

The Covenant Connections

Bethlehem / St. Martin

DECEMBER 2022



FROM THE PASTOR

December might be the month that we might most easily be “empowered to engage” our community to speak of our faith. No other time of the year does such a large portion of our society participate in such an explicitly Christian celebration. Despite Christmas becoming so highly secularized, it can still give us opportunities to easily speak about our faith.

Saying “merry Christmas” is common enough that it wouldn’t signify much to most people, but perhaps we could say “blessed Christmas” instead to draw attention to its sacred beginnings. Choosing decorations with a manger instead of Christmas Tree does this too. Mentioning worship on Christmas Eve or Sunday morning is another quick and easy witness, and inviting them to worship could make a significant impact!

With Christmas falling on a Sunday this year, choosing to make the time for worship is a big witness, as it would be a change to most people’s morning traditions. We will gather as a congregation as we always do on Sunday mornings, though I anticipate many will be spending that time at home or with their families instead. There is opportunity here, too, as you can incorporate a worship element at home amidst your regular Christmas morning traditions. Sing a Christmas hymn together, pray together, or ready the “Christmas” story of John 1:1-18. This can be a big witness of our faith, especially to family with whom it can be a challenge to speak about faith.

Even just being joy-filled this season could be a witness, as it is a witness to the deep hope and joy that the coming of our Savior gives us. Working to expand the good and the joyful so that more can experience that joy is an even stronger witness. Doing this while wearing a cross lapel pin or other public identifier makes it even more so.

Conversely, acknowledging the difficulties we face can also be a powerful witness. It can be a stressful time of year and is a difficult time for people who are grieving. If an appropriate opportunity arises to speak, we could mention that it is precisely into difficult times like these that Jesus enters into. God didn’t come to earth to give an excuse for Christmas parties, but to bring healing and hope to a hurting world. Christmas is not going to make the bad thing “all right,” but we could pray that God would enter in and bring peace into the situation just as he entered in and brought peace long ago.

Many people love the “magic” of the holiday season, and people of faith have a clear insight on the source of this “magic.” People often look to the holidays for deeper connection with the truly important things in our lives; we can help them find this deeper connection. Let’s invite our friends, neighbors, and family into a greater and more heartfelt celebration than what the secular world can offer!

Have a blessed Advent,

Pastor Korey



OUR CHURCH FAMILY

WORSHIP & FELLOWSHIP



AN EVENING WITH SANTA @ SMLC

An evening with Santa will be held on **Friday, December 2nd** from **6-8pm**. Santa will arrive by firetruck. There are many activities planned, and it is all free. We just ask that, if possible, you bring one or more items for the food cupboard.



Devotions for Advent

The Fullness of Time

Inspiration from Henri J.M. Nouwen
Advent Devotional booklets are available in the Narthex @ SMLC. Celebrate Advent with a daily, prayerful journey toward the joy of Christmas.
(One per household *please*)



WOMEN'S ADVENT SERVICE & BRUNCH @ SMLC

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3RD @9:30AM

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THIS SERVICE & BRUNCH TO BE HELD AT ST. MARTIN CHURCH. ALL WOMEN ARE WELCOME FROM ST. MARTIN AND

BETHLEHEM CHURCHES TO ENJOY FELLOWSHIP AND WONDERFUL FOOD.

THERE IS A SIGN-UP SHEET POSTED IN THE LOBBY OF BOTH CHURCHES.

The Christmas Stocking Project

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4TH, @ 11:30AM
(SET UP-SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3RD 2-6PM @ SMLC)

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE ASSEMBLING OF THE CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS AT SMLC FOLLOWING WORSHIP. A PIZZA LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED.

PLEASE PLACE YOUR DONATED MITTENS & GLOVES INTO THE BIN IN THE NARTHEX.

WITH DONATIONS FROM BOTH CONGREGATIONS, WE WILL BE ABLE TO PROVIDE 471 STOCKINGS THIS YEAR.

THANK YOU! *Cindi S.*

Sunday Altar Flowers @ SMLC

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PLACE FLOWERS ON OUR CHURCH ALTAR TO HONOR OR IN MEMORY OF SOMEONE, YOU CAN SIGNUP ON THE BULLETIN BOARD IN THE ORDER FLOWERS, TARY, NANCY N. @



MINIMUM COST IS YOU CAN BRING IN GARDEN AND A MEMBER OF THE ALTAR GUILD WILL PLACE THEM IN AN ALTAR CONTAINER. AFTERWARDS, YOU ARE WELCOME TO TAKE THEM HOME OR GIVE TO A PERSON WHO IS HOME BOUND.

Christmas Poinsettias for the Altar



THERE IS A SIGN-UP SHEET ON THE BULLETIN BOARD @ SMLC FOR ANYONE WHO WOULD LIKE TO BEAUTIFY THE ALTAR FOR CHRISTMAS EVE WITH BEAUTIFUL POINSETTIAS. YOU CAN TAKE THEM HOME OR LET ME KNOW IF YOU WANT THEM TO BE GIVEN TO HOMEBOUND MEMBERS/FRIENDS. ON CHRISTMAS EVE, A SHEET WILL BE LEFT ON THE FRONT PEW REMINDING FOLKS WHAT THEY ORDERED. *Nancy E.*



OUR CHURCH FAMILY

WORSHIP & FELLOWSHIP

Christmas Eve Services

***"Come and worship... worship
Christ the newborn King!"***

5:00 pm at Bethlehem

Lutheran Church

7:30 pm at St. Martin

Lutheran Church

***Joy to the world ~
see you there!***



Longest Night Service

Pastor Korey will be leading a "Longest Night" service on **Tuesday December 21st at 7pm** at BLC. In this season of joy and celebration, many of us also are experiencing feelings of profound loss and grief. The holidays can be a hard time for those grieving lost loved ones or facing celebrations much different than we wish them to be. On the longest and darkest night of the year, we gather together around the light of faith even as we express our lament and comfort one another in our mutual grief.



FOR BLC

- Saturday, December 3rd from 11:00am to 1:00pm we will be ringing the Salvation Army bell at Tops in Panorama Plaza. They request one ringer but if a parent wants to go with a child that is ok. If you would like to sign up, even for 1/2 hour, please let Laurie Brooks know. Thanks!
- On Sunday, December 18th after church we will be assembling the Christmas baskets for the shut-ins. Please see June if you would like to make a monetary donation and also bring cookies that day for the baskets. Thanks! Laurie



REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

This year try something new and pick up a reverse Advent Calendar at BLC. We will donate the items gathered to the Penfield food pantry and the Ontario food pantry.

Christmas Luncheon



**"Young at Heart"
Christmas Luncheon**

All are Invited

The "Young at Heart" Christmas Luncheon will be held on **Tuesday, December 13th, 2022** at the Argyle Grill at Eagle Vale Country Club at **12:00 Noon**. Please see the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board at SMLC.



OUR CHURCH FAMILY

REMEMBER IN PRAYER



At Bethlehem...

Sally Steinmiller, 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 families: Javier Alagarin and Anthony Grimshaw.



At St. Martin...

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



December BIRTHDAYS

Bethlehem December Birthdays

Matt Zmaczynski	Dec 2
Chris Reilly	Dec 7
Lee Salmon	Dec 9
Steve Borkhuis	Dec 12
Eleanor Tynan	Dec 13
Mia Frick	Dec 14
Matt Reilly	Dec 14
Don Bauer	Dec 25
Harleigh Simmons	Dec 26
Mitch Miles	Dec 28
Shirley Bauer	Dec 29
Abby Finstad	Dec 31

SMLC December Birthdays

Jeromy Tesoriero	Dec 6
Brian Moore	Dec 8
Megan Wagner	Dec 9
Cheryl Detwiler	Dec 11
Ed Currier	Dec 15
Sharon Kildal	Dec 16
Ava Olear	Dec 19
George Oriel	Dec 20
John Montana	Dec 22
Michael Wagner	Dec 27
Sebastian Kulak	Dec 31
Abby Finstad	Dec 31



December ANNIVERSARIES

Bethlehem December Anniversaries



Joe & Melanie Geiger	Dec 31
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SMLC December Anniversaries

Paul & Sharon Haffen	Dec 24
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December

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 8am Men's Group @ Atlantic Restaurant	2 6-8pm Evening with Santa @ SMLC	3 9:30am Women's Advent Service & Brunch @ SMLC 10:30am Advent Gathering Service @ Lutheran Church of our Savior on Chili Ave. 11-1pm Salvation Army Bells @ Tops on Panorama 2-6pm Stocking Stuffing Set up @ SMLC
4 8:45am BLC Worship /Sunday School 9:45am Decorating BLC for Christmas 10:30am SMLC Worship/Sunday School 11:30am <i>Christmas</i> Stocking Stuffing @ SMLC	5	6	7 11:30am Prayer First 6pm Bible Study @ Finstad's 6:30pm BLC Council Meeting	8 8am Men's Group @ Atlantic Restaurant	9	10
11 8:45am BLC Worship /Sunday School 10:30am SMLC Worship/Sunday School	12	13 12pm Young at Heart Luncheon @ Argyle Grill Eagle Vale Country Club	14 11:30am Prayer First 6pm Bible Study @ Finstad's 6:30pm SMLC Council Meeting	15 8am Men's Group @ Atlantic Restaurant	16	17
18 8:45am BLC Worship/Sunday School 10:30am SMLC Worship/Sunday School 6:30pm Confirmation @ SMLC	19	20	21 11:30am Prayer First 7pm Longest Night Service @ BLC	22 8am Men's Group @ Atlantic Restaurant	23	24 5pm Christmas Eve Service @ BLC 7:30pm Christmas Eve Service @ SMLC
25 8:45am BLC Worship/Lessons & Carols 10:30am SMLC Worship/Lessons & Carols	26	27	28 11:30am Prayer First 6pm Bible Study @ Finstad's	29 8am Men's Group @ Atlantic Restaurant	30	31 



St. Martin Lutheran Church

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

DECEMBER WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

	SUNDAY DECEMBER 4	SUNDAY DECEMBER 11	SUNDAY DECEMBER 18	SATURDAY DECEMBER 24	SUNDAY DECEMBER 25
LECTOR	Alison Finstad	Karen Kunzer	Carol Geier	Anne Mitchell	TBD
ASSISTING MINISTER	Karen Kunzer	Mary Lou Alexander	Sharon Haffen	Sharon Haffen	Anne Mitchell
ORGANIST	Mary Ann Peters	Mary Ann Peters	Mary Ann Peters	Mary Ann Peters	Mary Ann Peters
COUNTERS	Ed Currier & Tom Potucek	Ed Currier & TBD	Cindy Gomez & Melinda Spry		Jeff Peters & TBD
ALTAR GUILD	Sharon Haffen	Nancy Elder	Nancy Elder	Nancy Elder	TBD
GREETERS	Becky & Harry Hilbert	Cindi Bouchard	Rose Riekstins	Cindi Smith	TBD
COFFEE	Cindi B.				



OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Council Notes



SMLC/BLC COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

SMLC/BLC Joint Council

11/09/2022

Pastor Report

- Alison would like to have just one website shared by both churches, more details will be coming
- Installation is all set for the 20th, just needs a few volunteers to help
- Discussion on Mission Focus for our futures with thoughts to have a separate meeting to do more planning

Treasurer Report

- The change from Portico came and all is good with the new health insurance, our budget looks good

Old Business

- Christmas stocking project is going good with assembly on the 4th, 461 stockings with another 119 for babies, and 98 to teens

New Business

- Pastor's raise with recommendations from synod was approved with a motion by Mary Lou, seconded by Sandy, all approved
- This needs congregational approval at our respective congregational meetings BLC on the 13th, SMLC on the 20th of November

Calendar

- December 2nd will be Night with Santa, free with canned food donation

Next Joint Council Meeting is January, 11, 2023
at 6:30 pm @ BLC

BLC Council

11/09/2022

Pastor Report

- What "SMART" goals shall we establish to help us grow in our ability to communicate our faith? Is this something we should work out as a Council, or establish a Task Force

Treasurer Report

- \$5,000 was taken from the parsonage fund and placed in the general fund.
- Projected for 2023- \$8,000 will be taken from the parsonage fund and put in the general fund if needed.
- Mindy will research the FIFE fund allocations.

Worship Report

- Pastor Korey was installed on November 20th at BLC & SMLC
- Need to set up training for new acolytes

Property Report

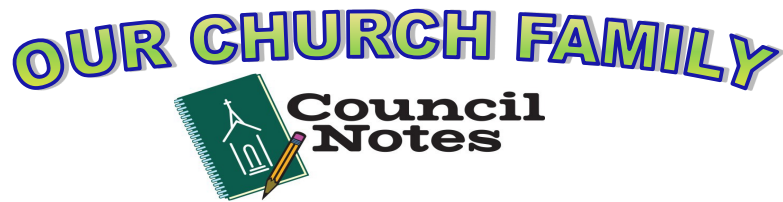
- Al gave Sandy a list of projected projects and she will compile and give to the secretary to record in our minutes folder at church.
- We now have new fire extinguishers and had an emergency lights inspection at a cost of \$883.20. This money was coming from the Memorial Fund as voted on at the October meeting.
- Al replaced the light batteries and we will receive a bill from Crown Electric.
- The old fire extinguishers can be used at the parsonage.
- Next Thursday the driveway will be boxed out and new stone placed. Stone will also be placed by the pavilion.

Outreach Report

- We collected items for Maggie's Kids, Community Lutheran ministry, Thanksgiving community dinner. The Thanksgiving offering will also go to them.
- We will be using a reverse Advent calendar for our outreach in December.

Next BLC Council Meeting is Wednesday, December 7th, 2022
at 6:30pm @ BLC.





SMLC COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

SMLC Council **11/09/2022**

Pastor Report

Motion to approve new member: Debbie and Kevin French by Pastor, seconded by Paul approved
Alison would like to have just one website shared by both churches, more details will be coming
Installation is all set for the 20th with Rev. Jonathan Deibler as our Conference Dean during our service, just needs a few volunteers to help
Discussion on Mission Focus for our futures with thoughts to have a separate meeting to do more planning

Treasurer Report

TOTAL INCOME YEAR TO DATE - \$85,913.97
TOTAL EXPENSES YEAR TO DATE - \$87,815.42
STATUS - \$ 1,901.45

Holding Steady, Still in the Red... but \$2045.47 Better than we Budgeted

Property Report

Recently Completed items:
- New battery installed in Ferris Lawn Mower - old battery approximately 5 years old and would not hold a charge
Parking Lot Timers and Room Clocks reset to Fall and new batteries installed in Room Clocks
Many thanks to Nancy Elder and Bob Dengler for taking time to blow fallen leaves to the curb for pickup by Town
Town of Webster Fire Marshall inspection performed 10/19/2022
Three non-conforming items identified
- a. No elevator inspection certificate posted - Contacted KONE Elevator Company to set up elevator inspection
- b. No documentation that Fire Detection System has been inspected – new system installed one year ago. Annual inspection performed by Johnson Controls on 10/31/2022 - no issues identified
Emergency egress lighting identified as not working (outside altar guild room and doorway to playground) - new batteries ordered

Christian Education

2 to 9 attendee, will contact those that started the year but haven't shown up in a while, still need teachers

Old Business

Christmas stocking project is going good with assembly on the 4th, 461 stockings with another 119 for babies, and 98 to teen
Pay raises for other employees will go thru with a motion from Mary Lou seconded by Anne approved

New Business

Tech upgrades have been made, need volunteers to run the filming, will post a sign-up sheet
2023 Budget was accepted by a motion by Cindi and seconded by Carol and approved: will present to congregation for vote at
November 20 meeting
Need a sign-up sheet for Coffee Hour hosts and needs to be put in the bulletin and newsletter

Next SMLC Council Meeting will be December 14, 2022 at 6:30pm @ SMLC



OUR CHURCH FAMILY



SMLC Directory

Pastor.....Korey Finstad
Director of Music..... Mary Ann Peters

Church Council

President.....Karen 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

Evangelism..... Pat Knapp
Worship and Music..... Anne Mitchell

BLC Directory

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

Church Council

President..... Sandy Borkhuis
Vice President..... Dick Howard
Secretary..... Laurie Brooks
Property.....Al Neels
Faith Formation.....
Congregational Life..... Nancy Smith
Finance.....Sarah Frick
Treasurer..... Mindy Zajac

Worship Ministries.....
Outreach Ministry..... Laurie Brigden

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!



OUR CHURCH FAMILY

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

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
1767 Plank Road
Webster, NY 14580

Cell phone: 585-402-8451

Email: rev.Korey@gmail.com

Pastor Korey's Contact Info

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 **JANUARY**
COVENANT CONNECTIONS ARE KINDLY
ACCEPTED BY **DECEMBER 15TH** TO OUR
SECRETARY, NANCY NESBITT AT
STMARTINWEBSTER@GMAIL.COM.

Laurie Brooks

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1767 Plank Rd, Webster, NY 145805
585.872.1425
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Nancy Nesbitt

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585.671.1899
Email: stmartinwebster@gmail.com
Office Hours 10am—2pm Tuesday, Wednesday,
Thursday

St. Martin Lutheran Church

813 Bay Road
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585-671-1899
www.stmartinwebster.org
stmartinwebster@gmail.com
Worship 10:30^{am}
Office Hours: Tues, Wed, & Thurs., 10am—2pm



Bethlehem Lutheran Church

1767 Plank Road
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585-872-1425
www.bethlehemplutheranchurch.org
Worship: 8:45^{am}

