



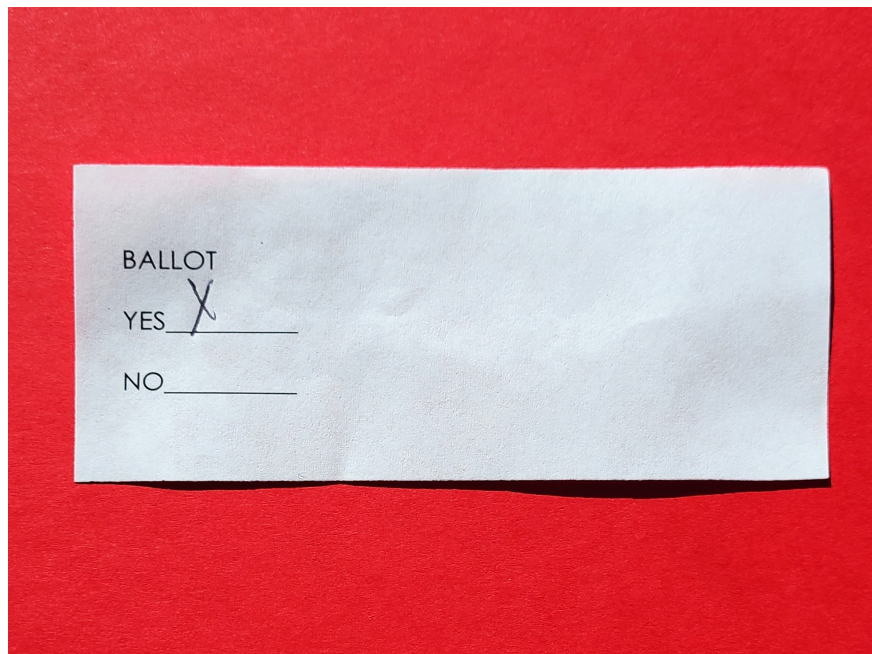
Martin's Lutheran Church, Casselton

Mar. 2024

701-347-4289 martinslutheran.com



Ken Parker's Piano Recital was a success and a joy to hear.



Ballots were cast on Feb. 25th to extend a call to Pastor Bjertness as Senior Pastor.

COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

February 2024

These notes are from the most recent Council Meeting held on February 7. When approved by the Council at their next meeting in March, the approved minutes will be posted in the Council Minutes Binder in the Conference Room.

February meeting notes:

The meeting was called to order by President Stacy Link. Minutes of the January meeting were approved. Discussion on the finances through the first month of the fiscal year was led by Treasurer Derek Flanagan. The report was approved as well as the February bills that were paid including a bill for the special cake to celebrate the paying off of Martin's mortgage!

Committee reports included the Fellowship and Support Committee with an update on the new service groups which are working better each month as we work through our new cycle. Also, Property will be gathering information and a smaller group of people to visit with Jeff Haugen about design ideas for installation of Martin's bell on the new church campus.

The Call Committee was in attendance and Chair Scott Kost reported that the primary candidate under consideration for Senior Pastor continues to be interested in Martin's. Each member of the Call Committee shared their opinions of the pastoral candidate with the Council. They then said they were in unanimous support of calling the candidate. After hearing their comments, the Council moved and seconded that the named candidate for Senior Pastor be presented to the congregation at a Special Meeting of the congregation on Sunday, February 25 following worship. Required notices will be sent to Martin's members.

2024 ELCA Youth Gathering
New Orleans, LA
July 16-20, 2024
Gathering Meeting
1pm Sunday
March 24th
Exploring
the theme:
Disruptive
TO BE MYLE
the table
Young Adult
Gathering

MARTIN'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH



Spring ahead for
Daylight Savings
Sunday March 10th
and get your
caramel rolls
after worship.
A fundraiser for the
Youth Gathering!

Money Talk

Feb. 2024

February Contributions	\$25,120.10
Monthly Approved Budget Year to Date	\$56,387.68
Contributions Year to Date	\$53,472.72
Actual Expenses Year to Date	\$45,569.77
Operating Balance	\$ 7,902.95

All figures are as of 2/26/24

The Mortgage is paid off!

We encourage electronic donors to check the Vanco giving page to see how their New Building pledges can be re-allocated. Those payments do not automatically turn off unless you set an end date. If you do not remember your log-in information, please contact the office and Joan can assist you. If you have not made changes by the end of February Joan will be contacting you.

701-347-4289

Thank you for generosity!

Martin's Mission News

Personal Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief During Lent

Clean hands, good grooming, bright and shining smile – you can help bring them about through the gift of personal care gifts for Lutheran World Relief. Lists of needed items to complete a kit are available in a tub in the church entry. Take a list and return the items in a zip lock bag to the tub. Please return the completed Care Kits by **April 1st**. These kits will be packed and sent on the Lutheran World Relief truck. Your generosity is much appreciated!

Funeral Group Volunteers

Now that we have the Funeral Coordinators in place, we would like to ask for volunteers to be added to our current Funeral Group Volunteer list to give of their time for setting up the Fellowship Hall, serving and cleaning up from serving a meal or snacks after a funeral. This time does not include cooking for the meal, nor does it include baking unless the Service Group for that month is unable to get enough baking volunteers. Please consider if you could give a few hours of time to serve.

Call, email the office, or sign up in the kitchen and we will add your name to the list.

701-347-4289 office@martinslutheran.com

Pastors Thoughts

March 2024

It was about a year ago that I looked out my office window and could not see the outdoor furniture of Martin's Prayer Garden nor the homes blocked by the nearly two story high snow plowed hills of our parking lot. Aah the changes of weather! Last winter we had about 20 days of closed highways due to snow and wind and this winter I'm still brushing off the collected dust on the snow blower!

Changes. We all go through changes. In the almost year and a half that I have served as your pastor there have been many changes in our Martin's community. New faces, new families, Baptisms, deaths of loved ones, people moving, ...just to name a few. Soon I will be ending my interim pastorate at Martin's and you will welcome and celebrate a new Senior Pastor and his family arriving in your midst. Exciting change!

Change comes in different ways. In my own family we have had change that was anticipated as our daughter and both sons made career changes. Younger grandchildren began new schools. Other changes in our family were difficult as my mother-in-law was laid to rest after living a long happy life. You too have had changes in your family lives.

Each week in worship we pray for health and wellness in our community and beyond. We pray for those whose health and situations in life might find healing. We lift up the names of persons of our church community who need God's tender care. All people's lives are always changing.

What does not change is God's love and care for you. As Paul writes in Romans, nothing separates us from the love of Jesus Christ. It is always reassuring to hear these words of Paul again and again as we move through the many changes of life...

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:28-29

May the sunshine of March skies bring change and growth!

Pastor Mark

Lutheran Faith



The final parts of Pastor Keith's offering to learn more about our Lutheran Faith by reading through the Large Catechism happen this month. These writings of Martin Luther go deeper into his reflections and teachings on these subject. All are welcome to come on Wednesdays at 12:30pm-1pm or 5:30pm-6pm.

MARCH 6TH Lord's Prayer Petitions 6-7, Doxology

MARCH 20TH Sacrament of Baptism

MARCH 27TH Sacrament of Communion

Be reminded of who Martin Luther was as we read some of his writings. Notice his concerns some of which are the same today and some we may see differently 500 years later. His desire was to meet the needs of people and churches to have God's Word and teaching on the basics of faith accessible for everyone. Come, bring a friend or neighbor and think deeply on these teachings of faith. Here are

two links for the text and the audio for the Large Catechism.

<https://bookofconcord.org/large-catechism/>

<https://librivox.org/the-large-catechism-by-martin-luther/>

A Willing Spirit

This Lent as we connect with the stories in Acts and the movement of the Holy Spirit that Jesus promised us, I think I noticed something. There is a willingness of the Holy Spirit to lead the early church, and our church today, into something new and emerging. We may love times of worship that are familiar or traditional and the Spirit may move in us to create faith in these times. I also think the Spirit is willing to lead us in new ways that may not result in “perfect” worship because they are new and different but are still times of fruitful worship that creates faith. During this first week of Lent, hearing the Pentecost story I felt the Spirit draw us into precious moments of worship rather than perhaps perfect inerrant worship. Our hearts were prayerfully singing, “Come, Lord Jesus, come.”

I hear these echoes in Psalm 51 with the words of a clean heart and a “right” spirit. I don’t think this references a right or wrong spirit in terms of perfection, but rather a willing, open, obedient spirit to God’s will which we pray for in the Lord’s Prayer, to be done on earth as it is in heaven. God accomplishes this without us and without our prayer yet it is for our sake and therefore we are praying for God’s will to be accomplished in us and through us. Our willing spirit makes a difference in responding to the Holy Spirit and being open to God’s will. I’m grateful for the willingness of so many of our members, young and old.

Here's a section of what Martin Luther explains about the Third Petition of the Lord’s Prayer in the Large Catechism, “Observe that in these first three petitions we have needs that concern God himself in a very simple form, and yet everything has been for our sake. What we pray for concerns only ourselves in that, as mentioned above, we ask that what otherwise must be done without us may also be done in us. Just as God’s name must be hallowed and his kingdom must come even without our prayer, so must his will be done and prevail even though the devil and all his host bluster, storm, and rage furiously against it in their fury, so that they may accomplish nothing and we may remain steadfast against all violence and persecution and submit to the will of God.”

Peace,
Pastor Keith



MMARTIN'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH

ALTERED
by the spirit

Wednesday Evening Lent Worship

Meal 6pm with Worship at 7pm

Feb. 21st - Altered through God's Creativity

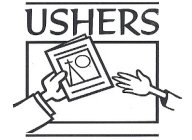
Feb. 28th - Altered on the Edge of Belonging

Mar. 6th - Altered Alongside our Enemies

Mar. 13th - Altered by Disruption

Mar. 20th - Altered through Stories We Don't Trust

April-Service Group 1
Meeting March 3rd during Coffee Time



Patrick & Amber Amberson

Angie Ames

Josh & Carly Askew

Evan & Erin Bates

Todd & Lois Erickson

Kyle & Loren Faught

Paul & Jan Faught

Shanna Hegstad

*Dan & Staci Holzheimer

John & Ja Irby

Jessica Dohrmann

Michael & Jaime Kasowski

Jaime Kressin

Nate & Laura Lutkemeier

Brady & Kylee Madsen

Dale & Janell Madsen

Beverly Mitchell

Dave & Pam Narum

Michael & Sarah Olson

Jeff & Kelly Olson-Tingelstad

Lorne & Michael Orke

Judy Orvik

David & Shelly Parkhouse

Scott & Susan Peters

Jan Rieck

Brian & Lisa Roach

Kelly & Katie Schmidt

Ryan & Joline Sinner

Mike & Lori Strand

Tim & Emily Tigges

Mike & Amy Ulmer

Mark & Cami Wack

Jonathan & Amy Warrey

* Denotes coordinator.

**Service groups, ask NOT what the church
can do for you, but what YOU CAN DO for
the church!!!**

After many phone calls to update our membership information, we have started a new process for our monthly service groups. In the past a member of your group called you to either serve at fellowship hour or bring cookies and if they filled the needs, you were not called. This process left many members not having a way to serve the church and many felt as if they were never called. Now the service groups will be in charge of filling the many areas that are needed EVERY week at Martins.

It takes between 20-25 people most Sundays, not counting musicians, pastors, offering counters, and sound people, to make each service run smoothly.

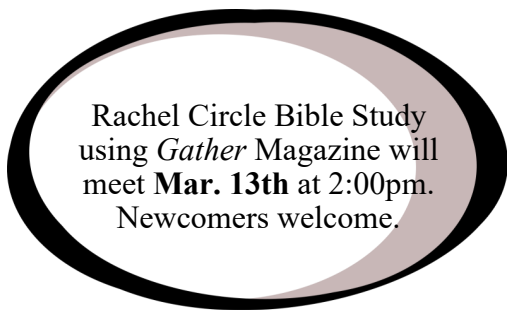
We are also adding a Service group "Fellowship Social" the month before your actual service month so each member can meet their group members, put a name to a face, and initial sign-ups can be done. During this time, we will run through what is expected for each job and questions can be answered at that time. After that meeting those who were not able to attend will be called to fill in empty areas. The group, the service coordinator and I will meet after church on the FIRST SUNDAY of the month. We hope this process will help eliminate the last-minute weekly needs of the church. Together we can make Martins a strong, faithful, serving community.

Erin Baumgarten



Thank you for helping support Martin's Lutheran Church.

F.Y.I.



Rachel Circle Bible Study using *Gather Magazine* will meet **Mar. 13th** at 2:00pm. Newcomers welcome.



HOLY YOGA CLASSES

Class times will be determined each week. Fee for the class is a donation to the Food Pantry, as we love our neighbors as ourselves!

WIDOW'S GROUP

Widow's Group will meet **Mar. 4th & 18th** at Sundance, 10:00am.

Newcomers are welcome. For information, contact Judy Orvik. 730-6704



The quilters will meet at 9:30am **Wednesday, Mar. 6, 13, 20 & 27.** Bring an item to share for potluck lunch and join us to put quilts together, tie and sew.

Newcomers are invited to join.



Easter Cantata

The Easter Cantata just began their practices but there is still time to add your voice to the group. Practice will be on Sundays at 4:00pm at St. Leo's Church. The Cantata will be open to the public on **March 24th** at 6:00pm at St. Leo's Church with refreshments following.

Women of Martin's invite senior class parents and others that may be interested to join us as we cut and tie blankets for the May graduates.

Planned during fellowship hour on the following dates:

March 10th April 14th

We will provide notification of other dates if more are necessary.



Summer Camp Opportunities!

Red Willow Bible Camp and Park River Bible Camp have their summer schedules posted and registration is open! Make plans with your friends now to take advantage of Early Bird registration discounts and before popular programs fill up. Also, as a reminder, Martin's will provide a match, up to \$100 for you to go to a faith based summer camp! Make your deposit and payment less the \$100 and let us know which program and camp you signed up for so we can send the final \$100 to the camp on your behalf.



RED WILLOW MINISTRIES

MARCH

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 <i>Pastor Mark out 1-10</i>	2
3 9:30am Worship/ Baptism/7-12 PW 10:30am Sunday School/Coffee/ Service Grp.1 Meeting 6:00pm Community Lent Meal & Worship @ Methodist	4 10:00am Widows Grp (Sundance) 1:00pm Vitalant Blood Drive 4:00pm Piano Lessons	5	6 9:30am Quilters 12:30pm Lutheran Faith 5:30pm Lutheran Faith 6:00pm Lent Supper/Worship / Bells 7:45pm Council	7 No Piano Lessons	8 <i>Pastor Mark & Pastor Keith off</i>	9
10 <i>Time Change</i> 9:30am Worship/ Baptism/Bells 10:30am Sunday School/Caramel Rolls 6:00pm Community Lent Meal & Worship @ Martin's/Bells	11 4:00pm Piano Lessons <i>Pastor Keith out 11-18</i>	12	13 9:30am Quilters 2:00pm Rachel Circle 6:00pm Lent Supper/Worship	14 4:00pm Piano Lessons	15 <i>Office Closed</i> <i>Pastor Mark & Pastor Keith off</i> <i>Joan out 15-18</i>	16
17 9:30am Worship/ Kris Vanderbusch Visiting 10:30am Sunday School/Coffee 6:00pm Community Lent Meal & Worship @ Westminster	18 10:00am Widows Grp (Sundance) 4:00pm Piano Lessons <i>Joan out</i>	19	20 9:30am Quilters 12:30pm Lutheran Faith 5:30pm Lutheran Faith 6:00pm Lent Supper/ Worship 7:45pm First Communion Class	21 4:00pm Piano Lessons	22 <i>Pastor Mark & Pastor Keith off</i>	23
24 <i>Palm Sunday</i> 9:30am Worship/ Sunday School Sings 10:30am Sunday School/Coffee/ First Communion Class 1:00pm Youth Gathering Mtg 6:00pm Cantata @St. Leo's	25 4:00pm Piano Lessons	26 2:00pm Fold Newsletters	27 9:30am Quilters 12:30pm Lutheran Faith 5:30pm Lutheran Faith	28 <i>Maundy Thursday</i> 4:00pm Piano Lessons 7:00pm Worship/ First Communion	29 <i>Good Friday</i> 7:00pm Worship	30
31 <i>Easter</i> 7:00am Worship 8:00am Brunch 9:30am Worship No Sunday School						

Dates to Remember

Mar. 17th-Kris Vanderbusch (Missionary) visiting

Mar. 24th-Palm Sunday/Easter Cantata

Mar. 31st-Easter

MARTIN'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH

It's the blood already on
hospital shelves that saves lives.

Blood Drive

vitalant.

Monday, Mar. 4th
1pm-6:15pm

FIRST COMMUNION CELEBRATED

MAUNDY THURSDAY
MARCH 28TH
7PM WORSHIP



EASTER WORSHIP
7AM & 9:30AM
SUNDAY MARCH 31ST

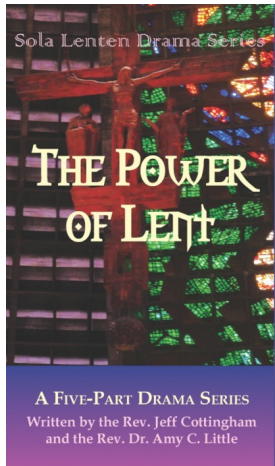


FIRST COMMUNION INSTRUCTION

Wednesday
March
20th
7:45pm
or
Sunday
March
24th
10:30am



Let the church office know which one you plan to attend.



**Sunday Evening
Community Lent Worship
Meal 6pm with
Worship following**

Feb. 18th CrossRoads E. Free
Feb. 25th Goshen Moravian
Mar. 3rd United Methodist
Mar. 10th Martin's Lutheran
Mar. 17th Westminster Presbyterian

Education News

Mar. 24th-Sunday School singing during Worship service
Mar. 31st-No Sunday School

**Next Noisy Offering:
Sunday, March 24th
\$604.66 has been given
toward this goal so far!**



Noisy Offering Goes Toward:
\$715 ELCA Good Gifts Family Farm:
1 cow, 2 goats, 2 pigs, 12 chicks,
farming tools, seeds, and training.
\$400 already went to ship 40
Operation Christmas Child boxes!



Youth Event!

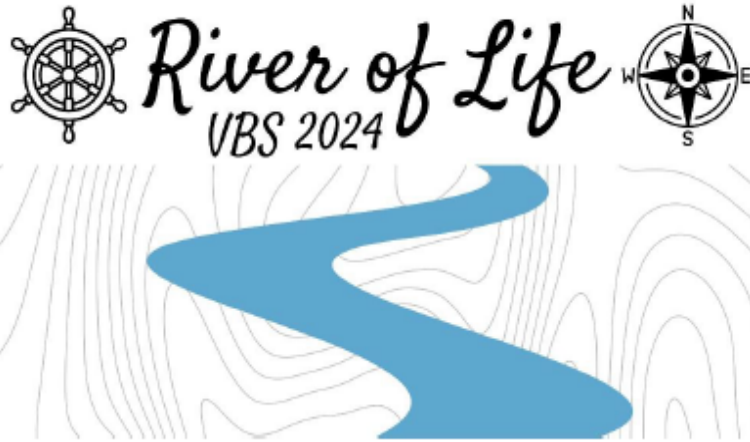
Worship at NDSU Crossroads Campus Ministry

**Sunday, March. 17th 5:30pm Worship
with Holden Evening Prayer and
stay for a meal following!**

**Contact:
Jess Watterson**



If you or someone you know would like a visit from a pastor, please call or text one of the pastors. Pastor Mark Halaas (701-213-2800) or Pastor Keith Walka (701-335-6213) or call the church office (347-4289) or email them:
srpastor@martinslutheran.com
associatepastor@martinslutheran.com



June 3rd - 6th, Monday through Thursday starting at 1pm

"Let everyone who is thirsty come. Anyone may receive the water of life as a gift." Revelation 22:17

Join Martin's Lutheran Church and Westminster Presbyterian as we host VBS this year and explore our 2024 theme: River of Life! We welcome you to come on a river boat cruise and learn how God Creates, Provides, Heals, and Calls us through water! Our capacity is 150 voyagers for this adventure so register early to get your spot onboard. The closing program will be Thursday, June 6th from 4pm-4:15pm. An offering will be collected with a goal of \$250 for a share of a well to provide safe drinking water to friends across the globe.

The invitation to participate in VBS is for everyone PreK (or age 4) through those who will have completed 4th grade. We meet from 1pm-4pm at Martin's Lutheran Church: 502 Martins Ave. N.

The cost this year is \$10 per child and no more than \$20 per family.

Payment and registration can be brought to Martin's Lutheran church office.

Scholarships are also available so all can participate. Contact us for more information.

Please contact the following with any questions:

Alicia Nelson: leeshalou@hotmail.com ~ (701) 793-8591

Pastor Keith Walka: associatepastor@martinslutheran.com ~ (701) 347-4289

Pastor Paul Campbell: paul.h.campbell@gmail.com ~ (701) 347-4629

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REGISTRATION FORM (Please fill out a registration for each child & return by Sunday May 19<sup>th</sup>)

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ T-shirt size: \_\_\_\_\_ Health concerns: \_\_\_\_\_

Adult Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Secondary Adult - Emergency Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

MARTIN'S AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH  
PO BOX 587  
CASSELTON ND 58012

Non Profit Org.  
US POSTAGE PAID  
Casselton ND  
Permit No. 41

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

\_\_\_\_\_  
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1  
\_\_\_\_\_

**WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

**Mar. 3rd**

**9:30am**-Worship (ELW) w/Comm./Bapt.

**Mar. 6th**

**7:00pm**-Holden Vespers

**Mar. 10th**

**9:30am**-Worship (PW) w/Comm./Bapt./Bells

**Mar. 13th**

**7:00pm**-Holden Vespers

**Mar. 17th**

**9:30am**-Worship (CBW) w/Comm.

**Mar. 20th**

**7:00pm**-Holden Vespers

**Mar. 24th Palm Sunday**

**9:30am**-Worship (SOW) w/Noisy Offering

**Mar. 31st Easter**

**7:00am & 9:30am**-Worship (ELW) w/Comm.

**MISSION STATEMENT**

*Named, claimed, and sustained by God,  
Martin's Lutheran is a worshipping  
community which gathers together to  
hear the Word, learn about God's love,  
and to provide support for one another.*

*Together we respond to Christ's  
command to share the Good News and to  
serve our neighbors -- across the street  
and across the world.*