



CROSSWAYS – January 2010

Newsletter of St. Martin's Lutheran Church – Cross Plains, WI

Pastor's Message

I don't do well with "Resolutions." Because I don't do well with resolutions, I am reluctant to make them, and even when I do, I don't tell people about them. After all, it's bad enough to fail, but even worse to fail publicly. Sound familiar?

Last Ash Wednesday I resolved not to eat desserts or sweets of any kind for Lent. This is particularly difficult for me since I drink lots of coffee (black). You know how hard it is not to have something sugary with coffee. The first week is always the toughest. "*If I can make it through the first week,*" I reasoned, "*I can surely go another week.*" But it's so hard. Exposure to sweet treats is unrelenting--coffee shops, pastoral home visits, grocery aisles—temptations are everywhere! I soon discovered (it should not have come as a surprise) that keeping resolutions has to be a moment by moment, not a week-to-week, decision. I had to deal with each temptation individually, one bar, one scone, one slice of cake at a time. Each refusal to indulge made it easier to resist. Eventually it became routine. A good routine and habit.

Amazingly enough, I made it through Lent without eating a single dessert. Now what? "Why not see how long I can go?" The next challenge was a two-week trip to Greece. I led a Bethel group to experience "The Steps of St. Paul." If you've been to Greece you've seen those beautiful glass-encased displays of Greek pastries oozing with honey and nuts and marzipan, works of art that dazzle both eye and tongue. Even the rest stops off the highway had these elaborate, colorful, tantalizing assortments of Greek delights. But I resisted. I managed to "pass by on the other side of the road." I did decide "just one time" to try a small piece of baklava. By then the habit was so engrained in me that I didn't particularly enjoy it, which was a triumph of resolve in itself! I was now on an official "roll." I made it through the summer dessert-free, and it became a routine I didn't think about it anymore. And that was the problem...

Without consciously deciding, I had re-defined "dessert," and began to exclude things like scones, chocolate milk, and other border-line items. Pretty soon, without even noticing, I was back to my regular old habits of sweets consumption. What happened?

What happened was that I stopped resolving each moment not to eat those sweets. I made excuses to myself to sneak a bite here and there and pretty soon there was no resolve. "I don't do well with resolutions," after all. It's true, but there's something else that's also true: I do even worse with resolutions I fail to make. Resolutions aren't the problem.

Here's what we can all learn from our failed "resolution experiences:"

- 1) You need to keep them one moment, one temptation, one occurrence at a time.
- 2) You cannot fulfill your promises to yourself or anyone else, by your own power.
- 3) You can trust the Lord's promise: "With mortals it is impossible, but for God all things are possible."
(Mt 19:26)

This New Year begins a new decade. Make your resolutions, yes. Boldly. Confidently. Look to the Lord for the power and wisdom to keep those resolutions. Left to your own power, you will surely fail. But with God, all things are possible.

Know this: "You can do all things through him who strengthens you." A blessed New Decade to you all.

Pastor Rick

President's Report

The year is coming to an end. I am writing this message immediately after our December Council meeting. The major agenda item for the evening was the budget. Everybody in this congregation needs to know that the Finance Team did an awesome job laying out a budget for Council to consider. They seem to have left no stones unturned. We are so fortunate to have people with the financial expertise and a desire to use it to benefit all of us at St. Martin's. I especially want to thank Mike Kalvin for chairing the Finance Team and developing a new budget structure to match our new church structure and to Kevin Boehnen for his thoughtful input and analysis that helps us make better financial decisions.

Council members are hoping that people who have not made a faith promise will do so. This is your discussion with the Lord about a financial commitment that you have prayed about throughout the year. Other than our bookkeeper, no one else knows what that commitment represents. If everyone made a financial commitment, then we would know what our budget bottom line needs to be. We have consistently found that whatever we get in faith promises tends to represent 70% of what we eventually collect for the year. My concern is that 17 giving units who made a faith promise last year have not done so this year and collectively these 17 giving units represent about \$41,000 in the budget. I hope you can see the bind that this puts the Council in when it comes to making budget decisions. No one on the Council has any idea who represents those giving units, but only you know if you made a faith promise last year and did not make one this year. Our next Council meeting will be January 11. If you could get your faith promises in before that date, then we can present a more realistic budget to you at the annual meeting which is now set for January 24. So mark January 24 on your calendar and plan to attend.

There was a request made by the Worship Team to change the early service from 8:00AM to 8:30AM. About 20% of responses I received have

been opposed to making the change. I have heard many times that 9:00AM is considered the ideal time for having a worship service; however, I have not looked for data to support that notion. Are we missing an opportunity to increase attendance at the first service? Maybe a compromise for 8:15 and 10:15 might be the way to go to get both services closer to that ideal time. While the issue is not dead, the Council did vote to not make any changes in the near future.

Last Thursday night I attended a worship service that basically was made up of high school students and some of their parents. I went in with certain expectations and came away feeling I had been a part of a special event. The youth band, *The Project*, was excellent and I liked the style they have chosen to implement with their Christian music. It is my feeling that many of you who have not heard them would come away with an appreciation for Rick Haller's influence on these young adults and their music presentation. I have not had a chance to talk to them about this, but I would like to see them lead us in an opening song at the annual meeting so that more of you can experience their musical gifts.

Our attendance at each worship service has been growing. Invite your neighbors and friends to be a part of our ministry at St. Martin's. I look forward to seeing the growth continue and our ministries flourish. This will happen if we respond to the love our Father has demonstrated by delivering us a Savior. At our church council meeting tonight the Bible study was from Ecclesiastes 8: 14 to 17. We really can never explain why God intervenes in our lives the way he does, but we do know that the ultimate sacrifice was made for our salvation out of love for each and every one of us. So let's not question God's motives but rather celebrate his amazing grace and no time is better than during the Christmas season.

In Christ,
Van Valaskey

2009 Year End Finance Update

Merry Christmas to one and all from the Finance Team! We continue to pray for wisdom and guidance towards our finances. We continue to be blessed with a team of passionate, caring individuals! Yea God!

Thru November from a budget perspective, our income and expenses continue to track to our budgeted amounts. Meaning, we are receiving and spending money according to our plan with little deviation from our plans.

Our line of credit currently resides at \$11,000 thru November. As you may recall, we took out a line of credit in 2008 to help cover our day to day expenses. Our goal has been to reduce our line of credit by \$8,000 by year end. However, unless we have a strong month of receipts in December, we will not be able to fulfill this goal.

In our last update, we mentioned we are working to catch up our 'faith promise' to the Synod office. We had fallen behind in these payments due to other obligations. I'm pleased to report, we have fulfilled our 'faith promise' to the Synod.

One interesting item to note is looking at our trends of giving year over year. Each of the past three years, we receive about 15% of our total year's receipts within the month of December. This year is no different. While it does make for some anxious moments financially, our congregation continues to meet the need going forward.

We have put together a new restructured use policy and have implemented a new budget process. We are confident this policy will assist us in continuing to keep our finances sound and transparent. Regarding our 2010 Budget Planning, we worked to gathered requests from the Activity Teams (aka Clusters), assemble the budget and forward to Council.

Our toughest challenge in planning for our future is estimating our planned receipts. The number of families with Faith Promises turned in is down from past years. This creates a wider gap between our receipts and our expenses. If you haven't yet completed your Faith Promise, please pray and ask God for his guidance towards your own giving level. If you turned in your Faith Promise, Thank You!

Yours in Christ,
Mike Kalvin
Finance Team Chair

Sunday School schedule for January -- 2010

- 1/3 -- No Sunday School today
- 1/10 -- Opening and Instruction
- 1/17 -- Opening and Instruction (**Children sing at 10:30 worship today**)
- 1/24 -- Opening and Instruction

A big THANK YOU to everyone who helped with the children's Christmas Program!! The kids did such a wonderful job and everyone had a great time. The lasagna dinner after the program was a special time for fellowship had by all!

† † †

WORSHIP & MUSIC

January worship & Gospel readings)

(Lectors - please access complete readings from homepage of the website)

- 1-03 Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14; Matthew 2:1-12
- 1-10 Isaiah 43:1-7; Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
- 1-17 Isaiah 62:1-5; 1 Cor. 12:1-11; John 2:1-11
- 1-24 Psalm 19; Cor. 12:12-31a; Luke 4:14-21
- 1-31 Jeremiah 1:4-10; 1 Cor. 13:1-13; Luke 4:21-30

Mark your calendars: *Lighthouse Singers*, acappella singers under the direction of Johnathon Overby will be coming to St. Martin's sanctuary on February 1 at 7 p.m.

Adult Education & Activities

(Hallie Wendorff, Cluster Leader)

Adult Activities

- ❖ "Pistols, Pasta and Passion", the mystery dinner has been rescheduled to Saturday, Jan. 16 at 5:30. Watch for signup sheets for actors and for those wanting to watch and eat. Contact Bill or Virginia Diebold for more information.
- ❖ Cheese and Chocolate Tasting presented by Bill Wendorff on Saturday, Feb. 13. Put this fun, educational opportunity on your calendar now.

EDUCATION

- ❖ "Upsized Living in Downsized Times" 9:15 Sunday's Jan. 3 thru Feb. 7 at the Gunderson Life Center. This is a forum series sponsored by The Befrienders and based on Dr. Tony Campolo's video series "Curing Affluenza". This is a timely topic as we continue dealing with our changing world and resources.

SMALL GROUPS

Sign up time is here to start our Small Groups. These groups that are listed below will meet once a month or less often for fellowship, life long learning and service projects. If you are interested in one of the groups, put your name on the list and I will send out a mini survey to determine the best time and day of the month to meet for those interested in joining.

- ❖ Daytime Women's Circle - This could include Bible study and/or discussion from the ELCA women's magazine "Lutheran Women Today", sharing of lunch or desert, either at church or at homes. Would meet once a month.
- ❖ Evening Women's Circle – This could include Bible study and/or discussion from the ELCA women's magazine "Lutheran Women Today". Sharing of desert or snacks, either at church or at homes. Would meet once a month.
- ❖ Men's Lunch Fellowship - This could include lunch at a local restaurant or at church and a program once a month. I am looking for a couple of men to coordinate this group. Let Hallie or Pastor Rick know if you would like to help get this group started.
- ❖ Dinner Group - This would be a group that would meet once a month to share cooking or pot luck meals and anything else related to food and eating. Could also check out some interesting restaurants.
- ❖ Theater Group - This would be a group that would meet occasionally to check out some of the great entertainment venues in our area. Group rates could make the ticket prices more affordable.
- ❖ Garden Group – This would be a group of adults that would work on some special gardening projects on the church grounds, such as plant and tend flowers, construct a labyrinth, plan a prayer garden or maintain the Plant a Row Garden. This would be a seasonal group.

SHARE the Season

JANUARY Specials are a SUPER BOWL PARTY PACK CONSISTING of 7 lbs of various meats for your Super Bowl party FOR \$15.

The SUPPERTIME MENU FROZEN ENTREE ASSORTMENT contains 7 different 18 oz entrée's serving two for \$20. January's selections also include port tenderloin, a shrimp and pasta meal, minced garlic, cinnamon rolls, and rib-eye steaks.

Other food packages are available for \$25 or a mini-package for \$15 containing an assortment of frozen meats, fresh fruits and vegetables, and other items. Choices change each month. Shipping and handling charges are added.

Please check the narthex for the SHARE display and newsletters, online at sharewi.org, or call Donna Blumer at 798-0114 or Dee Suchomel at 767-3757 ext 222. The deadline for **January orders is January 12th or January 17th** if ordering online. Please call Donna if ordering after these dates.

Volunteers In Worship - January

Lectors (also Communion Assistants)

1-03 9:00 Deb or Ron Goplin
 1-10 8:00 Debbie Wipperfurth
 10:30 Cathy Kittle
 1-17 8:00 Tom Smiley
 10:30 Kay or Kendra Kalvin
 1-24 8:00 Doris Fish
 10:30 Cheryl & Blake Hartung
 1-31 Senior High Youth

Communion Assistants

(10:30 unless otherwise noted)

1-03 9:00 Deb or Ron Goplin
 1-10 10:30 Mary Kay Knipfer & Patty Harper
 1-17 10:30 Julie Schultz & Bill Windels
 1-24 10:30 Tamra Harder & John Hagman
 1-31 Senior High Youth

Accompanists

1-03 Jan Doyle
 1-10 Mary Vassalotti
 1-17 Jan Doyle
 1-24 Mary Vassalotti
 1-31 TBA

Song Leaders

1-03 9:00 Paula Elver
 1-10 8:00
 10:30 Karen Windels
 1-17 8:00 Deb Lohr-Foster
 10:30 Paula Elver
 1-24 8:00
 10:30 Karen Windels
 1-31 8:00 TBA
 10:30 Mary Kay Knipfer

Acolytes

1-03 9:00 Kaitlin Conroy
 1-10 8:00 Danny Schunk
 10:30 Conner Mickelson
 1-17 8:00 Liam Turley
 10:30 Sarah Faber
 1-24 8:00 None
 10:30 Max Boehnen
 1-31 8:00 Ben Kalvin
 10:30 Samantha Flogel

Counters

1-03 Schunk Team
 1-10 Niesen Team
 1-17 Hillebrand 5 Team
 1-24 Hillebrand 4 Team
 1-31 Calvin Team

Altar Guild

1-03 9:00 Patty Hillebrand
 1-10 8:00 Jan Doyle
 10:30 Darlene Schulenberg
 1-17 8:00 Debbie Wipperfurth
 10:30 Julie Schultz
 1-24 8:00 Deb Goplin
 10:30 Deb Goplin
 1-31 8:00 TBA
 10:30 TBA

Ushers

1-03 9:00 Trappe Team
 1-10 8:00 Trappe Team
 10:30 McCauley Team
 1-17 8:00 Trappe Team
 10:30 McCauley Team
 1-24 8:00 Trappe Team
 10:30 McCauley Team
 1-31 Senior High Youth

Junior Ushers (10:30 unless otherwise noted)

1-03 Julia Tibbetts (9:00)
 1-10 Mariah Carlson
 1-17 Alison Faber
 1-24 Anna Freudenberg
 1-31 Garrett Knudtson

Nursery (10:30)

1-03 None
 1-10 None
 1-17 Travis Zander
 1-24 Alex Freudenberg
 1-31 Samantha Roll

AV

1-03 9:00 Jeff Postle
 1-10 8:00 Bill Wendorff
 10:30 Randy Hunt
 1-17 8:00 James Hartung
 10:30 Patty Neumueller & Jeff Postle
 1-25 8:00 Phil Fish
 10:30 Randy Hunt
 1-31 Senior High Youth



TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

St. Martin's Lutheran Church

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						
3 8 & 10:30am Worship 9:15am Sunday School K-5 FH Sunday School Pre K following 10:30am children's sermon	4 Girl Scouts #188 FH 6:30pm Soul Purpose 7pm	5 Women's Bible Study 6:30pm Boy Scouts 87 FH 7pm	6 Confirmation 6:30pm Tiger Trp #87 6pm	7 TOPS 5pm Youth Grp Meal 6:45pm Youth Grp Lifeline 7:15pm	8	9
10 8 & 10:30am Worship 9:15am Sunday School K-5 FH 5pm The Project practice	11 Quilting FH 9:30am Historical Society 7pm Soul Purpose 7pm	12 Men's Bible Study LB 6:30am Women's Bible Study 6:30pm Boy Scouts 87 FH 7pm Centering Prayer SC 7 pm	13 Tiger Trp #87 6pm Confirmation 6:30pm	14 TOPS 5pm Youth Grp Meal 6:45pm Youth Grp Lifeline 7:15pm Finance Mtg	15	16 <i>Mystery Dinner 5:30pm</i>
17 8 & 10:30am Worship 9:15am Sunday School K-5 FH Sunday School Pre K following 10:30am children's sermon	18 Girl Scouts #188 FH 6:30pm Council L 7pm Soul Purpose 7pm CROSSWAYS DEADLINE	19 Men's Bible Study LB 6:30am Women's Bible Study 6:30pm Boy Scouts 87 FH 7pm	20 Confirmation 6:30pm Tiger Trp #87 6pm	21 TOPS 5pm Youth Grp Meal 6:45pm Youth Grp Lifeline 7:15pm	22	23
24 8 & 10:30am Worship 9:15am Sunday School K-5 FH ANNUAL MTG (following 10:30 worship) 5pm The Project practice	25 Girl Scouts #188 FH 6:30pm Soul Purpose 7pm	26 Men's Bible Study LB 6:30am Women's Bible Study 6:30pm Boy Scouts 87 FH 7pm	27 Tiger Trp #87 6pm Confirmation 6:30pm	28 TOPS 5pm Youth Grp Meal 6:45pm Youth Grp Lifeline 7:15pm	29	30
31 8 & 10:30 Worship 9:15am Sunday School K-5 FH 5pm The Project practice		SC - Sanctuary. LB - Library	MR - Music Room FH - Fellowship Hall	YR - Youth Room CR Choir Room		

Church Office: (608) 798-2777

Office Hours: 9am-1pm - call 287-4567 thereafter

J.A.M. or Custodian: (608) 798-5085

Fax: (608) 798-0492

Web Site URL - <http://www.stmartinscp.org>

Pastor Rick Lund - ricklund@stmartinscp.org - 608 287-4567

Maureen Berghoefer - Admin. Assistant - office@stmartinscp.org

Tim Knipfer - Youth Director - timk@stmartinscp.org

Donna Blumer - Bookkeeper - bookkeeping@stmartinscp.org

Jim Doyle - Cell Phone: 608 576-7572

Virginia Diebold - virginiad@stmartinscp.org