



St. Martin's 'Weekly Bread' June 7-13 2020

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

JUNE LETTER FROM PASTOR MAGGIE

My dear beloved siblings in Christ,

My heart is aching. I know many of you feel the same. It seems lately every day I wake up to a new tragedy, each more horrifying than the last. That we have to face these challenges alone in our separate homes makes it all the more difficult to endure right now. My prayers are filled with lament.

However, as extraordinary as these circumstances may seem to us right now, we must remember that many of our neighbors have lived their whole lives in a similar state of fear and pain. What might feel to us to be surreal and previously unimaginable, has long been the everyday reality for people of color. Our Black siblings in America have been grieving for years. They have carried generations of suffering and injustice inflicted on them by our systems of government, law enforcement, education, commerce, healthcare and, yes, even our churches. For those of you like me who were born into privilege, born with the so-called "right" color of skin that makes us seem trustworthy, safe, kind, and educated in a way that our black siblings will never experience, we have inherited internalized prejudice which has allowed us to remain blissfully ignorant of the struggles people of color have to endure just to survive. We cannot afford to live in ignorance anymore. To continue to be silent about the reality of racism is a sin.

God created us to live in harmony with each other and with creation. God wants us to love all our siblings, just as God loves all life. But far too often, our selfishness and need for validation get in the way of seeing strangers the way God sees us. This is the heart of the gospel message, to care for each person as if they were the most beloved. All lives matter to God, but until we learn to see the most undeserved in our community as truly beloved, learn that Black Lives Matter, we will never achieve a reality where all lives matter to humans. Just as Jesus told his disciples that the loving shepherd must go out of his way to protect the one endangered sheep, we too must put aside our own reservations to ensure the safety of the most endangered among us.

I pray that out of this time of communal lament, we can grow in our compassion for one another. Perhaps we can use this time of uncertainty to find a way to take action in a meaningful way to strengthen the causes of our neighbors. We are now in a position where we have little else to do but listen and learn from those who live around us. At St. Martin's we have a real gift for reaching out to serve our local community, but now is the time to recognize the struggles taking place in our larger community and the ways that we too are a part of larger unjust system, even if the immediate effects of racism aren't readily apparent in our village streets. Now is the time to be still and pay attention. Hear what we didn't hear before, see what we didn't see before. Now is the time to consider how we ourselves have benefited from systemic racism and how we have been complicit in allowing those systems to continue. As our world gradually begins to reopen, and the longstanding brokenness of our world continues to become more apparent, perhaps we can use this as an opportunity to build something new together.

As always, I thank you for your constant support and prayers. Your faith keeps me strong and I rejoice daily that we are church together.

Peace in Christ,
Pastor Maggie

REOPENING PLANS

Last Sunday, council held an online meeting with the congregation to discuss our plans for resuming in-person worship. We have decided not to reopen our sanctuary until the county health department has determined that we are in Phase Two of the Forward Dane plan. You can learn more about the Forward Dane plan ([CLICK HERE for Foreward Dane Plan](https://publichealthmdc.com/coronavirus/forward-dane)) (<https://publichealthmdc.com/coronavirus/forward-dane>).

Furthermore, regardless of when we move into Phase Two, we will not be reopening until July 5th at the earliest to give our worship team ample time to prepare. Both of these criteria, moving into Phase Two and no earlier than July 5th, must be met before we will resume in-person worship.

When we are able to return to worshipping in person, we will be implementing additional preventative measures. We will be holding multiple services to limit the number of people gathered, all worshipers will be required to wear masks, the pews will be marked to indicate safe distancing, we will not have any congregational singing, we will not be using physical contact or passing the offering plate, and there will be no fellowship time before or after the service. These measures are in accordance with the suggestions from the Wisconsin Council of Churches and the ELCA.

Pastor Maggie and the rest of council recognize that these measures may seem uncomfortable or even disconcerting, and we lament with you that this measures are now necessary. However, we also believe that this is what we must do to protect our community and worship in a way that will keep all of us safe. Perhaps out of this adaptive challenge we might even learn something new!

We will continue to keep you informed as decisions are made about reopening for worship. In the meantime, please contact Pastor Maggie at pastormaggie@stmartinssp.org or 608-515-8618 with questions or concerns.

WORSHIP Sunday JUNE 7th

Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, the presiding bishop of the ELCA, has provided a sermon for all congregations to use for Trinity Sunday this weekend, June 7th. This sermon and corresponding worship materials were provided to give all pastors an opportunity to rest from the constant demands of preaching in these difficult times.

Instead of our usual live service, this Sunday's service will be pre-recorded using the materials provided by Bishop Eaton and her office. The video will be available on Facebook as usual.

ELCA Bishops Respond to Recent Murders of Black Americans

(The following was posted in last week's Synod newsletter.)

Dear Partners in Ministry,

In these past days I have been part of conversations among bishops leading to this attached statement (below), signed by every one of the ELCA's Conference of Bishops. While the week's killing in Minneapolis is the most recent, it is a reminder of many others ... and a reminder that we continue to be the inheritors of a 400-year legacy of conflicted race relations, and the conscious and unconscious racial attitudes and behaviors that are part of this culture. As God's people, we are called to stand with all who are marginalized, and called to confess that we have not always done so. And, finally, we are called to work for the changes in individual, cultural, and institutional patterns of behavior that perpetuate racism and privilege that plague us. May God's spirit be with us in that work.

Peter Rogness
Bishop
South-Central Synod of Wisconsin
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
peterr@scsw-elca.org

What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? (Micah 6:8).

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) reaffirms its commitment to combating racism and white supremacy following the recent murders of Black Americans. Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, Dreasjon (Sean) Reed, and George Floyd were our neighbors. Ahmaud Arbery was chased down, shot and killed by a retired police officer and his son while jogging in Brunswick, Ga. (Feb. 23, 2020). Breonna Taylor, a 26-year-old emergency medical technician, was shot eight times by Louisville Metro Police Department officers who entered her apartment while serving a "no-knock warrant" (March 13, 2020). Dreasjon (Sean) Reed, a 21-year-old from Indianapolis died after being shot at least eight times by an Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department officer (May 6, 2020). George Floyd was killed by police in Minneapolis while begging for his life, a block away from Calvary Lutheran, an ELCA congregation (May 25, 2020). As the Conference of Bishops, we condemn the white supremacy that has led to the deaths of so many unarmed Black, Indigenous, and Persons of Color in our country. We grieve with, pray for and stand in solidarity with the families and friends of all whose loved ones have been and continue to be victims of injustices run amok, racist violence and the insidious venom of white supremacy.

The ELCA's social policy resolution, "Condemnation of White Supremacy and Racist Rhetoric," adopted by the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, states: "As persons called to love one another as God has loved us, we therefore proclaim our commitment to speak with one voice against racism and white supremacy. We stand with those who are targets of racist ideologies and actions." As church, together we must work to condemn white supremacy in all forms and recommit ourselves to confront and exorcize the sins of injustice, racism and white supremacy in church and society and within ourselves as individuals and households.

On May 21, the ELCA Southeastern Synod hosted a webinar: "Becoming the Body of Christ – Condemning White Supremacy" in response to the killing of Ahmaud Arbery. This is one of many strategic opportunities happening across this church to address white supremacy and racist rhetoric. On June 17, we will gather again as church to commemorate the Mother Emanuel 9 and to repent of racism and white supremacy. An online ELCA prayer service, including leaders from across the church and Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton as preacher, is being planned for June 17, 2020, marking the fifth anniversary of the martyrdom of the Emanuel 9. We encourage congregations to reaffirm their commitment to repenting of the sins of racism and dismantling white supremacy that continue to plague this church by marking this day of penitence with study and prayer leading to action.

<https://www.elca.org/emanuelnine>

Bread & Wine

What does Communion look like at your home?

(Photo credit - Bill Windels)



SUMMER BIBLE STUDY

Bible study is resuming this week! Beginning this weekend, our Sunday morning class will be studying the Gospel of John, while our Tuesday evening class will be studying the Book of Daniel. All are welcome to join us in our discussion, so please invite your friends! Until further notice, we will continue to meet online via Zoom. Connection information is below:

--Sundays (10:30 AM). ([CLICK here for SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY ZOOM link](#))

Password "john".

You can also call in at +1 (312) 626 6799, meeting ID # 946 4619 2594.

--Tuesdays (7 PM). ([CLICK here for TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY ZOOM link](#))

Password "daniel".

You can also call in at +1 (312) 626 6799, meeting ID # 996 0228 6175.

Prayer List

Please pray for:

--Those who promote racial justice, that their voices be heard and their cause amplified without resorting to destructive means of securing justice;

-- Those who have lost their homes or livelihoods due to neighborhood riots, that peace be restored, that blame not be misdirected at those who protest with nonviolence, and that opportunists who seek to diminish the cause of peaceful protestors be suppressed;

--The lives and loved ones of Ahmed Aubrey, Breonna Taylor, George Floyd, Tony McDade, and all other people of color who have been killed at the hands of police violence, that their deaths will not be forgotten and that God's justice for them will prevail;

-- All law enforcement agencies, that they be safe as they continue their work of protecting all people, including those marching for justice, that they be guided by love and compassion for those they serve and not use their power to promote violence or prejudice, that they continue to seek ways to protect their communities honorably and peacefully;

--For an end to the COVID-19 global pandemic, especially all medical teams and researchers who are still at work fighting the virus and finding a vaccine, that lifesaving information not be distorted for political means, and for recent gatherings and reopenings to not give way to a resurgence of outbreaks;

--Those who have passed away, especially Bobby Ragan and his loved ones;

--Those who are ill, hospitalized, or recovering, especially Norm Esser, Brian Graedel, Melissa Graedel, Jeannie Hering-Schumann, Elda Meier, Tom Meier, Bob Windels, Eric and Sara;

--Those who are homebound, especially Irene Brockmann, Shirley Coulson, Lucille Hoffmann, Arline Schmidt, and Gary Trappe.

Missions Team Receives Grant

The Missions Team is pleased to announce we have applied for and received a synod grant in the amount of \$1,500 from LUAD.

The grant will fund a temporary mini drive through food pantry that would run bi-monthly through the summer. The Team is currently meeting to solidify specifics. Look for future updates and volunteer opportunities in the Weekly Bread. For more information please contact Maureen (msberghoefer@tds.net).

Plant A Row in *your* garden!

Please consider reserving some space in your home garden for produce that will be given to those who visit the St. Martin's Mini Food Pantry this summer. (Please contact Maureen if you have any questions.)

Weekly Happenings at St. Martin's!

Here is a rundown of what to look forward to in the next few weeks:

Sunday morning worship live on Facebook (9am). Videos will be posted on YouTube for later viewing.

Sunday Bible study (10:30am).

Sunday evening Youth Group (7pm) on Zoom (Contact Lars to join)

Tuesday Bible study (7pm)

Wednesday afternoon Qigong (2pm) with Sandy Salvo on Zoom. Contact Sandy at sandy@centered-connections.com for more information (and see note, below).

Wednesday night devotional (7pm) live on Facebook.

Every day at 1 PM join us in Spirit for prayer. *This is not an online event, just take a moment wherever you are, whatever you are doing, to join with the St. Martin's community in prayer.*

Stay tuned for more updates, new information on upcoming readings!

This too shall pass, and when it does we shall celebrate the glory of the resurrection with a renewed understanding of what it means to have new life in Christ who left the tomb. In the meantime, we are still God's people and we still here for each other.

Some Youth & Family Ministry Reminders

Next Step Ministry is offering a potential local mission opportunity for high school-aged youth groups. The details of this proposal will be clarified soon. Please contact me via email if there are any questions involving this.

During these times of uncertainty remember that the power of connection and prayer is still very strong during all of this!

A couple of on-going reminders

-- Sugar Creek notified congregations that their summer camp season will now be shortened and will begin on Sunday, July 12th. Our YFM team had agreed on two possible weeks for our St. Martin's youth to attend, and both of them would still be available, being the weeks of July 19th-24th & August 2nd-7th. *If you are still interested, please be sure to visit their website and sign up. Have them bring a friend!*

-- High schoolers have been meeting weekly on Sunday evenings for Zoom sessions which have included general conversation, game nights, and devotional conversations. We are currently working to see if there are any local mission opportunities that our students can participate in.

I want to wish everyone the safest wishes, and know that each of you are called by name, and that you are His, even during times of chaos.

God's Peace,
Lars Haskins
Youth and Family Ministry Coordinator

Keep in touch with Congregation!

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 Wednesday before publication for consideration. *We are trying to keep everyone informed but need updates to do that!*

Thank you!



Qigong

The last Qigong practice was this past Wednesday.

Sandy will be transitioning to different hours for the summer, online and at Marshall Park, with a suggested fee for those who are able.

Sandy is certified through the Institute of Integral Qigong and Tai Chi and teaching Qigong and Tai Chi

Easy classes and workshops.

For more details, Sandy can be reached at sandy@centered-connections.com

Qigong ... Gentle movement that will stimulate the immune system and help relieve anxiety during these uncertain times, done standing or seated and requires no equipment or special skill. All ages can enjoy and benefit!

Butternut Squash Garden

Garden Needs -

Phase Two: Maintain the garden. Excessive weeding is unnecessary due to the nature of the crop, but a little hoeing around the plants and watering will be needed.

Phase Three: Harvest the crop in early Fall and transport to the MOM and Heights Unlimited Food Pantries. *(Social distancing will be observed for the safety of all volunteers.)*

If you would like to help or have questions, please contact Maureen msberghoefer@tds.net or 608 798-4820. *"Inch by inch, row by row, gonna make this garden grow."*

(Watch for other announcements in the coming weeks about a possible mini food pantry, another about a Feed Our Children food pick-up location and also one about delivery of Infant Care Kits to Minneapolis. When details are worked out information will be posted.)

Watch live Sunday Worship Services on Facebook!

If you aren't able to make the live worship on Facebook (Sunday mornings, 9am), feel free to watch the videos on YouTube (posted after service) or by following the links on our church website.

For Facebook: ([click here for Facebook live link](#))

Youtube:(videos posted after live event): ([click here for YouTube](#))

Links are also available on the church website: Stmartinscp.org ([Click here](#))

Flu Prevention

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.

Stay home if you think you might be sick.

When in doubt consult with a healthcare professional.

As always, if you feel unwell or think you might be contagious, we encourage you to stay home.

Health Links:

More information can be found on the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) web site: [CDC - COVID-19 Info](#)

or

World Health Organization ('WHO'): [WHO COVID-19 Info Page](#)

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!

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!*

Lower Level Doors to remain locked

As previously announced, please note all lower level doors will remain locked at all times, including before and during Sunday Services (once they resume). To enter the building please do so through the main level doors. *If you have a question please talk to a council member.*

Also please remember, when school resumes the **lower level doorbell** is *only* for use by *Little Red staff and families of Little Red students*. (They don't have staff to answer if you ring.) If you need to enter the building please use the upper level doors. *Thank you everyone for your understanding!*

Stay up-to-date with 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!*

Birthdays & Anniversaries

JUNE

Anniversaries

6/14 Ian & Mindy Eisele
6/21 Pastor Maggie & Geoff
6/23 Alan & Patty Harper
6/24 Phil & Doris Fish

Birthdays

6/9 Debra Meister
6/12 Herb Niebuhr
6/14 Kathleen Graedel
6/17 Lisa Voss, Hilary Kirikov
6/18 Remington Lockwood
6/19 Jason Klock
6/20 Jaelyn Green
6/21 Nicole McCue
6/24 Joan Goldben
6/25 Ben Calvin, Derek Calvin, Lauren Calvin
6/27 Veronica Kurr
6/28 Cole Klock

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

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@smartinscp.org.

Church Office Hours & Email Addresses

Office hours:

Please call ahead (to make sure someone is there) if you want to stop by.

OFFICE Phone: (608) 798-2777

OFFICE Email: om@smartinscp.org

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

Property@smartinscp.org

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

Stay Informed! Monthly Church Council Minutes and Financial Reports can be found in the narthex (on the bulletin board), when the church is open, 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.smartinscp.org. Events are updated on a regular basis. *Questions?* Send a note to the office (om@smartinscp.org) or call 798-2777.

CHURCH CALENDAR

All events are subject to change, especially with COVID-19 Virus restrictions. Calendar is also available on the church web site (www.stmartinscp.org)

Sunday, June 7, 2020

-- 9:00a -- Sunday Worship. Message will be from Bishop Eaton, can view on Facebook as usual.

_ Check website for links: www.stmartinscp.org

-- 10:30am -- On-Line (Zoom) Coffee with Council

-- 5:30p -- Narcotics Anonymous (library)

Mon., June 8 -- Open Schedule

Tues., June 9

-- Church Council

Wed., June 10 -- Open Schedule

Thur., June 11

-- 6:30pm -- AA Meeting (library)

Friday, June 12 -- Open Schedule

Saturday, June 13

-- 9:15a -- Overeaters Anonymous (lower level)

Have an update? Please send a note to the office (om@stmartinscp.org)

Worship Participants

On-Line! Check church website for links: www.stmartinscp.org

Presiding Pastor -- Pastor Maggie

Video Team -- Geoff Peterson

Remember - *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.

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