

The ECHO

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On Sunday morning, December 12 during worship, there will be a Children's Christmas Program that will feature all of the lessons which the youngsters have been learning about the Christmas story during Family Worship and Sunday School in recent weeks. Our compact and very cute cast of characters will process displaying the crafts and activities which they have been enjoying on Sunday mornings.



On Sunday, December 19, the choir will present "The Night of the Father's Love." This Christmas Musical is about the night the ancient prophecies were fulfilled; the night of the angelic announcement of the birth as the star shone brightly above, leading others to witness this incredible gift of love from God in human form-Jesus, the babe. This worship experience will both captivate and reassure all of us that indeed, Christ is born! Now all is well! Christ is born Nowell!
The choir will be practicing after church service on Sunday Dec. 5 and Dec. 12. Practicing on Wed evenings, Dec.1, 8, and 15.



This year we are again teaming with the Peace Pantry to help meet the needs at Christmas time of people in our community that need help.

A survey was recently taken of probable recipients and their number one request this year is utility help. Second is a shopping trip at Walmart like we did last year and third is gifts purchased for them. It's been decided that St. Martin's can best help by taking part in the shopping trip to Walmart again this year. This will allow them to purchase just what they can use, be it groceries, clothes, toiletries or a special gift. No alcohol, tobacco, guns or ammunition will be allowed and this will be closely monitored.

If you would like to bless a family or individual that has been vetted through the Peace Pantry this Christmas, please mark your donation Christmas Family giving and have it to church no later than December 5th. The shopping trip to Walmart for the families is planned for December 13th.

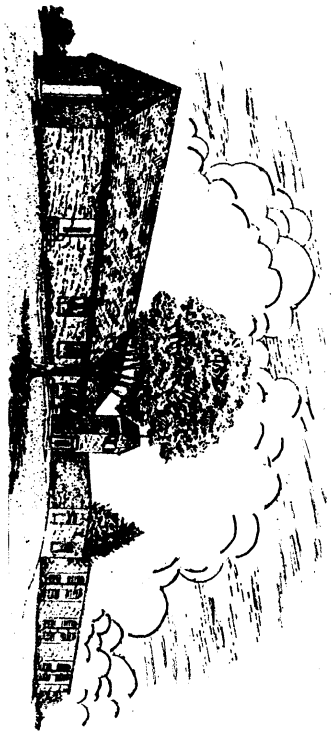
Thank you so much for your help this year. It's needed more than ever.

Blessings,
Lin Lohse



ST. MARTIN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
7890 Dittmer Ridge Road
Dittmer, MO 63023-1112
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TIME DATED MATERIAL
DECEMBER 2021



NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
DITTMER,
MISSOURI
63023
PERMIT #1

From the Pastor's Desk

I noticed recently, while waiting for an appointment that EVERYONE had their noses buried in their smartphones. It seemed to me like every individual was either texting, or checking their facebook page, or else they were tweeting!

I'm old enough that I remember life before smartphones and I found myself trying to remember what people did with their down-time when they were stuck waiting when they did not have a portable computer in their pocket?

Here are 20 things we used to do -- pre-smartphone -- when we were stuck waiting in line, for a movie to start or for the food to come.

I googled this question (which sort of makes my own point come to think of it) and found this suggestive list on a website called 'Mental Floss':

- *Smile politely at other people in the same situation
- *Read the newspaper you were carrying under your arm (no, seriously)
- *Pay too much attention to other people's conversations
- *Read shampoo bottles, or anything else with words, in the bathroom
- *Pace back and forth
- *Update your agenda or write... on paper
- *Meet a stranger
- *Look compulsively at your watch
- *Do nothing was always an option
- *Decide to think for a while
- *Experience the meaning of the word patience

WAITING will be our theme in worship this Holiday season. Our lessons will focus upon the Kingdom of God's righteousness, peace and justice which we are waiting to dawn and what we should be doing in the meantime. We will also make ourselves aware that God has been waiting for US to return to God in faith, repentance and gratitude. In the meantime you can also spend some time wondering what the special gift is that I am planning for everyone on Christmas Eve! I'll be waiting to see you in worship!

Your Patient Pastor, Scott

happy birthday



80 years + Birthdays

Marvin Dickerson	12/13
Virginia Turnbull	12/18
Bertina Penrose	12/18
Gerry Hografe	12/31

Happy Anniversary

25 years + Anniversaries

Kent & Debbie Prince	12/01
Curt & Judy Viehland	12/07
Tom & Tara Moder	12/16
Ivan & Vivian Horn	12/17
Jack & Judith Nobles	12/23
Jim & Mary Anna White	12/27
Francis & Mary Duckworth	12/29



In the month of December, the Pantry appreciates donations of snack items. As always, the Pantry appreciates the support of St. Martin's in all donations offered.

**All are invited to attend.....
monthly Church Council meetings,
2nd Tuesday of every month
Next meeting, December 14,
6:30 in Fellowship Hall**

Several members of Women's Fellowship have prepared cards and small packages for those members of our church who are shut-ins. These will be delivered during December. Thank you to Tammy Birkenbach and Darlene Strupp for making this happen each year.

WF will meet on Thursday, December 2nd, in Fellowship Hall. We will be celebrating our Christmas Party this month. Pizza will be provided, so please bring a salad or dessert to share. Also, bring your own drink. If you have a Secret Prayer Partner and wish to bring a gift, this is the time to do it. We will hold a drawing for Secret Prayer Partners for 2022 for those who wish to participate. This is also the time to bring in your One Great Hour of Sharing coin boxes to turn in. We will eat at 11:30, followed by a short meeting and lots of socialization. All women of the church are welcome to join us.

Sandy Roland



DECEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, December 1
7 pm CANTATA PRACTICE

THURSDAY, December 2
11:30 Women's Fellowship

SUNDAY, December 5
9 am Family Church hour
10 am Worship
Hopper usher team
Confirmation class
CANTATA PRACTICE

WEDNESDAY, December 8
7 pm CANTATA PRACTICE

SUNDAY, December 12
9 am Family Church hour
10 am Worship
CHILDREN'S PROGRAM
Weckback usher team
CANTATA PRACTICE
NO confirmation class this week

TUESDAY, December 14
6:30 Church Council

WEDNESDAY, December 15
7 pm CANTATA PRACTICE

SUNDAY, December 19
9 am Family Church hour
10 am Worship
CHRISTMAS CANTATA
Rob Bohle usher team
Confirmation class

FRIDAY, December 24
11 pm CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

SATURDAY, December 25
MERRY CHRISTMAS

SUNDAY, December 26
9 am Family Church hour
10 am Worship
Wakeland usher team
No confirmation class this week

OTHER DECEMBER CALENDAR INFO:

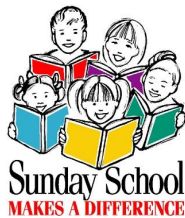
THURSDAYS, 7 PM
Scouts meet

BOOK CLUB (per Ruth Ann)
Postponed indefinitely

SKEET SHOOT (per Delmar)
Postponed indefinitely



We will be decorating the altar with Poinsettias this Christmas season. Orders will be taken from Nov. 28 - Dec.12. \$10 per plant. If you would like to order one in honor or in memory of a loved one, please let the office know. You can e-mail in your order, or there will be forms available in the Narthex on Sunday.

**CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE**

BEGINNING SUNDAY, JANUARY 2, we will resume the Sunday School schedule which we have been accustomed to in the past! Children's time will be a message with the youngsters in morning worship at 10:00 am after which they will be invited and encouraged to go to Fellowship Hall for a Bible lesson.

During the month of January our lessons will be all about the Parables of Jesus. This renewed schedule is all possible because of the fabulous and faithful volunteers who have made the commitment to our children. Thanks, and God bless you!



November 28 the youth are baking cookies after church to be delivered to our shut-ins this holiday season. Hopefully we can help spread a little holiday cheer! Thank you to Darlene Strupp and Tammy Birkenbach for making these deliveries. We have adopted two families for Christmas. One family from Maple Grove and another family from Grandview. December 12 is our scheduled meeting date. We will be having lunch at Pegg's, shopping for our families at Wal-Mart and coming back to church to wrap and have dessert and snacks. We look forward to this shopping trip every year and are happy we are able to help make two families holiday a little brighter. We welcome the youth currently in Confirmation this year. Luke Meier, Logan Spicer, and Jayden Green. All three youth have made a commitment to attend our next couple events and start their vital role as part of St. Martin's Youth. Welcome!!!! Check out our Youth Brags below!! These kids are amazing, and they are doing amazing things. And all God's children said "Amen"

Youth Brags:

Katie Terrell qualified for Cross Country at Grandview-Congratulations Katie!! Congratulations to Elizabeth Zeilman who is part of the NHS Congressional Debate Team.

A big shout out to Quinton and Weston Hopper. Grandsons of Roger and Kathy Hopper. Quinton and Weston recently won the National Youth Fishing Association Missouri Division 2020-2021 points race. Points are accumulated by competing in a series of bass fishing tournaments throughout the year. Quinton and Weston attend Grandview High School but compete as part of the Desoto High School team because Grandview doesn't have a fishing club. Quinton and Weston will split \$128,000.00 in scholarships.

Congratulations to Anna Belle Wakeland for earning the following post season awards for Volleyball: 1st Team All-District and 2nd Team All-Conference. Congratulations to Josh Zeilman in his role in the NHS Play, "The Outsiders". This is about two weeks in the life of a 14 year old boy, and his struggle with right and wrong. Josh plays the role of Paul. There is a rumble between gangs and "Paul" shows up to start the rumble. The play ran for three nights in November with two performances on Saturday. Josh will be giving autographs upon request!!!!

Terri, Donna and Kathy