

SMLC MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY GUIDE

Learn more about the many ministry opportunities at St. Martin's Ev. Lutheran Church. If you have questions or interest in any below, utilize the contact email under its heading. The email will be sent to the Committee Chair(s) overseeing these ministries. If you have interest or questions about any other area of SMLC, please contact church staff at admin@saintmartins.org.

WORSHIP

contact: worship@saintmartins.org

ALTAR GUILD

Prepare the sanctuary for communion services and for baptisms, as needed. Training provided; volunteers needed to set up for both services prior to Sunday morning; clean up communion ware used at the 9 a.m. service and set out communion ware for the 11 a.m. service; clean up after the 11 a.m. service.

ASSISTING MINISTERS

Members serve during each service to assist the Pastor with serving communion, reading prayers, and doing any other task needed to help keep the service running smoothly. A binder is provided for each service that outlines the entire service so you know what to expect. Training is provided.

COMMUNION MINISTERS

Serve communion to members and visitors at Saint Martin's on Sundays

LITURGICAL ARTS

Enhance the worship experience for special festival occasions, e.g., Christmas, Easter, Pentecost and Reformation Day. Obtain and care for green plants used in the sanctuary throughout the year. Volunteers are needed to sell Christmas poinsettias and Easter lilies on Sunday mornings for several weeks before the services, decorate the Christmas trees, pick up, unload and arrange poinsettias and lilies for services, and prepare and distribute the plants to shut-ins. Volunteers are also needed on a weekly basis to care for the green plants.

MUSIC AT ST. MARTIN'S

Worship through song with the St. Martin's Choir, Handbells, and Symphonic Winds. Choir rehearses each Wednesday and sings during the weekly traditional service. Handbells rehearse weekly and play 5–8 times a year. Symphonic Winds rehearses the Saturday before participating in a Sunday worship service about once each quarter. Other small groups are formed for special occasions. (All groups pause rehearsals in the summer.) Whether you have sung or played recently or not, all are welcome!

USHERS

Ushers offer a welcoming greeting to all, distribute bulletins, collect offering, count attendance, usher parishioners to communion, and help visitors.

WORSHIP TECHNOLOGY

Help with audio and video for the live stream and recording of our services. We can train you, no expertise needed! This ministry keeps members connected with services when they cannot attend in person and is a great outreach to those who haven't visited St. Martin's before.

FAITH FORMATION

contact: faith.formation@saintmartins.org

SUNDAY NURSERY

The Nursery is open for children ages 0–4 during Sunday worship, the Faith Formation hour, and some special events. We provide a safe space for these young ones to play, giving their parents an opportunity to engage in worship and events. We staff the nursery with child care professionals happy to tend your young ones.

J.A.M & GODLY PLAY

The Children's Ministry helps our children through 5th grade in their faith formation. Godly Play is for ages 4–2nd grade. Godly Play brings Bible stories to life with tactile materials and invites children to wonder about the mystery of God's love and Jesus' teachings. J.A.M. (Jesus and Me) is for grades 3–5. Both programs are Bible based and age appropriate.

SMLC YOUTH

Austin Shortes • ashortes@saintmartins.org

We minister to the middle and high schoolers across our community. Support our congregation's young people by volunteering to teach or simply offering adult support at events.

CROSSWAYS BIBLE STUDY

An academic style Bible study that reads book by book and wrestles with what the text means for us. Each week you'll read a few chapters on your own, and we'll discuss during the Sunday Faith Formation hour. This fall, we'll start with a review and pick up with the books of Samuel. The group meets in the Parlor.

COME AS YOU ARE

A gathering for adults who are looking for a casual environment to build community and explore faith. The class will loosely be modeled on Faith 5 principles of Share, Read, Talk, Pray & Bless. No preparation needed. This class took a summer session break and will resume Sept 8. This hybrid class meets during the Faith Formation hour in room 230. Contact us for the zoom link at faithformation@saintmartins.org.

COMPANIONS IN CHRIST

A group spiritual formation practice that generates deep spiritual friendships. Members of these small groups engage in ~20 minutes of daily reflection and journaling prompts. They meet weekly at a mutually agreed time for 1.5 to 2 hours to reflect on how the Holy Spirit moved in the exercises and engage in a deeper exploration of the theme of the week. Adopts a formational rather than informational approach to faith formation.

BOOK GROUPS

This fall we are offering multiple book groups with various times and formats. In early fall, we will read *The Contested Public Square* about the evolution of Christian theological thinking on human government since the apostles. In late fall, we will read *Seculosity: How Career, Parenting, Technology, Food, Politics, and Romance Became Our New Religion and What to Do About It*.

LECTIONARY & SERMON PREP

Pastor Ellen Williams • pastorellen@saintmartins.org

Help Pastor generate sermon ideas, share what God is helping us each understand, and learn methods for developing a sermon. Involves preparatory reading of the weekly lectionary and commentary two Sundays in advance. Over time, some participants may feel called to engage in lay preaching for mid-week or Sunday worship services. This group meets on Wednesdays at noon over Zoom.

SATURDAY "FOUNDATIONS" WORKSHOPS

Pastor Ellen Williams • pastorellen@saintmartins.org
Pastor will lead two stand-alone Saturday sessions, teaching Bible Foundations or Lutheran Foundations, interspersed with a bread-making workshop—teaching what she learned from her professional bread-making classes last summer!

CHAT, PRAY, AND COMMUNITY WITH PASTOR

Pastor Ellen Williams • pastorellen@saintmartins.org
Join this weekly opportunity to connect on any level with Pastor Ellen and others. Want to talk about faith? Have a committee question for Pastor Ellen? Would you like prayer or a visit? Did you notice something at church or in the world you want to share? Have a great book recommendation? Looking for a chance to take a breath and connect with others from the congregation? This is a zoom/office hybrid opportunity for all this and more on Tuesdays, 2:30–3:30 pm, starting after Labor Day.

CONNECTIONS

Questions or interest? Email connections@saintmartins.org

STEPHEN MINISTRY

One-to-one care providers trained to support people experiencing grief, divorce, loneliness, job loss, medical crisis, and many other life difficulties. Meet weekly to listen, care, pray, and reflect Christ's presence. A life-changing experience for both the care receiver and the Stephen Minister. Check the bulletin for upcoming training and continuing education open to all congregants.

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF / TACK & PACK

Our WELCA Tack and Pack group meets every Tuesday from 9 am to 12 pm to complete quilts and kits for personal hygiene, baby, and school needs to be distributed when disaster strikes around the world. No sewing skills needed!

WOMEN OF THE CHURCH FELLOWSHIP

Join in fellowship between the multiple generations of women in the congregation through bi-annual retreats focused on study, reflection, relaxation, and community, and through monthly fellowship events.

MEN OF THE CHURCH

Help launch a new mens' fellowship here at St. Martin's. We'll be building this ministry on the fly—volunteering? sports? Bible study? Happy hour? How about all of the above!

WELCOME MINISTRY

Welcome visitors and offer information at the Welcome Center during each church service (before and after the service). Be part of a growing service to welcome new members to the church and connect them to opportunities to share their gifts.

FOOD & FELLOWSHIP

Join the team to bring snacks for our fun and meaningful post-worship fellowship. You can team up to provide snacks at the service time of your choice. Also, you can be part of Team Potluck that sets up for these wonderful churchwide gatherings.

BEREAVEMENT COMMITTEE

Our group steps in to provide a simple meal to the family after a memorial/funeral of a loved one. There are foods to be purchased and prepared. Then we divide the time to set up, serve, and clean up. Not each member of the committee serves each time so we need many members to share these duties.

PASTORAL CARE

Joins the pastoral staff in caring for our members. This includes calling and bringing Home Communion to those who cannot regularly attend worship services.

SERVES

Questions or interest? Email erves@saintmartins.org

LUNCH BAG MINISTRY

LBM provides shelf stable meals to our neighbors experiencing food insecurity. Bagged meals are distributed out the 16th street door Monday through Friday from 9AM - 11AM.

MOBILE LOAVES & FISHES

Mobile Loaves and Fishes (MLF) is a social outreach ministry that has been empowering communities into a lifestyle of service with the homeless since 1988. Through MLF's food truck program, volunteer teams prepare and distribute meals and other life-sustaining items to neighbors who are struggling. After meal preparations at First United Methodist Church, meals are distributed in various communities. SMLC teams serve every 3rd Saturday, 4:30–6:30 and every 4th Sunday after second service.

BREAD FOR ALL

Bread For All is a food pantry preparation and distribution organized by Austin City Lutherans every Monday at Faith Presbyterian Church, 1314 Oltorf St. Shift one packs groceries 11 am–3 pm and shift two distributes 4:45–6:30 p.m. SMLC nights are the first Monday of every month. Email to let us know you are coming or just show up—extra hands are always appreciated.

AUSTIN HELPS HONDURAS

Provides education opportunities for low-income students in Juticalpa, Honduras. Sponsors fund annual scholarship for students; donors help with other education and school maintenance needs. Project Noteworthy provides band instruments for 2 school bands. Volunteers needed for our board and our annual trip to visit students!

FACILITIES

Questions or interest? Email facilities@saintmartins.org

MOP & HAMMER

Volunteers help complete a variety of tasks needed to keep our building in shape to support the work of the church and preschool. Mop & Hammer is a crucial behind-the-scenes ministry that meets in the morning generally on the first and third Saturday of the month (or as needed for special projects).

ST. MARTIN'S PRESCHOOL

Questions or interest? Email admin@saintmartins.org

The preschool provides Christian education and care. The Preschool Board members are working to build a stronger connection between the church and the school.