



Youth Mission Trip

❖ follow-up to Zumbro Falls trip—see page 3.



Christmas pageant

❖ with St. Martin's children & youth at 4 pm. on Dec. 19



Star of Bethlehem

❖ learn more about this event on p. 2

CROSSWAYS

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

- November 15, 2010
- Volume 1, number 16
- ELCA

Consecration & All Saints Sunday

All Saints/Consecration Sunday was a big day for St. Martin's as we honored and remembered those in our hearts that are now gone from earth. Pastor David Larson gave a moving story in his sermon of one such person, his grandmother, Mabel, who was such a welcoming and important person in his development from childhood to adult. We all have people like this in our lives and it feels good to remember and to thank them silently for their gift to us. It is a gift that will live with us forever.

At the end of the service, Pr. Larson asked us to turn in estimate of giving cards (if we could do so) for St. Martin's continued ministries for 2011. Seventy-four persons turned in these cards and more cards were mailed to members and friends who were not in attendance. So far we have received about 80 Estimates of Giving commitments. This is an important piece for St. Martin's vitality and growth in the community so anyone who



Karen Seibel remembering loved ones.

has not yet submitted a giving card is asked to do so.

Several members commented about the lack of a plea for money to meet St. Martin's needs. Instead the emphasis was on our need to give and support what we see happening here. Giving is an important ministry that we do for ourselves.

We all then adjourned to have dinner downstairs with our family and friends. It was a fun Sunday for all with a lot going on.

—Sally Averkamp

Christmas events coming

Indoor and outdoor **Christmas decorating** will start at 9 am., on Saturday, Nov. 27. Join us have fun and snacks while preparing for the Christmas season. To expand our crèche this year, we need contributions to purchase some additional nativity figures. Please contact Hallie at 798-3140 or hwendorff@charter.net for further information.



Giving Tree: Our tradition of adopting persons or families continues this Christmas season. Please contact Maureen at 798-4820 or msberghofer@tds.net by Nov. 30 to submit a family/individual, for additional information, or to volunteer.

Second Annual Cookie Walk is Saturday, December 4, from 8—11 am. in Fellowship Hall. Please sign up to bake or sell cookies. Put the date



continued on page 2

Join us for Thanksgiving worship, Nov. 24

Please join us for our annual Thanksgiving Eve Ecumenical worship with St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church at St. Martin's Lutheran: 7:30 pm. Wednesday, November 24. Featured are the combined Adult & Youth Choirs from both churches. Food & monetary donations go to local food pantries.

—Pr. Rick



The Christmas schedule for 2010



St. Martin's Christmas Services :
Friday, December 24, Christmas Eve
 4:00 pm. & 9:00 pm.
Saturday, December 25, Christmas Day
 10:00 am.
Sunday, December 26
 8:30 am. & 10:30 am.
Sunday, January 2, 2011
 8:30 am. & 10:30 am.

Christmas events

continued from page 1

on your calendar to buy cookies for the Christmas season. If you have any suggestions, please contact Gail Johnson at 798-4186. We have Christmas caroling during the sale.

Family Christmas Caroling: Join us 4:00 pm. at church on Sunday, Dec. 12, for Christmas Caroling. We will visit members in nursing homes and make special stops at the homes of other St. Martin's members and friends then return to Fellowship Hall to



enjoy a home-made chili supper. All are encouraged to join us. Let Tom Johnson know if you can make it so he knows how much chili to make. Feel free to bring bells and a Santa hat.



St. Martin's Family Christmas Pageant will be held at 4 pm. on Sunday, December 19, with a dinner afterward.



ST. MARTIN'S
Lutheran Church

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

Staff:

Pastor Rick Lund
Tim Knipfer, Youth Ministry Director
Mary Vassalotti, Music Director
Jan Doyle, Organist
Sally Averkamp,
Communications Director
Jim Doyle, Building Manager
Virginia Diebold, JAM, 798-5085
Afterschool Ministry
Office (608) 798-2777
Fax (608) 798-0492
communicationsdirector@
stmartinscp.org
www.stmartinscp.org

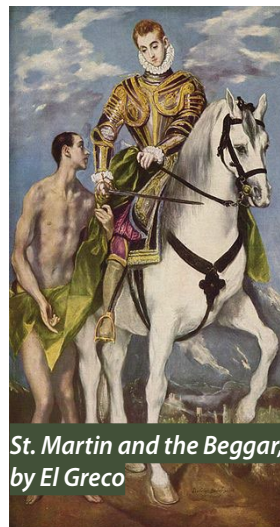
From the Pastor

St. Martin in history

November 11 is St. Martin's Day and also Veteran's Day in America. These days are connected: unintentionally (by us) but mysteriously (by God).

The holiday of Veteran's Day in the United States commemorates the official end of "The Great War," World War I, when the Treaty of Versailles took effect at the eleventh hour of the eleventh month of the eleventh day in 1918. World War I was thought to be "the war to end all wars." Sadly, that has not been the case. Next year we have the amazing opportunity of celebrating this day in the 11th year of the third millennium. Perhaps the magical time of 11/11/11 at 11:00 am will truly be a time when God will end all wars forever. We can hope, because Jesus promises that "with God all things are possible." (Matthew 19:26)

November 11, 397 is the date in history when the Church laid to rest a great saint of Christian history, St. Martin of Tours (France). Martin, after whom our congregation is named, is a fascinating servant of God, whose storied life is the stuff of great inspiration and some legend! Martin's pagan father enlisted him in the Roman army. Approached by a beggar, Martin cut his cloak in half and gave part to the man, whom he later understood as representing Christ. He asked to leave the army, but



St. Martin and the Beggar,
by El Greco

was jailed instead. After his release, he became a preacher, and later a bishop. He was a humble and generous man who laid down his weapons as a soldier and became a soldier in service to the Lord.

Here's the mystery part: St. Martin is the pa-

tron Saint of soldiers! How many Americans know this? I wonder if even the President, or many pastors and bishops and church members, know this? I wonder.

Today we give thanks to God and to our Veterans for serving in our nation's defense. We also give God thanks for St. Martin whose life of Christian service is an inspiration to the Church for over 1700 years. Today is a day that the saints of St. Martin's Lutheran Church in Cross Plains can stand a little taller and feel a little prouder of being connected with this day and this saint.

Gratefully yours,

—Pastor Rick

The Outlook

The Salvation Army is one of our community's primary shelters and support systems for homeless and at-risk individuals and families. Their Christmas Kettle fundraiser is their main source of income for the year. The Cross Plains kettle will be at the Piggy Wiggly. Volunteers are needed beginning on November 19. The following link takes you directly to the Cross Plains sign up: http://madisonsa.volunteerfirst.org/public/search_pro_stadatetime_ms.asp?vpcat_ID=31&vpstation_ID=882.

Adult Activities: Cookie Walk will be at 8 am. Saturday, December 4. Watch for sign-ups on the Adult Activity bulletin board for baking and selling. We would

like to add more to our sale to go with the cookies, so if you have ideas, please call Gail Johnson at 798-4186.

Mary Martha Circle meets at 11 am. on the fourth Monday (Nov. 22) for a short Bible Study, a brown bag lunch, and then assemble Food Gift Jars to be sold at the Cookie Walk. All women are invited to come.

Women's Gathering, Sunday, Dec. 5, at 1 pm.: *The Star of Bethlehem*—ever wonder what they saw in the sky that night? Come see the video which explains and explores the map of the heavens—made by God. All St. Martin's women and their friends are invited. For questions, contact Renee Fry at 798-0472 or rtfrey@tds.net

We have great things happening

Many thanks go out to all that made our Consecration Sunday such a glowing success. Pastor David Larson, our featured speaker was wonderful and the Holy Spirit was truly at work. The feeling of our Church family moving forward is becoming very evident and so very heartening.

With the prayerful gifts we receive we are able to continue the missions that make St. Martin's a special institution and so vital to us and the greater community of this area. The generosity shown is amazing and reflects an outpouring of giving back for that which we so richly receive from our Lord.

The Council and church leaders will be following up and visiting with our membership that may have been missed after our kick-off Sunday. Some were unable to be in attendance for Consecration Sunday and we want to touch all that make up our church family. When contacted, if you do have thoughts

or suggestions to make St. Martin's better, please share and we will follow up.

ALPHA is winding down and I personally have truly gotten so much from these Tuesday gatherings and the Saturday retreat. Until you experience this simple but insightful learning, one is hard pressed to explain into words what

ALPHA can do for our spirit. It also helped bring together my tangled thoughts so they could become a little more unwound. We are looking to do this again in 2011, so stay tuned!

If you are around for Thanksgiving be sure to attend our special Ecumenical service. Details are on page 1.

The Christmas season is starting and many events are in the works. The Sunday School program, Cookie Walk, Caroling to the home-bound, special music and, of course, our beautiful Christmas services are all part of Christmas time at St. Martin's. You are invited to be apart of what interests you: "all are welcome".

Blessings,
—Tom Johnson, Council President



St. Martin's group with Harold, whose property they cleaned up. Notice the Zumbro River in the background. The water came up to the bridge and almost washed it out.

Youth mission trip to Rochester

Two weekends ago, Nov. 5-7, St. Martin's youth participated in a mission trip in Rochester with Next Step Ministries.

We picked the kids up at school on Friday and arrived in Rochester/Zumbro Falls, MN at about 8:30 pm. for dinner and worship. We were part of 100 youth participating in mission work there. It was so great seeing so many youth praising and worshipping God.

Our work was done in Zumbro Falls, a community of 177 people along the Zumbro River. Few of us saw much of the flood damage done to that area last July, but to some families, it was severe. Unlike many other flooding events of the past few years, these victims got little media attention and now have withdrawn into a sense of hopelessness.

The first site we went to was the Elisebeth Retreat center. There we reconstructed 300 feet of downed barbed wire fence. It was challenging to untangle the wire and we were able to reused it.

The second site assigned was Harold's home which was built along the Zumbro. His wife had died six months prior. Now his house was forced off its foundation by the flood waters. It was condemned and he would not likely be able to rebuild there. He had some comfort in that the building was insured with flood insurance, unlike his neighbors.

We cleaned up his yard of flood debris. It took nine youth and three adults the rest of the day to do this and it doesn't sound like much but it was a lot of work and very meaningful to Harold. It seemed to help him realize that he was not alone. He came around when we finished and thanked each one of us individually and was amazed that we came from Wisconsin to help them.

It was eye-opening to our kids to see all his destroyed belongings and to be able to help him even a little. These are moments when God's presence is strong in our hearts; they will be remembered and the youth's character will be impacted by it.

Thank you for supporting my work with these kids.

—Tim Knipfer

Wreath sale for St. Martin's Youth



St. Martins' Youth begin their fundraising efforts with the sales of Christmas wreaths. Order your wreath at church or by

contacting me at timmyk65@yahoo.com.
—Tim Knipfer, Youth Ministry Director

Crossways November Calendar

<p>❖ Monday, November 15 3:04 p. JAM After School kids arrive S 7:00 p. Soul Purpose</p> <p>❖ Tuesday, November 16 6:30 a. Men's Bible Study L 3:04 p. JAM After School kids arrive 6:00 p. ALPHA FH 6:30 p. Women's Bible Study OS 7:00 p. Boy Scouts Troop 87 FH</p> <p>❖ Wednesday, November 17 9:30 a. Staff Meeting L 3:04 p. JAM After School kids arrive 6:00 p. Tiger Scout Pack 87 6:00 p. Handbell Practice MR 6:30 p. Confirmation Class S 7:30 p. Adult Choir Practice MR</p> <p>❖ Thursday, November 18 9:30 a. Pal Zone N 10:00 a. Women's AA 3:04 p. JAM After School kids arrive 6:30 p. Youth Group Lifeline S/FH 7:00 p. Church Council L</p> <p>❖ Friday, November 19 3:04 p. JAM After School kids arrive S</p>	<p>❖ Sunday, November 21 8:30 a. Worship w/ Communion S 9:15 a. Sunday School B 10:15 a. Nursery open N 10:30 a. Worship w/o Communion S Children's Choir sings/Soul Purpose 5:00 p. The Project practice S 6:30 p. Youth Choir for Thanksgiving CR 7:15 p. Adult Choir for Thanksgiving CR</p> <p>❖ Monday, November 22 11:00 a. Mary-Martha Circle L 3:04 p. JAM After School kids arrive 7:00 p. Soul Purpose S <i>Deadline for December 1 Crossways</i></p> <p>❖ Tuesday, November 23 6:30 a. Men's Bible Study L 3:04 p. JAM After School kids arrive FH 6:00 p. ALPHA B 6:30 p. Women's Bible Study OS 7:00 p. Boy Scouts Troop 87 FH</p> <p>❖ Wednesday, November 24 9:30 a. Staff meeting L 3:04 p. JAM After School kids arrive FH 7:30 p. Ecumenical Thanksg. worship S 8:30 p. Reception with coffee & cookies</p> <p>❖ Thursday, November 25 <i>church office closed for Thanksgiving</i></p>	<p>❖ Friday, November 26 <i>church office closed</i></p> <p>❖ Saturday, November 27 9:00 p. Decorating church for Christmas</p> <p>❖ Sunday, November 28 8:30 a. Worship w/Communion S 9:15 a. Sunday School B 9:30 a. Book Study with Pr. Rick L 10:15 a. Nursery open N 10:30 a. Worship w/Communion S 5:00 p. The Project practice S</p> <p>❖ Monday, November 29 3:04 p. JAM After School kids arrive 7:00 p. Soul Purpose S</p> <p>❖ Tuesday, November 30 6:30 a. Men's Bible Study L 3:04 p. JAM After School kids arrive 6:00 p. ALPHA FH 6:30 p. Women's Bible Study OS 7:00 p. Boy Scouts Troop 87 FH</p> <p>S—Sanctuary; L—Library; B—Building; MR—Music Room; FH—Fellowship Hall; CR—Choir Room; OS—Off Site; N—Nursery; GLC—Gunderson Life Center</p>
--	--	--

November 15-30 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>
11/21 8:30	Tom Smiley	Tom Smiley	Mary Vassalotti	n/a	Deb Wipperfurth	Wendorff	Ben Kalvin	Tyler Acker	n/a	James Hartung	Carmen Fowell
11/21 10:30	Ron Siggelkow	n/a	Soul Purpose	Niesen Team	n/a	Postle	Conner Michelson	Cheyenne Ambler	Sarah Faber	Postle/Neumueller	open
11/28 8:30	Doris Fish	Doris Fish	Mary Vassalotti	n/a	Deb Goplin	Wendorff	Kaitlin Conroy	Sarah Faber	n/a	Phil Fish	Doris Fish
11/28 10:30	Ceryl/Blake Hartung	John Hagman	Mary Vassalotti	Hillebrand-5 Team	n/a	Postle	Max Boehnen	Samantha Roll	Kaitlin Conroy	Randy Hunt	open
		Katherine Lund	Ceryl/Blake Hartung								



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