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## St. Martin's 'Weekly Bread' Dec. 6-12 2020

*Where all are welcome to worship, to learn, to serve in the name of Jesus Christ.*

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### Advent/Christmas Worship Calendar

Link to join Zoom Worship ([CLICK HERE for Zoom Worship Link](#))

Meeting ID: 919 1693 6384 Passcode: 041277

Other Links:

([Click here for Facebook Link](#))

([Click here for YouTube Link](#))

- Thursday, Dec. 3 (7 PM) – Advent 1 Compline Service premiering on Facebook and YouTube
  - Sunday, Dec. 6 (9 AM) – Zoom Worship for Advent 2 (COMMUNION)
  - Thursday, Dec. 10 (7 PM) -- Advent 2 Compline Service premiering on Facebook and YouTube
  - Sunday, Dec. 13 (9 AM) – Zoom Worship for Advent 3
  - Thursday, Dec. 17 (7 PM) – Advent Compline Service premiering on Facebook and YouTube
  - Sunday, Dec. 20 (9 AM) – Zoom Worship for Advent 4
  - Thursday, Dec. 24 (7 PM) – Christmas Eve Worship premiering on Facebook and YouTube (COMMUNION)
  - Sunday, Dec. 27 (9 AM) – Zoom Worship for Christmas 1
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### All In-Person Gatherings Suspended

Dear St. Martin's members,

Due to concerns about COVID-19 in our community, as well as recent government orders, the St. Martin's church council has voted to discontinue all in-person gatherings through the end of the year. This includes in-person options for Sunday worship, Tuesday and Thursday office hours, and all team meetings, rehearsals, groups, etc. **All in-person gatherings will be suspended until at least January 15th**, at which time council will re-examine the safety of resuming limited in-person

activities.

Council and I know how hard this year has been for all of you. Although we firmly agree this is the right decision, it was not an easy one and it grieved us for those most affected. Foremost on our minds is our responsibility to model safety and what it means to care for our neighbors' needs as well as our own.

Despite our doors being locked, God's Church is never closed. Wherever we are gathered-whether it is at home with our families, online at Zoom meetings, or simply alone with the Holy Spirit that resides within us all-we are always church together. I know that this community will continue to support one another and hold each other in prayer. Please continue to call, write letters, send messages, and be present for one another in non-physical ways.

If you have questions or concerns about this decision, please feel free to reach out to me or any member of council, listed below.

Stay strong, my beloveds. Though the Advent nights seem long and gloomy, Christ is still coming and the light is in our hearts.

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Maggie and the St. Martin's church council

Council Members:

Greg Valaskey, president, gvalaskey@gmail.com, 608-798-3413  
Ryan McCulloh, vice-president, rjmculloh@uwalumni.com, (608) 712-8530  
Bruce Salvo, treasurer, bruce.salvo@outlook.com  
Bill Windels, secretary, billwindels@gmail.com, 608-215-5114  
Phil Fish, member at large, pdfish46@gmail.com, 608-279-3637  
Janet Gray, member at large, j28gray@yahoo.com, (608) 333-3128  
Pastor Maggie Andersen Peterson, pastormaggie@stmartinscp.org, 608-515-8618

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## Sunday Worship -- ZOOM!

Although the building is closed, Sunday services will continue via Zoom!

Services open every Sunday morning by 8:45, so feel free to pour yourself a cup of coffee and settle in a bit early to have a chance to catch up with everyone before the service begins. Worship begins at 9. After the worship service, we will leave the meeting open for a while so you can have an online fellowship time!

There are two ways to connect to Zoom worship.

***This connection information will NOT be published to Facebook or the church website for security.*** You are encouraged to share this login information direction with any friends or family who wish to join. The more the merrier!

**Meeting ID: 919 1693 6384**

**Pass-code: 041277**

1--**Online:** please use this method if you have a stable internet connection as well as a device with a camera and microphone. This can be a tablet, smartphone, or laptop or desktop computer. To

connect online, simply follow the link here: [CLICK HERE for Zoom Link](#)

(If you'd like to type the zoom link on your web browser, it is:

<https://zoom.us/j/91916936384?pwd=RGIFVFNSYjNBajM3eDlwSDhDZ0FJdz09>)

You may be asked for a pass-code, if so the code is 041277.

2-- **Phone:** if you do not have an internet connection, you can still participate by phone. You will not be able to see us, but you will be able to hear and speak!

To connect by phone, call +1 (312) 626-6799. If that number is busy, you can try +1 (646) 558-8656. Please be aware that your normal carrier rates for long distance calls will apply. You will be prompted to enter a **meeting ID**, that number is **919 1693 6384**. Next, you may be asked for a participant ID. Simply press # to bypass the participant ID. You will now be in the worship service!

For those who have been unable to attend the live worship services, recordings are available the next day on Facebook and YouTube.

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## Special Prayers for the Bishop's Family and others

*(From the Synod, with thanks to Rev. Naomi Garber for writing this prayer.)*

God of presence and healing. Today we come to you with many thoughts and feelings swirling around us and within us as this pandemic surges on. We especially pray for Bishop Joy's husband, Darin, who is currently in the hospital with the virus and their daughter, Julia, who has the virus and convalesces at home. We pray also for Bishop Joy as their caretaker. We hold in prayer others in our life who struggle with their health (add names of ones in your life here).

We pray for all those needing you today---

--those who are personally fighting the diagnosis of the Covid-19 virus at home, in the hospital, or in a rehab facility. Give them courage, strength, patience, and sign of your love for them.

--those who are separated from their families and friends due to the pandemic. May they know deep within their hearts you unite all of us in your love.

--those who give of themselves despite risk---nurses, technicians, facility cleaners, food service workers, shelf-stockers and check-out clerks, doctors, EMS, and so many others. We give you thanks for their selflessness. Guard each one.

--those who are alone and isolated, particularly in this season of joy and celebration. Help them to know they are never alone, you are with them always.

--those who make decisions for the good of all. Give them wisdom, creativity, courage, and serenity.

--those who mourn the loss of loved ones. May the memories, stories, tears, and laughter bring comfort and peace.

You are the God who hears our sighs and counts our tears. We are filled with thankfulness for your promise of coming to be one of us in the presence of Jesus who taught us how to live and love. We place all of our prayers before you, for you are the God of mercy and grace. In your holy name we pray, Amen.

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## St. Martin's Prayer List

Please pray for:

--Followers of God around the world as they prepare to observe the holiday season and give thanks for Christ's coming in a season of pandemic and unrest.

--A safe, quick, and equitable distribution of coronavirus vaccines, and for the health care workers, researchers, and public health officials overseeing its distribution.

--Elected officials and government workers as they transition into a new administration, that they hear the needs of the poor and underserved and work to bring justice and safety to all.

--Families who are finding ways to celebrate the Christmas season while distanced from one another, and for those who must celebrate alone, that they find joy and comfort.

--For those who are sick, alone, grieving, or suffering in any way, especially Irene Brockmann, Lucille Hoffmann, Arline Schmidt, and Gary Trappe.



## Giving Tree Stockings have arrived!

You may request one by contacting Maureen at 798-4820.

*A volunteer will safely drop off at your home and return to pick up on or before **Thurs., Dec. 17.***

Your stocking will include instructions, the first name & age of the child to personalize (or leave unembellished) and fill with age appropriate items of your choice. Some possible "fillers" are - individually wrapped candy, cookies, snacks, puzzles, magic markers, crayons, school supplies, gift cards, Dollar Store purchases, shower gels, lip balm, small toys/books, etc.

If you would prefer to make a donation towards the contents of unclaimed stockings or the purchase of an item from one of our children's wish list, purchased from Amazon, please make your check payable to St. Martin's, indicate "Giving Tree" on the memo line and mail to the church or deposit in the drop box outside the office door.

We have adopted 28 children to date, with the possibility of 8 more whose parents have until Friday, 12/4 to register.

*A heartfelt thank you to everyone who has already filled a stocking or made a financial donation to the 2020 Giving Tree.*

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## Tis the Season

Are you decorating your house for Christmas?  
Are you getting into the Christmas spirit? Let's keep the good feelings happening all month long. Be mindful of your own feelings, but also

think of someone else during this time leading up to the holidays. With most of us staying home and not even seeing family, this time of year could be overwhelming; so, for this week, here are a few suggestions to brighten your day and someone else's.

- Send a Christmas card to someone who is NOT on your mailing list.
- Do a "good" deed.
- Give a gift to someone you don't know.

Certainly this year, there are numerous children and adults who could use some help. Reach out to someone.

- Make a donation of food or cash to a food pantry.
- Sing a Christmas song; and if you're outside, sing it loud...doesn't make any difference if you can carry a tune or not. Let your joy show.
- Indulge in a "guilty pleasure."
- Just rest and relax!!

There you have it something to do this week as we anticipate the coming holiday. Have an idea for next week? Let me know ([loisweiland@gmail.com](mailto:loisweiland@gmail.com)).

And if you have not returned your Faith Promise card, it's still not too late. I'll always welcome them, but I would like to let the Finance Team know our totals early next week. You can just send me an email with your Faith Promise ([loisweiland@gmail.com](mailto:loisweiland@gmail.com)). Make my day!

And as always, wash your hands, keep your distance, and wear a mask. Do your part to help get us over the hump.

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Beginning December 1st  
Each evening, read 1 chapter of  
The Book of Luke in the Bible.

There are 24 chapters.  
On Christmas Eve, you will have  
read the whole account of  
Jesus's life and wake up on  
Christmas Morning knowing  
Who and Why we  
Celebrate Christmas.

Kelly's  
Treehouse



### **Feed Our Children**

Because schools are currently teaching remotely this school year the Feed Our Children program will be done differently. The Churches that comprise the Weekend Food Program, or what we at St.

Martin's call 'Feed Our Children', will include both middle schools and the high school.

The bags to be packed will be divided between the Churches. Approximately 50-60 bags will be packed by St. Martin's each week. The bags are requested by families and delivered by a school bus at the student's bus stop, along with the school district's breakfast and lunch program.

We are looking for volunteers to help pack. It will be done on Wednesdays. Due to Covid19 we prefer that families or people in a "Covid Bubble" pack the bags.

If you can help please contact Doris Fish to reserve a Wednesday to pack. Her number is 608-279-5418.

*Thank you!*

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## Legacy Endowment Fund

Hello Everyone -

There have been a couple of members from our congregation who have recently talked to me about supporting the church through gifting that can not only benefit the church in these difficult times, but can also be of value to them in their tax planning.

We have offered workshops on how we could build up a Legacy Endowment Fund in this way and there are multiple assets that can be used with the Legacy Fund. Whether we are talking about cash or just about any kind of property. The ELCA Foundation that we work with will turn the non-cash assets into cash and distribute back to our Legacy Fund.

Remember that the Legacy Fund generates interest each year and it is only the interest that is used to fund causes that help the needy, especially in our community, and help spread the word of God. The principal you provide will be there forever generating yearly interest to distribute. But you may actually want all of your money used up on an area of interest and are not concerned about a Legacy.

There are also opportunities to do that with stocks and bonds for those specific purposes in the church. You can donate them to the church and St. Martins can use the ELCA Foundation to turn them into cash and distribute that cash back to St. Martins for any cause you designate. For example, a stock could be used to help the church pay off a mortgage or boost the budget and save you from paying capital gains taxes.

You can go to the following website and get further information on how the ELCA Foundation can help you accomplish your goals ([Click here for ELCA Foundation Link](#))

Our church could certainly use a boost in general, but especially during this covid-19 time.

Van Valaskey  
Legacy Endowment Fund Board Chairperson

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**SEND US YOUR PICTURES!!!!**

Help us make this season brighter by sending us your photos! We are looking for pictures of your family's nativity set to be shared during our Sunday morning services throughout the Advent/Christmas season. We are also looking for pictures (or better yet videos if you feel tech savvy) of you and your family lighting candles at home to share during our closing Silent Night hymn for our Christmas Eve service.

Please send your pictures/videos to Pr. Maggie via email or text at [pastormaggie@stmartinscp.org](mailto:pastormaggie@stmartinscp.org) or 608-515-8618.

## ADVENT COMPLINE DEVOTIONS

Join Pastor Maggie for a modern spin on a traditional Compline service (a prayer service held before bed time) at 7 PM on Thursdays during Advent. Each service will include music, prayer, and reflection on scriptures and what it means to hold onto dreams during times of crisis. Videos will be premiering on Facebook and YouTube.

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### Keep in touch!

*Do you have a submission for the Weekly Bread?*

Want to let people know what is going on -- church team, event, something else?

*If yes, please submit by 2pm the Wed. before publication for consideration.*

*Thank you!*

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### Health Information and Reminders ...

Information about COVID can be found on the following web sites:

- **CDC** (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) web site: [CDC - COVID-19 Info](#)
- **World Health Organization** ('WHO'): [WHO COVID-19 Info Page](#)
- **Johns Hopkins 'Coronavirus Resource Center'** has a lot of up-to-date information [Click here for Johns Hopkins Link](#) (<https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/>)
- If you have **questions about Dane County Health orders** check out the following link: [Public Health Dane County](#)
- Want to **talk to someone at the Dane County health office**? They can be reached at 608-266-4821

*Please Remember: If you feel unwell (or think you might be contagious) or in doubt we encourage you to consult with your medical provider and stay home. Wash your hands frequently ... Use hand sanitizer frequently ... Avoid touching your face ... Sneeze and cough into a tissue or your elbow ... Use a face cover if going out in public ... Avoid crowds and standing near others.*

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### Ways to continue Giving

*Here are some ways you can continue your support ....*

- Try the old tried and true method -*snail mail!* That's right, mail your check in! (2427 Church St., Cross Plains, 53528)
- Drop off your contribution by using the locked box by the office door. No need to come in contact with anyone and it gets you out of the house for a few minutes. Someone will check this box daily.
- Contact your bank and ask them to help you with online banking. Most banks will send out a check as you direct them to. Most will even pay for the stamp!
- Try Give Plus. Yes, there's an App for that and it's FREE. Easy to use prompts help you get set up easily, quickly. There's no fee to you and a small fee to the church.
- Paypal -- We have PayPal set up on our website. You do not have to have PayPal account of your own.
- Direct Deposit. Many of you already use this method. If you wish to set this up, contact our bookkeeper, Lois Weiland, by calling 608-220-3123.

*Questions? Call Lois!*

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## Prayer List

If you would like to add a name to the prayer list, please call/email Pastor Maggie (pastormaggie@stmartinscp.org) or the office manager (om@stmartinscp.org). Names will stay on the list for six weeks unless otherwise indicated by the prayer requester. Prayer requesters are responsible for making sure their loved ones are placed and remain on the list. *Thank you for your help in praying for those in need!*

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## Synod Newsletter '*What Matters*'

Stay connected to synod happenings, news, & events! To receive copies of the electronic newsletter '*What Matters*', email Assistant to the Bishop for Media, Communications & Leadership Development, Deacon Vicki Hanrahan (vickih@scsw-elca.org) and asked to be added ... *a great way to find out what is happening in the synod!*

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## Birthdays

### **DEC. Anniversaries**

- 4--Karen & Oscar Seibel
- 8--Brian & Janet Klock
- 18--Shawn & Debbie McCue

### **DEC. Birthdays**

- 7--Richard Weiland, Nolan Valaskey
- 8--Debra Goplin
- 11--Mark Valaskey, Matt Wildman
- 12--Lois Weiland
- 15--Greg Hinz
- 16--Orville Kerl, Luke Roenneburg

19--Diana Postle, Jon Roll  
20--Penny Eveland, Ella Rogers  
21--Al Nelson  
23--Carole Radtke  
24--Horst Gierke  
25--Kyla Schoenwetter  
30--Kirsten Rhude

*Know of an addition? Correction? Please let the office know (om@stmartinscp.org). Thank you!*

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## Pastoral Care During COVID-19

During this time, all in-person visits are suspended, save for emergency situations. But that doesn't mean that we aren't here to provide support! Pastor Maggie is available for private phone calls or Zoom meetings.

If you would like to make an appointment, please call/text her cell at 608-515-8618 or send her an email at PastorMaggie@stmartinscp.org.

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## Church Office Hours and Email Addresses

*Office hours:* Suspended until at least mid-January, 2021

To send inquires, please use these emails:

**OFFICE Email:** om@stmartinscp.org

**Property Management Team** (building & grounds maintenance requests / issues):

Property@stmartinscp.org

-- Todd (building manager) can be reached at 444-6765.

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**Stay Informed!** When the church is open, Monthly Church Council Minutes and Financial Reports can be found in the narthex (on the bulletin board) for your review. Please review, make copies as you would like (but please put the original copies back).

**Church Calendar** Wondering about meetings (if happening, when, where), if a room is available (when COVID restrictions are lifted), etc.? *Check the church calendar on the website—* www.stmartinscp.org. Events are updated on a regular basis, as the office is notified. *Have a question?* Send a note to the office (om@stmartinscp.org) or call 798-2777 (email contact is preferred).

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## Worship Participants

*Via Zoom!*

Presiding Pastor -- Pastor Maggie  
Musician -- Kristin Warner  
Video Team -- Geoff Peterson

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*Pastor Maggie is available!* If you would like to talk to her or make an appointment, please call / text her cell at (608) 515-8618 or send her an email at [PastorMaggie@stmartinscp.org](mailto:PastorMaggie@stmartinscp.org).

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