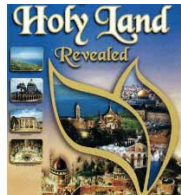




**Advent worship**  
 ❖ short service at 6 pm.  
 Sundays, Dec. 4, 11,  
 & 18



**Holy Land series**  
 ❖ 9:30 am. Sundays  
 between services  
 until Dec. 18



**SHARE orders**  
 ❖ are due Dec. 4 online  
 Check the narthex  
 for holiday specials

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

• December 1, 2011  
 • Volume 2, number 4  
 • ELCA

*Cookie Walk*



Our Third Annual Cookie Walk is 9—11:00 am. Saturday, Dec. 3. Join us for a wonderful and creative selection of cookies (\$7 per pound), hand-crafted gifts of many kinds, and a Book Fair provided by St. Martin's Youth Group.

Walk through table after table to select your own variety of cookies for your family and friends or gifts that you can put under your tree.



*The Christmas Story, Dec. 18*

GIFT (Generations in Faith Together) rehearsal for the Christmas Play will be held at their regular time on Dec. 4, 11, and 18. Children will not meet on Dec. 25 or Jan. 1.

The Christmas Play will be held on Sunday, Dec. 18, starting at 4 pm. followed by a free lasagna dinner. First, will be all children who would like to perform their talents. (St. Martin's has a history of including all children.) The name of the play will be, *The Christmas Story*, a traditional Christmas

story with lots of Christmas carols. This is one of the most fun events of Christmas and helps build excitement and knowledge of the traditions of Christmas.

Join us for music and talent presented by the children and families of St. Martin's, followed by the play, and then the lasagna dinner in the Fellowship Hall.

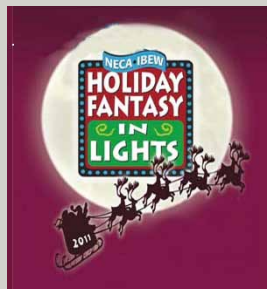
The photo above is from last year's play, *The Bells of Glocken*.

—Sally Averkamp

*Holiday Fantasy in Lights Tour*

On Wednesday, Dec. 7, members and friends will travel together to the Cranberry Creek Cafe in Monona then tour the Madison Holiday Fantasy in Lights at Olin Park. Meet at church parking lot at 5 pm. to ride share.

Sign up in the narthex; contact Hallie at hwendorff@charter.net with questions.



*Young St. Nick, the Boy Who Became Santa Claus*



Join us for this Radio Play & Dessert Reception on Saturday, Dec. 3, 7-10 pm., (tickets \$15) or Sunday, Dec. 4 from 2-5 pm., (tickets \$10) at Middleton High School Performing Arts Center. All proceeds go to Middleton Outreach Ministry to prevent homelessness and end hunger. For more information go to [www.middletonholidays.org](http://www.middletonholidays.org)

## Youth news

Our activity schedule for the month of December is:

**Dec. 1, Thursday:** Lifeline meets as usual (will work on organizing items for Book Fair)

**Dec. 3, Saturday:** staff the Book Fair (at the Cookie Walk in Fellowship Hall from 9-11 am.)

**Dec. 8, Thursday:** Lifeline meets (no meal); will have a meeting about the Mission Trip this summer at Joplin, MO

**Dec. 15, Thursday:** Christmas Party: bring a Secret Santa gift

**Dec. 22 & 29, Thursdays:** No Youth Group: Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

—Tim Knipfer, Youth Ministries  
Director

## Giving Tree

Stop by the Giving Tree in the narthex and pick up a person's name and their 'wish' for Christmas. It could be a teddy bear or a winter coat; it is our pleasure to see their wish become a reality for Christmas.



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, Accompanist

Michelle Phaneuf, Family Ministry

Coordinator

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## From the Pastor

### Our institution

We are in a day and age where people are deeply suspicious of our institutions because many of them have shown themselves to be untrustworthy.



From banks to universities, hospitals to churches to governmental entities, people are skeptical of our institutions. Though we should never look with a blind eye, the reality is that we are dependent upon institutions to function in life. Consider this example I read in an e-newsletter from Dr. Arden Mahlberg, professional counselor and member of Advent Lutheran Church in Madison:



"Our trust in organizations and institutions is not based on the trust of individuals who comprise them. The basis for trusting organizations is structural—policies, procedures and best practices. Airline pilots do not trust their own judgment in a crisis—they trust the training that tells them exactly what to do. Individuals in trustworthy systems do not rely on their own judgment in crucial situations; they rely on training and best practices..."

The Department of Motor Vehicles is not an institution which is normally the object of praise, so it surprised me to hear one of our members do just that. The Minnesota DVM was able to do something the rest of her family could not: deny her elderly mother the privilege of carrying a driver's license. "The thought of Mom killing someone by her driving was haunting all of us," she shared, "and I called the DMV to thank them for doing it."

People today who refuse to join churches often say that the Church is a failed institution, that Jesus Christ never meant to found an institution, that a person doesn't need to belong to the institutional Church to be a Christian, etc. As one of a long line of pastors of millions of Christian congregations over the past 2,000 years, I say the world is so dependent upon the work of the Church that life without this institution would be unimaginable. Church leaders and members have failed so many times,

but the Church itself cannot fail. The Church is the Body of Christ, and individually, we each are members of it. The Book of Revelation talks of the Church as the very bride of Christ. St. Paul reminds us that God loves the church and commands us to care for her:

*Keep watch over yourselves and over all the flock, of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God that he obtained with the blood of his own Son.* —Acts 20:28

Despite all its imperfections and the people who fail us, this is why I still love the Church: because Christ loves it, and died for it. Good enough for me.

May you all have a blessed Christmas and prosperous and wholesome New Year.

—In Christ's love, Pastor Rick

## The Outlook

**Christmas Caroling** will be at 6:30 pm. Sunday, Dec. 4, following the Advent worship. Similar to the last two years, carolers will travel by car caravan to member's homes and in the Cross Plains area. All are welcome. Just show up and be ready to see some genuine smiles and an outpouring of love. Hot chocolate to follow.

**Men's Homeless Shelter:** St. Martin's will again be serving the evening meal for 50-75 at the Men's Homeless Shelter at 6:30 pm. on Thursday, December 8. People are needed to make food (main dish, salad, and dessert) and to serve. Please sign-up on the sheet in the narthex. Call Doris Fish at 203-5160 if you have questions.

**St. Martin's Christmas services for 2011:** Saturday, December 24, Christmas Eve 4:00 pm. (no Communion) & 9:00 pm. Sunday, December 25, Christmas Day 10:00 am.

Sunday, January 1, 2012, New Years Day 10:00 am.

A **Progressive Dinner** is planned for after Christmas by the Adult Activities Committee. We are looking for four homes to host and folks to help cook. Watch for information and sign-up sheets. Contact Bob Nelson at 798-2964 or nelson130@charter.net to help.

## From Council President



Lots is going on with our St. Martin's family. May your heart find some project or mission to get involved with.

Some Ground Beautification Projects are planned for 2012. Our initial meeting will be Monday, Dec. 12, at 7 pm. in the Library. The projects have been re-worked to include the Prayer Garden and minor landscaping around the church. We are looking to dedicate the projects on June 3, 2012. We need people to join in to make these wonderful additions to our church a reality! Anyone interested is encouraged to attend and better understand the scope of these projects.

Join us for Christmas Caroling (see article on page 2).

Save the date! The Council is setting up a Hopes and Dreams session for all members on Sunday, Jan. 22 at 6:00 pm to uncover ideas and look forward to missions and direction. Details will be forthcoming.

At this time of year we need to look ahead and plan for 2012. Please prayerfully submit your pledge card as soon as you can if you have not. Look into your heart and search what God has given you and then consider how you can do your part to give back for the benefit of this place we gather in His name and share our love for our faith community of St. Martins.

Blessings,  
Tom Johnson

## From Finance Committee

As I write this, it is a bit early to reconcile our finances through November. However, the overall picture is gaining clarity, and unfortunately it looks too much like last year. This is not about the Consecration Sunday event or your Estimates of Giving – which we also really appreciate. Rather, it is about the fact that last winter we all voted to stretch ourselves and keep – or add – programs to our budget; and the incoming revenue is falling short of supporting that commitment.

Last year we had an 'end of year appeal' to try to start 2011 fresh, with no debt. That goal was met, and we hoped to not have to repeat the appeal for this year. There are a few weeks left to get back on course. Please see if you can help us close out 2011 clean, so we don't burden the 2012 budget with debt.

For St. Martin's Finance,  
Rick Weiland

## Calling all props!

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.



## 4K for December

St. Martin's 4K unit theme this December is called, *Seasons All Around*, and is all about weather and the seasons. We're learning about what kinds of clothes to wear based on the weather, and we're learning how to tell the difference between the four seasons. We've also begun checking the weather each morning so that we understand that it impacts our life.

In Math we're working on counting groups of objects, basic addition & subtraction, and grouping or sorting objects.

Our letter of the week this week is letter Y, next week it will be W.

We're reading a few different stories in the next few weeks. This week we'll be reading *Swan Harbor* and *The Mitten*. Next week we will read a *What Makes the Seasons?* and *The Grasshopper and the Ant*.

There will be no 4K on Friday, December 9.

Winter break is from Thursday, December 22—Tuesday, January 3.

—Gina Hamon, Lead 4K Teacher

## Wanted for Giving Tree

Gently used blankets, bedding, sweaters, sweatshirts, toys, gifts, games, books. These items will be made available to all families/individuals picking up Christmas gifts from St. Martin's. Any items remaining will be donated to the MOM Clothing Closet. Call Maureen at 798-4820 for more information.

## Do you like good music?

The WI Chamber Orchestra and choir will perform *The Messiah* on Friday, Dec. 9 and the Cecelia Singers (a chamber group) sing on Sat. & Sun, Dec. 10 & 11. See me for more info.

—Rick Weiland

## December 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
12/4 8:30	Lois Weiland	Lois Weiland	Jan Doyle	n/a	Patty Hillebrand	Trappe Team	n/a	Ryan Fogel	n/a	James Hartung	Deb/Ron Goplin
12/4 10:30	Ann Houck	Ann Houck	Soul Purpose	Team 4	Ann Houck	Schulenberg Team	Alex Niebuhr	Tyler Acker	Galyn Hartung	Hunt/Schluter	
12/11 8:30	Cathy Kittle	Cathy Kittle	Mary Vassalotti	n/a	Jan Doyle	Trappe Team	n/a	Lizanne Dodsworth	n/a	Bill Wendorff	Karen Trappe
12/11 10:30	Jennifer Niesen	n/a	Mary Vassalotti	Team 3	n/a	Schulenberg Team	Lane Onken	Leif Mann	Sarah Faber	Hormig/Siggelkow	
12/18 8:30	Deb Wipperfurth	Deb Wipperfurth	Jan Doyle	n/a	Deb Wipperfurth	Trappe Team	n/a	Katie Kolden	n/a	Jason Niebuhr	Carmen Fowell
12/18 10:30	Bill Windels	Bill Windels,	SP & Jan Doyle	Team 2	D. Schulenberg	Schulenberg Team	Danny Schunk	Nicole McCue	Grace Hartung	Jeff Postle	
12/24 4:00	open	n/a	Mary Vassalotti	n/a	n/a	Hillebrand Team	Hannah Miller	Brynn Turley	n/a	Postle/Siggelkow	
12/24 9:00	Trygve Lund	Trygve Lund	Jan Doyle	Team 1	open	H. Wendorff Team	Ryan Fogel	Sarah Faber	n/a	Schluter/Windels	
12/25 10:00	Katherine Lund	Katherine Lund	Mary Vassalotti	Team 5	Jan Doyle	Schulenberg Team	Samantha Roll	Rachel Zander	n/a	Niebuhr/Wendorff	Doris Fish

# Crossways December 1-31 Calendar

❖ Thursday, December 1		9:15 a. Nursery open	N	3:00 p. 4K children depart	FH
8:30 a. 4K children arrive	FH	9:30 a. Christmas Program rehearsal	FH	7:00 p. Boy Scouts Troop 87	FH
9:30 a. Pal Zone	N	9:30 a. The Holy Land series	L	❖ Wednesday, December 21	
10:00 a. Alcoholics Anonymous	B	10:30 a. Worship w/o Communion	S	8:30 a. 4K children arrive	FH
3:00 p. 4K children depart	FH	6:00 p. Advent Worship	S	9:30 a. Staff Meeting	L
6:30 p. Youth Group, Lifeline	S	❖ Monday, December 12		3:00 p. 4K children depart	FH
6:30 p. Women's Bible Study	OS	8:30 a. 4K children arrive	FH	6:30 p. No Confirmation meeting	
❖ Friday, December 2		9:30 a. Quilting	FH	❖ Thursday, December 22	
8:30 a. 4K children arrive	FH	3:00 p. 4K children depart	FH	8:30 a. 4K children arrive	FH
3:00 p. 4K children depart	FH	6:30 p. Town of Berry Christmas party	FH	9:30 a. Pal Zone	N
❖ Saturday, December 3		7:00 p. Soul Purpose rehearsal	S	10:00 a. Alcoholics Anonymous	B
9:00 a. Cookie Walk & Book Fair	FH	❖ Tuesday, December 13		3:00 p. 4K children depart	FH
❖ Sunday, December 4		6:30 a. Men's Bible Study	L	6:30 p. No Youth Group	
8:30 a. Worship w/ Communion	S	8:30 a. 4K children arrive	FH	6:30 p. Women's Bible Study	OS
9:15 a. Nursery open	N	3:00 p. 4K children depart	FH	❖ Friday, December 23	
9:30 a. Christmas Program rehearsal	FH	7:00 p. Centering Prayer	S	8:30 a. 4K children arrive	FH
9:30 a. The Holy Land series	L	7:00 p. Boy Scouts Troop 87	FH	3:00 p. 4K children depart	FH
10:30 a. Worship w/ Communion	S	❖ Wednesday, December 14		<i>Deadline for January 1 Crossways</i>	
Baptism: Eliana Roenneburg		8:30 a. 4K children arrive	FH	❖ Saturday, December 24	
12:00 p. Craft Class	FH	9:30 a. Staff Meeting	L	4:00 p. Christmas worship w/o Communion	S
6:00 p. Advent Worship	S	3:00 p. 4K children depart	FH	9:00 p. Christmas worship w/ Communion	S
6:30 p. Christmas Caroling	OS	6:00 p. Tiger Scout Pack 87	FH	❖ Sunday, December 25	
❖ Monday, December 5		6:00 p. Confirmation: Caroling	OS	10:00 a. Christmas worship w/ Communion	S
8:30 a. 4K children arrive	FH	7:30 p. Adult Choir	MR	❖ Monday, December 26	
3:00 p. 4K children depart	FH	❖ Thursday, December 15		NO 4K program	
7:00 p. Soul Purpose rehearsal	S	8:30 a. 4K children arrive	FH	7:00 p. Soul Purpose rehearsal	S
❖ Tuesday, December 6		9:30 a. Pal Zone	N	❖ Tuesday, December 27	
6:30 a. Men's Bible Study	L	10:00 a. Alcoholics Anonymous	B	6:30 a. Men's Bible Study	L
8:30 a. 4K children arrive	FH	3:00 p. 4K children depart	FH	NO 4K program	
3:00 p. 4K children depart	FH	6:30 p. Youth Group Lifeline	FH/S	7:00 p. Boy Scouts Troop 87	FH
7:00 p. Boy Scouts Troop 87	FH	6:30 p. Women's Bible Study	OS	❖ Wednesday, December 28	
❖ Wednesday, December 7		❖ Friday, December 16		NO 4K program	
8:30 a. 4K children arrive	FH	8:30 a. 4K children arrive	FH	9:30 a. Staff Meeting	L
9:30 a. Staff Meeting	L	3:00 p. 4K children depart	FH	6:00 p. Tiger Scout Pack 87	FH
3:00 p. 4K children depart	FH	❖ Sunday, December 18		6:30 p. No Confirmation meeting	
5:00 p. Holiday Fantasy in Lights Tour	PL	8:30 a. Worship w/ Communion	S	7:00 p. Centering Prayer	GLC
6:00 p. Tiger Scout Pack 87	FH	9:15 a. Nursery open	N	7:30 p. No Adult Choir	
6:30 p. Confirmation meeting	S	9:30 a. The Holy Land series	L	❖ Thursday, December 29	
7:30 p. Adult Choir	MR	9:30 a. Christmas Program dress rehearsal	S	NO 4K program	
❖ Thursday, December 8		10:30 a. Worship w/ Communion	S	9:30 a. Pal Zone	N
8:30 a. 4K children arrive	FH	4:00 p. Children's Christmas Program	S	10:00 a. Alcoholics Anonymous	B
9:30 a. Pal Zone	N	5:00 p. Lasagna Dinner	FH	6:30 p. No Youth Group	
10:00 a. Alcoholics Anonymous	B	6:00 p. Advent Worship	S	6:30 p. Women's Bible Study	OS
3:00 p. 4K children depart	FH	❖ Monday, December 19		❖ Friday, December 30	
6:30 p. Youth Group, Lifeline (no meal)	FH/S	8:30 a. 4K children arrive	FH	NO 4K program till Jan. 3	
6:30 p. Women's Bible Study	OS	3:00 p. 4K children depart	FH		
❖ Friday, December 9		7:00 p. Soul Purpose	S		
NO 4K program		❖ Tuesday, December 20			
❖ Sunday, December 11		6:30 a. Men's Bible Study	L		
8:30 a. Worship w/ Communion	S	8:30 a. 4K children arrive	FH		

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



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