



Feb. 2024

Martin's Lutheran Church, Casselton

701-347-4289 martinslutheran.com



Baptism for Harper Radermacher



Celebratory cake to commemorate the mortgage being paid off.

COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

These notes are from the most recent Council meeting held on January 10. When approved by the Council at their next monthly meeting in February the approved minutes will be posted in the Council Minutes Binder in the Conference Room. The next scheduled meeting of the Council will be held on January 28, 2024, immediately following the Annual Meeting to elect officers for Martin's in 2024. At that time a new monthly meeting schedule will also be set.

January meeting notes:

The meeting was called to order by Stacy Link, the Council President. Treasurer Derek Flanigan discussed the year end budget and monthly income for the year per the final year end reports for 2023. *Copies of Martin's 2023 Annual Report are available in the narthex at Martin's or by contacting the Church Office.* Discussion followed concerning various transfers of funds. It was reported that Martin's paid off the church's new building mortgage. There will be a "paid off" mortgage party following the Annual Meeting!

An update on the progress of the Senior Pastor Call Committee was given by Chair Scott Kost. The Committee has identified a pastor and has a unanimous positive feeling for this candidate. They are in conversation with the candidate and requested a possible compensation range from the Council for their continued conversations. A salary range was provided, and the pastoral candidate hopes to have a response to the Call Committee in a week or so.

The main committee report was from the Fellowship and Support Committee. Melissa Grommesh reported that the new method for Martin's Service groups is working well. Each month we are improving and feel that after a complete rotation of the nine groups by next summer will greatly improve the system. The Nominating Committee is finalizing their work in preparation for presenting a ballot at the Annual Meeting.

A person from the congregation has been lifted up to work with the high school youth choir. The hope is that this person might be compensated for their time. The Council agreed to approve compensation at the same rate that our other compensated musicians are paid. A special thanks is due to the many musicians who lead us in worship.

Martin's Annual Meeting will be held following worship on January 28, 2023.

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

Money Talk

Jan. 2024

January Contributions	\$ 26,617.04
Monthly Approved Budget Year to Date	\$ 28,193.84
Contributions Year to Date	\$ 26,617.04
Actual Expenses Year to Date	\$ 19,671.64
Operating Balance	\$ 6,954.40

All figures are as of 1/29/24

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.

Contribution statements were mailed out in the middle of January. If you did not receive yours please contact the office and talk to Joan. 701-347-4289

Thank you for generosity!

Baptisms

Blessings...

Murphy Gene Munsterman

son of

Jesse & Nicole Munsterman was baptized
on Sunday, Jan. 21, 2024.

What a blessing to celebrate!

Blessings...

Harper LaVoy Radermacher

daughter of

Ross & Faith Radermacher was baptized on
Sunday, Jan. 28, 2024.

What a blessing to celebrate!

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

February 2024

I don't know about you, but we just recently put away the Christmas tree and decorations. Even a few homes near ours still light our neighborhood with their many colors. Our dining table still displays the completed New Year's Day puzzle placed near the poinsettia. And what special event (not the Super Bowl!) soon arrives in a couple weeks – Ash Wednesday! This year, adding to our pile-up of special days, Ash Wednesday is the same day as Saint Valentine's Day! While originally Valentines Day honored an early Christian martyr who ministered to persecuted Christians it has morphed into a holiday to celebrate love with cards, candy, and flowers!

What is a church to do – can you have a Valentine's party on Ash Wednesday? Can you provide the imposition of ashes on the faithful and add a little red heart in the remembrance of Saint Valentine? I am pretty sure that such an action is not suggested in our Lutheran worship manual! So here is what I think.

Ash Wednesday is one of the most important days in the life of our faith. ELCA Worship Resources speaks of it in this way... Ashes symbolize several aspects of our human existence: We gather with others in our Martin's community and the whole Christian community to mark the beginning of our journey to the cross of Good Friday and the empty tomb of Easter. On Ash Wednesday the imposition of ashes reminds us of God's condemnation of sin. Ashes suggest cleansing and renewal. As we receive the sign of the cross in ashes, we are reminded that the same symbol of Christ's presence is placed on our bodies with water at our Baptism. We are reminded that even in the ashen mark of death, we anticipate the new life of Easter. Ashes remind us of the shortness of human life and God's constant presence with us. And as we live each day the ashes are a symbol of our need to repent, confess our sins, and return to God. Ash Wednesday is a good start on the road to Easter!

Where would we be without Valentines Day – a day to hug the ones you love, a day to share Valentines with all your friends at school and work, a time to sort through the bowl of heart candies to pick out the right “Be my Valentine” message for special people. It is a festive day to share a little bit of love with others! Maybe this Valentines, amidst the chocolate candies, ponder a few “love” verses - *John 15:12* “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.” *Luke 6:31* “Do to others as you would have them do to you.” *I Corinthians 16:14* “Let all that you do be done in love.”

February 14 is the day to remember that you are marked with the cross of Christ and nothing can separate you from the love of God in Christ Jesus! And then take a moment for a bite of your favorite heart candy!

Pastor Mark



Unboxing Lent

The season of Lent is often a time of doing something a little different for our faith and in our times of worship. It is good to have time for self-reflection, take on an intention or spiritual discipline, come to special times of worship to feed our faith. Come on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 14th at 7pm for worship to start the season. Then each Wednesday following we have supper at 6pm and 7pm worship with Holden Evening Prayer. We host an evening community Lent worship this year on Sunday, Mar. 10th with a meal at 6pm and worship to follow. Sunday mornings and Holy Week worship draw us closer to God as we hear the story of Jesus' passion, suffering, and death to then hear the good news of Easter with the story of Jesus' resurrection.



I'm excited we are using the Lent in a Box resource through Church Anew. The Altered by the Spirit as a theme draws on stories in the book of Acts and has options for devotionals and other ways to connect to God and deepen our faith this season of Lent. With the sponsorship of EaND Synod and Church Anew creators there are voices that are local to us and take into account people in our area. Look for ways you see the Spirit at work this season and how these resources encourage your faith.

Peace,
Pastor Keith

Lutheran Faith



This year Pastor Keith is offering times to learn more about our Lutheran Faith by reading through the Large Catechism. These writings of Martin Luther go deeper into his reflections and teachings on the Ten Commandments, The Apostles' Creed, The Lord's Prayer, and the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion. All are welcome to come on Wednesdays at 12:30pm-1pm or 5:30pm-6pm.

FEBRUARY 7TH Second Article of the Creed

FEBRUARY 14TH Third Article of the Creed

FEBRUARY 21ST Lord's Prayer Petitions 1-3

FEBRUARY 28TH Lord's Prayer Petitions 4-5

This time will remind us of who Martin Luther was as we read some of his writings. We'll 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/>

March-Service Group 9
Meeting February 4th during Coffee Time



- Dustin & Jenna Akers
- Gary & Stephanie Anderson
- Corey & Kelly Cruchet
- Casey & Sally Dumas
- Joel & Tamie Gehrke
- Brandon & LaCrisha Godbout
- Jeff & Beth Haugen
- Dean & Kristie Hoffmeyer
- Eric & Amanda Holland
- Derrick & Elizabeth Hollingsworth
- Cody Holt
- Adam & Justine Kapaun
- Mike & Beth Kobbervig
- Joy Kundert
- Matt & Kelsey Larson
- Justin & Elaine Meyer
- Richard & Marie Mueller
- Dale & Wendy Muchow
- Don & Fran Nelson
- Rich & Kari Pavlicek
- Kerry Radermacher
- Todd Richter
- Josh & Nicole Rudie
- Justin & Wendy Satrom
- Tim & Kerri Schneider
- Brad & Kelli Sessler
- Erin Storhoff
- Kelly & Kim Thompson
- Brian & Jami Verkuehler
- Corey & Nikki Wixo
- * 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 **Feb. 14th** 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 **Feb. 5th & 19th** at Sundance, 10:00am.

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

The quilters will meet at 9:30am **Wednesday, Feb. 7, 14, 21 & 28.** Bring an item to share for potluck lunch and join us to put quilts together, tie and sew.

Newcomers are invited to join.

MARTIN'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Soup-er Bowl
Sunday Feb. 11th
following worship
Fundraiser for
Youth Gathering



KEN PARKER
PIANO RECITAL
6PM THURSDAY
FEBRUARY 15TH



FEBRUARY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2 <i>Pastor Mark & Pastor Keith off</i> <i>Joan out</i>	3
4 9:30am Worship 10:30am Sunday School/Coffee/Service Grp.9 Meeting 1:00pm Youth Gathering Meeting 2:00pm Synod Zoom-Book of Acts Pastor Mark out 5-13	5 10:00am Widows Grp (Sundance) 4:00pm Piano Lessons	6 6:00pm Worship Planning	7 9:30am Quilters 12:30pm Lutheran Faith 4:00pm 6th Gr. Conf. 5:30pm Lutheran Faith 6:30pm 9th Gr. Conf. 7:30pm Council	8 <i>Giving Hearts Day</i> 4:00pm Piano Lessons	9 <i>Pastor Keith off</i>	10
11 9:30am Worship/Install council 10:30am Sunday School/Coffee/"Soup-er Bowl" Fundraiser	12 4:00pm Piano Lessons	13	14 <i>Ash Wednesday</i> 9:30am Quilters 12:30pm Lutheran Faith 2:00pm Rachel Circle 5:30pm Lutheran Faith 7:00pm Worship	15 4:00pm Piano Lessons 6:00pm Ken Parker Recital	16 <i>Pastor Mark & Pastor Keith off</i>	17
18 9:30am Worship 10:30am Coffee/No Sunday School 6:00pm Community Lent Meal & Worship @Crossroads	19 10:00am Widows Grp (Sundance)	20	21 9:30am Quilters 12:30pm Lutheran Faith 5:30pm Lutheran Faith 6:00pm Lent Supper 7:00pm Holden Vespers	22 4:00pm Piano Lessons	23 <i>Pastor Mark & Pastor Keith off</i>	24
25 9:30am Worship/Noisy Offering 10:30am Sunday School/Coffee 6:00pm Community Lent Meal & Worship @Goshen Moravian	26 4:00pm Piano Lessons	27 2:00pm Fold Newsletters	28 9:30am Quilters 12:30pm Lutheran Faith 5:30pm Lutheran Faith 6:00pm Lent Supper 7:00pm Holden Vespers	29 4:00pm Piano Lessons		

Dates to Remember

Feb. 11th-Council Installation

Feb. 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th-Lutheran Faith classes

Feb. 14th-Ash Wednesday Service

Mar. 17th-Kris Vanderbusch (Missionary) visiting

Mar. 24th-Palm Sunday

Mar. 31st-Easter



Giving Hearts Day

Help someone.

Give a gift now or make a donation during the 24-hour fundraising event Thursday, February 8th. Over 600 charities in North Dakota and NW Minnesota participate and benefit from the millions of dollars raised!



**Next Noisy Offering:
Sunday, February 25th
\$401.83 has been given
toward this goal so far!**



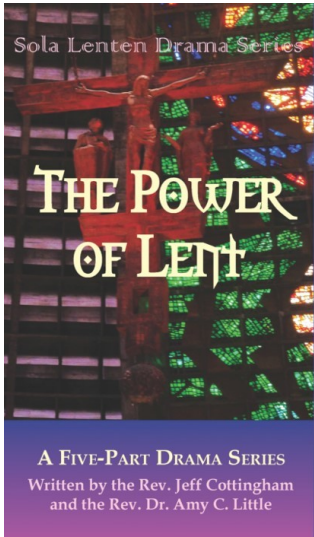
Noisy Offering Goes Toward:
\$715 ELCA Good Gifts Family Farm:
1 cow, 2 goats, 2 pigs, 12 chicks,
farming tools, seeds, and training.

**\$400 already went to ship 40
Operation Christmas Child boxes!**

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!



**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

2024 ELCA Youth Gathering New Orleans, LA
July 16-20, 2024

CREATED

TO BE MYLE
the table Young Adult Gathering

Gathering Meeting
1pm Sunday
February 4th

**Exploring
the theme:**
Free

The leaders of this year's Christian Unity Service. David Piper, Pastor Joel Russel, Pastor Mark, Pastor Keith, Father Ermer, Pastor Paul Campbell



Education News

Feb. 18th No Sunday School
Mar. 22nd Sunday School singing during Worship service

Summer Camp Opportunities!



Red Willow Bible Camp and Park River Bible Camp have their summer schedule 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.

2024 Council & Committees

Council Members

Jerome Crandall
 Todd Erickson
 Derek Flanagan
 Melissa Grommesh
 Stacy Link
 Brad Parkhouse
 Jessica Watterson

Audit Team

Kayla Anderson
 Dan Baumgarten
 Zach Prante

Endowment Team

Mary Christiansen
 Staci Holzheimer
 Thomas Roach
 Pres. of Council
 Treas. of Council
 Senior Pastor

Nominating Committee

Kristen Hackmann
 Council Members going off

Synod Assembly

Erin Baumgarten
 Wendy Mensing
 Ardyth Steele

Bethany Representatives

Amy Ulmer
 Carrie Voightman

Red Willow Ambassador

Ardene Myers

Annual Reports are available in the Information rack or digitally from the office.

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

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

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Casselton ND
Permit No. 41

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Feb. 4th

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

Feb. 11th

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

Feb. 14th Ash Wednesday

7:00pm-Worship w/Comm

Feb. 18th

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

Feb. 21st

7:00pm-Holden Vespers

Feb. 25th

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

Feb. 28th

7:00pm-Holden Vespers

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.*