
The St. Martin Communicator

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

December 2018

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

"For to you is born this day, in the city of David, a Savior..."
Luke 2:11

It's Christmas time! Again. Already!!! Didn't we just get over Christmas? But it's here again with the shopping crowds, jingle bells, ribbons, candlelight, pine scent, and glitter. And don't forget outdoor decorating! Many neighbors already have their lights and wreaths on the bushes, trees, and doors! What's the rush? As I'm writing this, we haven't even celebrated Thanksgiving! But we know it is coming and we have to prepare. And may the words - prepare (home and heart), listen, wait, sing, pray, and sing again - joyfully prepare your hearts and souls for Christmas. And let's admit, we love it all!

Yet in all the hustle and bustle, we can't forget about the true meaning of Christmas, the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Ah, it's there in the midst of it all. Because, you see, our preparation is not so different from the first Christmas.

Think about all of those people crowding into Bethlehem, all the extra baking and preparations that the innkeepers and relatives had to do; think about the tired, overworked people who traveled by wide, bumpy donkeys over dirt roads in the dark, only to find the inns full and the bakery empty.

Then think about those poor (in body and spirit) shepherds who had to spend another cold night cuddled up to smelly, but warm and woolly, sheep. Rotten night duty!!

And then it all changed - those lonely, shivering shepherds saw the light and heard the singing. Suddenly there was celebration upon celebration. That is the way it is with us. We might complain about all the extra work that we need to do as we prepare for Christmas day. And the weather doesn't want to cooperate and it gets so dark, so early in the evening. But the Light is coming into the world and we are going to celebrate!

We have begun to prepare for that celebration. We are busy now, and life is going to get more hectic as we get closer to Christmas day. But then all of it is going to change! We won't be surprised like the shepherds because we know it is coming. We will be ready to greet the newborn King. "And He shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

Advent is a time for preparation and this season is going to be busy and at times maybe even "a little out of control". But we are preparing for the most special gift of all. "For unto you is born this day, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

Merry Christmas,
Pastor Devie

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1
12:00 – Free Community Luncheon

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2
9:00am – Worship
10:15am – Chili will be available to purchase.
11:15am – Chili Luncheon
**Hanging of the Greens – Decorate the Sanctuary
for the Coming of Christ**

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4
**6:00pm – Women of the ELCA Christmas Party &
Pot-Luck Supper**

SUNDAY DECEMBER 9
9:00am – Sunday School Dress Rehearsal
10:15am – Sunday School Christmas Program

CHRISTMAS EVE
4:00 & 7:00pm – Worship with Holy Communion

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*Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth:
break forth into joyous song and sing praises. "*
Psalm 98:4

*Lord, we rejoice in your son, Jesus Christ, the
light of the world.*

*May the wonder of the Christ Child fill you with
joy and peace this Christmas!*

Merry Christmas!

*Pastors Devie & Dave, Laura, Liz, Brad,
Kathryn, Brian, Andrew, & Olivia*

ACOLYTES

Dec. 2 Alex Kania & Jackson Randles
9 None
16 Addison Ohrum & Kristen Kania
23 Savannah Powell & Shyanne Powell
30 Nicholas Haring & Alex Kania

READERS

Jessica Dows
None
Bud Scheller
Emily Wanamaker
Jacob Carter

“HI” GUYS

Jeff Root
Steve Knab
Tom Wehling
Jeff Root
Steve Knab

Christmas Eve: 4:00 Lucy Ohrum & Alex Goodman
7:00 Bryan & Braydin Weaver

4:00 Laurie Deverell
7:00 Dennis Sattelberg

USHERS: Will Bush – Capt., Bill Hollenbaugh, John Leaver, Dick Leach, David Wanamaker, Andrew Thiele

GREETERS

Dec. 2 Dean & Rita Weaver
9 Lloyd Ziemendorf & Sally Knox
16 Sharon Murphy & Linda Prohaska
23 Tim & Peggy Giberson
30 John & Irene Leaver

COMM. SETUP/CLEANUP

Dec. 2 Elder
9 None
16 Chris Barber
23 Patty Daboll
30 Sue Ohrum

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

Elders
None
Laurie Deverell & Jim Wanamaker
Patty Daboll & Barb Bush
Dennis Sattelberg & Will Bush

Christmas Eve: 4pm Connie Bach & Cheryl Foss
7pm Brian & Kathryn Peterson

4pm Elder
7pm Elder

4pm Elders
7pm Elders

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 December 2018:

Dec. 1 Heather Grapes
1 Irene Leaver
2 Kristen Giberson
7 Sarah Bohnstadt
7 John Leaver
8 Florence Doran
9 Patricia Daboll
16 Norma Regnet
18 Susan Weinheimer
19 Will Bush
19 Matthew Hallgren
22 Kellen Daboll
25 Rita Weaver
27 Barb Dorogi
27 Lillian Kazmierczak
29 Ruth Belling

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Oct. 28 80 Nov. 4 81 Nov. 11 123 Nov. 18 68

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS: Order envelopes are in the narthex. The cost is \$10. You may pay with cash or check made out to North Park Florist. The deadline is Sunday, December 16. Thank you for helping to beautify the altar again this year!

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DECEMBER BAPTISM ANNIVERSARIES will be celebrated December 30: Adam Giberson, Irene Leaver, John Leaver, Jonathan McManus, Olivia Peterson, Joan Scheller, Gordon Schumacher, Tom Wehling

* * *

HOPE CIRCLE will meet at church at 9:30am on Tuesday, December 11, for Bible study. A pot-luck luncheon will follow. PEACE CIRCLE will meet in January for an Epiphany party. Date, time & location TBA.

WOMEN OF THE ELCA CHRISTMAS PARTY: Tuesday, December 4, 6:00pm. Pot-luck dinner, no desserts. An offering will be taken for Tammy Carter who will travel in January to Haiti with First Trinity, Ton., to do mission work.

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LUNCH BUNCH will meet on Monday, December 3, at noon. Location TBA.

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BOOK CLUB will meet Tuesday, January 22, at 7:00pm, at Jennifer Wanamaker’s. Read Firefly Summer by Maeve Binchy. It was a summer of warmth...Kate Ryan and her husband, John, have a rollicking pub in the Irish village of Mountfern, lovely twelve-year-old twins, and such wonderful dreams...It was a summer of innocence. But all that is about to change this fateful summer of 1962 when American millionaire Patrick O’Neill comes to town with his irresistible charm and a pocketful of money.

St. Martin Lutheran Church

*322 Old Falls Blvd.
North Tonawanda, NY 14120
www.stmartinlutheran.org*

*The Rev. R. Devie Ellis, Pastor
Residence 264-4646*

*Church Office
693-4415*

December 2018

Dear St. Martin Family,

As I write this, I'm hearing Christmas music playing, and it is still more than a week until Thanksgiving. Whether or not you are a fan of "Christmas Creep" as music and decorations keep showing up earlier and earlier, it helps to remind us all that the time to prepare for Christmas is right around the corner.

I look forward to the many Christmastime traditions we have at St. Martin. My personal favorites include the hanging of the greens, the youth's chili luncheon, the Sunday School program, and packing the church full for the Christmas Eve service. What they all have in common is the joy of celebrating together with our St. Martin family. For those of you who grew up here and for the rest of us who have been adopted in, the sense of belonging and love truly makes St. Martin special.

And, at the center of our family, is our beloved Pastor Devie. Please consider joining me in showing our appreciation to her this Christmas with a monetary gift. If you would like to contribute to pastor's gift from the whole "family," please see me, Jeff Thiele, or any council member. Thank you, and a very merry Christmas to you all.

Jim Wanamaker



Annual Chili Luncheon: Sunday, December 2

Support the youth for the annual Chili Luncheon right after the Service on December 2nd!

We will have chili warmed up ready to eat around 11, but we will also have cold quarts of chili available right after church to take home! Please sign up for what your chili preference will be in the narthex.

Eat-in bottomless bowl:

Adults: \$8, Kids: \$5

Kids under 3 free!

Take Home Quart \$10

Available warm or cold!

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December will be a busy and fun month for the Sunday School at St. Martin! On December 2nd, we will practice for our Christmas program during Sunday School. We will go straight to classes that day except for the PreK - Grade 2 class. They will report to the sanctuary at 10:15 A.M. for the rehearsal. Teachers have a schedule of when individual classes will report to the sanctuary for their practice time. Stay for chili and help our Luther League with their biggest fundraiser of the year. We will also wrap the presents for the families we have adopted for Christmas that day! It will be a great day of food, fun and fellowship.



"We're Dreaming of a Light Christmas!" You are invited to the Sunday School Christmas program on December 9th at 10:15 A.M. "The Light Before Christmas" is a delightful way to remind us all to SHINE even when the task seems too big to handle. It is sure to be a wonderful event! Plan to stay for the reception following the program. As always, we will have our only dress rehearsal that morning at 9:00 A.M. Please be on time and in your marked pew by 9:00 A.M. Thank you!

On December 16th, we will celebrate Christmas with our Sunday School classes! There will be no Sunday School on December 23rd or 30th.

Thank you to everyone who took an item off of the bulletin board for the families we are adopting for Christmas! Wow! All of the items disappeared in record time! Our congregation is so generous and absolutely amazing! Please return the items to the marked bins in the fellowship hall by Sunday, November 25th. If you are unable to return the items on time, please call Michele Thiele at 983-4759 to let her know what items you have. Items will be wrapped on December 2nd and need to be delivered to Community Missions by the 7th.

With a Thankful Heart,
Michele Thiele, Sunday School Supt.

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WEDNESDAY MORNING ADVENT BIBLE STUDY, 10:00AM

In Those Days: "Once upon a time" are the words that set the stage for many familiar fairy tales. The account of Jesus' birth is no fairy tale. In this Bible study for Advent, participants will see that Jesus' birth took place in real time, in real human history. A long time ago, in a garden far, far away, God promised to send the offspring of the woman to destroy the tempting serpent who brought sin and ruin to paradise. Centuries later, in those days of Caesar Augustus, the time was fulfilled, the promise kept. Join the study!

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING OCTOBER 8, 2018

Meeting called to order at 7:25pm. Pastor led with devotion.

Present were: Pastor Devie Ellis, Rick Bush, Dennis Sattelberg, Jim Wanamaker, Brian Carter, Sally Knox, Jessica Dows, Mike, Jeff Thiele.

Minutes reviewed and approved from previous meeting.

Officer Reports:

Treasurer: Currently ahead of budget by \$900. \$2500 left in benevolence fund.

Pastor: None

Elders: Operation Christmas Child canceled. Senior class/youth group tapped for suggestions. Nov 10th people needed for setting up for anniversary dinner, bartender needed. 11th is the dinner. Possible to have kids perform something. Nov. 25th Christ the King Sunday. Need to have bulletins cleared from pews. Still issue with recording service.

Trustees: Need to have usher list updated. Reminder for ushers suggested before service. Outlet in the kitchen not working. Ladies upstairs toilet seat is loose. Leaks, ladies' bathroom, maybe near bell again. We are set for plowing this year.

Organizational reports:

Sunday School: We have collected 248 items for the Thrivent food drive so far. A photo will be taken during Opening this week to document half of the food and one will be taken at the end of the drive.

New curriculum has been purchased for the PreK - Grade 2 classes. It is the Beginner Bible Curriculum and focuses on the basic Bible stories that we feel the children have not had as much with the Whirl curriculum.

New TVs and DVD players were purchased for the PreK - Grade 2 class and the Grade 3-5 class. This allows them to play the short movie that goes along with the lesson each week. Rita and Carol have requested that new curtains be purchased for the Sunday School classrooms. The current curtains are fraying and disintegrating. There is enough money in the Sunday school budget to cover them.

Michele plans to choose the Christmas program this week. Copies will be made and distributed to the teachers by the last Sunday in October.

Women of the Church: Coffee hour last Sunday in November

Luther League: Meeting this Sunday at church, planning for upcoming months. Chili Dec 2nd

Committee reports:

Memorial: None

Stewardship/Evangelism: 60 People and 16 helpers. All food was gone. More food needed for next month.

Investment: Need to pull money

Prayer garden: Cleanup and winterize needed, 27th

Web page: None

What's After Worship: Not as many people as last year for Oktoberfest

175th Anniversary: Cookbooks and plaques are here and will be for sale. Motivate to get people to get tickets.

Old Business: Chair lift. Second bid was obtained. 4ft extension needed. Need outlet installed for it. Voted to have work done if less than \$800. Thrivent food pantry project, money used coffee hour snacks. Recording of church service. Camera is working, service is recorded, now we just need to have it uploaded. Steeple repair waiting on contractor to complete.

New Business: Yoga classes Oct 23rd thru Nov 27th 6-7 pm. Budget meeting Nov 4th after Sunday school. Elevator issues were corrected. Tammy Carter going to Haiti Jan 9th. She is going to help at a hospital there. Cost is \$1400, \$500 donation proposed for the trip and approved. Additional donations to be discussed. \$1000 for international disaster relief approved. Medical benefits for Pastor, if price is all the same we will change it to platinum.

Next meeting Nov 12th.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:40 PM.

St. Martin Member Giving Report

(through 10/28/18)

Congregation giving - through following number of weeks - 43

	<u>General</u>	<u>Benevolence</u>	<u>Total</u>
Offerings received to date	\$ 122,431	\$ 23,999	\$ 146,430
Offerings needed for budget to date	<u>122,974</u>	<u>23,609</u>	<u>146,584</u>
Giving compared to budget	<u>\$ (543)</u>	<u>\$ 390</u>	<u>\$ (154)</u>
Giving is behind budget to date			\$ (154)

Jeff Thiele, Treasurer

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THE LUTHERAN CHORALE OF THE NIAGARA FRONTIER presents *Rejoice in the Birth* on Sunday, December 9, at 4:00pm, at St. John's Lutheran, W. Seneca. Tickets are \$12 for adults.

Call 649-2662 or visit their website:

www.thelutheranchoraloftheniagarafrontier.com

ARE YOU HAVING TROUBLE finding that "perfect" gift for someone who has everything? Go to ELCA.org/goodgifts and give a gift that grows the church, fights hunger, and transforms lives. Purchase some chicks for \$10 and add a rooster for \$15. Or a pig for \$30. There are many different gifts to purchase that help others. Give a gift the world needs.

* * *

Dear friends,

Youth under the age of 30 make up some 70% of the population in Southern Africa and face many challenges related to education, unemployment, gender justice, health and climate change. So, are youth pessimistic or optimistic, afraid or hopeful about the future?

Seven young adults representing several member churches of the Lutheran Communion in Southern Africa (LUCSA) met recently at the Lutheran center in Johannesburg to start planning for an all LUCSA youth conference in 2019. (LUCSA, with fifteen member churches across ten countries in Southern Africa, is a sub-regional expression of the Lutheran World Federation.

The youth unanimously and energetically agreed to work with the LWF theme for 2019-2024 "With passion for the Church and the World."

The committee worked on a draft program that will include reports on youth activities from member churches, as well as Bible studies, presentations and discussions. The conference will focus on what it means to be "Young Reformers" working for revival in the church, Lutheran identity, diakonia, gender justice and care for creation. The LUCSA INFOHUT program which teaches computer skills and life skills including information about HIV & AIDS will be a key part of the program.

The LUCSA youth are enthusiastic and committed to establishing a Youth Desk in the Communion Office, to building strong relationships between youth in the member churches and making a lasting difference in their respective churches and in the region.

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

Yours faithfully,

Rev. Dr. Philip Knutson ELCA Global Mission Regional Representative - Southern Africa Johannesburg November 07, 2018

My blog page address is: <https://southernafrikanconnections.wordpress.com/> Please note the link to my online giving page on www.elca.org:community.elca.org/SouthAfrica



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

October 17, 2018

St Martin Lutheran Church
322 Old Falls Blvd Ste 1
North Tonawanda, NY 14120-3196

Dear St Martin Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your gift of \$398.25 to ELCA World Hunger's Global Farm Challenge. Thanks to your incredible generosity, we've met our matching goal of \$515,000! Together, we've raised more than \$1 million for the agricultural work of ELCA World Hunger through the Global Farm Challenge.

ELCA World Hunger helps fight hunger in more than 60 countries with a special focus on working efficiently and effectively to reach families and communities most in need. Through the Global Farm Challenge, we are connecting people with livestock, seeds, tools, training, access to markets and more. And with this support, families around the world can turn a hungry season in to a hopeful season.

Thank you for your gifts, your prayers and your partnership. This lifesaving, life-changing work would not be possible without you.

In Christ's service,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Daniel Rift".

The Rev. Daniel Rift
Director, ELCA World Hunger and Disaster Appeal

**Always
New.**

THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

December 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 12:00 Free Community Lunch
2 9:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday School 11:15 Chili Lunch & Hanging of the Greens	3 12:00 Lunch Bunch	4 10:00am Hope Circle Set Up for Party 6:00 WELCA Christmas Party	5 10:00am Bible Study 7:00 Choir	6 7	8	
9 9:00 Sunday School Program Rehearsal 10:15 Sunday School Christmas Program	10 7:00 Church Council	11 9:30am Hope Circle Bible Study & Pot-Luck Lunch 6:00 Yoga	12 10:00am Bible Study 7:00 Choir	13 14	15	
16 9:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday School 6:00 Youth Group	17	18 6:00 Yoga	19 10:00am Bible Study 7:00 Choir	20 21	22	
23 9:00 Worship	24 CHRISTMAS EVE 4:00 & 7:00 Worship	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS!	26	27 28 JANUARY NEWS- LETTER TYPED	29	
30 9:00 Worship Anniversary of Baptisms	31					