



Christmas program

❖ Elizabeth gave a ballet piece at the Christmas program



Annual Meeting

❖ St. Martin's Annual Meeting is Sunday, Jan. 23



Joseph and Mary

❖ Nick and Alicia played the proud parents at the Program

CROSSWAYS

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

- December 22, 2010
- Volume 1, number 18
- ELCA



St. Martin's Christmas Program, *The Bells of Glocken*, was held on Sunday, December 19 to a large crowd of families and friends. All the kids were dressed in their favorite clothes and keyed up for the event.

It was fascinating to see kids, big and tiny, playing the piano and other instruments and other kids running around so they could be the right place at the right



time in their role. Church Programs have a special place in helping build the excitement for Christmas in a direction that has nothing to do with commercialism or gift-giving. It is about the Christmas story and they got to be the story tellers, for once.

The Bells of Glocken Program was all inclusive; everyone who wanted to perform or be part of the play could



do so. It was a chance for them to shine. After all, belonging to a church means developing relationships, strengths, and talents under the umbrella of a loving, encouraging congregation.

It is also a time when it is so rewarding to be a parent and see your child or grandchild be part of something both fun and meaningful.

Special thanks to Karen Windels, Paula Elver, Diana Postle, Mary Vassalotti, and their crews of helpers who made this event happen so smoothly.

—Sally Averkamp

Crossways schedule

This issue of Crossways will cover December 22 through January 15. Another will be issued on January 16. The regular schedule will resume at that time.

—Sally Averkamp



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.

Follow-up

The 2010 Cookie Walk was a big success. We sold about 82 pounds of cookies, 22 gift jars and some locally grown herbs for about \$800 to be directed toward the general budget with some going toward a Prayer Garden. The Sr. High Youth Group also collected \$173 for their offerings which will go toward their mission trip. SERRV products were sold by the Mission Team and collected \$189. 90% of that money is used to help the crafter and artists in developing countries. We had over 36 people baking cookies and assembling Food Gift Jars and 25 helpers and carolers help during the sale. Thank you to all that helped and to all the shoppers.

The 2010 ALPHA course is now completed and we had 35 people help. We thank all of those that helped offer a successful course. The course was a great opportunity to test run how to do the course and learn what worked well and what didn't work too well. After making some adjustments, we are ready to move ahead with more classes. Our next ALPHA course will be Wednesday evenings; five of the lessons during lent and the other five later. All with ALPHA signs can return them back to church.

—Hallie, Gail, Bob & Pr. Rick



From the Pastor

We all matter to each other

Every family has Christmas traditions. One of our favorites each Christmas is to watch the 1946 film classic, *It's a Wonderful Life*. Most of you know this story: George Bailey, played by Jimmy Stewart, inherits the job of President of his family business, Bailey Building and Loan. When his Uncle Billy misplaces an \$8,000 bank deposit, it drives George to such despair that he utters heavenward, "I wish I'd never been born!" God responds by granting his wish. God sends an angel-in-training, Clarence Oddbody, to show George what the world would have been like if George hadn't ever been born. Angel Clarence sums up the theme of the movie with this observation:

"Strange, isn't it? Each man's life touches so many other lives. When he isn't around he leaves an awful hole, doesn't he?"

We don't know what effect our lives have on others. In God's plan, every single human being has a purpose that directly affects the lives of thousands, even millions of people we touch in life. YOU MATTER. You matter to God and you matter to others. We need constant reminding of this. Near the end of the movie, George reads this inscription, in a gift copy of *Tom*

Sawyer from the Angel Clarence: "Remember, George: no man is a failure who has friends."

This is my heartfelt vision of our church family at St. Martin's Lutheran:

We are a community of friends, bound together by the Holy Spirit of God in Jesus Christ. No matter how difficult our lives become, no matter what evils and setbacks and misfortunes we face in life, none of us is ever a failure because we have friends who will never fail us in the Body of Jesus Christ, the Church. Everyone matters in this family of friends.

May I close with a final benediction from the movie?

Mary Bailey: "Bread. . .that this house may never know hunger."

"Salt. . .that life may always have flavor."

George Bailey: "And wine. . .that joy and prosperity may reign forever."

Bread. Salt. Wine. It has a certain Eucharistic ring to it, doesn't it?

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Merry Christmas.

—Pastor Rick



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
Sally Averkamp,
Communications Director
Jim Doyle, Building Manager
Office (608) 798-2777
Fax (608) 798-0492
communicationsdirector@
stmartinscp.org
www.stmartinscp.org

The Outlook

Christmas Dinner: You are invited to the Greater Middleton Area **Christmasfest Dinner**, December 25, Noon to 2:00 p.m. at St. Bernard's Parish Center, 7450 University Ave., Middleton (at the Corner of University Ave. and Parmenter St.). It is free to all.

On Sunday, December 26, **Kris Rhude** will leave for India with a the Synod group and return on Sunday, January 9.

Mary Martha Circle meets at 11 am. on the fourth Monday (Dec. 27) for a short Bible Study and brown bag lunch. All women are invited to come.

SHARE orders given host sites are due on January 4 and online on January 9.

St. Martin's Annual Meeting will be Sunday, January 23. Please plan to attend this important meeting regarding the future of St. Martin's for 2011.

Girl Talk

Girl Talk, a program in its eleventh year at the Lutheran Campus Center on the UW campus, will take place on January 22 & 23 (Sat-Sunday). This is a program for 7th & 8th grade girls and targets them at a transitional time in their lives when they are thinking more about their bodies, boys, drugs, and multiple influences.

The Girl Talk program utilizes about 20 college co-eds to lead discussions and explore new ideas in a supportive environment. I enrolled my daughter, Leslie, in Girl Talk both years—although she did not go very willingly. But it was my feeling that they don't necessarily know what is good for them at that age and it's our job to help influence them. I am glad I did.

Go to www.lccmadison.com and download the registration form. The cost is \$20.

—Sally Averkamp

Holiday greetings!

The end of the year seems to have snuck up on us. Here we are almost at Christmas. A lot of good things are happening at St. Martin's in the last few weeks of this year. Check out in this newsletter the many wonderful faith opportunities St. Martin's offers. These opportunities are in the form of our beautiful regular and special services, giving of time and/or possessions, and sharing fellowship with one and other.

Take time to reflect on the many blessings we hold. Many of our blessings are the wonderful church family we live with month by month and that do really care about us.

Looking ahead to 2011, one of our missions is to reach out to others in the Cross Plains area and invite them to become part of our church family. This outreach will be fun and challeng-

ing. We now have a strong base of committed people and leadership to build on and it is now time to start laying some bricks on this foundation.

My prayer for each of us is that, this year will include some time just for us to be quiet and to be filled with the joy of salvation. The Christmas Gospel tells us that after the shepherds left the stable, Mary kept everything they said in her heart and "pondered them."

Making time to ponder the most wonderful gift God has given us – all the gifts he has given us—is good. It fills us with the peace Jesus came to bring. Merry Christmas!

—Tom Johnson



Thank you, St. Martin's!

Wow. You have left me speechless. St. Martin's members—which is a difficult thing to do! I cannot even begin to show my gratitude for everyone at church who has supported me, from when I was a Sunday School student, until now, as I prepare for my travel to India. From hugs in the narthex to prayers in the sanctuary, it has been incredible to be the recipient of such an outpouring of goodwill. This congregation has overwhelmed me with its kindness and joy.

For example, the concert that we held on October 28 stunned me. Performing was fun in itself, but especially for such a warm and supportive crowd. The attendance was enormous, and I felt so blessed by this community, both from the church and the village. Friends and family (as well as a few people I'd never met!) were extremely excited to be a part of the concert and my trip! It was energizing. Just seeing everyone there meant so much to me; I am an incredibly lucky person. Since then I have continued to receive encouragement, wonderful support, and conversations with excited community members. That's not even mentioning the incredible financial sup-

port which I have received, which again, amazed me. Thanks to you, even before the trip, this youth exchange to India has been an unforgettable experience!

A very special thanks to Lee Swanson and the musicians who played at the concert; Van and the members of the Call Team for starting me on the path that led me here; Pastor Rick, the Council, Sally Averkamp, Lois Weiland for handling the funds; and the people, too numerous to mention, who donated to fly me halfway around the world and back!

Please help me to pass on my thanks to all of the members of the community outside St. Martin's who have supported me by attending the concert or otherwise! I will be traveling 12,000 kilometers the day after Christmas, and every kilometer is due to you! Thank you.

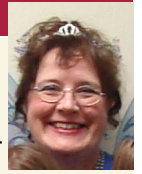
Sincerely,

—Kris Rhude

Editor's note: St. Martin's financial commitment for Kris' trip has been covered through the efforts of the congregation. Many thanks to all who helped.



December 21 last day of JAM



JAM was started in 2000 as a mission of St. Martin's to fill a gap the community of Cross Plains had concerning after school care. JAM became much more to the teachers, church, and community.

Over the years JAM helped the children enrolled in the program learn that they could make a difference in the world, no matter how young they were. The kids made "Operation Shoeboxes" and handmade dolls sent to Africa with Meri De Garmo to be given to children with AIDS. They gathered gifts from local businesses and made 250 Easter Baskets to go to the Madison hospitals for children hospitalized during Easter. They played BINGO with Girlie Manor residents, cleaned up Black Earth Creek, and sent Valentines to service men and women in Iraq. They made Christmas cards for people in Dane County Jail and gathered food for the Food Pantry. All the while, the children learned that we are one big family and have to take care of each other.

In the ten years of JAM, it served just under 200 children with a safe and secure after school environment. Through scholarships, JAM helped ten families have child care that wouldn't have been able to afford it. The program brought many new families to St. Martin's because their children were enrolled in the JAM program.

Church members from four other churches in the Dane County area modeled their after school programs after the JAM program. JAM also helped three mentally or physically challenged adults gain knowledge and skills in order to get employment through the State of Wisconsin Job Works program.

The need for quality and affordable after school care in Cross Plains still exists, and the staff and parents at JAM took up the challenge of starting a new program after learning in September that JAM would be closing in Dec. Many Cross Plains businesses, along with the Cross Plains Optimists, Chamber of Commerce, Fire Department and private individuals have helped with the organization and funding of a new program.

Kid SAFE Inc. will be starting January 3, at Park Elementary School with the teaching staff of JAM. Parents of students enrolled in the program act as the Board of Directors. Kid SAFE will be a non-profit community-based after school program and will take over where JAM left off.

The JAM staff would like to thank the members of St. Martin's who have helped us these past ten years. Gifts of craft supplies, computers, games and other items were greatly appreciated. Funds donated were used wisely and carefully. We look forward to continuing the mission started at St. Martin's with the Kids SAFE Inc. (219-7595; www.cpkidsafe.org).

Thanks to all,

—Virginia Diebold

Crossways Dec22/Jan15 Calendar

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| <p>❖ Wednesday, December 22</p> <p>9:30 a. <i>Staff Meeting</i> L</p> <p>6:00 p. <i>Tiger Scout Pack 87</i></p> <p>6:30 p. <i>No Confirmation</i></p> <p>7:30 p. <i>Adult Choir Practice</i> MR</p> <p>❖ Thursday, December 23</p> <p>9:30 a. <i>No Pal Zone</i></p> <p>10:00 a. <i>Women's AA</i></p> <p>6:30 p. <i>Youth Group Lifeline</i> S</p> <p>❖ Friday, December 24, Christmas Eve</p> <p>4:00 p. <i>Christmas Eve w/ Communion</i> S</p> <p>9:00 p. <i>Christmas Eve w/ Communion</i> S</p> <p>❖ Saturday, December 25, Christmas</p> <p>10:00 a. <i>Worship w/ Communion</i> S</p> <p>❖ Sunday, December 26</p> <p>7:00 a. <i>Kris Rhude leaves for India</i></p> <p>8:30 a. <i>Worship w/ Communion</i> S</p> <p>9:30 a. <i>Famous Preachers w/Pr. Rick</i> L</p> <p>10:30 a. <i>Worship w/ Communion</i> S</p> <p>❖ Monday, December 27</p> <p>7:00 p. <i>Soul Purpose</i> S</p> <p>❖ Tuesday, December 28</p> <p>6:30 a. <i>Men's Bible Study</i> L</p> <p>6:30 p. <i>Women's Bible Study</i> OS</p> <p>7:00 p. <i>Boy Scouts Troop 87</i> FH</p> <p>❖ Wednesday, December 29</p> <p>9:30 a. <i>Staff meeting</i> L</p> <p>6:00 p. <i>Tiger Scout Pack 87</i> FH</p> <p>6:30 p. <i>No Confirmation</i></p> <p>7:30 p. <i>No Adult Choir Practice</i></p> | <p>❖ Thursday, December 30</p> <p>9:30 a. <i>No Pal Zone</i></p> <p>10:00 a. <i>Women's AA</i></p> <p>6:30 p. <i>Youth Group Lifeline</i> FH/S</p> <p>❖ Sunday, January 2</p> <p>8:30 a. <i>Worship w/Communion</i> S</p> <p>9:30 a. <i>Famous Preachers w/Pr. Rick</i> L</p> <p>10:30 a. <i>Worship w/ Communion</i> S</p> <p>❖ Monday, January 3</p> <p>7:00 p. <i>Soul Purpose</i> S</p> <p>❖ Tuesday, January 4</p> <p>6:30 a. <i>Men's Bible Study</i> L</p> <p>6:30 p. <i>Women's Bible Study</i> OS</p> <p>7:00 p. <i>Boy Scouts Troop 87</i> FH</p> <p>❖ Wednesday, January 5</p> <p>9:30 a. <i>Staff meeting</i> L</p> <p>6:00 p. <i>Tiger Scout Pack 87</i> FH</p> <p>6:30 p. <i>Confirmation class</i> S</p> <p>7:30 p. <i>No Adult Choir Practice</i> MR</p> <p>❖ Thursday, January 6</p> <p>9:30 a. <i>Pal Zone</i> N</p> <p>10:00 a. <i>Women's AA</i></p> <p>6:30 p. <i>Youth Group Lifeline</i> S</p> <p>❖ Sunday, January 9</p> <p>8:30 a. <i>Worship w/ Communion</i> S</p> <p>9:15 a. <i>Sunday School</i> B</p> <p>10:30 a. <i>Worship w/o Communion</i> S</p> <p>12:00 p. <i>Craft Day</i> FH</p> <p>5:00 p. <i>The Project practice</i> S</p> <p>10:00 p. <i>Kris Rhude returns from India</i></p> | <p>❖ Monday, January 10</p> <p>9:30 a. <i>Quilting Group</i> FH</p> <p>6:00 p. <i>Town of Barry meeting</i> L</p> <p>7:00 p. <i>Soul Purpose</i> S</p> <p><i>Deadline for January 15 Crossways</i></p> <p>❖ Tuesday, January 11</p> <p>6:30 a. <i>Men's Bible Study</i> L</p> <p>6:30 p. <i>Women's Bible Study</i> OS</p> <p>7:00 p. <i>Boy Scouts Troop 87</i> FH</p> <p>7:00 p. <i>Centering Prayer</i> S</p> <p>❖ Wednesday, January 12</p> <p>9:30 a. <i>Staff Meeting</i> L</p> <p>6:00 p. <i>Tiger Scout Pack 87</i></p> <p>6:30 p. <i>Confirmation service project</i></p> <p>7:30 p. <i>Adult Choir Practice</i> MR</p> <p>❖ Thursday, January 13</p> <p>9:30 a. <i>No Pal Zone</i></p> <p>10:00 a. <i>Women's AA</i></p> <p>6:30 p. <i>Youth Group Lifeline</i> S</p> <p><i>S—Sanctuary; L—Library; B—Building; MR—Music Room; FH—Fellowship Hall; CR—Choir Room; OS—Off Site; N—Nursery; GLC—Gunderson Life Center</i></p> |
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December 22-January 15 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> |
|-------------|------------------|---|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|---------------|---------------|
| 12/24 4:00 | Sally Averkamp | Sally Averkamp | Mary Vassalotti | | | Jeff & Diana Postle | | Lief Mann | | | |
| 12/24 9:00 | Lois Weiland | Lois Weiland | Jan Doyle | | | Karen & Gary Trappe | Kaitlin Conroy | Courtney Conroy | | | |
| 12/25 10:00 | Jordan Foster | Deb & Jordan Foster | Jan Doyle | | | Schulenberg | | Lizzy Dodsworth | | | |
| 12/26 8:30 | Bev Brunner | Bev Brunner | Mary Vassalotti | n/a | Deb Goplin | Hillebrand Team | Kaitlin Conroy | Courtney Conroy | n/a | Phil Fish | Doris Fish |
| 12/26 10:30 | Brenda Hagman | John Hagman, Katherine Lund&Cheryl/Blake Hartung | Mary Vassalotti | Hillebrand-4 Team | Darlene S. | Schulenberg Tm | Samantha Flogel | Ryan Flogel | Danny Schunk | Randy Hunt | open |
| 1/2 8:30 | Deb/Ron Goplin | Deb/Ron Goplin | Jan Doyle | n/a | Patty Hillebrand | | Trappe Team | Lauren Kalvin | Lizanne Dodsworth | n/a | James Hartung |
| 1/2 10:30 | Maureen Berghoef | Maureen B Katherine Lund&Jenny Niesen | Soul Purpose | Team 4 | Ann Houck | McCauley Tm | Max Boehnen | Leif Mann | Travis Zander | Randy Hunt | open |
| 1/9 8:30 | Deb Wipperfurth | Deb Wipperfurth | Mary Vassalotti | n/a | Jan Doyle | Trappe Team | Kyle Gregory | Lauren Gregory | n/a | Bill Wendorff | Karen Trappe |
| 1/9 10:30 | Ron Siggelkow | n/a | open | Team 3 | n/a | McCauley Tm | Haley Joyce | Katie Kolden | Tyler Acker | Postle/Hormig | open |



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