



Blood Drive

❖ is Jan. 12. See page 2 for details.



Giving envelopes

❖ Giving envelopes are here. See page 3.



SHARE orders

❖ are due Jan. 15 online. Check the narthex for specials

CROSSWAYS

newsletter
st martin's lutheran church, cross plains, wi

- January 1, 2012
- Volume 2, number 5
- ELCA

Annual Meeting coming Jan. 22



St. Martin's Giving Tree recap

2011 is behind us and a new year brings new hope and new promise for our St. Martin's family. May you have a spiritual renewal and find His peace and grace in your faith journey in 2012.

Please make plans to attend our annual meeting at 11:45 am. on Sunday, Jan. 22, after the second service. We will review 2011 and a look at our plan and budget for 2012. We really need everyone to attend as we face various decisions and need to elect two Council representatives to replace Van Valaskey and Ann Houck.

—Tom Johnson, Council President

The Christmas wishes of 23 Cross Plains area families were fulfilled this year by the Giving Tree sponsored by friends and members of St. Martin's Lutheran Church. Besides receiving wrapped, bowed and tagged packages from their wish list, adopted families shopped for donated gently used clothing, household items and toys that filled the coat room, library, and narthex when they picked up their gifts. I wish to thank the Giving Tree team who made it all possible including Kay and Tom Meier, Erin McCauley, Diana Postle, June Feeley, Ann Houck & family, Karen

Seibel, Lois Weiland, Darlene Harms, Linda Knudtson, Ray Berghoefer and everyone who purchased gifts, made financial donations, or donated gently used items.

Items that remained following family pick up were donated to Middleton Outreach Ministry and St. Vincent DePaul. The 2011 Giving Tree was further supported by financial donations from the Cross Plains Community Chest and the American Legion Post 245 Caring Tree. The Giving Tree has made Christmas a little merrier for hundreds of area families since 1988.

—Maureen Berghoefer, Coordinator

Hope & Dreams Potluck

Please plan to attend a Hopes and Dreams Potluck at 5 pm. on Sunday, Jan. 29, in Fellowship Hall. We will be looking for your ideas and direction for moving St. Martin's forward. More details will come in future Thursday's Weekly Bread.

—Tom Johnson



Cookie Walk raises over \$1,000



In just three year's time, this fundraiser has become quite successful: 44 bakers participating and collected funds of about \$1,000 on just the cookies!

We wish to thank all who helped make this so successful: those who donated cookies, herbs, and books, spent their morning helping with set up and singing, and who purchased cookies, herbs, books and other offerings.

—Gail Johnson

New bulletin board for GIFT

Thanks to building manager, Steve Hillebrand, GIFT now has a new bulletin board on the stairs leading down to the Fellowship Hall. We look forward to adding new photos and information concerning our children's education program.



The GIFT program is looking for props and costumes to help bring our reader's theater scripts to life each week. We could use wigs, funny hats, glasses, robes or loose clothing that could be slipped over regular clothing. If you have any of these things you would be willing to donate, please contact Renee' Frey at 798-0472.

—Michelle Phaneuf



ST. MARTIN'S
Lutheran Church

Newsletter of
St. Martin's Lutheran Church
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Cross Plains, WI 53528

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From the Pastor

The gift of our life in the new year

It wouldn't be Christmas for me without seeing the movie *It's a Wonderful Life*. James Stewart plays the character George Bailey, a beloved small town bank president whose wish "that I would never have been born" after being the victim of an action that would have destroyed his bank, was granted. The movie shows what life would have been without him in the world.

Near the end of the movie we see George on a bridge, shivering and despondent, ready to jump. He's praying, asking the angel, Clarence, to give him back the life he had forsaken:



"Help me Clarence. Get me back. Get me back. I don't care what happens to me. Get me back to my wife and kids. Help me, Clarence, please! Please! I wanna live again. I wanna live again. Please, God. Let me live again."

Just then his friend Bert, a police officer, approaches him and calls out his name: "George! George! You all right?" George's immediate reaction is fear; he's ready to punch Bert. Then he comes to his senses: "George.... Bert, do you know me?"

"Know you?! I've been looking all over town to find you," Bert responds.

At that moment George realizes he's been given his life back. On the outside, his life hasn't changed, but what has changed for him is that he has been given a new birth on the inside, and can now face his challenges with renewed hope and purpose. He realizes the blessings he has been given from God and he can't keep it in: "Bert, what do you know about that? Merry Christmas!"

The angel Clarence revisits George that Christmas Eve and tells him: "You've been given a great gift, George. A chance to see what the world would be life without you.... You see, George, you've had a wonderful life.



Don't you see what a mistake it would be to throw it all away?"

This is a New Year's gift to all of us: a wonderful life from God in a new year. We each have our own joys and sorrows, peaks and valleys, sweet and sour days. But there is only one of us, and we are gifts to each other. Let's spend our new year appreciating all that is given to us.

—In Christ's love, Pastor Rick

4K January schedule

St. Martin's 4K unit theme for January 2-20 is called, *I Love Animals*. We will learn all about the animals of this earth. We will learn about animals that are pets, farm animals, wild animals, and animals of the ocean.

The 4K unit theme for January 23-31 is, *I Can Build*.

—Elly Busch, 4K Teacher



The Outlook

The Finance Team is looking for a few counters to help with counting the offerings. There are currently five teams of three members to rotate counting duties—about once every 5 weeks with the Lent season the busiest. It only takes about 15-25 minutes after each service. If interested, contact Mike Kalvin at mkalvin@yahoo.com

InterVarsity Christian Fellowship/USA has several positions. Check them out at <http://www.intervarsity.org/jobs>.

There is a Cross Plains **Blood Drive** at 1-6:00 pm. on Thursday, Jan. 12, at St. Francis. Contact 1-800-733-2767 or www.redcrossblood.org if interested.

Out with the old and in with the new



There is still time, folks, as we have not yet closed the books on 2011! That also means I can't tell you exactly where we are toward eliminating year-end debt, because as contributions continue to flow in it is just unrealistic to be updating our books and accounts every day. However, we have clearly made significant progress. The many contributions already received toward this goal are deeply appreciated, thank you. Though it would be nice to cleanly end the year without debt, it will also be just fine if we are able to retire the Line of Credit early in 2012. So, if a contribution in January would be easier for you, it will certainly still be welcomed. Next week we should have the EOY numbers available.

Estimates of Giving also continue to come in, and they are deeply appreciated as well, especially in these difficult times. Even if you are unable to commit to financial support right now, we would still like to receive a card back from you so that we know of your commitment to St Martin's. Though a major intent of the pledge drive is to help determine the budget for the following year, Estimates of Giving are welcome at any time, and be assured we won't throw them away if not turned in by December 31.

Thanks to everyone for your gifts and support in 2011.

For St. Martin's Finance Team,
Rick Weiland

Giving envelopes for 2012 here

2012 Giving Envelopes are here and they will be available next Sunday, Jan. 8, for pick up at church.

This is also an opportunity for you to:

- change from weekly to monthly envelopes (or vice versa)
- get assigned envelopes if you have not in the past

Simply Giving forms for direct deposit are available on the bulletin board in the narthex. We encourage this because it gives us a steady stream of income even through the low attendance months of the summer when many take vacations.

Contact me at loiswei@aol.com or 220-3123 if you have questions.

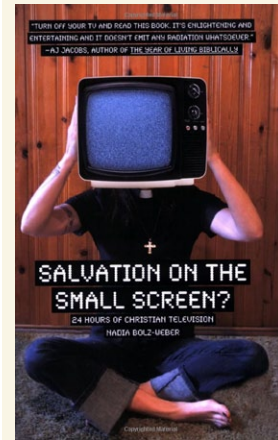
—Lois Weiland, Bookkeeper

Aluminum can recycling

We are collecting aluminum cans with the proceeds to go to resurfacing the parking lot. (There are no final details about this project, yet.) Deposit your cans in the two plastic barrels which are located near the dumpster on the west side of the church. If you have questions, call Ralph at 798-2774.



Salvation on the Small Screen?



I met Nadia Bolz-Weber, pastor at House for All Saints and Sinners in Denver, at a Lutheran World Relief gathering during our recent Church-wide Assembly. After meeting Nadia, I decided to read

her book, *Salvation on the Small Screen?* The book was a quick and fascinating and certainly fun read! Nadia decided to watch 'Christian Television' (TBN) for 24 hours straight and write reflections on each of the programs she watched.

To help with the project, she invited an intriguing mix of people—theologians, academics, pastors, Christians and non-Christians, emergent and traditional types to watch with her. What she writes is funny and not so funny. She is, in keeping with her own self-described cynical self, both critical and genuinely open and reflective about what she sees.

Don't mistake the book for fluff or whimsy . . . In a faithful and irreverent style all of its own. Nadia exhibits extraordinary theological insight and pastoral sensitivity.

—Bishop Bruce Burnside

Editor's note: this book received a 4.5 star (out of 5 stars) rating on Amazon. To read Nadia's blog, visit www.patheos.com/blogs/nadiabolzweber/

This article is reprinted from the South Central Wisconsin ELCA October Newsletter.

January 1-31 Worship Volunteers (note Communion 1st & 3rd at 10:30 am.)

	Lectors	Communion Asst	Accompanist	Counters	Altar Guild	Ushers	Jr. Ushers	Acolytes	Nursery	AV	Coffee
1/1	10:00 Trygve Lund	Trygve Lund	Soul Purpose	Team 4	Ann Houck	H. Wendorff Team	Sarah Faber	Grace Hartung	n/a	Hunt/Schluter	Deb/Ron Goplin
1/8	8:30 Deb Wipperfurth	Deb Wipperfurth	Mary Vassalotti	n/a	Jan Doyle	Hillebrand Team	n/a	Ryan Fogel	n/a	Bill Wendorff	Karen Trappe
1/8	10:30 Kim Johnson-Schunk	n/a	Mary Vassalotti	Team 3	n/a	H. Wendorff Team	Hannah Miller	Courtney Conroy	Delaney Osborne	Hormig/Siggelkow	
1/15	8:30 Tom Smiley	Tom Smiley	Jan Doyle	n/a	Deb Wipperfurth	Hillebrand Team	n/a	Leif Mann	n/a	Hartung/Niebuhr	Carmen Fowell
1/15	10:30 Kay Kalvin	Kay Kalvin, Katherine Lund	Jan Doyle	Team 2	D. Schulenberg	H. Wendorff Team	Megan Lange	Lizanne Dodsworth	Alex Niebuhr	Jeff Postle	
1/22	8:30 Doris Fish	Doris Fish	Mary Vassalotti	n/a	Deb Goplin	Hillebrand Team	n/a	Kyra Ripp	n/a	Phil Fish	Doris Fish
1/22	10:30 Cheryl Hartung	n/a	Mary Vassalotti	Team 1	open	H. Wendorff Team	Savanna Jackson	Katie Kolden	Lane Onken	Hartung/Windels	
1/29	8:30 Katherine Lund	Katherine Lund	Jan Doyle	n/a	open	Hillebrand Team	n/a	Rachel Zander	n/a	Bill Wendorff	open
1/29	10:30 Sally Averkamp	n/a	Mary Vassalotti	Team 5	open	H. Wendorff Team	Delaney Osborne	Brynn Turley	Danny Schunk	Siggelkow/Hartung	

Crossways January 1-31 Calendar

❖ Sunday, January 1		12:30 a. 4K children depart	FH	10:30 a. Worship w/ Communion	S
8:00 a. Worship w/ Communion	S	6:00 p. Tiger Scout Pack 87	FH	12:30 a. Annual Meeting	S
❖ Monday, January 2		6:00 p. Confirmation	S	❖ Monday, January 23	
Church office closed for holiday		7:30 p. Adult Choir	MR	8:30 a. 4K children arrive	FH
❖ Tuesday, January 3		❖ Thursday, January 12		12:30 a. 4K children depart	FH
6:30 a. Men's Bible Study	L	8:30 a. 4K children arrive	FH	7:00 p. Soul Purpose	S
8:30 a. 4K children arrive	FH	9:30 a. Pal Zone	N	<i>Deadline for February 1 Crossways</i>	
12:30 a. 4K children depart	FH	10:00 a. Alcoholics Anonymous	B	❖ Tuesday, January 24	
7:00 p. Boy Scouts Troop 87	FH	12:30 a. 4K children depart	FH	6:30 a. Men's Bible Study	L
7:00 p. Prayer Garden Meeting	L	6:30 p. Youth Group Lifeline	FH/S	8:30 a. 4K children arrive	FH
❖ Wednesday, January 4		6:30 p. Women's Bible Study	OS	12:30 a. 4K children depart	FH
8:30 a. 4K children arrive	FH	❖ Friday, January 13		7:00 p. Boy Scouts Troop 87	FH
9:30 a. Staff Meeting	L	8:30 a. 4K children arrive	FH	❖ Wednesday, January 25	
12:30 a. 4K children depart	FH	12:30 a. 4K children depart	FH	8:30 a. 4K children arrive	FH
6:00 p. Tiger Scout Pack 87	FH	❖ Sunday, January 15		9:30 a. Staff Meeting	L
6:30 p. Confirmation Parents meeting	L	8:30 a. Worship w/ Communion	S	12:30 a. 4K children depart	FH
7:30 p. Adult Choir	MR	9:30 a. GIFT	S	6:00 p. Tiger Scout Pack 87	FH
❖ Thursday, January 5		10:15 a. Nursery open	N	6:00 p. NO Confirmation	S
8:30 a. 4K children arrive	FH	10:30 a. Worship w/ Communion	S	7:00 p. Centering Prayer	GLC
9:30 a. NO Pal Zone	N	❖ Monday, January 16		7:30 p. Adult Choir	MR
10:00 a. Alcoholics Anonymous	B	8:30 a. 4K children arrive	FH	❖ Thursday, January 26	
12:30 a. 4K children depart	FH	12:30 a. 4K children depart	FH	8:30 a. 4K children arrive	FH
6:30 p. Youth Group, Lifeline	FH/S	7:00 p. Soul Purpose	S	9:30 a. Pal Zone	N
6:30 p. Women's Bible Study	OS	❖ Tuesday, January 17		10:00 a. Alcoholics Anonymous	B
❖ Friday, January 6		6:30 a. Men's Bible Study	L	12:30 a. 4K children depart	FH
8:30 a. 4K children arrive	FH	8:30 a. 4K children arrive	FH	6:30 p. Youth Group Lifeline	FH/S
12:30 a. 4K children depart	FH	12:30 a. 4K children depart	FH	6:30 p. Women's Bible Study	OS
❖ Sunday, January 8 w/ Pr. Gil Splett		7:00 p. Boy Scouts Troop 87	FH	❖ Friday, January 27	
8:30 a. Worship w/ Communion	S	7:00 p. Church Council	L	8:30 a. 4K children arrive	FH
9:30 a. GIFT	S/FH	❖ Wednesday, January 18		12:30 a. 4K children depart	FH
10:15 a. Nursery open	N	8:30 a. 4K children arrive	FH	❖ Sunday, January 29	
10:30 a. Worship w/o Communion	S	9:30 a. Staff Meeting	L	8:30 a. Worship w/ Communion	S
Baptism: Belmonte/Cape		12:30 a. 4K children depart	FH	9:30 a. GIFT	S/FH
12:00 p. Craft Class	FH	6:00 p. Tiger Scout Pack 87	FH	10:15 a. Nursery open	N
❖ Monday, January 9		6:30 p. Confirmation meeting	S	10:30 a. Worship w/o Communion	S
8:30 a. 4K children arrive	FH	7:30 p. Adult Choir	MR	5:00 p. Hope & Dreams Potluck	FH
9:30 a. Quilting	FH	❖ Thursday, January 19		❖ Monday, January 30	
12:30 p. 4K children depart	FH	8:30 a. 4K children arrive	FH	8:30 a. 4K children arrive	FH
6:30 p. Town of Berry meeting	FH	9:30 a. Pal Zone	N	3:00 p. 4K children depart	FH
7:00 p. Soul Purpose rehearsal	S	10:00 a. Alcoholics Anonymous	B	7:00 p. Soul Purpose rehearsal	S
❖ Tuesday, January 10		12:30 a. 4K children depart	FH	❖ Tuesday, January 31	
6:30 a. Men's Bible Study	L	6:30 p. Youth Group, Lifeline	S	6:30 a. Men's Bible Study	L
8:30 a. 4K children arrive	FH	6:30 p. Women's Bible Study	OS	8:30 a. 4K children arrive	FH
12:30 a. 4K children depart	FH	❖ Friday, January 20		12:30 a. 4K children depart	FH
5:45 p. Worship Committee	L	8:30 a. 4K children arrive	FH	7:00 p. Boy Scouts Troop 87	FH
7:00 p. Centering Prayer	S	12:30 a. 4K children depart	FH		
7:00 p. Boy Scouts Troop 87	FH	❖ Sunday, January 22			
❖ Wednesday, January 11		8:30 a. Worship w/ Communion	S		
8:30 a. 4K children arrive	FH	9:30 a. GIFT	S		
9:30 a. Staff Meeting	L	10:15 a. Nursery open	N		

S—Sanctuary; L—Library; B—Building;
MR—Music Room; FH—Fellowship Hall;
CR—Choir Room; OS—Off Site;
N—Nursery; GLC—Gunderson Life Center



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