

The Covenant Connections
Bethlehem / St. Martin
February 2023



FROM THE PASTOR

I was noticing all the people out shoveling their driveways when I drove to church this past week. I knew what hard work they were doing because my own arms were still tired from just having shoveled my own. I also knew how slippery things were. I suspected that the emergency rooms would be seeing their share of people who slip or over-tax their ability. It reminded me to have gratitude for my health and that I was able to successfully clear my driveway without any problems.

I also drove passed a car accident on my way, another challenge in winter weather. I was able to offer another prayer of gratitude that I was able to arrive safely that morning without any troubles.

Our days are full of such occurrences. Most of the time, I do not think about them. We tend to only notice the little things when they do not happen as we expect them to. Most of our potential problems are successfully avoided. Most of the time, we are surrounded by instances of blessing, for which we are right to feel gratitude and give thanks, but we don't even notice them.

We can help each other notice these blessings by sharing our stories of when we have recognized God's benevolence and goodness. Simply by passing on those moments when a "little thing" can be seen as important, we witness to how our lives are full of blessing. Sharing our stories can literally change how others see the world around them.

We've been sharing stories through the Epiphany season. I've been loving the stories shared, often of big and amazing ways that God's presence has been made known. These stories deserve to be shared! But we also need to grow in our ability to share these "small" stories. Any experience that can be used to give thanks to God is a story worth sharing.

In a world suffering from cynicism and despair, this witness of blessing is needed. We need to notice and lift up the presence of God that is always around us, and we need to help others see that God is also with them. Let us keep giving witness to a world where God's presence can be seen everywhere!

The light shines in the darkness, and our world's attention needs to be drawn away from the darkness, and to the light of God.

Pastor Korey



OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Mission



ON FEBRUARY 12TH AT 11:15AM, A WOMEN'S GATHERING LUNCHEON WILL BE HELD @ BLC TO ENJOY CREATING A VALENTINE'S DAY CRAFT. ALL CRAFT SUPPLIES WILL BE PROVIDED!

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BRING AN 8 X 10 PICTURE FRAME TO BRING HOME A FINISHED WORK OF ART, PLEASE FEEL FREE, BUT NOT REQUIRED.

LADIES OF ST. MARTIN ARE ALWAYS WELCOME TO JOIN US FOR OUR LADIES FELLOWSHIP!



THE WOMEN'S BLC BIBLE STUDY GROUP WILL MEET ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19TH AFTER WORSHIP. BOTH LESSONS ARE IN THE JANUARY/FEBRUARY ISSUE OF GATHER MAGAZINE.



SMLC VBS 2023 is July 17-20!

Kids ages pre-k thru 6

Online registration opens
May 1. Stay tuned for
more details . . .

BLC & SMLC KNITTERS NEEDED

WE HAVE BEEN BLESSED WITH SERVIAL DONATIONS OF YARN WHICH KNIT HATS FOR STOCKINGS.



ED IN THE CUP-END OF THE OLD FELLOWSHIP HALL. ANYONE

COULD BE USED TO THE CHRISTMAS THE YARN IS LOCAT-BOARDS AT THE WEST

NEEDING A SIMPLE KNIT HAT PATTERN,

PLEASE CONTACT

MARY LOU ALEXANDER.



DOING THE MOST GOOD™

BLC RAISED THE MOST MONEY OF ANY FAITH GROUP IN THE ROCHESTER AREA DURING THE SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGING!

BLC WILL BE PRESENTED WITH A PLAQUE AT A GRATITUDE BRUNCH ON 1/26. THE BRUNCH WILL BE HELD AT THE HYATT REGENCY. LAURIE BROOKS WILL BE ATTENDING THE BRUNCH ON BEHALF OF THE AMAZING OF AUDREY, LUCI, MEFFORTS ARGO, OLIVIA & LENORA!



OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Mission



Council Notes

BLC COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES JANUARY 11, 2023

PASTOR'S REPORT Pastor has been working with someone at SMLC on the video of church services and will use what he learns for helping BLC to upgrade. In addition, Pastor thanked new council members. Deb is making a council roster. Pastor is looking into a camera for videoing the service and Al would like to be involved in the wiring.

WORSHIP The church needs shorter robes for the children who are acolytes. The deacons will do an inventory and see what is needed. They will need red and black robes. Sunshine club needs stamps. Council decided to name February 12, 2023 as stamp Sunday for people to donate stamps during the offering. Laurie Brooks also needs stamps to mail the memorial thank you's and the information for the families about donations given.

PARSONAGE Painting the ceilings in the parsonage will happen 1/30/2023. School taxes were paid \$1,500. A new roof may be necessary soon and the cost will be paid by the parsonage fund. A code pad will be researched to put on the garage.

OUTREACH The reverse Advent calendar was a success with lots of food donated. After talking to Tim King at the Ontario food pantry it was decided to give the majority of the food to the Penfield food pantry, use some for our little food pantry and donate the Christmas offering money to the Ontario food pantry.

COMMUNITY LIFE there will be another game night planned.

Next Joint Council Meeting is March 8, 2023
@SMLC

JOINT BLC/SMLC COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES JANUARY 11, 2023

MISSION FOCUS Pastor sent emails inviting people to join a Task Force to help establish potential goals. These will be implement-ready SMART goals that will move us in the direction of growth. Council will gather these potential goals and choose which ones we want to commit to. I don't know what the timeline will realistically be, but I'm hoping that this step might take one or two months.

OLD BUSINESS The Christmas stocking program was completed with over 600 gifts going out. Included are stockings, baby gifts and teenager gifts.

NEW BUSINESS Sharon Haffen will be coordinating VBS for 2023. Both our churches and Transfiguration will be included again. There may be a program for us to use from Synod. The week of 7/17/2023 is the proposed week for VBS.

DR. Evelyn Lam Brothers got married 12/31/2022. We congratulate her and Nathan and we plan to have a shower for her in the near future.

God's work our hands day will be in May and there will be a project at the Webster Arboretum.

Next Joint Council Meeting is March 8, 2023
@SMLC



OUR CHURCH FAMILY

WORSHIP & PRAYER

2023 Lenten Prayer Vigil

THE COVENANT BETWEEN BLC AND SMLC CALLS US “TO PRAY FOR EACH OTHER AND OUR SHARED AND UNIQUE MINISTRIES”. TO THAT END, WE ARE ASKING EVERYONE TO PRAY DURING

LENT FOR THE FAMILIES OF BOTH CHURCHES. WE’LL START BY PRAYING FOR PASTOR KOREY FINSTAD & FAMILY ON ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, & BLC & SMLC FEBRUARY 23 & 24. ON FEBRUARY 25, WE’LL ALL PRAY FOR ALLEN & HECKLE FAMILIES FROM BLC AND THE ALEXANDER & HUBBARD FAMILIES FROM SMLC. FROM THERE WE WILL FOLLOW THE SCHEDULE BELOW.

PRAYERS DO NOT HAVE TO BE LONG OR OFFERED AT ANY PARTICULAR TIME.

WHAT TO PRAY FOR? HERE ARE SOME SUGGESTIONS FROM COLOSSIANS 1:3-4:

- * THANK GOD THAT THIS FAMILY BELONGS TO OUR CHURCHES.
- * THANK GOD FOR THE TIME, TALENTS AND TREASURES THAT THEY HAVE BROUGHT US.
- * PRAY THAT THEIR FAITH WILL BE STRENGTHENED DURING THE COMING YEAR.
- * PRAY THAT THEY WILL BE FILLED WITH THE KNOWLEDGE OF HIS WILL.
- * PRAY THAT THEY ARE LIVING A LIFE WORTHY OF THE LORD AND PLEASING TO HIM.

- * PRAY THAT THEIR GOOD WORKS ARE BEARING FRUIT.
- * PRAY THAT GOD WILL STRENGTHEN THEM WITH ENDURANCE AND PATIENCE FOR ANY TRIALS THEY MIGHT HAVE.
- * PRAY FOR THEIR GOOD HEALTH.
- * PRAY FOR SUFFICIENT WEALTH.



LENTEN PRAYER VIGIL FAMILIES
Listing on the Following Page.....



OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Wed 2/22	Pastor Korey Finstad family	Fri 3/17	Germick, O'Grady & Steinmiller families
Thu 2/23	Bethlehem Lutheran Church	Sat 3/18	Lester & Klimow families Kyle family
Fri 2/24	St. Martin Lutheran Church	Sun 3/19	M Kildal & D Kildal families
Sat 2/25	Allen & Heckle families Alexander & Hubbard families	Mon 3/20	Steele & Johnson families
Sun 2/26	Ayers family Boerschlein family	Tue 3/21	Jennejohn family Devers family
Mon 2/27	Bardo families Bouchard family	Wed 3/22	McGrath family DeBruyn family
Tue 2/28	Bauer family Currier family	Thu 3/23	Leisten family Kunzer & Ciulla families
Wed 3/1	Lochner family Cawley & Davis families	Fri 3/24	Nowak family Oriel family
Thu 3/2	Short family Bartlett family	Sat 3/25	Lewis, Moore & Kulak families
Fri 3/3	Borkhuis & Reilly families Dengler & Elder families	Sun 3/26	Miles & Geiger families Lockwood family
Sat 3/4	Brigden family Detwiler family	Mon 3/27	J Mohrman family D Mohrman family
Sun 3/5	Brooks family, B Ewanow & S. Ewanow families	Tue 3/28	L Simmons & Priest families C. Smith family
Mon 3/6	Bundschuh family Apetz & Weurtzer families	Wed 3/29	Neels family Marshall family
Tue 3/7	Myers family Hinkhouse family	Thu 3/30	Matteson family Spry family
Wed 3/8	Crandall & Grimshaw families Collins & Chittenden family	Fri 3/31	Schneemann family Nesbitt family
Thu 3/9	Howard & Donahue families French & Geier families	Sat 4/1	Schlenger family Stewart family
Fri 3/10	Gardner & Mitchell families	Sun 4/2	Zajac family Taskett family
Sat 3/11	Hyde family Hess family	Mon 4/3	F Smith family D. Smith family
Sun 3/12	Francis family Gomez & Dolson families	Tue 4/4	Schmidt family J. Simmons family
Mon 3/13	Frick family Gulde family	Wed 4/5	Van Dusen family VanDeWall family
Tue 3/14	Fridman family Haffen & Hilbert families	Thu 4/6	Urich family Peters family
Wed 3/15	Manning family Knapp family	Fri 4/8	Wagner family Riekstins family
Thu 3/16	Brothers family Potucek family	Sat 4/9	Weidman family Weingartner family



OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Mission



Mardi Gras Free Pancake Supper

Free Beads & Unlimited Pancakes



Tuesday, February 21ST

5:00–7:00 pm at SMLC 813 Bay Road

Come to our Mardi Gras Pancake Supper on Tuesday, February 21st. Sausage, Applesauce and unlimited pancakes will be served from 5pm to 7pm.

Come join us for Mardi Gras fun -- complete with beads and make your own crowns! You are invited to come dressed Mardi Gras style.

Come and party with us as we enter Lent in grand style!

This is a family event—invite friends!

Sign up on the bulletin board to help out and to attend. Attendees may make a free will offering of canned or boxed non-perishable foods to support our Little Free Pantry.

Thank you for supporting our missions!



OUR CHURCH FAMILY

WORSHIP & PRAYER

LENT

DISTRIBUTION OF ASHES & HOLY COMMUNION

Ash Wednesday, February 22
7 pm @ Bethlehem
(1767 Plank Rd.)

HOLDEN PRAYER SERVICE SCHEDULE

Wednesdays during Lent

Join us on Wednesday evenings during Lent for study
and Holden Prayer Service.

**Wednesday Nights – March 1, March 8,
& March 15 @ SMLC**

March 22, & 29 @ BLC



- ♦ Bible Study—6:00 pm
- ♦ Holden Prayer Service - 7:00 pm

MAUNDY THURSDAY, April 6
7:00 pm @ SMLC

GOOD FRIDAY, April 7
7:00 pm @ BLC



February 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 11:30am Prayer First 6-7pm Bible Study @ Finstad 's	2 8am Men's Group	3	4
5 8:45am BLC Worship /Sunday School 10:30am SMLC Worship /Sunday School	6	7  American Red Cross 1-6pm Red Cross Blood Drive @ SMLC	8 11:30am Prayer First 6:30pm SMLC Council Meeting	9 8am Men's Group	10	11 9-12pm Mad Hatters
12 8:45am BLC Worship /Sunday School / Congregational Meeting 11:15am BLC Women's Gather- ing 10:30am SMLC Worship/Sunday School 6:30pm Confir- mation @ SMLC	13	14 Valentine's Day 	15 11:30am Prayer First 6:30pm BLC Council Meeting	16 8am Men's Group	17	18
19 8:45am BLC Worship 9:45am BLC Women's Bible Study 10:30am SMLC Worship	20	21 Shrove Tuesday 5-7pm Mardi Gras Pancake Supper @ SMLC	22 Ash Wednesday 11:30am Prayer First 7pm Ashes & Holy Communion @ BLC	23 8am Men's Group	24	25
26 8:45am BLC Worship /Sunday School 10:30am SMLC Worship /Sunday School 6:30pm Confir- mation @ SMLC	27	28				



St. Martin Lutheran Church



813 Bay Road
 Webster, New York 14580
 Phone: 585.671.1899
 Email : stmartinwebster@gmail.com

FEBUARY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

	SUNDAY FEBRUARY 5	SUNDAY FEBRUARY 12	SUNDAY FEBRUARY 19	SUNDAY FEBRUARY 26
LECTOR	Kim Cawley	Anne Mitchell	David Hinkhouse	Tammy Gardner
ASSISTING MINISTER	Mary Lou Alexander	Sharon Haffen	Sharon Haffen	Mary Lou Alexander
ORGANIST	Mary Ann Peters	Mary Ann Peters	Mary Ann Peters	Mary Ann Peters
GREETER	Debbie Lester	Cindi Bouchard	Cindi Smith	Bud & Joan Van de Wall
ALTAR GUILD	Sharon Haffen	Sharon Haffen	Sharon Haffen	Sharon Haffen
SUNDAY SCHOOL	TBD	TBD	FAMILY SUNDAY	TBD



OUR CHURCH FAMILY

REMEMBER IN PRAYER



At Bethlehem...

REMEMBER IN PRAYER AT BLC

Jim Brigden, Nathan Brothers (Evelyn's husband) in the Air Force, Lucy and Jim Vergo (friends of the Schlinger's),

Erin Sauve (friend of the Brooks) who has cancer. Anya Peterson, Jan Mohrman, Carl Bardo, Harry Weidman, Sarah Frick, Gary

Steinmiller, June Borkhuis, Ken Francis, Finnegan O'Grady, Gary Ayers, John Heckle, Shirley Bauer, Shirley Jennejohn, Lin Maier (Shirley Bauer's sister), Kay Heckle, Nancy Smith, Bev Steele, Cecilia Anderson (Shirley Bauer's mother).

We also pray for those in the military and their family: Anthony Grimshaw.

At St. Martin...

REMEMBER IN PRAYER AT SMLC

Kevin & Debbie French, Tracy Bryce (daughter of Dan & Debora Bartlett),

Dolores Hess, Dan Bartlett, Milford Apetz, Jeanette Lockwood, Jim Matteson, Nate Baker (Godson of Jim & Mary Lou Alexander), Aidan Weingartner

(Kris Weingartner's grandnephew), Pastor Ron Willman and his wife, Barbara, Harry Hilbert Jr. (son of Harry and Becky Hilbert),

Caurie (daughter-in-law of Becky Hilbert), Karin Ewanow, James Simmons, and people serving in the military, especially Bryan. Also, all Law Enforcement Officers, especially Scott, Eric, Josh, Eric and Eric.

If you would like names added or removed from the prayer list, please contact your church office.



OUR CHURCH FAMILY



Bethlehem February Birthdays

Ella Frick	Feb 1
Carmen Bundschuh	Feb 10
Laurie Brooks	Feb 10
Abby Frick	Feb 11
Danielle Miles	Feb 14
Sandy Borkhuis	Feb 16
Elwin Bardo	Feb 20
Alice Tynan	Feb 21
Marie Neels Johnson	Feb 22
Sally Steinmiller	Feb 24
Olivia Miles	Feb 25

SMLC February Birthdays

Richard Detwiler	Feb 1
Lisa Podgorski	Feb 5
Jacob Hubbard	Feb 9
Jamye Potucek	Feb 9
Cindi Smith	Feb 13
Suzanne Elder	Feb 13
Amy Cawley	Feb 15
Karen Kunzer	Feb 20
Thomas Potucek Jr.	Feb 20
Ellen Apetz	Feb 22
Aerianna Elder	Feb 22
Timothy Stoller	Feb 22
Chris Podgorski	Feb 25



Bethlehem February Anniversaries

Gary & Sally Steinmiller	Feb 17
Ed & June Borkhuis	Feb 27

SMLC February Anniversaries

None to Report	
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OUR CHURCH FAMILY



SMLC Directory

Pastor.Korey Finstad
Director of Music Mary Ann Peters

Church Council

PresidentKaren Kunzer
Vice President Christian Kulak
Secretary Debbie Lester
Treasurer / Finance. Paul Haffen
Outreach Carol Geier
Activities Kris Weingartner
Christian Education. Cindi Bouchard
Member-at-Large. Mary Lou Alexander
EvangelismPat Knapp
Worship and MusicLaurie McGrath

BLC Directory

Pastor.Korey Finstad
Director of Music Dr. Evelyn Lam Brothers

Church Council

President Deb Neels
Vice President Jim Brigden
Secretary Laurie Brooks
Property Al Neels
Faith Formation
Congregational Life. Nancy Smith
Finance Sarah Frick
Treasurer. Mindy Zajac
Worship Ministries Becky Hyde
Outreach Ministry Laurie Brigden



OUR CHURCH FAMILY

St. Martin Evangelical Lutheran Church
813 Bay Road
Webster, NY 14580

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
1767 Plank Road
Webster, NY 14580

Pastor Korey's Contact Info

Cell Phone: 585-402-8451

Email: rev.Korey@gmail.com

Lay Readers	Nancy Currier
Altar Guild	Nancy Elder
Ushers	Doug Gomez
Coffee Hr.	Jeff & Mary Ann Peters
Greeters	Nancy Currier
Assisting Ministers	Sharon Haffen



ARTICLES FOR THE **MARCH**
COVENANT CONNECTIONS ARE KINDLY
ACCEPTED BY **FEBRUARY 15TH** TO
OUR SECRETARY, NANCY NESBITT AT
STMARTINWEBSTER@GMAIL.COM.

Laurie Brooks

Bethlehem Lutheran Church Office
1767 Plank Rd, Webster, NY 145805
585.872.1425

Email: llsbrooks@yahoo.com

Nancy Nesbitt

St. Martin Lutheran Church Office
813 Bay Rd, Webster, NY 14580
585.671.1899

Email: stmartinwebster@gmail.com

Office Hours 10a-2p Tuesday, Wednesday,

St. Martin Lutheran Church
813 Bay Road
Webster, New York 14580
585-671-1899

www.stmartinwebster.org
stmartinwebster@gmail.com

Worship 10:30^{am}
Office Hours: Tues, Wed, & Thurs., 10^{am} - 2:00^{pm}



Bethlehem Lutheran Church
1767 Plank Road
Webster, New York 14580
585-872-1425

www.bethlehemplutheranchurch.org

Worship: 8:45^{am}

