# The Covenant Connections
## Bethlehem / St. Martin

## APRIL 2023

## FROM THE PASTOR

How do we speak about new life?

This simple question can be a challenge to answer. We are not able to glimpse beyond the veil of death to describe what that is like. It is the central message of Easter and of our Christian proclamation, but we often struggle to articulate what we mean by it. We understand that death has been defeated and that we will live forever, but as we describe what this means, we are limited in our experience to this side of the grave.

But Easter makes a difference to us in more ways than just after we die. Eternal life begins now, not just when our bodies fail.

For one thing, we do not need to live in fear of death. We do not have to be preoccupied by survival. We have been freed to live fully and without the threat that this life is all that there is. We can afford to be more generous and self-giving. We can sacrifice our precious time. By living under this very different way of thinking, we can be a witness to Christ's resurrection and how we, too, have been raised anew.

But a life of faith also provides a lifetime of new beginnings. Physical death is not the only way that the power of sin and death take away from our lives. Whenever we let our sin direct our lives, we are bringing hurt and unhealth. Whenever we live in fear or hopelessness, our lives are diminished and God's gift of life is wasted. New life enables us to grow and become more than what we have been.

Being a people of the Resurrection means that we are always seeking to live more fully into the life that God provides. We are always seeking to exhibit more fully the love and joy and peace that reflect the kingdom of God in our lives.

Our celebration of Easter means that in God there is always the possibility of restoration and renewal. No mistake of our past has to define our future. Our lives can be lives of continual potential and hope as the God who raised Jesus from the dead can empower us to new ways of living. It doesn't mean that new life is easy or without grief, but it means that it is possible.

As we celebrate Christ's resurrection, let us speak of how we too are given the ability to live life in new ways. We do not need to be held back by fear of death or by our destructive sinful nature. Our own lives can exhibit the power of resurrection.

*Pastor Korey*

# OUR CHURCH FAMILY

## 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.

| | |
|---|---|
| **Wed 2/22** | Pastor Korey Finstad family |
| **Thu 2/23** | **Bethlehem Lutheran Church** |
| Fri 2/24 | St. Martin Lutheran Church |
| **Sat 2/25** | **Allen & Heckle families<br>Alexander & Hubbard families** |
| Sun 2/26 | Ayers family<br>Boerschlein family |
| **Mon 2 /27** | **Bardo families<br>Bouchard family** |
| Tue 2/28 | Bauer family<br>Currier family |
| **Wed 3/1** | **Lochner family<br>Cawley & Davis families** |
| Thu 3/2 | Short family<br>Bartlett family |
| **Fri 3/3** | **Borkhuis & Reilly families<br>Dengler & Elder families** |
| Sat 3/4 | Brigden family<br>Detwiler family |
| **Sun 3/5** | **Brooks family, B Ewanow & S. Ewanow families** |
| Mon 3/6 | Bundschuh family<br>Apetz & Weurtzer families |
| **Tue 3/7** | **Myers family<br>Hinkhouse family** |
| Wed 3/8 | Crandall & Grimshaw families Collins & Chittenden family |
| **Thu 3/9** | **Howard & Donahue families<br>French & Geier families** |
| Fri 3/10 | Gardner & Mitchell families |
| **Sat 3/11** | **Hyde family<br>Hess family** |
| Sun 3/12 | Francis family<br>Gomez & Dolson families |
| **Mon 3/13** | **Frick family<br>Gulde family** |
| Tue 3/14 | Fridman family<br>Haffen & Hilbert families |
| **Wed 3/15** | **Manning family<br>Knapp family** |
| Thu 3/16 | Brothers family<br>Potucek family |

# OUR CHURCH FAMILY

## 2023 Lenten Prayer Vigil

Continued

| | |
|---|---|
| Fri 3/17 | Germick, O'Grady & Steinmiller families |
| **Sat 3 /18** | **Lester & Klimow families<br>Kyle family** |
| Sun 3/19 | M Kildal & D Kildal families |
| **Mon 3/20** | **Steele & Johnson families** |
| Tue 3/21 | Jennejohn family<br>Devers family |
| **Wed 3/22** | **McGrath family<br>DeBruyn family** |
| Thu 3/23 | Leisten family<br>Kunzer & Ciulla families |
| **Fri 3/24** | **Nowak family<br>Oriel family** |
| Sat 3/25 | Lewis, Moore<br>& Kulak families |
| **Sun 3 /26** | **Miles & Geiger families<br>Lockwood family** |
| Mon 3/27 | J Mohrman family<br>D Mohrman family |
| **Tue 3/28** | **L Simmons & Priest families<br>C. Smith family** |
| Wed 3/29 | Neels family<br>Marshall family |
| **Thu 3/30** | **Matteson family<br>Spry family** |
| Fri 3/31 | Schneemann family<br>Nesbitt family |
| **Sat 4/1** | **Schlinger family<br>Stewart family** |
| Sun 4/2 | Zajac family<br>Taskett family |
| **Mon 4/3** | **F Smith family<br>D. Smith family** |
| Tue 4/4 | Schmidt family<br>J. Simmons family |
| **Wed 4/5** | **Van Dusen family<br>VanDeWall family** |
| Thu 4/6 | Urich family<br>Peters family |
| **Fri 4/8** | **Wagner family<br>Riekstins family** |
| Sat 4/9 | Weidman family<br>Weingartner family |

## HOLY WEEK WORSHIP & FELLOWSHIP

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **THURSDAY, APRIL 6** | 7:00pm | Maundy Thursday Worship @SMLC |
| **FRIDAY, APRIL 7** | 7:00pm | Good Friday Worship @BLC |
| **SUNDAY, APRIL 9** | 8:30am | Easter Worship @BLC |
| **SUNDAY, APRIL 9** | 10:30am | Easter Worship @SMLC |

## EASTER FLOWERS FOR SMLC

Sign-up sheets are posted on the bulletin board @ SMLC to purchase Easter altar flowers in mid March. Please remember to pay for the flowers at time of sign-up. Flower costs are below:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Easter Lily** | **$9.00** | **Hyacinth** | **$6.50** |
| **Daffodil** | **$6.50** | **Tulip** | **$6.50** |

## BLC EASTER BRUNCH

It is time to start planning for our Easter Brunch! Please see the sign posted downstairs. We are in need of help in the kitchen, as well as with the food. Thank you everyone!

## SMLC EASTER BREAKFAST

SMLC is going to have our Easter Breakfast on **Sunday,**

**April 9th from 9:00am to 10:30am**. Prices are: Adults $5.00 - Children Ages 5-12 -$3.00 and Children 4 and under are Free.

***Please see Carol Geier for tickets.***

# OUR CHURCH FAMILY

## REMEMBER IN PRAYER

### *At Bethlehem...*

Lorrilyn Schlinger, 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 & Nathan Brothers (Evelyn's husband).

### *At St. Martin...*

Chris Alexander (daughter-in-law of Jim & Mary Lou Alexander), Family & Friends of Nate Baker, Kevin & Debbie French, Tracy Bryce (daughter of Dan & Debora Bartlett),

Dolores Hess, Dan Bartlett, Milford Apetz, Jeannette Lockwood,

Jim Matteson, 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.

**Please contact your respective church office for any removals and/or additions. Thank you!**

# OUR CHURCH FAMILY

## FELLOWSHIP

**SPRING CHICKEN BBQ - DRIVE THRU**
**SATURDAY, APRIL 29**

St Martin Lutheran Church's Drive Thru Chicken BBQ will be held Saturday, **April 29 from 4:30p till gone**

at St Martin (813 Bay Road, Webster).

Volunteer Sign up sheets are posted on the Chicken Board currently found in the Fellowship Hall.

Dinners of ½ chicken, salt potatoes, coleslaw, roll, and butter and a cookie are all available for **$15.00**.

The event again this year will be Drive-Thru *only*. Cars will enter our parking lot, following signs, and purchase tickets using exact payment. Cars will then proceed to the front entrance to pick up boxed dinners. Dinners will be assembled according to CDC recommendations. Due to current health restrictions, pie slices and other desserts will not be available.

*No Reserve Tickets, First Come First Served*

Proceeds support our Christmas Stocking Project reaching over 500 local youth in Monroe and Wayne Counties.

Thank you!

# VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

**VBS PLANNING MEETING ON**
**SATURDAY, APRIL 15TH @ SMLC**

We are excited to announce Vacation Bible School is back this summer **July 17-20th.**
We are three churches strong -
Transfiguration,
St. Martin and Bethlehem.
Three times the fun!
You are invited to our first planning meeting on **Saturday, April 15, 10-11 a.m.** at St. Martin.

Please consider being part of the fun and join our 2023 VBS Planning Team!
Call or text Sharon Haffen with any questions at 585.703.1441 /

sharonhaffen@gmail.com.

# Looking Ahead

Yes, it's really early, but we've already set the dates for the St. Martin Garage Sale. It will be held **June 8, 9, & 10** with donation drop-off days on **Saturdays, May 20, May 27, & June 3**.

We know you will all be starting your spring cleaning soon, and will want to get rid of the "stuff" you're saving for the garage sale. We do ask, however, that you wait for the donation days to bring things in, so that we don't get inundated with donations months before the sale. We hope to have Santa's Garage Sale in early November, so if you are dropping off Christmas items in May or June, please try to pack them separately from other items.

# April 2023

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | 1 |
| 2<br>**8:45am** BLC Worship/Sunday School<br>**10:30am** SMLC Worship/Sunday School | 3 | 4<br>**1-4pm** Red Cross Blood Drive @ BLC | 5 | 6<br>**8am** Men's Group<br>**7-8:15pm** Maundy Thursday @ SMLC | 7<br>**7-8:15pm** Good Friday @ BLC | 8 |
| 9<br> <br>**8:30am** BLC EASTER Worship<br>**10:30am** SMLC EASTER Worship | 10 | 11 | 12<br>**11:30am** Prayer First @ BLC<br>**6:30pm** SMLC Council Meeting | 13<br>**8am** Men's Group | 14 | 15<br>**10-11an** First VBS Planning Meeting @ SMLC |
| 16<br>**8:45am** BLC Family World Vision Sunday<br>**10:30am** SMLC Worship Family Sunday<br>**6:30pm** Confirma- | 17 | 18 | 19<br>**11:30am** Prayer First @ BLC<br>**6:30pm** BLC Council Meeting | 20<br>**8am** Men's Group | 21 | 22 |
| 23<br>**8:45am** BLC Worship/Sunday School<br>**10:30am** SMLC Worship/Sunday School | 24 | 25 | 26<br>**11:30am** Prayer First @ BLC<br>**6:00pm** Bible Study Express @ Finstad's | 27<br>**8am** Men's Group | 28 | 29<br>**4:00pm** Chicken BBQ @ SMLC |
| 30<br>**8:45am** BLC Worship/Sunday School<br>**10:30am** SMLC Worship/Sunday School | | | | | | |

# St. Martin Lutheran Church

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

## APRIL 2023 WORSHIP LEADERS

| | SUNDAY APRIL 2 | MAUNDY THURSDAY APRIL 6 | SUNDAY APRIL 9 | SUNDAY APRIL 16 | SUNDAY APRIL 23 | SUNDAY APRIL 30 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **LECTOR** | Karen Kunzer | | Paul Haffen | Carol Geier | Dick Detwiler | Alison Finstad |
| **ASSISTING MINISTER** | Mary Lou Alexander | Sharon Haffen | Mary Lou Alexander | Sharon Haffen | Karen Kunzer | Sharon Haffen |
| **ALTAR GUILD** | Sharon Haffen | | Sharon Haffen | Nancy Elder | Nancy Elder | Nancy Elder |
| **ORGANIST** | Mary Ann Peters | Mary Ann Peters | Mary Ann Peters | Mary Ann Peters | Mary Ann Peters | Mary Ann Peters |
| **COUNTERS** | Maury Kildal & Bernie Ewanow | | Cindy Gomez & Melinda Spry | Jeff Peters & TBD | Ed Currier & TBD | Barb Devers & Pat Knapp |
| **GREETERS** | Nancy Lewis | | Cindy Gomez | Pat Knapp | Cindi Bouchard | Joan & Bud Van de Walle |
| **SUNDAY SCHOOL** | | | | | | |

# OUR CHURCH FAMILY Council Notes

## SMLC COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

### Pastor Report

- Working on some ideas to start a nursery worker for both churches
- Would like to add Non-Profits to come and share with us about the work that they do
- God's Work Our Hands needs some suggestions
- Will be on vacation April 19 – 24 Pastor Zajac will be supply Pastor

### Property Report

- Elevator is still out of order, just waiting for a part to come in
- Boy Scouts have asked us to put their trailer in our name for insurance but they will cover all costs associated with it

### Music and Worship

- We will be having an Easter breakfast @ SMLC

### Outreach

- Signing up to continue with Panera's donations of food for Pantry

### Christian Education

- Because of attendance issues, Sunday School is making some changes
- Sunday School will end at the end of March, due to lack of consistent attendance. The expectation for next year is to have a program with intermittent program series instead of an "every Sunday" model
- We hope to hire someone on a weekly basis and/or have volunteers from church to provide a place for those too young to sit through the whole service
- A letter will be going out to see what the parents thoughts are.

### Old Business

- Mission Vision – we discussed some of the goals the Task Force came up with, and committed to them

Next meeting will be April 12th at 6:30pm

## BLC/SMLC JOINT COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

### Pastor Report

- Working on some ideas to start a nursery worker for both churches
- Near lock-in coming up
- Would like to add Non-Profits to come and share with us about the work that they do
- God's Work Our Hands needs some suggestions

Next joint meeting will be May 10 at 6:30pm @ BLC

## BLC COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

### Pastor Report

- Pastor's report focuses on our mission and how to move forward. The council discussed the mission and agreed to move forward with Articulating our own faith publicly in worship, Table conversation cards during coffee hour, Skits during announcements to role-model conversation invitations, Intentional prayer time during service to ask God to help us share our faith.

### Music and Worship

- : Becky reported Gabriel Donahue was trained as an acolyte. His sister Isabelle is also now an acolyte.
- The deacon's decided no new robes were needed. Becky did not know if the new hymnals were ordered yet.
- PROPERTY: Jim reported the floors are completed and beautiful.
- Laurie Brooks asked if a table or chair could be placed back in the ladies room to have a place to set purses, etc.

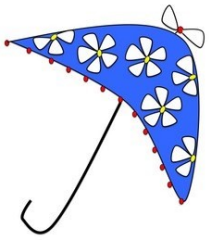
### NEW BUSINESS

- The strawberry social is tentatively 6/21.Laura Simmons and Kristen Germick will be running it again this year and Robyn O'Grady will assist when she can. We would like to hear their ideas of where the proceeds could be donated to. Thank you ladies!
- We discussed the need for a nursery attendant and we should probably have two people. One paid youth and one volunteer adult. Pastor proposed the idea we could have a youth from SMLC and they could have one from BLC. That way they could worship at their own church.
- Sarah found that Frontier phone and internet, costs half of what we are paying Spectrum. informed about the wiring installation. Mindy made a motion to sign up for Frontier and was seconded by Becky and approved.

Next meeting will be April 19th at 6:30pm

# OUR CHURCH FAMILY

## APRIL BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH



### Bethlehem April Birthdays

| | |
|---|---|
| **Shirley Jennejohn** | 4/2 |
| **Isabelle Donahue** | 4/12 |
| **Tina Glidden** | 4/19 |
| **Becky Hyde** | 4/23 |
| **Faith Weidman** | 4/16 |
| **David Hyde** | 4/28 |
| **Gary Steinmiller** | 4/29 |

### SMLC April Birthdays

| | |
|---|---|
| **Lydia Wuertzer** | 4/12 |
| **Christian Kukak** | 4/14 |
| **Melinda Spry** | 4/19 |
| **Julie Taylor** | 4/19 |
| **Reece Moore** | 4/19 |
| **Sadie Tesoriero** | 4/22 |
| **Justin Wagner** | 4/28 |

### Bethlehem April Anniversaries

**None to Report**

### SMLC April Anniversaries

| | |
|---|---|
| **Laverne & Joan Van De Wall** | 4/7 |

# OUR CHURCH FAMILY

## CHURCH COUNCIL

**SMLC Directory**

Pastor. . . . . .Korey Finstad

Director of Music . . . . . Mary Ann Peters

**Church Council**

President . . . . . Karen Kunzer

Vice-President . . . . . .Christian Kulak

Treasurer / Finance. . . . . Paul Haffen

Secretary . . . . . .Debbie Lester

Outreach . . . . . Carol Geier

Activities . . . . . Kris Weingartner

Christian Education. . . . . Cindi Bouchard

Member-at-Large. . . . . Mary Lou Alexander

Evangelism . . . . . .Pat Knapp

Worship and Music . . . . . .Laurie 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 . . . . . Sarah Frick

Congregational Life. . . . . .Nancy Smith

Treasurer . . . . . .Mindy Zajac

Worship Ministries . . . . . .Becky Hyde

Outreach Ministry . . . . . Laurie Brigden

Youth Ministry . . . . . .Sarah Frick

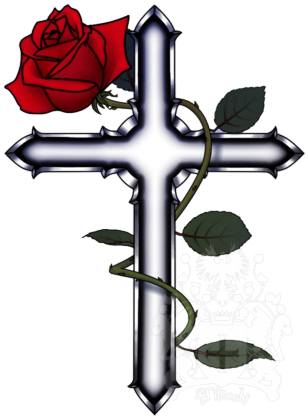
**Forgot your checkbook? Give to St. Martin online here or use the Link below:**

**Click on Link Here**

You are encouraged to respond to God's gift to us by giving back to the mission and ministry instituted by Jesus. Financial offerings are needed to support our congregation's work!

**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 **MAY** **COVENANT CONNECTIONS** ARE KINDLY ACCEPTED BY **MAY 15TH** TO OUR SECRETARY, NANCY NESBITT AT STMARTINWEBSTER@GMAIL.COM. THANK YOU!

**Laurie Brooks**
**Bethlehem Lutheran Church Office**
**1767 Plank Rd, Webster, NY 14580**
**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, Thursday**

**St. Martin Lutheran Church**
**813 Bay Road**
**Webster, New York 14580**
**585-671-1899**
www.stmartinwebster.org
stmartinwebster@gmail.com
**Worship 10:30am**

**Bethlehem Lutheran Church**
**1767 Plank Road**
**Webster, New York 14580**
**585-872-1425**
www.bethlehemlutheranchurch.org
**Worship: 8:45am**
**(Note: 8:30am on Easter Sunday)**