

ST. MARTIN LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL
100 South Clinton Avenue, Clintonville, WI 54929 *715-823-6538
Rev. Jason Zobel, Senior Pastor ~ *ext. 2115 or (608) 228-4134 Cell phone
Rev. Hayden Lukas, Associate Pastor ~ *ext. 2114
Emily Ferg, Interim Principal ~ *ext. 2113
Church office ~ *ext. 2110; School office ~ *ext. 2112
Visit our Website: www.stmlc.org

Christmas Eve ~ Sunday, December 24, 2023 – 2:00, 4:00 and 7:00 pm

AS WE GATHER

Christmas is a celebration of love. Loving thoughts and deeds certainly are part of this holy season as goodwill among people seems more pronounced than at other times of the year. What is the source of that love? It is the love of God that is fully expressed in Christ Jesus, the babe in the manger. For centuries, hymn writers and poets have found meaningful ways of describing that love of God. A poem by English writer Christina Rossetti simply but beautifully shares the Gospel truth that blesses this season.

Love came down at Christmas,
Love all lovely, Love divine;
Love was born at Christmas,
Star and angels gave the sign. (LW 46:1)

Through the words of gifted hymn writers and poets and the evangelists Luke and Matthew, we hear the angels and we see the star. Once again, the message of God's love echoes in our world!

Welcome to St. Martin Lutheran Church ~ Record of Attendance: Please legibly write all of the names who are attending (including any children) in the attendance pads at the end of the pews every time you worship and for communion registration. This information is needed for the yearly district reports.

Visitors or interested in becoming a member: Please put your home address, email and phone number on the attendance pad. Thank you for visiting our church.

COMMUNION STATEMENT: *This morning, St. Martin joyfully celebrates the Lord's Supper. We do this in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine, but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of our faith (Matt. 26:26-28, Mark 14:22-24, Luke 22:19-20, 1 Corinthians 11:23-25). Because great harm (1 Corinthians 11:27-29) can come to those who do not believe, those who doubt the Lord's presence in this holy meal, or do not wish to repent of all sins, we ask that you first speak to Pastor Jason or Pastor Hayden if you have questions or are not a member of a Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod congregation. Thank you!*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN ~ #376 “Once in Royal David’s City” (2:00 & 7:00 pm)
“O Come, All Ye Faithful (His Name Shall Be)” (4:00pm)

INVOCATION AND CALL TO CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

SONG ~ “Your Name” (Christmas Version) vs. 1-2 (4:00 pm)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

HYMN ~ #379 “O Come, All Ye Faithful” (2:00 & 7:00 pm)
“Your Name” (Christmas Version) vs. 3-4 (4:00 pm)

SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 7:10–14

¹⁰Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, ¹¹“Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” ¹²But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” ¹³And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

1 John 4:7–16

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. ¹⁶So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

**ANTHEM ~ “Mary, Did You Know” by Arianna Jepson (2:00 pm)
“One Quiet Moment” by Lauren & Nathan Doell (7:00 pm)**

GRADUAL and VERSE

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 1:18–25

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the first chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ²³“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us). ²⁴When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

JESUS TIME FOR THE KIDS

**SERMON HYMN ~ #364 “Away in a Manger” (2:00 pm)
“Joseph’s Song” (4:00 pm) by Pastor Zobel
#370 “What Child is This” (7:00 pm)**

SERMON ~ “God with Us”; Matthew 1:18-25

NICENE CREED

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ~ “Joseph’s Song” by Pastor Zobel (2:00 & 7:00 pm)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

CHRISTMAS SANCTUS

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

LORD’S PRAYER

PREFACE AND PAX DOMINI

CHRISTMAS AGNUS DEI

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS ~

#361 “O Little Town of Bethlehem” (2:00 & 7:00 pm)

#363 “Silent Night, Holy Night” (2:00 pm only)

#383 “A Great and Mighty Wonder” (2:00 & 7:00 pm)

#366 “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear” (2:00 & 7:00 pm)

#368 “Angels We Have Heard On High” (2:00 & 7:00 pm)

“One Quiet Moment” by Lauren & Nathan Doell (4:00 pm)

“Silent Night” (4:00 pm)

“Emmanuel” (Hallowed Manger Ground” (4:00 pm)

CHRISTMAS NUNC DIMITTUS (2:00 & 7:00 pm)

CLOSING PRAYER

BENEDICTION

THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES (7:00 pm)

CLOSING HYMN ~

#380 “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” (2:00 pm)

“Hark The Herald Angels Sing” (King Of Heaven) (4:00 pm)

#363 “Silent Night” (7:00 pm)

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARTIN

Mon.	Dec. 25	Traditional (Special Advent) – communion ~ 9:00 am Office Closed/No School – Christmas Break
Tues.	Dec. 26	Office Open ~ 8 to Noon No School – Christmas Break Nursing Home Communion ~ Care Partners #59 – 9:00 am Care Partners #61 – 9:30 am Aster – 10:30 am
Wed.	Dec. 27	Office Open ~ 8 to Noon No School – Christmas Break Shepherd’s Meeting ~ 9:30 am No Youth Group Traditional with communion ~ 7:00 pm
Thurs.	Dec. 28	Office Open ~ 8 to Noon No School – Christmas Break No Quilting Bee
Fri.	Dec. 29	Office Open ~ 8 to Noon No School – Christmas Break
Sun.	Dec. 31	Traditional with communion ~ 8:00 am Bible Study ~ 9:15 am No Sunday School SOJC, Team B ~ 10:30 am
Mon.	Jan. 1	Office Closed No School – Christmas Break
Tues.	Jan. 2	School resumes ~ 7:55 am

THE BULLETIN & RADIO BROADCAST: is sponsored in memory of Louis Mueller, Dale Mueller, and John Bertram by the Mueller Family. Sponsorship for the Bulletin *in full or in part* is \$30.00. Available dates: Jan. 7, 21, 28; Feb. 11, 18, 25; March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31.

Stewardship Message: Luke 2:12 – “And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” Truly, as St. Paul said, He who was rich for our sakes became poor. The King was laid in a manger, no crib for His bed! There in the manger is the very picture of self-giving generosity.

From the Staff of St. Martin:

We would like to take a moment to wish you a very *Merry Christmas*. During this season, we will be celebrating Hope, Peace, Love and Joy. We pray that all four of these would fill your life in every way this Christmas and beyond.

	Sun.	Sun.	Sun.	Mon.	Wed.	Sun.	Sun.
Date	Dec. 24 @2 pm	Dec. 24 @4 pm	Dec. 24 @7 pm	Dec. 25 @9 am	Dec. 27 @7pm	Dec. 31 @8am	Dec. 31 @10:30am
Elder on Duty	Andy Eberhardt	Steve Krueger	Scott Behnke	Duane Reetz	Klint Barkow	Dave Steenbock	Blair Sawall
Ushers	Hopp, Pringnitz, Goerlinger	Barkow, S. Krueger, Czarnecki	Hanson, Donaldson, A.Pingel	Wisnefske & Aschliman	Christopherson	Riemer	Goerlinger
Comm. Assist.	Jim Klingbeil	Need a Servant	Ted Lipanot	Al Mueller	Need a Servant	Al Mueller	Jim Klingbeil
Altar Guild	Linda Wagner	Connie Lambert	Meta Krueger	Linda Wagner	Meta Krueger	Carla Wengelski & Diane Conradt	Rosalee Roloff
Power Point Presenter	Emily Ferg	Donna Krueger	Jennifer Lang	Jennifer Lang	Donna Krueger	Dennis Federwitz	Kathy Sawall
Acolytes	Kameron Kersten	Patron Hoffmann	Cora Lang	Corbyn Hagberg	Brynleigh Birling	Austin Yaeger	Christian Ebert
Bulletin Assem.					Carol Steenbock		
Fellowship						Board of Trustees	

A Special Thank You to Gerry Mueller for Christmas monetary donation to the school.

Employment Opportunities at St. Martin:

- **St. Martin Daycare:** St. Martin Early Childhood Learning Center is looking to hire an Infant Room teacher! Flexible hours and scheduling; applicants should be 18 or older and certified in basic first aid or child CPR. Please contact the Daycare Director for more information via phone: (715) 823-2424 or email daycare@stmlic.org
- **Substitute Teachers:** St. Martin Lutheran School is looking for substitute teachers for Preschool through Grade 8. If you would like to be put on our substitute teacher list, please contact Emily Ferg, Interim Principal, 715-823-6538 ext. 2113.

Pants/Joggers Needed: St. Martin school is in desperate need of pants for our students of all ages. Unfortunately, if a student has an accident or gets blood on their clothing, we are required to have them change clothes. These pants DO NOT need to be new; we just ask that they not have any holes in them. If you have any pants/joggers that your child or grandchild is no longer using, please consider donating them to the school. Thank you!!