

# ST. MARTIN LUTHERAN CHURCH

## FEBRUARY 2024

Grafting Generations Together - Bearing Abundantly



## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

<u>SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4<sup>TH</sup>:</u>	<u>8:00AM &amp; 10:30AM</u>
<u>SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11<sup>TH</sup>:</u>	<u>8:00AM &amp; 10:30AM</u>
<u>WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14<sup>TH</sup>:</u>	<u>7:00 PM ASH WEDNESDAY</u>
<u>SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18<sup>TH</sup>:</u>	<u>8:00AM &amp; 10:30AM</u>
<u>SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25<sup>TH</sup>:</u>	<u>8:00AM &amp; 10:30AM</u>

### **ST. MARTIN LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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# Pastor Mark's Pen

“Jesus charged them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; but to wear sandals and not put on two tunics.” Mark 6:8

Some years ago, I recall a news story asking the question; “What was the Greatest invention of modern history (that is since the French and American Revolutions)? Some argued that it was the cotton gin, others, the steam locomotive, and many others the airplane. Yet the greatest was the light bulb, for it allowed production to go on and on late into the night and thereby production increased 100-fold. The light bulb revolutionized the modern world like no other innovation has until, I surmise, the internet came along. I will still put my money on the light bulb. Now you may ask yourself what a light bulb has to do with the 6th chapter of Mark’s gospel account? Forty years ago, while assigned to a special warfare unit, I attended the vaunted S.E.R.E. training in the high desert of southern California. There we were taught the essentials of survival, evasion, resistance and escape and we were told not to bring anything. Three days of classroom lectures and presentations and we were off to the most challenging training I ever participated. There in the desert setting, we were taught the practical survival techniques of finding shelter, food, and friends. The most important learning I took away from that experience was the second to last night out there in the chilly desert. Our mission was to navigate our way between lanterns 4 or 5 hundred yards apart, to do it quietly, in the dark with no other light than those two lanterns to mark the boundaries and a staff, that we made from a pile tree limbs and used by previous classes. That previous afternoon one of the senior instructors showed us how to select, fashion and use our staff as a light unto our path, yes, a light. To this day I still am amazed at that learning, even preached it a time or two. For you see Christians around the globe see Jesus and the cross of crucifixion as a light unto our paths. Holding onto that staff we felt our way over the varied terrain, through thick underbrush and sometimes to steady our shaky stance. So too, is the staff, as the only item given to the disciples as they go out into their respective missions from Mark’s Gospel. They

# February Worship Duties

	4 <sup>th</sup>	11 <sup>th</sup>	18 <sup>th</sup>	25 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Worship Assts. 10:30</b>	Debby Eagleburger	Debby Eagleburger	Debby Eagleburger	Debby Eagleburger
<b>Communion Assts. 8:00</b>	Karen Harris	Billie Easterberg	Randy Schroeder	Billie Easterberg
<b>Communion Assts. 10:30</b>	Karen Yunghans	Amy Macpherson	Denise Archibald	Karen Yunghans
<b>Music: 8:00</b>	Karen Harris	Billie Easterberg	Barbara Lehman	Joyce McMillen
<b>Music: 10:30</b>	Connie Hansen	Alex Macpherson	Denise Archibald	Karen Poggemeyer
<b>Lector 8:00am</b>	Karen Harris	Billie Easterberg	Randy Schroeder	Billie Easterberg
<b>Lector 10:30am</b>	Bob Yunghans	Amy Macpherson	Susie McCracken	Kathy Edmonds
<b>Acolyte 10:30</b>	Karen Yunghans	Karen Yunghans	Denise Archibald	Denise Archibald
<b>Greeter/Usher 10:30</b>	Chris Hansen	David Knetter	Bill Strobel	Ellis Edmonds
<b>Treats 8:00am</b>	Karen Harris	Billie Easterberg	Barbara Lehman	Cheryl Schroeder
<b>Treats 10:30am</b>	Connie Hansen	Amy Macpherson	Martha Shuler	Kathy Edmonds
<b>Altar Care</b>	Connie Hansen	Alex & Amy Macpherson	Karen Logan	Joyce McMillen Karen Poggemeyer

## Communion Bread Baker: Martha Shuler

If you are unable to perform a weekly duty, please make arrangements for a replacement. **Thank you!** If you'd like to volunteer for one of the available spots, please contact Connie Hansen



will return with grand stories of great deeds and accomplishments. These are being accomplished even today in our world and the missions of the church, although, the mission field still looks and feels the same, shaky, uneven, thick with many obstacles. We are just as well equipped with God's word as our staff and a light unto our path.

I hope to see or hear about you in church.



## Invitation to Worship Committee

"In the pain and joy beholding how, your grace is still unfolding, give us all your vision, God of love".

"Healer of Our Every Ill" Evangelical Lutheran Worship, hymn #612

The Lutheran church is one of several that are categorized as liturgical, we along with several other Christian denominations follow a yearly Calander of 1 or 3 years of specific readings from the Old and New Testaments. Each of the 3 years corresponds with a specific gospel (Matthew, Mark and Luke) The Gospel of John is sprinkled in with each of the others. The year is further divided into several seasons; Christmas and Easter are two prime examples, as are Ordinary, Epiphany, Advent, and Lent too. These seasons are also delineated by tone, theme, and color. The tone could indicate a season of lament or anticipation such as are expressed in Lent and Advent. Christmas, Easter, and Pentecost express great joy! The themes always convey God's promise toward His people of His creation, through the work accomplished by His son, Jesus. Each season then is most closely associated with a color; white being the primary color of Easter, Christmas, and our current season of

Epiphany (January 7 until Ash Wednesday). My personal favorite season is Lent, as it is the season when I first heard a call to ordained ministry, an Epiphany to be sure but a season of great pain, loneliness, and brokenness. The hymn by Marty Hougén; Healer of Our Every Ill, expresses the hope of every broken, lonely, and pain-stricken person. This expression of hope is encapsulated in the second verse of this 4-verse hymn; “In the pain and joy beholding how, your grace is still unfolding, give us all your vision, God of love.” The color of the season of Lent is purple, and its tone is one of lament or renewal, while the white of Epiphany evokes promise, light and awakening. Recently while officiating at a graveside of a Vietnam Veteran’s internment at the Leavenworth National Cemetery, I was awestruck by the sheer beauty of that sacred ground cloaked under a pristine layer of snow, the marble headstones subtly visible, testaments of promise. A baptismal garment of promise, row upon row for as far as our snow blinded eyes could see.

The month of January is always one of hope expressed by a New Year’s promise. Have you made one? Kept at it or frustrated by the challenge of discipline You are not alone; most have given up by the publishing of this article. I gave up making such promises decades ago. It is easier to take my life one at a time, promising only to be the best today. The almost 4 decades since my epiphany have shown me to still be receiving the grace of God still unfolding before my very eyes, no longer blinded by the fears, anxieties, or troubles of this world. At the writing of this article, I want to encourage you, my reader, to consider what lies just below the surface of these challenges and see the great joy of such a wonderful expression of love by our Creator, who beckons each of us to wholeness and not simply another broken promise. I invite you to consider being a disciple of the Worship Planning Committee. We meet once a month to plan worship, learn about how worship works and discuss themes.

## February Celebrations

### Birthdays

01.03	Cody Kalous	02.19	Leah Macpherson
02.04	Adria Edmonds Hunter	02.21	Sandy Studyvin
02.08	Kim Eberth		Robert Studyvin, Jr.
02.09	Nick Fodness		Ryan Eberth
02.10	Maddie Peterson	02.22	LeAnn DeVries
02.12	Hannah Billen	02.23	Nelson Sousa
02.15	Clark Alexander Rowlison	02.25	Connie Hansen
02.16	Steve Knetter	02.28	Karen Logan

### Baptisms

02.01	Alina Cawthon	02.28	Regina Yunghans Kraus
02.08	Chris Hansen		Monte Ash
02.28	Karen Yunghans		Melodie Ash Yuhn

### Wedding Anniversaries

02.12	David & Julie Knetter
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# Lent, Holy Week, & Easter 2024

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday falls on **February 14<sup>th</sup>**. We will have an Ash Wednesday Worship service at **7:00pm**, which will include the imposition of ashes.



Lent continues with five Lenten Midweek events. They will be on Wednesday February 21<sup>st</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>, March 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, and 20<sup>th</sup>.

**A light supper will be provided at 6:00pm, followed by faithful conversation.**

If you are interested in *providing the light supper* (soup, sandwiches, casserole, etc.), mark your name(s) on the *sign-up sheet* will be in the narthex.

After the forty days of Lent, **Holy Week** begins with *Palm Sunday*, and continues with services for *Maundy Thursday*, *Good Friday*, and *Easter Vigil*, and culminates in joyous *Easter Sunday* services.

Prayerfully consider attending as many worship services as you are able.



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR...

### CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS IN 2024:

**APRIL 28**  
**OCTOBER 27**



\*There will be an all-in-one service at 9:30 am both Sundays

\*Council discussed whether to have a potluck or go to Twisters in Bonner and let them do the cooking. Please let someone on the council know your preference.

## 2024 SYNOD ASSEMBLY

**June 6-8** at the Embassy Suites in Olathe

\*\*St. Martin needs two representatives (male and female) volunteers to attend

(This will be discussed at the April 28 meeting)

# Message from Nelson Sousa

Dear Saint Martin Church,

I hope this letter finds you all well. I'm writing to inform you of my decision to resign as council president. Firstly, I want to express my gratitude and appreciation for the experiences and support I have received during my time as a member of Saint Martin.

The friendship my family and I have formed with the spiritual growth I have experienced, and the memories created will always hold a special place in our hearts. I am truly grateful for the opportunities to serve and be part of this loving church.

While it is difficult for me to leave, I believe it is the right time for me to explore different paths for my children's spiritual journey. Although our paths diverge, I will always cherish the values and teachings I have learned at Saint Martin.

I wanted to offer my assistance during this transitional process and I'm more than willing to support a smooth transition. Once again, thank you for your guidance, teaching, and warmth.

I sincerely appreciate everything this church has offered my family and myself. I wish the congregation continued growth and success in the future!

Your brother in Christ.

-Nelson Sousa



## A MESSAGE FROM YOUR ACTING PRESIDENT

As most of you know by now, the Sousa family has decided to leave our congregation since their son, Mark, is now attending Maranatha Christian Academy. They feel Mark needs to belong to a youth group which St. Martin cannot provide. Most families who attend this school regularly worship at Mill Valley Christian church, so we wish them well in their next church endeavor.

At our last council meeting, Nelson turned in his resignation as president. Since I was voted in as vice president, I will now be your acting president until the congregation can vote on a new president April 28. I would like to encourage someone in the congregation to step up and finish Nelson's two-year term as I am very comfortable just being your vice president.

Joyce McMillen

From our Treasurer

Congregation Members:

It will be a couple of months before our next Congregation Meeting, and I want to share our financial information with you for year-end 2023. (See the chart on facing page) The chart shows our income and expenditures. We spent \$4,732.19 more than we received in offerings. There was not a single major event that caused this; it was just routine business throughout the year.

This is not a "pitch" that everyone needs to give more offerings. I feel that all of us give what we can afford and should a special need arise, I will advise all members. As the Council requested, I put aside money each month into the Capital Improvement Fund. Right now, that account has over \$6000. If there is a need for major furnace or AC maintenance, I will use money from here. The Building Fund has almost \$7,000 in it. This money is available for major repairs of our church. Financially, we are sound and will continue to do business as we have in the past.

If you have any questions about this report, please contact me directly.

Barbara Lehman

## Itemized Categories - 2023

1/1/2023 through 12/31/2023

Date	Account	Num	Description	Tag	Memo	Clr	Amount
<b>INCOME</b>							<b>130,862.71</b>
	100 INCOME						130,084.71
	126 Trivent						778.00
<b>EXPENSES</b>							<b>-128,626.09</b>
	Uncategorized						0.00
	200 Mission Support						-1,000.00
	300 SALARIES						-89,737.75
	400 GENERAL OFFICE						-29,401.04
	401 Education						-323.68
	402 Evangelism Committee						-763.82
	410 Building & Grounds						-1,130.72
	460 Fellowship Committee						-632.06
	462 Quilting						-779.00
	470 Worship Committee						-535.91
	500 CHURCH SUPPLIES						-3,256.12
	600 TAXES						-1,065.99
<b>TRANSFERS</b>							<b>-8,968.81</b>
	Building Fund						-668.78
	Capital Improvement Fund						-6,300.00
	Yearly Offering Holding						-0.03
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>							<b>-4,732.19</b>



Save the Date!

Mardi gras / Shrove Tuesday celebration will be on February 13th this year, and we will be having a taco Tuesday dinner again. The Fellowship Committee will be supplying most of the items as far as the main dishes go, but we will need desserts, soft drinks, and help serving, setting up and cleaning up. We will have a sign-up sheet soon.

**Tuesday February 13<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00pm (~7:30pm)**