not as I will, but as you will," Jesus prayed to his Father the night before he went to the cross for our salvation. And that is our prayer as well for Lent as we seek to do God's will in our own lives, as we draw near to the observance of Christ's suffering, death, and resurrection during Holy Week. During the mid-week Lenten services we will focus on a different aspect of God's will at work among us. We will begin each service with a light dinner at 6:00 and worship at 7:00.

Feb. 21: Abiding Savior, Rev. Fred Kopp preaching

Feb. 28: St. Martin, Rev. John Scarafia preaching

March 7: St. Mark, Rev. Fred Kopp preaching

March 14: Augustana, Rev. Emily Ebert preaching

March 21: Trinity Old Lutheran, Rev. Devie Ellis preaching

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER WORSHIP

PALM SUNDAY – March 25

9:00am – Worship
Blessing of the Palms

MAUNDY THURSDAY – March 29

7:00pm – Worship with Holy Communion

Stripping of the Altar

GOOD FRIDAY – March 30

11:00 – Worship at Augustana, Tonawanda

7:00pm – Tenebrae Service at St. Martin

EASTER SUNDAY – April 1

7:00am – Sunrise Communion Service

8:15am – Easter Breakfast

9:00am – Sunday School

10:00am – Communion Service

ACOLYTES

Mar. 4 Ian Hawkins & Lucy Ohrum
11 Alex Kania & Alex Goodman
18 Aaron Wunderlich & Jackson Randles
25 Nicholas Haring & Addison Ohrum
Maundy Thurs. - Bryan Weaver & Braydin Weaver

READERS

Barb Bush
Jessica Carter
Laurie Deverell
Dennis Sattelberg
Maundy Thurs. - Jessica Dows

"HI" GUYS

Nadene Maxwell
Tom Wehling
Jeff Root
Steve Knab

USHERS: Steve Knab - Capt., Jeff Binga, Gordon Schumacher, Caroline Weaver, Eric Hawkins, Jillian Weaver, Mike Barber

GREETERS

Mar. 4 Ken & Julie Hallgren
11 Gary & Cindy Ennis
18 Lydia Masters & Ann Zimmerman
25 Steve & Kris Knab

COMM. SETUP/CLEANUP

Mar. 4 Elder
11 Kris & Steve Knab
18 Sue Ohrum
25 Barb Bush
Thurs. Jessica Dows & Sally Knox

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

Elders
Laurie Deverell & Linda Prohaska
Will Bush & Nancy Smith
Barb Bush & Dennis Sattelberg
Jessica Dows & Sally Knox

Maundy Thurs. - Florence Doran
Good Friday - Eileen Belling

If you cannot fulfill your task for communion on a given Sunday, please call a substitute or contact Chris Barber at 525-1149



HAPPY BIRTHDAY! To the following members who celebrate another year of God's blessings in March 2018:

Mar. 2 Patrick Bush	10 Suzanne Belling	26 Nadene Maxwell
4 Pastor Devie	13 Rebecca Leach	29 Mike Barber
4 Kyle Knab	15 Scott Giberson	29 Kate Bloniarz
4 Lora Randles	15 Keri Haring	29 Kelly Goodman
6 Richard Leach	17 Jessica Dows	30 Tammy Carter
6 Jeff Root	21 Barb Bush	31 Rachel Dorogi
7 Bud Scheller	23 Ed Sattelberg	
7 Mike Wendt	25 Ken Hallgren	

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Jan. 28 76 Feb. 4 70 Feb. 11 75 Feb. 18 80 Ash Wed. 48

MEMORIALS RECEIVED:

In memory of Betty McAninch - Diane & Richard Becken, Ted & Ruth Belling
In Memory of David Belling - Carl & Joyce Belling, Michael & Linda Erwin, Daniel & Judith Ohfrich

* * *

LUNCH BUNCH will meet Monday, March 5, at noon, at Jack's, corner of Ward Rd. & Niagara Falls Blvd. Give your reservation to Barb Bush.

* * *

THE NEXT FREE COMMUNITY LUNCH is Saturday, March 3, at noon. Happy St. Patrick's Day! We will be serving corned beef, ham, and cabbage as the main course using the Thrivent card. Please sign up on the sheet in the narthex to bring hot potato or vegetable dishes or any side dish you'd like to share. Irish soda bread from anyone? Homemade desserts are always greatly appreciated by the attendees. Sign up today! Please have all food donations in the kitchen by 10:30am the day of the lunch. Any questions - please see Will Bush.

MARCH BAPTISM ANNIVERSARIES will be celebrated on March 18: Mike Barber, Dan Daboll, Peggy Giberson, Kylie Goodman, Lydia Masters, Jane McDermott, Shyanne Powell, Emily Wanamaker, Caroline Weaver, Dean Weaver

* * *

BOOK CLUB will meet Tuesday, March 6, at 7:00pm, at the home of Jennifer Wanamaker. *The Alice Network* by Kate Quinn is the book of discussion.

* * *

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED! Please volunteer to help with our youth ministry. Talk to Jessica Dows, Jim Wanamaker, or Pastor Devie. Please pray that God would touch your heart with this awesome ministry.



Sunday School at St. Martin marches on!! We've missed seeing some of our friends every week! We hope to see you soon!

We are on our Lenten journey to Easter! Grab a barn and start your collection for God's Global Barnyard. Our donations help ELCA World Hunger show God's love and mercy to those who need it the most! The barns will be collected Easter morning!

Thank you to everyone who donated care kit items for Lockport CARES Homeless Shelter. We delivered 35 kits to a very thankful staff there.

Our HUG verse for March is "Let us praise God for His glorious grace, for the free gift He gave us in His dear son!" Ephesians 1:6.

See you in Sunday School!
Michele Thiele, Sunday School Supt.

* * *

Good News!

Congratulations to **Andrew Thiele** who was inducted into the National Honor Society at Sweet Home High School.

If YOU have Good News to share, fill out the form on the table in the narthex and give it to the church office.

* * *

HOPE CIRCLE will meet Tuesday, March 13, at 9:30am, at church. Hostesses – Connie Bach & Eileen Belling
Bible Study Leader - Sharon Murphy

PEACE CIRCLE will meet Tuesday, March 20, at 7:00pm Hostess – Jessica Dows Bible Study Leader – Michele Thiele

* * *

THE KITCHEN CABINET is currently reviewing bids for our kitchen refurbishing project. We are excited about our findings, and will have a recommendation for the congregation soon! We want to help the kitchen work better for our community lunches, Chiavetta's BBQs, youth fundraisers, funeral lunches, Easter breakfasts, VBS, etc. We also hope to show the kitchen a little love with a partial facelift as we head into the next 175 years! We will be looking for donations from the congregation to help all this to happen, so please begin to prayerfully consider a gift. Help us "whisk" away some of the problems, and "plate" up a great work space! Please see Jennifer Wanamaker with questions.

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY continues during March, Wednesdays at 10:00am. Join us as we study *Thy Will Be Done*.

* * *

THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE will meet on Monday, March 19, at 7:00pm. Your help is needed. Please join us as we make plans for our celebration.

* * *

FOOD PANTRY items most needed: pancake mix & syrup, canned fruit, cereal & oatmeal, Jell-o, jelly, peanut butter, peas, soup (small cans – tomato, chicken noodle, vegetable), large soups (Progresso, Campbell's), canned spaghetti sauce, ramen noodle soups in cellophane, shampoo, toothbrushes & paste, razors, empty water and beverage cans & bottles (returned for deposit), paper bags

* * *

St. Martin Member Giving Report

(through 2/4/18)

Congregation giving - through following number of weeks - 5

	General	Benevolence	Total
Offerings received to date	\$ 13,287	\$ 2,440	\$ 15,727
Offerings needed for budget to date	14,299	2,745	17,045
Giving compared to budget	\$ (1,012)	\$ (305)	\$ (1,318)

Giving is behind budget to date \$ (1,318)

Jeff Thiele, Treasurer

It's time again for

UKRAINIAN EGGS!

*Add to your collection or learn to make your first!
Come join us to experience the ancient art of Pysanky.*

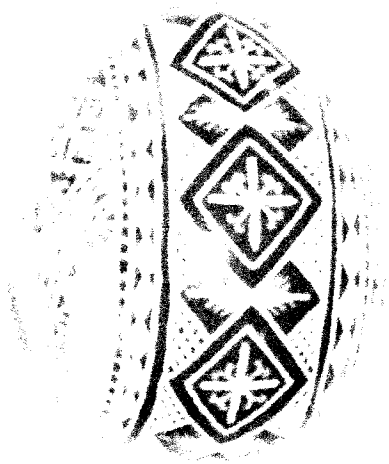
Party for Adults:

Date: Saturday, March 24
Time: 6:30pm
Bring: \$2.00 for supplies
and a snack to share

Youth/Family Party:

Date: Palm Sunday, March 25
Time: 11:30am
Pizza and drinks will be
provided for lunch!
\$2 per adult; kids free!

**Please sign up so we can have supplies ready.
Eggsperts and beginners are all welcome!!!!**



See Jim or Jennifer Wanamaker
with questions.

You'll decorate a real egg that
you will be able to keep forever!



Ready for an Adventure?

Save the Date for VBS

July 30 - August 3

9:00 - Noon

(At St. Paul Lutheran)

You will not want to miss St. Paul and St. Martin's Vacation Bible School! At Shipwrecked VBS, kids discover how Jesus rescues us through life's storms! Shipwrecked VBS is filled with incredible Bible-learning experiences kids see, hear, touch and even taste! Sciency-Fun Gizmos, team-building games, surprising adventures, incredible music, and tasty treats are just a few of the standout activities that help faith flow into real life. Plus, we'll help everyone discover how to see evidence of God in everyday life - something called God Sightings.

Your children will also participate in a hands-on mission project, through a program called Operation Kid-to-Kid, that will provide seeds for families in Haiti to grow food!

For more information and to register your child, go to stmartinlutheran.org and follow the Shipwrecked link.

We need teens and adults who would like to be Crew Leaders! Crew Leaders may register online or may sign up on the VBS bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. Please let us know your shirt size and plan to attend the Training Meeting at 7:00 P.M. on July 24th at St. Paul.

If you have any questions or would like to join our team, please contact Michele Thiele at 983-4759.



THRIVENT
FINANCIAL®

Connecting faith & finances for good.™

HOW TO DIRECT THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS®

Online

1. Visit Thrivent.com/thriventchoice.
2. In the Direct Choice Dollars section on the right, click **"Get started now."**
3. Log in, enter your user ID and password, and answer your security question. (If you haven't yet registered on Thrivent.com, click **"Register for account access."**)
4. Find the number of Choice Dollars available to direct.
5. Locate the organization to which you want to direct Choice Dollars:
 - a. To direct to a previous organization:
 - Click **"Direct Now"** next to the organization's name, or
 - Click on the **"View activity history"** link, scroll down and click on the **name of the desired organization**.
 - b. To direct to a new organization, **enter keyword(s)** like organization name, ZIP code, cause, etc. Click **"Search."**
6. Choose **"Direct All"** or **enter a specific number** and click **"Direct Now."** Follow the prompts on the confirmation page to direct Choice Dollars.

By phone

1. Call **800-847-4836** and when prompted, say **"Thrivent Choice®."**
2. **Press 1** to direct Choice Dollars or **2** to hear Thrivent Choice program Terms and Conditions. (If prompted, say or enter your phone number and date of birth.)
3. A representative will work with you to direct Choice Dollars.

You have the power to recommend where Thrivent Financial gives back!

The Thrivent Choice® charitable grant program engages Thrivent members and Thrivent Member Networks in providing grants that support charitable activities, furthering Thrivent's mission and its purposes under state law. All grant decisions, including grant recipients and amounts, are made at the sole discretion of Thrivent. Directing Choice Dollars® is subject to the program's terms and conditions available at Thrivent.com/thriventchoice.

The deadline is March 31.



Upstate New York Synod

Upstate Update

CHURCH SPEAK

The article below was written by ELCA Presiding Bishop Rev. Elizabeth Eaton and was published in the January issue of Living Lutheran magazine.

A colleague at the Lutheran center related this story. An unchurched friend of hers was visiting and noticed her Advent calendar. “What is Advent?” she asked. A simple question. But my colleague soon discovered it wasn’t that easy to explain Advent to someone who had never heard of it, but who also had no frame of reference for it.

My colleague talked about a season of hope, longing and preparation, about the coming of the Christ child. Noticing her friend’s puzzled look, she stopped short of talking about the eschatological and hermeneutical possibilities presented by the season.

It’s not that my colleague lacks an understanding of Advent or isn’t herself a faithful person. Nor are her communication skills deficient—she is wicked bright and funny, and relates well to people. No. She had come face-to-face with the reality that a growing segment of our population has had little or no connection with the church or any other religious tradition. They don’t speak our language. They don’t know our stories. They don’t measure time the way we do—Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Holy Week, Easter, Pentecost. They literally don’t know what we are talking about. You might have had a similar experience—not just an encounter with someone from another religious tradition, but with someone with no religious tradition. How do we talk to them? How do we tell them about the intimate, abiding, deep love that God has shown to us in Jesus? How do we even tell them about Jesus? How do we explain Jesus and the incarnation, the crucifixion and the resurrection?

We know what we are talking about, but we can’t assume that others do. Many people don’t even know that they need to know Jesus—or that the Jesus they think they know isn’t the Jesus they need to know.

I once asked a group of our pastors and deacons to explain the gospel in a tweet without using the words sin, grace or gospel. A tweet then was 140 characters—it’s now 280 characters, but I don’t think that would make the assignment any easier.

Those of us (myself included) who have spent our lives in the church live in a kind of bubble. We do speak the same language—church speak. We know what we mean, we understand key phrases and metaphors. We know what makes sense to us. But for those who have either no experience with the church or a painful one, we speak an unintelligible language.

So where do we start? I believe we should start from the conviction that Jesus has the words of eternal life, that he is the way to truth and hope and life. Can we explain the Christian tradition to ourselves, and do we believe it? When we are able to confess, live and breathe that we live, move and have our being in God, we then need to find the language that speaks to those outside of the church bubble.

We can’t cede the public space to the popular culture or to a distortion of the Christian message. It’s hard to take that both Harry Potter and the Marine Corps (I’m a huge fan of both) have a more compelling exposition of the gospel (It’s all about love, Harry”) or of *koinonia* (“Serving something greater than themselves”). We are missionaries again. Without diluting the gospel or in any way pandering for popularity, it falls to us to commend the faith within us clearly and genuinely.

I know we stake our lives on the truth of Jesus’ death and resurrection. This brings freedom and life to us so we can invite others into God’s freedom and life.

Dear friends,

The New York Times recently picked up on an issue which is now in the news in South Africa every day: "Day Zero for Cape Town."

The city of Cape Town with four million residents is experiencing the worst drought in over a century. Dams are dangerously low and if the rains do not come soon the city may have to switch off the taps in April. Residents will then have to queue to collect their ration of water at 200 distribution points which will have major logistical, health and security issues. Already the price of bottled water has spiked.

South Africa, along with many other rain-scarce countries in Africa, is vulnerable to the effects of climate change and faces a long-term challenge with providing enough water for its people, agriculture and industry. This crisis highlights the fact that policies and practices by governments, businesses and ordinary people regarding water usage will have to change not only in Cape Town but around the world.

The watchword for the year 2018 from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa (ELCSA) Almanac is from Revelation 21:6b "To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life." ELCSA Presiding Bishop AM Mnisi writes in the preface to the devotional booklet, "Christ is the Creator and Sustainer of the universe, everything belongs to him. He sees that we are thirsty and offers fresh water for all to drink at no cost...Salvation is given freely, without price." The LWF subthemes marking the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in 2017 were "Salvation is not for sale!", "Human beings are not for sale!" and "Creation is not for sale!"

As ELCA Global Mission we are privileged and challenged to walk with our companions in Southern Africa in God's mission through programs that support evangelism outreach, leadership development, theological training, health care and sustainable development including strategies to provide safe, secure water supplies and mitigation of the effects of climate change and poverty.

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

Peace and blessings.

Yours faithfully,
Philip Knutson

Rev. Dr. Philip Knutson, ELCA Global Mission Regional Representative, Southern Africa Johannesburg, Feb. 2, 2018
My blog page address is: <https://southernafricanconnections.wordpress.com/> Please note the link to my online giving page on www.elca.org:community.elca.org/SouthAfrica

* * *

Lutheran Community Center opens in South Sudan

Last November, more than 5,000 people gathered for the dedication of Reconciliation Lutheran Church Community Center in Juba, South Sudan. Two local men who escaped the country during the civil war, sought asylum in the United States and went to ELCA seminaries to become pastors, returned to South Sudan as missionaries and were instrumental in bringing this ministry to fruition. The center, which was funded by gifts to the Campaign for the ELCA, provides the community medical care, educational opportunities, and worship space.

Andrew Steele, director for ELCA Global Church Sponsorship, says that funds are still needed to sustain this ministry. "We can, and must, continue to accompany our brothers and sisters in Christ in South Sudan as they grow the church, serve the community, and bring healing to the sick," he said. "We thank God for the opportunity to walk alongside our companions and thank God for the donors who have walked alongside us to make this project possible."

Your gifts to Synod Mission Support in the past have helped open this ministry. Your gifts in the future will keep it open. ***Thank you!***



We are the church together for the sake of the world.

March 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 12:00 Free Community Lunch
4 9:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday School 11:15 Confirmation	5 9:00am Quilting 12:00 Lunch Bunch at Jack's	6 7:00 Book Club	7 10:00am Bible Study 6:00 Lenten Dinner at St. Mark 7:00 Worship at St. Mark	8 7:00 Choir	9	10
11:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday School 11:15 Confirmation	12 9:00am Quilting 7:00 Church Council	13 9:30am Hope Circle	14 10:00am Bible Study 6:00 Lenten Dinner at Augustana 7:00 Worship at Augustana	15 7:00 Choir	16	17 11:00am Memorial Service for Betty McAninch
18 9:00 Worship Anniversary of Baptisms 10:15 Sunday School 11:15 Confirmation	19 9:00am Quilting 7:00 175th Anniversary Committee	20 7:00 Peace Circle	21 10:00am Bible Study 6:00 Lenten Dinner at Trinity Old Lutheran 7:00 Worship at TOL	22 7:00 Choir	23	24 6:30 Ukrainian Eggs for Adults
25 PALM SUNDAY 9:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday School 11:30 Ukrainian Eggs for Youth & Families	26 9:00am Quilting	27	28 7:00 Choir	29 7:00 Maundy Thursday Worship	30 GOOD FRIDAY 11:00am Worship At Augustana 7:00 Tenebrae Service at St. Martin	31 10:00am Easter Break-fast Set-up