



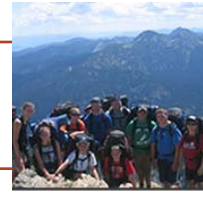
Blessed animals

❖ Both animals and owners alike seemed to enjoy the blessings!



Signs of fall

❖ For more Fall at St. Martin's see page 3



Flathead?

❖ The Youth are considering Flathead Bible Camp next year

CROSSWAYS

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

- October 15, 2010
- Volume 1, number 14
- ELCA

Mobile Youth to Thiensville

Consecration Sunday is Nov. 7



Everyone was dancing moving to the music and experiencing God. We then slowed things down with more prayerful music. We had prayer stations where they could come for individual prayer. This was very

On Saturday October 9, the Youth Group and youth band, *The Project*, headed to Grace Lutheran Church in Thiensville, Wisconsin near Milwaukee. This is our first attempt at our new Youth Ministry idea called "Mobile Youth." The idea is to bring our faith and excitement to other youth groups that need a jumpstart or *Moving our Faith Forward* which is our mission statement.

I think it was a great success. We interacted with the congregation of Grace Lutheran and two other area churches; a total of about 45 teens. We played group games, shared pizza, and got to know each other.

That evening we had a great night of worship with the band. *The Project* rocked out worship music. Our youth explained why they felt called to come to Grace Lutheran.

powerful, some teens coming up for the first time to be prayed over. It takes courage to do this. I believe God was moving in their lives in new and powerful ways.

We stayed overnight, went to church in the morning, and came home Sunday.

Our teens from St. Martin's made a difference. They took their faith forward and showed that's it's okay to love God. They have a need to share Christ and are setting an example for us all.

When you see our youth fundraising for mission trips, waking up after a lock-in raising money for hungry kids, or just see them at church on Sunday, stop them, say "Hi". They are really quite amazing and don't bite too hard.

In Gods grace,
—Tim Knipfer, Youth Ministry Director

Congregations that approach financial stewardship from a biblical perspective do not view the money Christians give to their church merely as a way to pay its bills. Rather, such congregations see financial contributions as a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God by supporting their church's mission and ministry with a percentage of their incomes.

Our congregation's finance committee has selected the New Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program as a way to teach the biblical and spiritual principles of generous giving in our stewardship education emphasis this year.

New Consecration Sunday is based on the biblical philosophy of the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual development, rather than on the need of the church to receive. Instead of treating people like members of a social club who should pay dues, we will treat people like followers of Jesus Christ who want to give unselfishly as an act of discipleship. New Consecration Sunday encourages people toward proportionate and systematic giving in response to

continued on page 2

Health kits off to Lutheran World Relief

A BIG note of thanks to everyone who donated items, funds, and completed kits for the recent LWR kit drive. A record number of 65 kits were assembled, blessed, packed, and delivered. The demand is greater than ever in a year wrought with earthquakes, flooding, droughts, and political unrest so St. Martin's contribution will be much appreciated.—Maureen Berghoefer



'Wisconsin Red' dahlias graced St. Martin's sign

If you noticed the deep red heirloom dahlias at our church sign again this summer, you may be interested in their history at www.oldhousegardens.com/Wisconsin-Red-Dahlia.asp.

Planted by John & Brenda Haggman, these dahlias have possibly been Wisconsin natives for a century.

The dahlias multiply and the Haggmans are happy to share their tubers.

—Sally Averkamp



Consecration

Sunday *continued from page 1*

the question, "What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?"

During morning worship on Consecration Sunday, we are asking our attendees and members to make their financial commitments to our church's ministries.

Every attendee and member who completes an Estimate of Giving Card does so voluntarily by attending morning worship on Consecration Sunday. We urge people to attend who feel strongly opposed to completing a card. The procedure is done in such a way that no one feels personal embarrassment if he or she chooses not to fill out a card.

We will do no home solicitation to ask people to complete cards. During morning worship our guest leader will conduct a brief period of instruction and inspiration, climaxed by members making their commitments as a confidential act of worship.

We will encourage participation in Consecration Sunday events.

Thanks in advance for your enthusiastic participation in these events.

—Tom Johnson, Church Council President



From the Pastor

Denominations: do we still need them?

I am a "Post-Denominationalist." Denominationalism is the division of Christianity into separate groups or schools of thought. Denominationalism is an ideology which views Christian groups as being, in some sense, versions of the same thing regardless of their distinguishing labels. The Catholic and Eastern Orthodox churches do not accept this, since their belief is that they are the "one, true, holy and apostolic church."

I'm not against denominations. Differences between denominations and even with the churches mentioned above have narrowed considerably in our time. This is a blessing, and may signal the end of denominations as we know them. As a post-denominationalist, I question whether denominations, including our own, are really necessary to the spread and practice of Christianity. Could God have some new structure in mind for His church?

I have been an ALC/ELCA Lutheran my whole adult life. But the fact is, the ELCA is in trouble. Yesterday, the ELCA website announced severe cuts and reorganizations:

... [T] h e 358-member church-wide staff—including 270 at the churchwide office—will decrease by approximately 65 employees or 60 full-

time equivalents, Hanson said. In addition because nearly half of ELCA Global Mission's mission support budget covers costs for mission personnel, unit reductions will affect up to five mission personnel currently in service..."

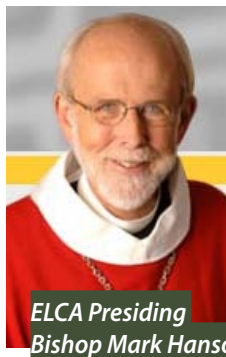
Our Bishop, Bruce Burnside, told us last night in a Synod meeting at St. Martin's that "I do not believe we are in trouble." I have great respect for the Bishop, but I think he's overly optimistic. The ELCA is in serious decline. As a denomination, we have lost about 1 million members since the formation of the ELCA in 1988. The website also notes:

"In 2008 after adjusting for inflation, the value of mission support income (mostly from congregations) had declined by half since the founding of this church in 1988," Hanson wrote to the council. **From 2008 to 2011, estimated churchwide mission support dropped from \$65.3 million to \$48 million.**

The ELCA is in trouble, but I do not believe we have failed. I believe the ELCA has matured as a denomination to the point that, frankly, it may no longer be needed to carry out God's purposes. I believe we are in a time of discernment about how God is leading the congregations of the present ELCA forward. The words of St. Paul speak to this:

So, if anyone is in Christ there is a new creation; everything old has passed away; behold Everything has become new! (2 Cor. 5:17.) God's word, not ours!

—Pastor Rick



ELCA Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson



Newsletter of
St. Martin's Lutheran Church
2427 Church St.
Cross Plains, WI 53528

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Tim Knipfer, Youth Ministry Director
Mary Vassalotti, Music Director
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Church property for sale

Agri-Fab Lawn Sweeper, with a 40" sweep, pulls behind a mower, \$125.



SunCast Garden Storage unit, 24" deep x 32" wide x 72" high. Retail cost is \$90 but we are asking \$50 and we will deliver.

Call Building Manager, Jim Doyle at 576-7572 for more information.

Fall at St. Martin's

This fall we will be doing something new in the way we look at Stewardship. We will be not just asking for dollars but asking for an open heart with messages from our own members. We have really wonderful individual helping us this year. His name is Pr. David Larson and he is our featured speaker at St. Martin's November 7 All Congregation Consecration catered meal (see article on page 1). David is head of the Lutheran Social Services in the Midwest and has assisted congregations like ours in Stewardship efforts for many years.

I had lunch with Pr. Larson and was impressed with what a wonderful Christian man he is! He brings lots of fun and energy for us all to build on. More details about this will be forthcoming and we are looking for persons to be on a Team to help make this a truly rewarding and uplifting experience for St. Martin's.

We now look ahead to the next few months of 2010 and the Christmas holiday season. This season, the start of Christ's life journey, is celebrated at the end of our calendar year. Now at St. Martin's, we are thinking of starting a fresh page in St. Martin's mission and support.

Please look into your heart and ask what you can do to serve—not who can serve you. This idea basically follows Christ's most core teachings. We have plenty of opportunities to serve and get involved at St. Martin's and there is one here that I am sure will make your heart happy. It is in giving we shall receive.

—Tom Johnson, Church Council President



The Outlook

The Dane County Jail Ministry can now accept donations through United Way. The Jail Ministry is totally funded by Lutheran Churches in Dane County to counsel and support prisoners. On page 4 of the United Way form is an optional section for more pledge choices where you can specify MALC (Madison Area Lutheran Council) which oversees the Jail Ministry.

The Women's Bible Study at 6:30 pm. Tuesdays is being held at Janet Gray's home, 2909 Brewery Rd., Cross Plains, until further notice.

CPR Class offered: The American Heart Association will be at St. Martin's from 6-9:00 on Tuesday, October 19, to give a CPR class for certification with infants, children, and adults. The cost is discounted to \$40. For more information or to sign up, call Virginia at 798-3049 or JAM at 798-5085.

Fundraiser for Kris Rhude: Come to an concert of great music from the 1960's and 70's along with some favorite spirituals mixed in at 7:00 pm. on Saturday, October 23. The featured musicians will be Jackie Bradley, Kris Rhude (on piano), Jan Doyle, Mary Vassollotti and Nancy Kurr,

and Lee Swanson (singing). A free-will offering will be taken with proceeds to go toward Kris Rhude's trip to India with the Bishop's Companion Synod Youth Exchange this December. For more information about his upcoming trip, see <http://scsw-elca.org> and go to their Sept. newsletter, page 3.

River Brass will be playing at St. Martin's Lutheran at both services on Sunday, Oct. 31.

Lutheran Men in Mission (LMM) Task Force welcomes, Doug Haugen, Executive Director for Lutheran Men in Mission, on Thursday, November 4, 7:00 pm., at New Heights Lutheran Church, 105 East Hudson St., Mazomanie. Doug will be sharing strategies for "Empowering Churches to Come to Men". His presentation will be followed by a question and answer session and refreshments.



The National Youth scene

On Thursday, Sept. 30, I left for the National Youth Workers Convention in San Diego, CA. I was really looking forward to four days of inspiration, music, and focus on working with faith and youth.

I wasn't disappointed. Each day was packed with excellent sessions to choose from and the challenge was actually to back off and not overcommit myself. Ideas and input are important but also important is the need to have time to reflect on the information.

The primary sessions that I chose to attend were: Helping Kids who Hurt; Prayer and Meditation; Ten Minute Spiritual Talks; Dealing with Challenging and Apathetic Kids; and Balancing Youth Ministry and your Family.

Some interesting highlights were: speaker, Miles McPerson (The Pain You Can't Avoid), Mark Yocanelli, a founder of contemporary youth ministries as we know it today, and defrocked Rev. Ted Haggard (remember his outing a few years back through a homosexual relationship?) and his wife Gail, who were interviewed on the big stage. Very interesting. Haggard talked about the shame and guilt after the news aired. I admired him for being up there talking about it. We all gave his wife a lot of credit for staying with him. The undercurrent message to us was, "be careful in your choices."

Of the several excellent musicians there, I was especially taken by a musician who called himself Propaganda. He is a rap musician but he performed "poetry slam." It was very provocative and edgy.

In all, I left the conference feeling affirmed that I am doing a lot right in my ministry at St. Martin's but with a lot of new ideas to help me in various areas. Thank you for your support of my work with your kids.

—Tim Knipfer,
Youth Ministry
Director



Propaganda

Crossways October Calendar

<p>❖ Sunday, October 17 8:30 a. <i>Worship w/Communion</i> S 9:15 a. <i>Sunday School</i> B 9:30 a. <i>Book Study with Pr. Rick</i> L 10:30 a. <i>Worship w/o Communion</i> S 5:00 p. <i>The Project Practice</i> YR</p> <p>❖ Monday, October 18 3:04 p. <i>JAM After School kids arrive</i> 7:00 p. <i>Soul Purpose</i> S</p> <p>❖ Tuesday, October 19 6:30 a. <i>Men's Bible Study</i> L 3:04 p. <i>JAM After School kids arrive</i> 6:00 p. <i>ALPHA</i> FH 6:30 p. <i>Women's Bible Study</i> OS 7:00 p. <i>Boy Scouts Troop 87</i> FH</p> <p>❖ Wednesday, October 20 9:30 a. <i>Staff Meeting</i> L 3:04 p. <i>JAM After School kids arrive</i> 6:00 p. <i>Tiger Scout Pack 87</i> 6:00 p. <i>Handbell Practice</i> MR 6:30 p. <i>Confirmation Class</i> S 7:30 p. <i>Adult Choir Practice</i> MR</p> <p>❖ Thursday, October 21 9:30 a. <i>Pal Zone</i> N 10:00 a. <i>Women's AA</i> 3:04 p. <i>JAM After School kids arrive</i> 5:00 p. <i>TOPS</i> 6:30 p. <i>Youth Group Lifeline</i> S</p>	<p>❖ Friday, October 22 3:04 p. <i>JAM After School kids arrive</i></p> <p>❖ Saturday, October 23 7:00 p. <i>Concert for Kris Rhude's trip to India</i> S</p> <p>❖ Sunday, October 24 8:30 a. <i>Worship w/ Communion</i> S 9:15 a. <i>Sunday School</i> B 10:30 a. <i>Worship w/ Communion</i> S 10:30 a. <i>Children's Choir sing</i> S 9:30 a. <i>Book Study with Pr. Rick</i> L 5:00 p. <i>The Project Practice</i> S</p> <p>❖ Monday, October 25 3:04 p. <i>JAM After School kids arrive</i> 7:00 p. <i>Soul Purpose</i> S <i>Deadline for November 1 Crossways</i></p> <p>❖ Tuesday, October 26 6:30 a. <i>Men's Bible Study</i> L 3:04 p. <i>JAM After School kids arrive</i> FH 6:00 p. <i>ALPHA</i> B 6:30 p. <i>Women's Bible Study</i> OS 7:00 p. <i>Boy Scouts Troop 87</i> FH</p> <p>❖ Wednesday, October 27 3:04 p. <i>JAM After School kids arrive</i> FH 6:00 p. <i>Tiger Scout Pack 87</i> 6:30 p. <i>No Confirmation</i> 7:30 p. <i>Adult Choir Practice</i> MR</p>	<p>❖ Thursday, October 28 9:30 a. <i>Pal Zone</i> N 10:00 a. <i>Women's AA</i> 3:04 p. <i>JAM After School kids arrive</i> 5:00 p. <i>TOPS</i> 6:30 p. <i>Youth Group Lifeline</i> FH/S <i>Pr. Rick gone</i></p> <p>❖ Friday, October 29 3:04 p. <i>JAM After School kids arrive</i> <i>Pr. Rick gone</i></p> <p>❖ Sunday, October 31 8:30 a. <i>Worship w/Communion</i> S 9:15 a. <i>Sunday School</i> B 9:30 a. <i>Book Study with Pr. Rick</i> L 10:30 a. <i>Worship w/o Communion</i> S 5:00 p. <i>The Project Practice</i> S</p> <p>S—Sanctuary; L—Library; B—Building; MR—Music Room; FH—Fellowship Hall; CR—Choir Room; OS—Off Site; GLC—Gunderson Life Center</p>
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October 16-31 Worship Volunteers

	<u>Lectors</u>	<u>Communion Asst</u>	<u>Accompanist</u>	<u>Counters</u>	<u>Altar Guild</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Jr. Ushers</u>	<u>Acolytes</u>	<u>Nursery</u>	<u>AV</u>	<u>Coffee</u>
10/17 8:30	Elaine Smiley	Elaine Smiley	Jan Doyle	n/a	Deb Wipperfurth	Trappe Team	Kyle Gregory	Danny Schunk	n/a	James Hartung	Carmen Fowell
10/17 10:30	Bill Windels	n/a	Soul Purpose	Niesen Team	n/a	McCauley Team	Liam Turley	Hannah Miller	Brynn Turley	Postle/Neumueller	open
10/24 8:30	Bev Brunner	Bev Brunner	Mary Vassalotti	n/a	Deb Goplin	Trappe Team	Samantha Flogel	Megan Lange	n/a	Phil Fish	Doris Fish
10/24 10:30	Brenda Hagman	John Hagman & Katherine Lund	Mary Vassalotti	Hillebrand-5	Darlene Schulenberg	McCauley Team	Matthew Harper	Alex Niebuhr	Derek Kalvin	Randy Hunt	open
10/31 8:30	Cathy Kittle	Cathy Kittle	River Brass Band	n/a	open	Trappe Team	Connor Mickelson	Samantha Roll	n/a	open	open
10/31 10:30	Ann Houck	n/a	River Brass Band	Hillebrand-4	n/a	McCauley Team	Kaitlin Conroy	Savanna Jackson	Courtney Conroy	open	open



St. Martin's Lutheran Church
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