

# Martin's Lutheran Church



September/October 2020



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As I sit here in our new facility and look back over these past number of years and where we have come from; what we are traveling through in our ever-changing world with a pandemic and social justice issues, where we are heading as a congregation and as a people, I think of the words from the book of Ecclesiastes that has been used for Funerals and Weddings alike, and I believe is fitting for where we are at in life. "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: ...I know that there is nothing better for them than to be happy and enjoy themselves as long as they live; ...I know that whatever God does endures for ever; nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it; God has done this, so that all should stand in awe before him." (NRSV Ecclesiastes 3:1,12,14)

Time for all of us has been remarkably interesting over these last six months or so. We have had so many adjustments to many facets of our lives as individuals, families, congregations, communities, states, as a country and the world. It will be remembered in the history books for years to come. We as Christians believe and trust in these words that we have been given from the book of Ecclesiastes, about time, happiness in enjoying what we have been given, and trust in a God that loves and cares for us as His people. Please take a moment to read all of chapter three to understand all the author's points he has when it comes to time, through our journey in His creation. The author also reminds us about how we are to enjoy what we have been given in this world. How thankful are we for what we have been provided in our lives? Family, friends, co-works, employment, places to live, food to eat, places/ways to worship, activities/hobbies and the list goes on and on.

When we look at our lives and see all that God has done for us, how can we not stand in awe before Him and give thanks for all He has done in our lives. I see what we have accomplished together as a congregation to love and serve others in a way that is unprecedented. I look around this new facility and see the items we have built into the new, it reminds us of who we are and where we have come from. There are so many new pieces and components, many repurposed items, but most importantly is the gift of you!! It is you that makes the difference and for us to be called the church. It is the "us" that takes the time to have conversations, to serve one another and to build up His church that will endure forever and ever. We have done something that is a once and a lifetime opportunity, we have built a worship facility that will be a house of welcome to love and serve all that enter in His name, for the next 80 to 100 years, to share and live out the good news that is found in the love of Christ for all people.

I understand and know that it is a lot of change and it may look different, but this building was built to effectively and efficiently serve all of you and our community that we have been blessed to be part of. Thank you for your support, prayers, time, energy, talents, and financial gifts to make this happen. I hope you enjoy your new church home!!!

We still need, of course, to do things in a safe manner. Included in the newsletter you will find a breakdown of how we will use our facility, based on a color code. The color will correspond to where we are as a state and community, just as Central Cass Schools will be adhering to for the year, as we wait patiently for the new normal time to begin.

Now that we are here at our new facility, we can do more things in person. It was great to have our open house and first worship service. It was a great day to gather and dedicate this facility, giving thanks to

God for a place to sing His praises, hear the Word and then go live out his love for others. We now move into the program year, starting with our First Communion class on the 9<sup>th</sup> of September, at 7:00pm, with First Communion at our 9:30am worship service the 13<sup>th</sup> of September. Confirmation meeting for parents and students will be held at 7:00pm on the 16<sup>th</sup> of September. We will have our new member gathering on the 6<sup>th</sup> of October at 6:00pm and receive our new members on the 11<sup>th</sup> of October at our 9:30am worship service. We are planning our Sunday morning Education program to start October 18<sup>th</sup> after worship. The 25<sup>th</sup> of October we will celebrate Reformation Sunday at 9:30am, and have a Confirmation service sometime that day, please look for further information.

As we move toward this time of year, with our program year starting, schools back in session, we continue by needing to remain flexible and do things in a safe and smart manner that works for all. Please continue to pray giving thanks to God for the time we have been given and for one another as the body of Christ, as we serve one another in His name.

Peace,  
Pastor Mike

## **Dedicating Space**

Here we are! Welcome to our new space for Martin's to gather for worship and be a center for mission in and beyond the community! This is a challenging call in a changing time. September is the month we have routinely begun Fall programming with things like Sunday School, Confirmation, fellowship and service events. The schedule looks a little different this year. We continue to gain wisdom from the schools in planning hybrid options now that masks, sanitization, and distancing are central to planning. As we continue to learn what our needs and gifts are, we look for how best to deal with the concerns and opportunities we now have. All this is happening while our call and mission as the church stay the same and provide the strong foundation in daily living through Jesus Christ. We strive to be adaptable while we still hold firm to hearing and preaching the Word, learning about God's love, providing support for one another, and responding to Christ's command to share the Good News by serving our neighbors -- across the street and across the world.

We have a great and important calling. We also have this great and not just "new" space but "dedicated" space. What does this mean and why is it important? It reminds us the primary intent and purpose of the space created and items present are centered on God. The central task they are devoted to is proclaiming God's lifegiving Word to us in Jesus Christ. We, as the church, live this out with the experience and memory of the day that helps set our expectations when we gather.

During the Dedication Worship, Bishop Larry Wohlrabe made it a point that we "continue to dedicate this building" in all that we do each time we are here. It is part of living into it, remembering the purpose and our call to be a blessing to others. Though often less formal, we have dedicated space in our homes. We have spaces to sleep, to eat, to clean up, to store things. These days we may have dedicated new space for work or school or worship while at home. Sometimes it doubles as "shared" space perhaps, but in the midst of all that is going on around us, the practice of dedicating space can help us focus and do the tasks that need to be done. In chaotic and stressful times it is even more important to have and participate in purposeful lifegiving routines that these spaces provide.

When we find ourselves in a place we have never been before it can be exciting as well as anxious and fearful. So, it is a great time to remember and hear the promises from God that we are not alone. God is with us and addresses our fears and limitations speaking to us that we are more than just what we do, what we have, or what we are called by others. We are loved, a child of God, a sibling through Christ's love and called Beloved by our Creator. God continues to guide you and shape your true identity by loving you and showing you how to love others. In all the things that are changing, God remains and your identity in God remains.

This is our identity that is secure and we celebrate that by remembering our Baptism. Take some time today and splash some water on your face three times, make the sign of the cross on your forehead and say, "I am a beloved child of God, baptized in the name of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit."

Peace,  
Pastor Keith

We received this letter after the last newsletter went to print. We wanted to be sure to share it with you.

June 27, 2020

Dear Friends in Christ,

As you gather today to bid farewell to the sanctuary and building that has been the home of Martin's for so many years, my prayers are with you.

I imagine today is a bittersweet day for many of you. The joy of the completion of a dream of a new facility that began over 20 years ago, as many of us gathered in the church basement for the Vision 2000 program, is offset by the sorrow of saying goodbye to a place of worship that holds so many poignant memories. Having baptized both of my sons, confirmed one and held the funeral of their father in that sanctuary, as well as presided at literally hundreds upon hundreds of baptisms, funerals and weddings there, I, too, hold the space as sacred and share those feelings.

I also recall so many wonderful memories of Lenten, Advent and Holy Week dramas, Maundy Thursday re-enactments, and Prayer Vigils when we filled the sanctuary with prayers from the end of Good Friday worship until the first Alleluia on Easter morning. One of my favorite memories was the Christmas Eve worship when Laurie Blank read the Scripture live from Bethlehem Field when she was serving as a Young Adult in Global Mission in Palestine.

But you say goodbye not only to the sanctuary but also to the Mary Martha room where families gathered to pray before funerals, prepare for weddings, robe for Confirmations and graduation recognition and where you held book clubs and studied the Word. In addition there is the church basement, home to Halloween parties, AWE-sme Worship, labyrinth walks, quilting time, church dinners, and make up prep as the Rural Cass Community Theater was born in that space. But the memories of all the floods over the years also reminds me of why it is time to leave.

During this pandemic when so many of us are separated and finding new ways to worship when we can't gather together in the same space, it is good to remember that where or how we worship does not matter as much as that we worship. May you hold on to that as you say goodbye to one place and hello to another, knowing that wherever two or three gather, God is in your midst.

Peace,

Pastor Paula V. Mehmel

# COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

**Monday, June 8, 2020 – 7:00 P.M.**

Broc Lietz, Melissa Grommesh, Jerome Crandall, Stacy Link, Pastor Jacobson, Pastor Walka, Joan Carvell, Scott Kost

The meeting called to order by Broc Lietz.

Opening Devotions by Pastor Jacobson.

Secretary Report-May 11, 2020 minutes were sent out. Jerome made a motion to approve the minutes. Melissa seconded the motion; motion passed. May 21, 2020 minutes were sent out for review. Todd made the motion to approve the minutes. Stacy seconded the motion; motion passed.

Financial Report-Pastor Mike went through some of the reports in place of Scott Kost. They are showing that we are still ahead on revenue vs expenses. Budget-wise we are below the spending we are normally at during this time of year. Stacy made a motion to approve the Financial report. Jerome seconded the motion; motion passed. June bills were gone over with mention of that the loan interest payment will automatically come out of the New Building account at Bremer. Todd made a motion to approve the bills. Jerome seconded the motion; motion passed.

## Committee Reports

Worship/Media-Jerome nothing to report. Pastor Mike said the Sunday service on July 5<sup>th</sup> will be at the reservoir.

Education-VBS is finished however, families can participate anytime during the summer. Stacy congratulated Pastor Walka on all his hard work. Eight VBS bags were handed out to families that requested them; the bags held supplies for the activities.

Property- Philip Loy called about the walk through and what desks would be staying in the building. Pastor Mike asked Philip to send him dates he would be available to do a walk-through.

Social Outreach and Ministry-Wendy and Melissa are arranging for cupcakes for June 28<sup>th</sup>. Faye Kingsley called to see if the Service Group would be needed to help serve. Melissa was fine with that.

Fellowship and Support Committee-Melissa said she and Wendy went over each portfolio and will be typing up the information for each portfolio to give to everyone.

## Old Business

Building Project Update-Lakeside was supposed to be ready for prepping the lot for concrete by June 15<sup>th</sup>. The street on Martin's was supposed to be asphalted by June 5<sup>th</sup> but it is not done due to rain.

Approval of May Bill-\$239,765.81 Todd to pay the bill. Jerome seconded the motion; motion passed.

FFE Update-The free desks from Bell Bank will not work, because they are too big for Joan's and Pastor Walka's offices. The staff has picked out new desks and chairs. The total for FFE to date is \$221,892.00. Leaving \$28,000 of the FFE money to help purchase the items that have been forgotten and miscellaneous items.

AED-\$1,800.00 for a new machine. The council members feel we should get a new AED for the new building.

Pastor Mike asked the council what they thought of Poker chips to replace the Simply Giving cards that we currently use, since the cards are not long lasting. The council were fine with that idea. Pastor Mike brought up an idea to have yard signs made to show Martin's pride. The cost would come to around \$2,000 which is a one-sided sign with the yard stake. The signs could be paid from Worship Supplies.

Landscaping Alternate- Todd met with Gary Gunderson to talk over some ideas. He is wondering if he could get a copy of the site plan so he can see the actual size of the parking lot vs the property. Stacy mentioned Adam from Sheyenne Gardens said he would be willing to help design the landscaping.

Stained Glass Window Replacement-Philip Loy made a choice on the type of glass replacement he would like for the two windows behind the altar. The cost would be \$1,135.00, from Classic Glass. Jerome made the motion to go forward with the glass replacement. Todd seconded the motion; motion passed.

Facility Opening/Closing Ceremonies-The letters have gone out to the former Pastors with dates for the closing of the current building and when the open house and first worship service in the new building are expected to be. Pastor Mike asked who the council wanted to invite to the opening? Do they want to invite the media, local, Fargo, the mayor, Enterprise? Do they want the dedication ceremony to be a separate event from church service? Melissa suggested doing the dedication ceremony be the same time as the Sunday service. She thinks we would get more of the church members to attend. July 8<sup>th</sup> would be the Open House 6-8pm.

### New Business

CCLI/One License (est. \$1,240.00/year)-Pastor Keith has been looking into what the cost would be to update our CCLI license since we are recording services each week. The council agreed we should do the update since we are using the resource- Worship Supplies.

Pastor's Report and Remarks-Pastor Keith spoke on VBS. He felt it went well with taping to offer online, teacher recognition was done by reading off the names of teachers during the Sunday service recording, drive through communion was offered again, and a Zoom coffee hour has been available before the Sunday service airs on Sundays. He set up a Zoom get togethers for the high school seniors and their parents and the classrooms have been getting sorted through. There was a request for a wedding on Aug. 8<sup>th</sup>. The wedding would be in the new building and 20% of that seating is 98. After discussing the seating availability and expanded health guidelines Todd made a motion to allow up to 30%-150 people and they would have to follow CDC guidelines. Jerome seconded the motion; motion passed.

Pastor Mike said Taekwondo will be staying at the old building for their practices. He asked when they would allow Sophie, piano teacher, to come back into the building for lessons? Melissa made the motion to allow individual piano lessons here if the teacher lets the student in and wipes down the area, they are in. Jerome seconded the motion; motion passed. Pastor Mike has been asked to be on an Education task force to help come up with a curriculum for students that do not do well with "cookie cutter" lesson plans. There will be live recordings of the Bishop candidates for people to view June 23<sup>rd</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>. Pastor Mike is waiting on a quote for an FM transmitter in case we must go back to a closed church. We would have the ability to transmit the service to car radios.

Next Meeting - July 13, 7:00 P.M.

Scott arrived. He asked if the Financials were gone over and if there were any questions he could answer. There were none.

Scott made a motion to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted by Joan Carvell

## **Martin's Council Special Meeting June 30, 2020**

Present: Broc Lietz, Scott Kost, Jerome Crandall, Stacy Link, Wendy Mensing, Todd Erickson, Pastor Jacobson

Broc called the meeting to order as the council walked around the new building to check on the progress that was made and to see the amount of work that was still to be done. Broc asked for thoughts on changing the dates for the Open House and Opening Service. The council decided to change the Open House to July 22<sup>nd</sup> and the Grand Opening to July 26<sup>th</sup>.

Broc asked the council their thoughts about changing the concrete depth from 4" to 6" on the east side of the building that leads up to the kitchen area and garbage can. The concern is for the extra weight on the concrete whether the 4 inches would be thick enough for the garbage trucks. The cost estimate is an additional \$15,000.

Scott made a motion to increase the depth of concrete to 6" that is needed and required for the garbage truck, not to exceed \$15,000. Todd seconded the motion, motion passed.

Scott made a motion to adjourn.

Submitted by Stacy Link.

## **July 13, 2020**

The meeting is called to order by Broc Lietz. Present-Scott Kost, Jerome Crandall, Todd Erickson, Stacy Link, Wendy Mensing, Pastor Jacobson, Pastor Walka, Joan Carvell

Opening Prayer led by Pastor Mike.

Secretary Report-June 8' 2020 Minutes, Wendy made a motion to approve the minutes. Stacy seconded the motion, motion passed. June 30' 2020 Minutes, Todd made a motion to approve the minutes without corrections. Scott seconded the motion, motion passed.

Financial Report-Scott says our situation continues to be excellent. We are on track for the midpoint of the year. Wendy made a motion to approve the Financial report. Jerome seconded the motion. Todd asked about retiring the asset of the old building. Pastor Mike explained that he and Joan were going to talk to Icon about how to handle the asset change of the old church to the new church. Motion passed. The July bills were presented Stacy made a motion to pay the bills, Jerome seconded the motion. Motion passed.

### **Committee Reports**

Worship/Media-Jerome says that worship plans are made through August. Ushering is week by week due to the current situation of services. Ellen Sterner would like to step down as the coordinator for readers.

Education-Stacy has nothing to report for education. She is looking for suggestions about what to do for Sunday School. The Governor will be making an announcement this week about school opening for the year. Stacy is going to send an email out to the teachers to see who will commit to teaching and who will not.

Property-Todd stated the old church is buttoned up. He was quite impressed with Marc Hackmann's knowledge of the old building. Todd is hoping to get a walk through from the Heating contractor to learn about routine maintenance and schedules. Move in will require a large group of people. Steve Link cut his commission in half for the sale of the building. The glass at the old building still needs to be replaced.

Social Outreach and Ministry-Wendy says there is nothing to report.

Fellowship and Support Committee-Melissa is not at the meeting.

### **Old Business**

#### **Building Project Update**

Enterprise Sales Retainage-The council was sent the current bill by email. Broc said he has asked Enterprise about the light boxes in the entryway. \$56,000 is in the current bill for Enterprise; \$22,000 is self-performed work. \$32,000 is for construction management and subcontractors. Enterprise will not provide a dollar amount of deduct for the entryway windows that were not done right. Broc thinks their options are 1) pay in full and be done, 2) pay them nothing and give them the list of why not, 3) pay the June amount and withhold the July amount. He also thinks the council should send documentation to the Better Business Bureau or pursue legal action.

Approval of June Bill-Todd made a motion to table the June bill payment of \$269,000 until they talk to the contractor July 14th. Scott seconded that motion.

Landscaping Alternate Update-A congregation member has asked what is needed for the Landscaping. Pastor Mike reminded the council that a congregation member has offered to pay for seeding the green space.

Building Protection System-the fire system \$425/year. The fire protection monitoring is \$425/year. The monitoring company said they thought we would have 2 phone lines which would have made the building monitor-

ing \$325/year, but since we only have internet it will be another \$425/year for them to monitor the building. Jerome made a motion to go with the fire protection only, Stacy seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Facility Opening-The current date will be kept until after the meeting with Enterprise.

New Facility Access-will table until after meeting with Enterprise July 14<sup>th</sup>.

Facility/Property Usage-there is no proper usage policy for people borrowing property or using the facility. Pastor Mike suggests working on the policy after we are moved in and things settle down.

### **New Business**

August 16th Worship Service-This is the last day of Synod assembly. The Synod would like the whole Synod to worship at 9am while watching the service via the web. Bishop Eaton will be running the Assembly either virtually or in person. This decision will have to wait until we know if we will be worshipping in the church or at the school.

Wedding Party Request – August 8<sup>th</sup> (Champagne) The current handbook says no alcohol, but the bride is asking for champagne for a toast. The council wishes to uphold the handbook policy.

Noisy Offering Allocation-\$593.37, Pastor Mike suggested The Synod Assembly Mission offering, Wendy made the motion and Stacy seconded to donate the noisy offering to the Synod Assembly Mission offering. Motion passed.

Property Insurance-\$4621.00 for a year. \$385.00 month. Scott made a motion to accept the proposal as presented. Stacy seconded; motion passed.

Pastor's Report and Remarks-Pastor Keith met with Russ & Carolyn Lewis so they could become members of Martin's Lutheran Church. Russ passed away shortly after the visit. Olga Priewe passed at the same time. The Closing service went well. Our website subscription has been renewed for 3 years. Some t-shirts that were found at the church were taken to Churches United, and they were excited to have them. There are two Baptisms coming up in August that we will have to talk to about rescheduling. Pastor Keith was asked to be a part of a cultural diversity training. The total cost is estimated to be \$250 per person but depends on the number of attendees, but his Continuing Educ has \$125.00 left. Pastor Mike asked that we use Pastor Keith's Professional Expense to help defray the cost of the training.

Pastor Mike said he was thankful for the staff being able to plan the services during this busy month. Evan Anderson took care of hanging all the internet pucks free of charge and all the recordings. Evan asked what the church was going to do with the electronic drums from the old church. Broc and Pastor Mike talked it over and gave them to Evan as a token of appreciation for his assistance.

The meeting is suspended until July 14 after meeting with Enterprise. The next council meeting is August 10, 7:00 P.M.

Scott made a motion to adjourn.

## **July 14, 2020**

Council Meeting resumes.

Present: Broc Lietz, Scott Kost, Jerome Crandall, Wendy Mensing, Todd Erickson, Stacy Link, Pastor Jacobson, Joan Carvell

The council meeting resumed this morning with a meeting with Enterprise. The list of items that the council found the previous evening that needed attention was addressed with Enterprise. The council also asked for realistic and firm dates for completing the corrections and when the church could be occupied. The council left the church building and reconvened at Pastor Jacobson's home.

Scott is not as concerned about paying the June bill after the walk through this morning. He does feel however that we should hold paying the July bill. Scott made a motion to pay \$269,344.74, Jerome seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Opening date-No one is confident that the building will be ready for the July 22<sup>nd</sup> Open House. It might be

best not to set a date at this point until the corrections are done and a Certificate of Occupancy has been granted. The council agreed to wait until the inspection was done on July 17<sup>th</sup>.

The council decided to meet Sunday the 19<sup>th</sup> after the worship service to discuss the inspection finding and to set the opening date. An email will be sent to the Congregation notifying them of the postponement.

Submitted by Joan Carvell

## **Special Council Meeting**

**July 19, 2020**

The meeting is called to order by Broc Lietz. Present- Jerome Crandall, Todd Erickson, Stacy Link, Melissa Grommesh Pastor Jacobson, Pastor Walka, Joan Carvell

Broc pointed out the projectors and their location and mentioned that the current location is not where they thought they would be. RPM Design said that if they were to be replaced and relocated to the south wall it would cost \$14,000.00 after credit for returning the current ones and before the additional electrical costs. The change would have to come from the contingency fund which has roughly \$57,000 in it. A question was raised if there was a white projector option to help camouflage them. The council would be more comfortable with their location if the projectors were white. Pastor Mike said he would check with Randy from RPM Design. Pastor Mike also told the council that Randy added two speakers at his own cost.

Broc said that there is no flooring in the pantry, quilters closet, storage room, custodian room, mechanical room, or carpet in the storage area. Total Home gave a quote of \$8,277.51 to finish these rooms. Todd made a motion to accept the quote, Jerome seconded the motion. Motion passed.

There are no transition strips on the floor between the tiles and carpet along the aisles. The installers stated that transition strips are not necessary but Broc asked the council their feelings on the aesthetics and longevity of the edges. The cost for adding them would be \$1,598.62. Melissa made a motion to have the transition strips added to protect the carpet edges. Stacy seconded the motion, motion passed.

The council decided to have the Open House Aug. 19<sup>th</sup> and the first service on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, pending the final inspection and Certificate of Occupancy. Pastor Keith asked about the wedding that is scheduled for Aug. 8<sup>th</sup> to be in the new facility. He was asked to let the bride and groom know that Martin's would not be available for the wedding.

Submitted by,

Joan Carvell

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## **Building Conversation**

### **UPDATE:**

The total amount pledged is \$1,691,920.00; of that we have received \$1,057,340.30.

*Thank you for your generosity.*

### **New Church Envelope Giving Guidelines:**

If a donation is made for the new building please use the New Church envelopes in the entryway. If you choose to use the envelopes that say "Building" from the envelope packet please write "New" on the envelope or on the check; otherwise it will not be designated to the New Church fund it will go to the Building account. If you fill out and return a pledge card please be sure to print your name somewhere on the card so that we can designate the card correctly.



## **BUILDING EXTRA**

We have moved in and the “Extras” are fully paid. **Thank you for your generous gifts!**

The last extra from the original list is Landscaping. We have begun looking ahead to the landscaping needs of the green space. If you wish to make a donation to this extra please indicate that on your donation check or you can assign it online for electronic donation. If you need assistance setting this up online or making changes to your current Giving please don't hesitate to call the office or email and Joan will assist you.

347-4289 or [office@martinslutheran.com](mailto:office@martinslutheran.com)

Reminder of items:	Cost:	Received:
Landscaping	\$ 35,000	\$ 1,127.50

## **School Supplies**

We will be taking donations of school supplies for Lutheran World Relief. Lists of supplies needed to fill school bags are available in the church entry.

The goal is to fill 40 or more school bags. You may take a list and return the items in a bag to the basket in the church entry. Martin's Quilters will pack the school supplies in school bags for Lutheran World Relief.

School supplies are reasonably priced this time of the year, so consider buying a few extra for the less fortunate. Supplies and new/gently used backpacks are welcome to be given to Central Cass, also.

*Thanks for your generosity!*

4 - 70 sheet notebooks - wide or college ruled. 8' x 10 1/2  
1 - 30 centimeter ruler or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other  
1 pencil sharpener  
1 pair of blunt scissors  
5- unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers  
5 - black or blue ballpoint pens  
1 box of 16 or 24 crayons  
1 - 2 1/2 inch eraser

## **From the Office**

### **Direct Deposit Online Giving Guidelines:**

If you choose to use direct deposit for giving, please use the church website and click on “Online Giving”; where you are able to designate your funds. If you are currently using online giving and wish to add “New Church” or any of the listed funds to your withdrawal please give the office a call so that we can assist you. We are able to add it to your current giving account without having to set up a new account. You are always welcome to contact the office for any assistance.



If you or someone you know would like a visit from a pastor, please call or text their cell phones- Pastor Mike (701-789-1857), Pastor Keith (701-335-6213) or call the church office (347-4289) or email them:



[srpastor@martinslutheran.com](mailto:srpastor@martinslutheran.com)



[associatepastor@martinslutheran.com](mailto:associatepastor@martinslutheran.com)



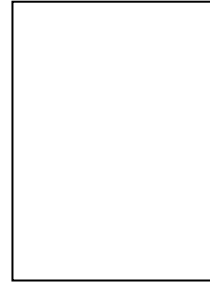
## *Did You Notice?*

### New in our church building:

We now have touchless hand sanitizer, water bottle filler, faucets and toilets.

We will be printing bulletins when needed for special occasions to follow along without the projectors, otherwise we will use the screens and still print a weekly announcement page.

“Online Giving” chips are available to put in the offering plates as you enter the sanctuary. We are not “passing the plate” during worship to collect an offering and we upgraded the laminated cards to something easier to sanitize.



Recycling bins are located at various places in the church. You can place all recyclables in these like you would at home in the single sort collection system in town. Please place trash in the lined cans. Thanks.

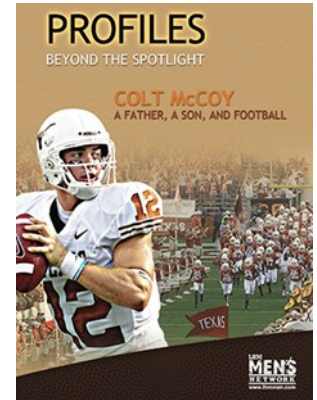
## *Blue Coupon Book Fundraiser*



This year The Preferred Savings Guide ordering is online and ships to you for free. This is a great option as we look for less contact during the COVID-19 pandemic. You can order by going to <https://rebrand.ly/martinslutheranchurch> or scanning the QR code to order from the website. The books are \$25 dollars and \$10 will go to the youth account you designate as supporting when you order. You can also call and order by phone and mail a check directly to them if you prefer. Sales start on Friday, September 11<sup>th</sup>. If you have questions please contact Pastor Keith.

## Online Bible Study

Pastor Keith is hosting an online Bible Study, Sundays 11am-11:30am September 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. This 2 session study called, Colt McCoy: A father, a son, and football player, includes interviews with Colt and his father as they talk about growing up, playing football, and their faith. Colt has gone from playing small town football to playing with the University of Texas and now is a QB in the NFL. The Zoom link will be sent out by email if you would like to be part of this time.



## F.Y.I.

Our Sunday School Program will begin on Sunday, October 18th. If you would like to help teach please contact Stacy Link, [stacyholzheimer@hotmail.com](mailto:stacyholzheimer@hotmail.com) or Pastor Keith, [associatepastor@martinslutheran.com](mailto:associatepastor@martinslutheran.com)



### Confirmation

Confirmation classes will be starting in September. We will have our parent/student meeting on **Sept. 16<sup>th</sup>** at 7pm. For 6<sup>th</sup> grade-11<sup>th</sup> grade at the church. The schedule will be given out the night of the meeting and will be on the calendars in the newsletter.

There will be a New Member meeting **Oct. 6<sup>th</sup>**, 6pm. New Member Sunday will be **Oct. 11<sup>th</sup>** at the 9:30am service. Please contact the Pastors or the office if you would like to attend. 347-4289

Letters will be sent to people that have voiced an interest in becoming a member.

Contact information for the office:

[office@martinslutheran.com](mailto:office@martinslutheran.com) or 347-4289

The Bell Choir will be playing **Oct. 18<sup>th</sup>**. Practice will start **Sept. 9<sup>th</sup>** at 6:30pm at the church. Please contact Karen Kost if you are interested in joining the Bell Choir. 371-5662



## Martin's Lutheran Church – Covid-19 Risk Level and Ministry Activity Matrix

The color levels are set for the state of North Dakota by the Governor and State Health Offices.

### **Blue**

- Regular indoor worship is held with communion.
- Regular ministry activities are held without mask and physical distancing requirements.
- Church office is open to walk-in appointments.
- Church facility is open to rentals and activities beyond congregational ministry.

### **Green**

- Indoor worship is held and will include singing and speaking in unison.
- Weddings and funerals may be held.
- Sanctuary occupancy will be 75%, which is 370.
- Wearing masks inside the facility is strongly encouraged ages 5 and up.
- 6ft physical distancing between groups is expected, including entering and exiting worship.
- When Communion is served it will be done as people exit the facility.
- Offering plates will not be passed, but available when you enter the worship space.
- Hymnals will not be used; all material will be available on the screens. Announcements will be made available with recommended weekly scripture readings.
- Bathrooms will be open.
- Christian education and youth activities will be offered. Currently working on a hybrid model of on-site and virtual experiences.
- Indoor fellowship activities are suspended, including coffee bar and meals.
- The facility will be open to small group church-affiliated ministry events. Masks are strongly encouraged, and group sanitized space used.
- Church office is open by appointment only.

FOR ALL LEVELS: Online worship will be offered. Please stay home if you fall within a high-risk category for a severe outcome from contracting Covid-19 or if you are experiencing possible Covid-19 symptoms (fever, chills, sore throat, loss of sense of smell and/or taste). We encourage you to participate in worship online.

## **Yellow**

- Indoor worship is held without congregational singing, including weddings and funerals.
- Sanctuary occupancy will be limited to a maximum of 50% capacity of 246, with 6ft between groups.
- Wearing masks inside the facility is required ages 5 and up.
- 6ft physical distancing inside the facility is required between groups for all on-site activities.
- Worshipers will be dismissed in a way that seeks to prevent a bottleneck exiting.
- When Communion is served it will be done as people exit the facility.
- Offering plates will not be passed, but available when you enter the worship space.
- Hymnals will not be used; all material will be available on the screens. Announcements will be made available with recommended weekly scripture readings.
- Worship leaders and music leaders will wear masks except while fulfilling their roles during the service.
- Bathrooms will be closed.
- Christian education and youth activities will be virtual only.
- Indoor fellowship activities are suspended, including coffee bar and meals.
- The nursery is closed.
- The facility will be closed to other church ministry events and outside activities and rentals.
- Church office is open only for pastoral care by appointment.

## **Orange/Red**

- Worship is offered online only with a minimum number of worship leaders.
- Christian education and youth activities are offered virtually only.
- Facility is closed except for worship recording.
- Church staff will work in accordance with state regulations.

# September 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<i>All Events Are Subject to Change</i>	1	2	3	4	5
6 8:30am Bell Practice 9:30am Worship ELW	7 Labor Day Office Closed	8	9 6:30pm Bell Practice 7:00pm First Communion meeting	10	11 Pastors Day Off Nelson/Toop Rehearsal	12 10:00am Dooley Shower Nelson/Toop Wedding
13 8:30am Bell Practice 9:30am Worship PW First Communion	14 6:00pm Orel Hurstman Visitation @West Funeral-Casselton 7:00pm Prayer Service 7:00pm Council	15 2:00pm Orel Hurstman Funeral	16 6:30pm Bell Practice 7:00pm Confirmation meeting	17	18 Pastors Day Off	19
20 8:30am Bell Practice 9:30am Worship CBW 11:00am Online Bible Study	21	22	23 4:00pm 8th Gr Conf-BLAST Rm 6:30pm 11th Gr Conf-ACT 29 Rm 6:30pm Bell Practice	24	25 Pastors Day Off Radermacher/Dooley Rehearsal	26 Radermacher/Dooley Wedding
27 8:30am Bell Practice 9:30am Worship SOW	28  <i>Pastor Keith out 28th-5th</i>	29	30 4:00pm 8th Gr Conf 6:30pm 11th Gr Conf 6:30pm Bell Practice			

# October 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<i>Holy Yoga will start in Oct. Dates/Times TBD</i>	<i>All Events Are Subject to Change</i>		<i>1</i> 10:00am Bible Study 2:00pm Rachel Circle	<i>2</i> Pastors Day Off	<i>3</i>
<i>4</i> 8:30am Bell Practice 9:30am Worship ELW	<i>5</i> 10:00am Widows Grp	<i>6</i> 6:00pm New Member Gathering	<i>7</i> 9:30am Quilters 4:00pm 8th Gr Conf 6:30pm 11th Gr Conf 6:30pm Bell Practice	<i>8</i> 10:00am Bible Study	<i>9</i> Pastors Day Off	<i>10</i>
<i>11</i> 8:30am Bell Practice 9:30am Worship PW/New Members	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>14</i> 9:30am Quilters 4:00pm 8th Gr Conf 6:30pm 11th Gr Conf 6:30pm Bell Practice	<i>15</i> 10:00am Bible Study	<i>16</i> Pastors Day Off	<i>17</i>
<i>18</i> <i>Rally Sunday</i> 8:30am Bell Practice 9:30am Worship CBW/Bells	<i>19</i> 10:00am Widows Grp	<i>20</i>	<i>21</i> 9:30am Quilters No Confirmation 6:30pm Bell Practice	<i>22</i> 10:00am Bible Study	<i>23</i> Pastors Day Off	<i>24</i>
<i>25</i> <i>Reformation</i> 9:30am Worship ELW w/Comm/Confirmation TBD	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>28</i> 9:30am Quilters 4:00pm 7th Gr Conf 6:30pm 10th Gr Conf 6:30pm Bell Practice	<i>29</i> <i>No Bible Study</i>  <i>Pastor Mike out 29th-5th</i>	<i>30</i> Pastors Day Off	<i>31</i> <i>Halloween</i>

# August 2020

**Monthly Contributions** **\$ 25,562.47**

**Estimated Budget to Date** **\$240,924.60**

**Contributions Year to Date** **\$214,559.59**

**Balance** **\$ -26,365.01**

**Budget Expenses** **\$197,011.86**

**Building Fund Balance** **\$ 9,707.78**

**New Church Fund Balance** **\$362,081.40**

**All figures are as of 08/31/20**

## Annual Budget Percentage for General Fund as of 08/31/2020

Account	Budgets with 5% variance are considered at risk			Year is 67% complete	
	Actual	Annual Budget	Variance	% Budget	At Risk
<b>Revenues</b>					
Church Rent	450.00	0.00	450.00	0%	
Contributions	214,558.72	0.00	214,558.72	0%	
Churches United Shelter	20.00	0.00	20.00	0%	
Weekly Offering	304.00	0.00	304.00	0%	
World Hunger	3.00	0.00	3.00	0%	
SubTotal Contributions	214,885.72	0.00	214,885.72	0%	
Miscellaneous Contributions	593.87	0.00	593.87	0%	
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>215,929.59</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>215,929.59</b>	<b>0%</b>	
<b>Expenditures</b>					
2019 Dec Payroll	1,443.53	0.00	-1,443.53	0%	
Associate Pastor	0.00	0.00	0.00	0%	
Pastor Continuing Ed	827.48	1,000.00	172.52	82.75%	Y
Pastor Housing Allowance	9,600.00	14,400.00	4,800.00	66.67%	
Pastor Professional Expenses	64.44	500.00	435.56	12.89%	
Pensions/Medical/Disability	16,258.98	24,492.00	8,233.02	66.38%	
Salary	26,800.00	40,200.00	13,400.00	66.67%	
Social Security Added	2,944.00	4,416.00	1,472.00	66.67%	
SubTotal Associate Pastor	56,494.90	85,008.00	28,513.10	66.46%	
Christian Ed Materials	1,825.92	6,000.00	4,174.08	30.43%	
Conventions	1,080.00	1,750.00	670.00	61.71%	
Custodian	0.00	0.00	0.00	0%	
Salary	3,859.50	8,500.00	4,640.50	45.41%	
Social Security	295.28	655.00	359.72	45.08%	
SubTotal Custodian	4,154.78	9,155.00	5,000.22	45.38%	
Insurance	0.00	0.00	0.00	0%	
Ins Building	4,821.39	6,500.00	1,678.61	74.18%	Y
Ins Workers Compensation	279.04	550.00	270.96	50.73%	
SubTotal Insurance	5,100.43	7,050.00	1,949.57	72.35%	
Mission Outreach	593.87	0.00	-593.87	0%	
Churches United for the Homeless	583.31	1,000.00	416.69	58.33%	
END Synod	9,625.00	16,500.00	6,875.00	58.33%	
Lutheran Social Services	1,166.69	2,000.00	833.31	58.33%	
Mission - Local	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	0%	
Red Willow Bible Camp	1,166.69	2,000.00	833.31	58.33%	
Spec Missions/Sem Scholarship	100.00	500.00	400.00	20%	
SubTotal Mission Outreach	13,235.56	23,000.00	9,764.44	57.55%	



Music	0.00	0.00	0.00	0%
Accompanist/Music Leader	2,800.00	4,200.00	1,400.00	66.67%
Social Security	211.88	330.00	118.12	64.21%
SubTotal Music	3,011.88	4,530.00	1,518.12	66.49%

New Construction Exp	3,301.83	50,244.00	46,942.17	6.57%
Office Administration	0.00	0.00	0.00	0%
Office Manager	15,267.53	24,180.00	8,912.47	63.14%
Office Manager Benefits	1,241.28	1,844.00	602.72	67.31%

Budgeted 2011 and Variance are calculated as follows:

Total is 0% complete

Account	Actual	Annual Budget	Variance	% Budget	At Risk
Social Security	1,100.83	1,850.00	749.17	59.5%	
SubTotal Office Administration	17,609.64	27,874.00	10,264.36	63.18%	
Office Worship/Supplies	2,107.67	0.00	-2,107.67	0%	
Office Equipment	2,238.67	3,200.00	961.33	69.96%	
Office Supplies	4,507.08	6,500.00	1,992.92	69.34%	
Technology	654.00	1,500.00	846.00	43.6%	
Unknown Exp	30.00	1,000.00	970.00	3%	
Worship Supplies	413.44	3,200.00	2,786.56	12.92%	
SubTotal Office Worship/Supplies	9,950.86	15,400.00	5,449.14	64.62%	
Property	0.00	0.00	0.00	0%	
Cleaning Supplies	239.17	850.00	610.83	28.14%	
Repairs & Maint Supplies	885.61	3,800.00	2,914.39	23.31%	
Seasonal Plants/Decorations	0.00	250.00	250.00	0%	
Snow Removal	360.00	1,250.00	890.00	28.8%	
Taxes on Martin Lot	661.71	700.00	38.29	94.53%	Y
Utilities	5,454.18	10,500.00	5,045.82	51.94%	
Utilities Natural Gas	2,451.47	3,300.00	848.53	74.29%	Y
SubTotal Property	10,052.14	20,650.00	10,597.86	48.68%	
Senior Pastor	0.00	0.00	0.00	0%	
Pastor Continuing Ed	33.00	1,300.00	1,267.00	2.54%	
Pastor Housing Allowance	16,000.00	24,000.00	8,000.00	66.67%	
Pastor Professional Expenses	58.02	1,000.00	941.98	5.8%	
Pensions/Medical/Disability	8,884.10	13,484.00	4,599.90	65.89%	
Salary	40,333.28	60,500.00	20,166.72	66.67%	
Social Security Added	4,000.00	6,000.00	2,000.00	66.67%	
SubTotal Senior Pastor	69,308.40	106,284.00	36,975.60	65.21%	
Stewardship & Evangelism	441.99	1,000.00	558.01	44.2%	
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>197,011.86</b>	<b>357,945.00</b>	<b>160,933.14</b>	<b>55.04%</b>	
<b>Other Revenues</b>					
AP Discounts Taken	0.94	0.00	0.94	0%	
Bank Interest	684.65	0.00	684.65	0%	
<b>Total Other Revenues</b>	<b>685.59</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>685.59</b>	<b>0%</b>	
<b>Other Expenditures</b>					
Adjusting Entry	-43.26	0.00	43.26	0%	
<b>Total Other Expenditures</b>	<b>-43.26</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>43.26</b>	<b>0%</b>	
<b>Other Financial Sources-Uses</b>					
Transfers In	4,556.43	0.00	4,556.43	0%	
Transfers Out	-926.00	0.00	-926.00	0%	
<b>Total Other Financial Sources-Uses</b>	<b>3,630.43</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>3,630.43</b>	<b>0%</b>	

*Summary*

<i>Total Revenues</i>	<i>215,929.59</i>	<i>0.00</i>	<i>215,929.59</i>	<i>0%</i>
<i>Account</i>	<i>Actual</i>	<i>Annual Budget</i>	<i>Variance</i>	<i>% Budget</i>
<i>Total Expenditures</i>	<i>197,011.86</i>	<i>357,945.00</i>	<i>160,933.14</i>	<i>55.04%</i>
<i>Total Other Revenues</i>	<i>685.59</i>	<i>0.00</i>	<i>685.59</i>	<i>0%</i>
<i>Total Other Expenditures</i>	<i>-43.26</i>	<i>0.00</i>	<i>43.26</i>	<i>0%</i>
<i>Total Other Financial Sources-Uses</i>	<i>3,630.43</i>	<i>0.00</i>	<i>3,630.43</i>	<i>0%</i>
<i>Net</i>	<i>23,277.01</i>	<i>-357,945.00</i>	<i>381,222.01</i>	

## MARTIN'S LUTHERAN CHRISTIAN EDUCATION PRE-REGISTRATION

Starting Sunday, October 18, 2020 at 10:30am, we will once again offer Church School based around Spark Lectionary for grades Pre-K through 5<sup>th</sup>.

We also offer weekly Sunday classes for Grades 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>. The 6<sup>th</sup> Graders have their own room. Those in 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> will meet in the B.L.A.S.T. (Building Lives Around Sound Truth) room. Youth in grades 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> will meet in the Acts 29 (because we write the next chapter) room.

Registration: Please register children ages 4 and up.

Opportunities to Help: Will you share your gifts in the Christian Ed program? We are looking for individuals and families interested in helping with music, planning committees, teaching, or helping in a classroom. If you would like to help for a week, month or even longer, please contact Stacy Link at (701) 361-1421 or Stacyholzheimer@hotmail.com.

Child's Name:	Birthdate	Gender	Grade in Fall 2020	Circle Preference
_____	_____	_____	_____	In Person/Online/Both
_____	_____	_____	_____	In Person/Online/Both
_____	_____	_____	_____	In Person/Online/Both

Parent Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Yes, I am willing to help with Christian Education. I am interested in the areas of:

- \_\_\_\_\_ In Person or Online Teacher
- \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher helper
- \_\_\_\_\_ Help with the Christmas Program
- \_\_\_\_\_ Sunday School activity committee
- \_\_\_\_\_ B.L.A.S.T. and Acts 29 activity committee
- \_\_\_\_\_ Music
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ Preferred grade to help with

Thank you!

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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**WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

**Sept. 6**

**9:30am-**Worship (ELW)

**Sept. 13**

**9:30am-**Worship (P&W) &  
First Communion

**Sept 20**

**9:30am-**Worship (CBW)

**Sept. 27**

**9:30am-**Worship (SOW)

**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.*