

Pastor's Message

"If I'm not allowed to laugh in heaven, I don't want to go there." --Martin Luther

Sometimes truth is best told in through humor. Why? Perhaps it is because *laughing* is God's gift to keep us from taking ourselves too seriously. Laughing with others seems not only to put us in our place, but also to put us in the same place with those who laugh with us. We are, after all, in this world together and life is best lived when we work for the good of the whole.

I am not alone in believing that "*The Simpsons*" has the most religious content of any show on television. Though irreverent at times, Simpson characters have a lot to say about our culture, our values, and our relationship to God. Through humor, *The Simpsons* exposes the sin that works in us—through our self-interested, self-justifying, and often contradictory behavior and values.

Having trouble resisting temptation and wondering why? Here's a gem from the lips of the bratty adolescent Bart Simpson:

"I don't know!

I don't know why I did it,

I don't know why I enjoyed it, and

I don't know why I'll do it again.

The wisest Simpson, Marge, nails it when responds to her son: "*Bart, stop pestering Satan!*"

Not finding peace in your life? Perhaps you're looking in all the wrong places:

"Ah, beer. Now there's a temporary solution." – Homer Simpson

It's easy to justify stealing when you wonder, as Lisa Simpson does: "*Dad, is it all right to take things from people you don't like?*"

Each of us suffers from "cognitive dissonance"—the tension within us between our stated values and our actual actions—as these words so clearly reveal:

"If you really want something in this life, you have to work for it—Now quiet, they're about to announce the lottery numbers!" -- Homer Simpson

Thank God for the gift of humor. We would all be a lot less stressed and much more fun to be around if we found more of it in our lives.

Laughing all the way to Kingdom,
Pastor Rick



Join Us:



WHO: The Ladies of St. Martin's

WHAT: A Tea Party to welcome Katherine Lund

WHERE: Fellowship Hall

WHEN: November 14 – 3 p.m. – 5p.m.

RSVP on the Kiosk

President Message

It has been a busy fall at St. Martin's, but that can only be considered positive. I don't know that there is such a thing as too much activity when it comes to the work and effort carried out in His name. This month I especially want to recognize Hallie Wendorff for her efforts in writing continuing resolutions for our constitution. As most of you may recall, we voted on a totally new constitution last year that would be in line with our new church structure. Now we need to have new continuing resolutions which basically spell out expectations for all of our team ministries. My duties as a council president are spelled out there as well as the duties of all the officers and council itself. Expectations for all Team ministries are also spelled out. Changes to the constitution itself requires congregational approval, but continuing resolutions can be modified without a congregational vote as ministry goals and expectations change. Hallie has been writing most of these to date using old resolutions and her extensive knowledge of ministries at St. Martin's. These drafts are then shared with people that have extensive knowledge in specific ministries to modify. Ultimately they will be sent to council to approve in a final form. We all need to thank Hallie for her tireless effort on this project.

One of the major concerns of members from our congregation one year ago was youth ministry. Here is part of the list Lois Weiland gave me from the Hopes and Dreams list generated at last year's Stewardship drive.

Hopes to be accomplished in less than two years.

- Become "under 16" oriented church
- Opportunity for 13-25 year, young adult ministry
- Vital youth & family ministry – welcome & enduring
- Youth & **family** program (cross generational)
- Building youth program and involvement; more support activities, etc.
- Strong youth ministry

Dreams to be accomplished over a longer period of time:

- A youth center
- Youth program blossoms to the point of having a full-time youth and family director
- A **really large** mission trip for youth

I understand that at last Sunday's service there were over 30 children called up for the children's sermon. That is simply amazing and most people's hearts are warmed by all those children. Thank you Pastor Lund for the rapport you are developing with our children at St. Martin's and to Julie Schultz for extraordinary efforts in youth education. I also heard that there were over 20 high school students at the most recent church youth meeting. All I can say is WOW! We can especially thank Tim Knipfer for his inspirational leadership with the high school youth. It will certainly help that our youth have a positive ministry experience at St. Martin's if they are to be future leaders in the church with a passion to be disciples of Christ. I will be addressing all the Hopes and Dreams at the Stewardship event being planned for Nov. 15.

In His Name,
Van Valaskey

Come Get a Slice of the Pie



This year, Faith Promise is tempting you with Pie. On Sunday, November 15, we invite you to come to get your slice of the pie. Starting at 6:30 p.m., we will have representatives from the various Ministry Teams available for you to talk to. Each time you talk to one of them, you'll get a paper "slice of pie." Fill up your pie tin and turn it in for your real slice of pie.

We are at an exciting juncture at St. Martin's, and want to have you experience everything that is going on and the opportunities you have to get involved. Meet and Greet Pastor Rick, talk with a Council representative, chat with someone from Finance, Worship, Education, Youth and other Ministry Teams.

Then we'll have a report on where we are at with our Hopes & Dreams that we recorded last year. Finally, we will be asking you to evaluate your personal financial commitment to St. Martin's. The work that we are able to do at St. Martin's is dependent on your time, talents and treasures. Please take the time to prayerfully consider what your contributions in these three areas will be for the coming year.

Share your talents by making a pie for this event; helping to serve the pie and, of course, helping to eat it. We are also looking for a couple of people to help with child care. Please call the church office, 798-2777, to offer your services. There will also be sign up sheets to make pies and to attend this event.



Mark your calendars for **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 6:30 P.M. in the church's fellowship hall.**

Lois Weiland
Stewardship pie maker

2009 Third Quarter Finance Update

With a new pastor comes new excitement into our church and our Finance Team. We are blessed to have Pastor Lund and grateful for the guidance God has given us and we pray for continued guidance and stewardship towards our finances.

Thru the third quarter from a budget perspective, our income and expenses are both tracking 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 September. As you may recall, we took out a line of credit in 2008 to help cover our day to day expenses. We have been watching this closely and we have reduced our line of credit balance by \$4,000

in 2009. Our goal is to reduce our line of credit by \$8,000 by year end.

We are working to catch up our 'faith promise' to the Synod office. We had fallen behind in these payments due to other obligations. However, we are now planning payments in order for us to be at our expected level by the end of the year.

Thru the remainder of the year, we are looking at straightening our restricted use policy. We will be discussing and implementing our changes with the 2010 Budget process in the fourth quarter of the year.

Overall, we feel we have 'stemmed the tide' of our recent financial challenges and are looking forward to a more financially stable road in the months and years ahead.

Yours in Christ,
Mike Kalvin
Finance Team Chair

Happy Birthday Martin Luther With "Higher Ground"

What do you give a person who inspired the formation of the largest Protestant Church in the world? We thought an appropriate gift would be an offering to the Church he started, which now includes over 65 million members worldwide. So, to give thanks to God for the life of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther, you are invited to a Birthday Party in his honor **on Tuesday November 17 at 6:30 pm.** Had Martin Luther lived, he would be 526 this day. St. Martin's Lutheran Church and Martin Luther were named after the same person, "Martin of Tours," the patron saint of soldiers who chose to lay down his arms and became a great soldier for Christ in France in the 4th Century.

Music will be provided by the 20-piece Big Band Gospel group "Highway to Heaven." H2H is lead by Jonathan Overby, host of the popular Saturday Night radio program "Higher Ground" on Wisconsin Public Radio. Jonathan Overby and his band mates offer their music for the glory of God throughout Dane County and beyond. For more information about Jonathan and his music, log on to www.Africasong.org.

Refreshments will be served afterward. A special **free-will offering** will be received and given to the **mission work of the ELCA.** Children are especially welcomed to come with their families.



St. Martin's Members 1st Annual Fundraiser **Holiday Cookie Walk**

Saturday, December 5th 8:30am- until cookies are all sold out! Usually by 11am.

Would you like to help by baking several holiday favorites: Cookies, bars, pie, candies, and/or pretzels to name a few...

We will have a drop off time 4-8 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 4th . Open to baking at the church on Friday if enough volunteers~

The cookie walk will need volunteers the day of sale too, to help display cookies, put on a pot of coffee and ring out customers. Also, looking for some carolers that would like to sing songs of the season too!!



Each person will be given gloves and a bakery box upon entry (lower level of the church) and can walk around the bake goods choosing what they'd like to add to their box, weigh the box on the scale and pay by pound. It's that easy to do your baking and have homemade baked goodies this season!

For questions, more information or to volunteer please call Gail at 798-4186 or 575-0170.

Sunday School News

Nursery is now available during the 10:30 service for children ages 5 and younger.

Sunday School for Pre Schoolers (ages 2-3) is held the first and third Sundays of the month. Children will be dismissed to their classrooms from the Sanctuary following the Children's Sermon.

Mark Your Calendars for Nov. 22 from 9:15 to 10:15 for the **Intergenerational Advent Event** during

Sunday School (no opening or class instruction that day). Everyone is welcome to come and make cookies and create crafts to kick off the start of Advent.

Help Wanted for the Children's Christmas Program. Practice begins on 11/29. Contact Julie Schultz.



Senior High Youth



Mission work is never done. It seems like we just got back from our last mission trip and here we are planning our new trip. We will be going to Hancock Mississippi June 19-27 to help with hurricane damage still left from Katrina. Yes, there is still a great need there. People and families have been waiting a long time for our help and the youth of St. Martin's are going to do their share to help.

At the end of the Bible, in the Book of John, Jesus asks the Apostle Peter, "Do you love me." Peter replies, "You know that I love you." Jesus then said, "Take care of my sheep." Our youth have responded to this. They want to help take care of Gods people, to go outside their comfort zones and do what they can for others in need.

Mission work is at the heart of our ministry here at St. Martin's. The way our youth have responded to God's call to help the needy is truly amazing and inspiring. Our youth came back from our last mission trip with a new understanding of God. They wanted to continue to grow and share their faith in God. This is evident by our weekly Thursday meetings. Fifteen to twenty kids are coming to worship in song and devotions. The mission trip to Crownpoint was a start. The mission trip to Hancock County Mississippi will be a continuation of great things.

The cost will only be \$200 per person. We will fundraise the rest. The cost with out fundraising will be around \$850. You can sign up at church or on face-book.

Please prayerfully consider having your youth come on this trip. It's a life changing experience.

In Gods grace,
Tim Knipfer
Youth Ministry Director

Sr. High Life Line Meetings

Every Thursday from 6:30 – 8:30

6:30 – 7:15
7:15 – 8:30:

Dinner
Music with our Youth Band "The Project"
Devotions, free time to hang out, do home work and just "be a kid"

Sr. High Youth Upcoming Event's

Sign up on our Facebook group, St. Martin's Youth Group or
on the youth bulletin board in the Narthex

Dec. 4-6: **LYO Gathering** at the Alliant Center - Cost \$180
Jan. 8-10 **Aldo Leopold Retreat Weekend** – Cost \$50
June 19-26 2010 **Hancock County, Mississippi Mission Trip** with Next Step Ministries



Worship & Music



Wednesday, November 25 – 7:30 p.m.

At St. Francis

Pastor Rick will deliver the Children's Sermon

(Please bring an offering of canned goods to benefit the Christians In Action Food Pantry -Mazomanie)



Handbell Practice is temporarily on hold. Watch for future updates.

LESSONS & GOSPEL FOR NOVEMBER

11/1	All Saints Day	Isaiah 25:6-9 Revelation 21:1-6a John 11:32-44
11/8	23 rd Sunday After Pentecost	1 Kings 17:8-16 Hebrews 9:24-28 Mark 12:38-44
11/15	24 th Sunday After Pentecost	Daniel 12:1-3 Hebrews 10:11-14 (15-18) 19-25 Mark 13:1-8
11/22	Christ the King	Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14 Revelation 1:4b-8 John 18:33-37
11/29	First Sunday Of Advent	Jeremiah 33:14-16 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 Luke 21:25-36



SHARE the Season

Pay it Forward with Random Packs of Kindness. Become a "Secret Shopper" for a family in need!

Sponsor a gift of food to benefit a household, or if you prefer, SHARE will identify a family in your area in need. Your identity will not be revealed unless you indicate that it is OK. Check the information in the narthex or go online to sharewi.org.

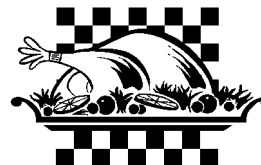
ORDER YOUR THANKSGIVING DINNER NOW.

For \$25 receive enough food to serve 6. Includes is a 12-14lb turkey, stuffing mix, cranberry sauce, 10" pumpkin pie, fresh produce with potatoes, celery, acorn squash, apples and oranges.

NOVEMBER Specials are 9.5 lbs of Cook's Spiral sliced ham for \$21, a mixed steak box with 4 NY strip steaks and

4 rib eyes for \$17, Butterball 8.3lbs Smoked Turkey Breast Roast for \$17.50 and other new choices. Other food packages are available for \$25 or a mini-package for \$15 containing an assortment of frozen meats, fresh fruits and vegetables. Choices change monthly.

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 this month is **November 3rd** or **November 8th** if ordering online. Please call Donna if ordering after these dates.



Missions

They will know we are Christians by our love"

Middleton Outreach Ministry (MOM)

Needs (or way's to serve!):

1. Brown paper **grocery bags** (clients use these when they "shop" at the Pantry).
2. Most needed **volunteer positions**
 - Clothing Closet - call Carole @ 826-3409
 - Food delivery - call Carole @ 826-3409
 - POP friendly visitor (play cards, have tea, go for a walk) - call Diane @ 826-3410
3. Christmasfest Co-Chair. **Christmasfest** is the community Christmas Day dinner at St. Bernard's Catholic Church in Middleton. All of the MOM churches contribute food and volunteer time to make this wonderful Christmas dinner happen. The long-time coordinators have retired and we need 3 or 4 people who will help coordinate the food and volunteers. Call Carole @ 826-3409.
4. Most **needed food pantry items**: baking goods, canned fruit, hearty canned soups/stews, dried soup, jello/pudding, jelly, rice, canned turkey/chicken, laundry detergent, personal care items.
5. **Gently used bedding/blanket/towels: coats/hats/mittens/gloves.**

Upcoming event (or have fun while giving!):

"It's a Wonderful Life" Radio Play - Middleton High School Performing Arts Center. All of the proceeds go to MOM. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$10 for seniors, and \$6 for children 6 and under. A \$2 refund will be given at the door for donations of 2 or more non-perishable food items (per person). Event Dates are Sunday, Dec. 6 @ 2 pm, Saturday, Dec. 12 @ 7pm, Sunday, Dec. 13 @ 2 pm. If more details are needed on any of the above, call me at 798-2752 or go to the MOM website www.moppop.org.

Judy Valaskey

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Hurrah! The O'Connell Habitat for Humanity home in Mazomanie is near completion, and the House Blessing is planned for **Saturday, Nov. 7, 10 a.m.**, with cake and goodies to follow. All volunteers from St. Martin's who worked on this are invited to attend the ceremony and see the finished product.

Or, well, *nearly* finished -- The family moves in by Thanksgiving, but those who worked there know that landscaping and retaining walls need to be finished in the spring, for which \$12,000 labor and \$5,000 materials has been estimated. Habitat is looking for qualified supervisors to direct volunteers on the wall construction, which would reduce the greater expense, but the West Dane Habitat/Thrivent Team is asking churches to

consider a winter fundraiser to cover the block and other costs.

Would your congregation consider a dinner or other event in January or February? A poster template is being designed featuring pictures of this build, with spaces to put in the date/time/etc. of your fundraiser. If enough are 'spread out' through the season, people may have several opportunities to travel between churches, share in varied fellowship and support this final effort. Watch for more info by e-mail or be in contact with your parish Habitat/Thrivent coordinator, Donna Blumer

And last, if you a)know someone who may qualify for a Habitat home or b)have someone interested in selling a site for a Habitat home, have them get in touch with Habitat! They're currently looking at a possible build in Blue Mounds next year, and are seeking both a family interested in settling there and a site on which to build, so . . . Thank you for your attention

Pastor Jeff Jacobs

The Giving Tree



The Giving Tree Program, which celebrates its 20th year of community outreach this year, has become a Christmas tradition for the people of St. Martin's. While there is great need in our community and beyond among families and individuals who feel the added stress of the financial crunch during the Christmas season, there is also a powerful and amazing need here at St. Martin's to respond with incredible generosity. If this is your first year witnessing the miracle of the Giving Tree, you are in for a special treat

On the Sunday prior to Thanksgiving (Nov. 22) a table will be set up in the Narthex with the wishes of the first of our adopted families written on paper ornaments. Donors will select a wish (or two or three) from those ornaments and commit to purchasing the gift indicated. These gifts will be wrapped, labeled, returned to the Narthex and placed under the Giving Tree by Sunday, Dec. 20th. Families will then be contacted and arrangements made for pick up and delivery.

Since this is a milestone year for the Giving Tree, my prayer is that it will be the finest yet, but only you can make that happen and since God always has His hand in it and teaches me every year never to doubt the depth of the love a congregation is capable of I will believe it is indeed possible

As our 20th year unfolds I say "thank you" on behalf of the hundreds we have served over the years and for the miracle of the Giving Tree..

"They will know we are Christians by our love."

God's blessings, *Maureen Berghoefer*

St. Martin's Lutheran Church - November 2009



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 8 & 10:30am Worship 9:15am Sunday School K-5 FH Sunday School Pre K after 10:30am Children's Sermon (Craft Grp FH noon)	2 Girl Scouts #188 FH 5:45pm Soul Purpose Prac 7pm	3 Men's Bible Study LB 6:30am Women's Bible Study 6:30pm Boy Scouts 87 FH 6:30pm	4 Tiger Trp #87 6pm Confirmation 6:30pm	5 Pal Zone N 9:30am TOPS 5pm Youth Grp Meal FH 6:45pm Youth Grp Lifeline 7:15pm	6	7 <i>Simply Worship 5 pm.</i> Prelude 4:45 pm Habitat For Humanity House <i>Blessing - Mazo 10am</i> (Bridal Shower FH 11am)
8 8 & 10:30am Worship 9:15am Sunday School K-5 FH (Craft Grp FH noon)	9 Quilting 9:30am Girl Scouts #188 FH 5:45pm Soul Purpose Prac 7pm Historical Society 7pm	10 Men's Bible Study LB 6:30am Women's Bible Study 6:30pm Boy Scouts 87 FH 6:30pm Centering Prayer SC 7 pm	11 Tiger Trp #87 6pm Confirmation 6:30pm	12 Pal Zone N 9:30am TOPS 5pm Youth Grp Meal FH 6:45pm Youth Grp Lifeline 7:15pm Finance Meeting 7pm	13	14 <i>Simply Worship 5 pm</i> <i>Prelude 4:45 pm.</i> Tea Party FH 3pm
15 8 & 10:30am Worship 9:15am Sunday School K-5 FH Sun School PreK - (see 11/1 above) Slice of Pie Stewardshp FH 6:30pm (Craft Grp FH noon)	16 Girl Scouts #188 FH 5:45pm Soul Purpose Prac FH 7pm Council L 7pm CROSSWAYS DEADLINE	17 Men's Bible Study LB 6:30am Women's Bible Study 6:30pm Boy Scouts 87 FH 6:30pm "Highway to Heaven" 6:30pm	18 Tiger Trp #87 6pm Confirmation 6:30pm Confirmation 6:30pm	19 Pal Zone N 9:30am TOPS 5pm Youth Grp Meal FH 6:45pm Youth Grp Lifeline 7:15pm	20	21 <i>Simply Worship 5pm.</i> <i>Prelude 4:45 pm.</i>
22 8 & 10:30am Worship 9:15am Sunday School K-5 FH Intergenerational Advent Event FH 9:15am (Craft Grp FH noon)	23 Girl Scouts #188 FH 5:45pm Soul Purpose Prac 7pm	24 Men's Bible Study LB 6:30am Women's Bible Study 6:30pm Boy Scouts 87 FH 6:30pm	25 Confirmation 6:30pm Tiger Trp #87 6pm Eccumenical Thanksgiv- ing Ser. 6pm St Francis	26 HAPPY THANKSGIVING	27	28 <i>Simply Worship 5 pm</i> <i>Prelude 4:45 pm</i>
29 8 & 10:30am Worship 9:15am Sunday School K-5 FH (Craft Grp FH noon)	30 Girl Scouts #188 FH 5:45pm Soul Purpose Prac 7pm					

SC - Sanctuary.

LB - Library

MR - Music Room

FH - Fellowship Hall

YR - Youth Room

CR Choir Room

N - Nursery

PLEASE NOTE: Groups listed in parantheses are private gatherings - not open to the public

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 - viriniad@stmartinscp.org

