

## Pastor's Message

In my last year of Seminary in California my Bishop, Dave Wold, invited me to be Interim Pastor at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Centralia, WA. It was an unusual opportunity for which I am deeply grateful. It's not hard to remember my very first day of parish ministry: January 1, 1990. Memorable, too, was an extraordinary challenge on that first day. Centralia was underwater after the Chehalis River overflowed its banks and flooded the Chehalis Valley. It was the most destructive flood in history, causing about \$19.1 million in damage.

In addition to the water, there were other seemingly insurmountable obstacles. Immanuel was a landlocked congregation in an old residential neighborhood in the center of the city. We had almost no off-street parking, and few options to grow our facilities. In addition, the former pastor left for health reasons under less than ideal circumstances. Members were drifting away. People were discouraged. Church leaders were a bit incredulous to learn that their new pastor was not yet a Seminary graduate. Some thought that we were under water in more ways than one!

But God knew what we couldn't possibly have imagined. Our little congregation came together to seek the Lord's wisdom and order our ministry accordingly. A renewed sense of joy, purpose and hope came out of those dark days. Within a year, we purchased acreage on the outskirts of the city. It took nearly a decade, but Immanuel eventually built a beautiful new church on that site, including a multi-purpose "gym" to bless the entire community. Immanuel members did most of the labor themselves and paid cash, so construction was completed with virtually no financial debt. (See [www.immanuelcentraliawa.org](http://www.immanuelcentraliawa.org).)

Even more wonderful is that worship attendance has increased over 50% since I left in late 1990. Today, Immanuel Lutheran Church is a thriving congregation excited to celebrate a century of ministry in 2011. Thank God for his faithfulness!

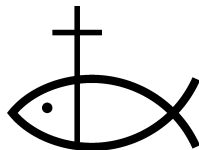
I see similarities with our situation. Pastor Tim was sent by God to prepare St. Martin's Lutheran Church for the next era of ministry. Thanks to God's incredible blessings in the past year under Pastor Tim's shepherding, we are experiencing the fruits of rebirth here in Cross Plains. God wants us to succeed for his purposes, and with his continued blessing we will.

We are now facing a flood of a different sort as I begin my first days as your Pastor at St. Martin's. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America has voted to amend the qualifications for ordained ministry to include the possibility of individuals in committed, same-gender, monogamous relationships to serve as pastors. This is by no means a "done deal," nor does it bind local parishes to abide by the decision. There remain great differences of theology and piety on this issue within the ELCA. Nonetheless, there will be challenging days ahead as we seek to be faithful to our Lord's calling as individuals and as a Church. Are we gracious enough to respect our differences as we seek the way forward? I believe so. I hope so.

For more complete information on the Churchwide Assembly, I direct you to the Church's website, [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org).

Together with you  
in the Body of Jesus Christ, our Lord,

*Pastor Rick*

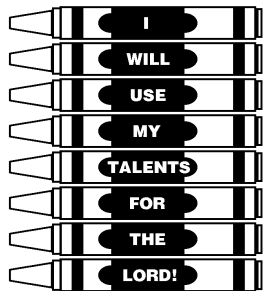


### **Installation of Pastor Rick Lund**

Sunday, September 13 – 1 pm  
Bishop Bruce Burnside – Presiding  
Pastor Laura Sutherland - Preaching

## President's Message

What an exciting time to be at St. Martin's! We welcome Pastor Lund and his family to guide us with our ministries. I truly believe that as I have gotten to know Pastor Lund that he will be a great pastor and we are fortunate that God called him to serve our church. Would it not be wonderful if he could be a great pastor at a great church? At our last council meeting Jeannie Hering-Schumann led the Word, share and prayer session and she focused on Matthew 9:36-38. "When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a Shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." If you are a member at St. Martin's then you are among the few laborers. Our job is to bring back the past laborers that have left our church and to go out and harvest more of the unchurched



in our community. I understand that approximately 60 people have filled out "Footsteps" – our time and talent sheet. Thank you to all who have responded. If you have not already filled out a Footsteps, please pick one up in the Narthex and turn it in to Maureen or anyone on the office staff. Maureen is developing a new membership database on

ministries and don't assume that just because you have been doing a ministry for years that you don't need to fill one out. We want to know that your commitment remains. The old database was getting outdated and it would be very helpful for the leadership and our new pastor to know what ministries our members are involved with.

On Sept 13 we are planning to have a big Rally Day community event. Watch for more information about Rally Day and learn more at our website: <http://www.stmartinscp.org>. If you have a neighbor that used to attend St. Martin's or others that you think would

be receptive to finding out what St. Martin's is about, then bring them with you on Rally Day. At the very least, ask them to come. As I mentioned in church this past Sunday, my challenge to you is to fill the church to capacity where we have to set up chairs to handle the crowd. There is one point that Pastor Lund made this last Sunday which has stuck with me. He said "the most important people are the ones that are not here."

The word "pastor" means shepherd. "If a shepherd has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray." (Matthew 18:12-13) Let's help him find the lost sheep and rejoice in it.



The main responsibilities of our pastor are to teach and guide the people at St. Martin's to do God's work. An important initiative that pastor strongly believes in is called "Faith Incubators". It is basically about working with families as partners for their children's education. It really sounds like it will fit in nicely with the "The Book of Faith" initiative that you can read more about in this newsletter. On Wednesday, September 16, there will be a synod workshop on "Faith Inkubators" at St. Martin's that we would like for everyone to consider attending. An afternoon session will be a focus for church leaders and an evening session will focus on families and will be valuable to parents that have or will have children in our education program. Either session may be attended by interested members. "Faith Incubators" and the "Book of Faith Initiative" will be further introduced on Rally Day. Plans are now being made so watch for details.

*Van Valaskey*

  
*A Special*  
**THANK YOU**  


Flowers, treats, and applause—oh, my! Thank you so much, dear friends at St. Martin's, for the wonderful send-off on August 16. I am filled with thanks for all of your kind words and actions to affirm my ministry as interim pastor.

Thank you also for the hands of prayer bookends. They are already in my office at home to remind me that we are, through the gift of the Holy Spirit, united in the one body of Christ. You are in my prayers, that this Spirit of our crucified and risen Lord will continue to empower your ministry with Pastor Rick Lund.

I think of the verse from Ephesians that we heard on August 16: "Be filled with the Spirit...giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." (5:18,20) I give thanks to our God for the time of ministry we shared, and for the gifts God has poured out on us abundantly.

May God continue to bless St. Martin's abundantly as you and Pastor Rick begin a new chapter of living and serving in Jesus' name! Be filled with the Spirit! "God be with you till we meet again." (ELW #536)

Yours in Christ,  
*Tim Dean*

*A Letter From Bishop Burnside*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in this Church:

*What will our witness be?* This morning I rose early and made my way to Central Lutheran Church, only a few short blocks from the hotel, and just across the street from the Convention Center where our Churchwide Assembly is meeting. I went there to eat breakfast. I sat with Mary, Carolyn and Cynthia at a lovely outdoor table while the carillons in the splendid tower made hymns vibrate from glass, metal, and stone buildings in downtown Minneapolis.

I went there to eat breakfast and I know that by having some scrambled eggs, a pancake and a hot cup of early morning coffee, I helped save a life. It happened because this congregation has organized the first fundraising effort to support the ELCA Lutheran Malaria Initiative, which was adopted at this Assembly today. Ten percent of all the money received from hundreds of Voting Members who purchase breakfast at Central's early morning outdoor Carillon café is given to Lutheran World Relief.

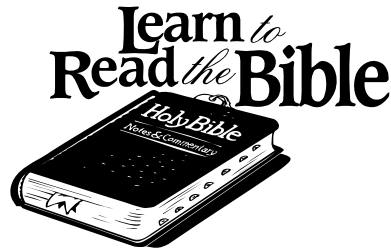
*What will your witness be?* This question dominates our deliberations, our prayer and bible Study time, our worship and our debates; it is the theme of reports and the topic of our hearings. We are being asked, over one thousand of us, who are voting members from all over the ELCA, "what will your witness be?" Central Lutheran is making a creative, delightful, beautiful, life saving, delicious witness to all of us, to the neighborhood and to a continent, Africa.

As the story of this Assembly is written, what will our witness be? You; the question is for you also: "what will your witness be – today?" Please continue to pray for the faithful ministry of this Church! You can follow all the events of these days, including action on the Lutheran Malaria Initiative on line at: [www.elca.org/assembly](http://www.elca.org/assembly).

For Christ's Sake,

Bruce, Your Bishop

# Why the Book of Faith Initiative?



Our Mission Statement is as follows: **St Martin's will reach out and welcome all to grow as Disciples of Christ. We equip and empower people through ministry teams and small groups to know God through prayer, worship, scripture reading, servant hood, fellowship and stewardship.** So there are six emphases on marks of Discipleship and two years ago we had goals to work with the congregation on understanding how to comfortably dialog with our Lord through prayer. Last year the goal was to educate the congregation on our service liturgy in the new hymnal and the significant meaning of all aspects of the liturgy. This year the emphasis was to be on scripture reading, however with an interim pastor and not knowing when we would be calling a new pastor, the council decided to make scripture reading a goal for all of St. Martin's members that have neglected scripture reading in their lives. We plan to use the "Book of Faith" initiative to serve as a launch pad to start more scripture conversations and to gain a deeper understanding of scripture readings.

Council members, Christie Howell-Yrios, Ann Houck and Van Valaskey, attended the synod LEAD conference in the spring of 2009 and they introduced a new ELCA proposal called the "Book of Faith Initiative". We were all exposed to the "Book of Faith Initiative" in various workshops at the leadership training conference, LEAD, and decided

we needed to bring this idea to council for consideration as a tool to implement the goal of placing emphasis on the Bible and scripture reading. Congregations interested in being a part of this initiative could apply for synod support. St. Martin's is one of 14 first wave congregations selected to receive support. So you will be hearing from the Book of Faith Initiative team (Karen Windels, Mary Kay Knipfer, Brenda Hagman, Van Valaskey and Pastor Rick). A presentation on Rally Day will explain the "Book of Faith" initiative.

There actually is no definition for this Evangelical Lutheran Church in America initiative. The ELCA has made a commitment to encourage all members of our congregations, from children to adults, to dig deeper into our book of faith, the Bible. The Book of Faith Initiative is what we want it to be at St. Martin's—a grass-roots approach embracing a common vision in which our children through adults are invited to open scripture and join the conversation so that we can become fluid in our understanding of the message conveyed in the Bible. We would simply like people to open the Bible and read scripture in a variety of setting. The Book of Faith Initiative team at St. Martin's will be suggesting ways for our membership to make Bible reading a vital part of ministry in our church building and in our homes.

## Head FINK Coming Soon to St. Martin's!

ELCA Pastor Rich Melheim of "Faith Inkubators," Stillwater, Minnesota will inspire us to a greater commitment to the faith formation of our children as he joins us at St. Martin's on Wednesday, September 16. Two unique sessions are scheduled as follows:

**Session 1:** For Church Leaders, Youth Directors, Pastors, Parents, Adults who love kids (*free for St. Martin's members and guests*)

- 12:30 Registration
- 1:00 Rethinking **Family Ministry** as Families DOING Ministry
- 1:45 Rethinking **Preschool Ministries** as Family Ministry
- 2:15 Rethinking **Children's Ministries** as Family Ministry
- 3:15 Rethinking **Confirmation Ministry** as Family Ministry
- 4:00 Rethinking **Youth Ministry** as Family Ministry
- 4:45 **Getting Started** (without getting fired)



**6:00 Pulled Pork Dinner with all the trimmings**

**Session 2:** For Parents with their children, parents without their children, children without their parents—all children up to High School!

7:00 – 8:30 pm **Evening Event: "Working on the Dream"**

What it is:  $\frac{1}{2}$  standup comedy;  $\frac{12}{100}$  parenting advice,  $\frac{3}{4}$  sneaky parent recruitment, 100% pure fun or your money back (oops—its already free for St. Martin's members!)

This is a unique opportunity for St. Martin's members and is open to other congregations for a small fee—see [www.faithink.com](http://www.faithink.com) for more information, or contact Pastor Rick.

### *Mission of Faith Inkubators*

To incubate faith every night in every home.

### *Vision of Faith Inkubators*

To spearhead a Christian education reform that restores parents as the primary faith teachers, mentors and role models for their own children with church as reinforcement – not replacement – of the parent's duties.

### *Inkubators Statement of Faith*

"Go make disciples – baptize and teach" - Jesus



## Adult Education & Activities

**Adult Member Event Night (AMEN)** – members sharing their talents and interests with other members.

“Pistols, Pasta and Passion”, a mystery dinner on Saturday, Sept. 19<sup>th</sup> at 5:30. Authentic Italian food will be prepared by chefs Virginia and Bill Diebold. We have parts for 4 men and 4 women, the rest of the guests will be trying to figure out WHO DID IT. Look for a sign-up sheet in the narthex.

### **Future AMEN Activities**

- ❖ December 6 – Christmas Caroling at homes of shut ins and nursing homes.
- ❖ Travelogue of Australia (date pending)
- ❖ December – Cookie Sale by the pound.
- ❖ February – Cheese and chocolate tasting presented by Bill Wendorff.



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**Future FRIENDS Activities-** A group of adults that goes places and eats out together.

- ❖ October 27 - Brewery Tour, Lunch and possible shopping in New Glarus.
- ❖ December – movie or Christmas Program If you have any ideas, please let us know

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Small Groups – This next school year I hope to start a few small groups, to encourage St. Martin's members to gather about once a month to do things together and become better acquainted. Join a group of people with similar interests or try something new. Those in the group will decide themselves what they want to do, which could include fellowship, service projects or Bible Study. On Rally Day look for a place to sign up for one of these groups. I am thinking of the following types of groups.

**Cooking or Foods of the World Group; Men's breakfast or lunch group / ROMEO's; Kitchen Crew; Music Club; Theater Group; Crafts / Knitting / Sewing / Woodworking; Parents Group; Gardening Group; Book Club; Sports/Exercise Group (Hiking, Skiing, Biking, Walking); Bible Study for men or women**

If you have other ideas for a group, please let me know and we will see if there is interest by others in that type of group.

*Hallie Wendorff*

Adult Education & Activities Cluster Coordinator



## **SHARE**

### **September Specials:**

**SAUSAGE BREAKFAST BISCUITS** containing JIMMY DEAN 40 snack sized biscuits for \$12.50.

**MIXED STEAK BOX** with 4 8-oz NY strips and 4 8-oz ribeyes for \$17. Excellent steaks.

Also featured this month are 24 EGG ROLLS for \$7.85, 10 lbs of PORK RIBS for \$20.00, Chesapeake Bay Gourmet LOBSTER APPETIZERS(new) for \$7.85 and 3 12 inch ROSSINI's GOURMET PIZZAS for \$10.

Other food packages available for \$ 15 or \$ 25 containing an assortment of frozen meat, fresh vegetables and other items. You can also purchase select items. Choices change each month.

Now is the time to think about the holidays.

Turkey and ham dinners sell for \$25 and contain numerous items. Please pick up a newsletter with order forms and more information in the church narthex, call Donna Blumer at 798-0114, or [sharewi.org](http://sharewi.org). The deadline for the September orders is September 8<sup>th</sup>.

## Missions

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

### **MIDDLETON OUTREACH MINISTRY (MOM)**

**"Stuff the Truck:"** Our Food Drive at Terry's Piggly Wiggly was a huge success! We collected almost 800 lbs. of food and \$104.00 in cash donations. Thanks to all of the people from St. Martin's who volunteered time, and all of you who donated food and cash. Thanks also to Terry's and all of our friends in the Cross Plains community who helped us with this drive.

**Grant from Wal-Mart Foundation:** \$30,000 was awarded to MOM to be used for food pantry purchases. This grant is to provide hunger relief and addresses the need for access to nutritious food for Wisconsin residents. Non-perishable food for the pantry is donated by the community but the MOM staff buys meat, dairy, and other staples. With a dramatic 30% increase in pantry usage this year, this grant is critical in helping us meet that escalating need.

**School Backpack Program:** This year 355 backpacks will be distributed to children of MOM clients in grades K-12. Your donations helped make that happen.

#### **Food Needed:**

Baking goods (flour, sugar, etc.), Meals in a Can/Box, Canned Meat/Fish, Canned Beans, Baked Beans, Jell-O/Pudding, Jelly (no grape please), Peanut Butter, Rice, Diapers (size 5).

### **LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF**

St. Martin's continues its tradition of assembling healthcare kits for those who must flee their homes quickly due to national disasters, unexpected emergencies or political unrest with nothing more than the clothing on their backs. Healthcare kits help refugees maintain personal hygiene and a sense of dignity while living in exile and contribute to be a new start for those returning to their homeland.

During the month of September we are collecting healthcare kits to ship overseas with the beautiful quilts the quilters have sewn over the course of the past year. Our healthcare kit goal is 50 for this year. Won't you please stop by the LWR Table in the narthex to help us reach that goal. Partial kits are available at the table – (toothbrush, band aids, and washcloths) – you add nail clippers, comb, soap and a hand towel to complete another kit; or create a total kit from scratch. More information is available at the LWR table. Deadline for returning the kits to the sanctuary is 10/3, to meet the scheduled boxcar pick up in Madison the following Saturday.

Please direct any questions to me at the church office 798-2777 or at home 798-4820

### **CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE**



Do you know of a family or individual who might benefit from the annual St. Martin's adopt a family program? You will make the initial contact on behalf of St. Martin's then the Giving Tree Team will follow up to obtain a wish list and make arrangements for pick up or delivery.

Blessings,  
M. Berghoefer, Cluster Council-Missions



2427 Church Street  
Cross Plains, WI 53528  
Phone: 608-798-2777

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CROSS PLAINS, WI 53528

Return Service Requested



Sunday, September 13  
Directly following worship  
Installation of Pastor Rick Lund – 1 pm