



Ash Wednesday

❖ Is on March 9;
Lent is next week.



PAL Zone

❖ meets each
Thursday at 9:30
am.



Quilting group

❖ meets Monday,
9:30 am. on
March 14

CROSSWAYS

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

- March 1, 2011
- Volume 1, number 22
- ELCA

Singing as One

It has now been a little over a month since returning from my trip to northern India with a group of six other youth from the South Central Synod of Wisconsin. The trip was a truly life changing and incredible event in my life, and my gratitude to you all for making it possible is indescribable.

While traveling through the country, we saw sprawling cities such as Kolkata and Delhi, interminable stretches of rice paties in agricultural areas, and everywhere in between. We viewed the center of the Hindu universe, where the world began, the birthplace of Buddhism, the Taj Mahal, the river Ganges and her ghats, first century BC monasteries, and some of the busiest markets on earth. We saw the richest of the rich and the poorest of the poor. Our senses were under constant bombardment.

To describe even a single day would be impossible in one article. Given the time, I could fill up church newsletters for the rest



India: the largest vegetable market in Kolkata

of my life with stories from the subcontinent. Without this luxury however, I will concentrate on a specific moment.

While in Dumka, a rural town and center of the Northern Evangelical Lutheran Church in India, we went to many church services. The services were conducted

solely in Santali, a tribal language native to that area and thus unintelligible to our ears. However, we all followed the service as if we were holding a bulletin. Following the same liturgical order and practices of a traditional service at home, we understood the service as if it was being delivered in

continued on page 2

MOM Food Drive—Sunday, April 10

More information will follow in the next *Crossways* but keep the date in mind as you do your grocery shopping and see a bargain!

—Judy Valaskey



Gardening Group to meet

We meet to consider forming a Gardening Group at St. Martin's on Sunday, March 6, at 9:30 am.

We will look into having a Plant Sale on Trout Days to raise funds for a Prayer Garden on church grounds and coordinating the annual Garden Walk of member's gardens.

— Hallie Wendorff





Lenten fare

This year's Lenten theme on Wednesday evenings will be "Faith Five In Your Home."

The five weekly topics are:

- Share your highs and lows
- Read a verse of Scripture
- Talk about how the Scripture verse speaks to your highs and lows

• Pray for your highs and lows

• Bless one another

During Lent, Wednesday evenings begin with supper at 6:00 pm., Worship at 7:00, and ALPHA at 7:30 pm.

—Pastor Rick



From the Pastor

Increasing our flock

One of the most gratifying things in parish ministry for me is preparing and receiving people for church membership. It is so exciting to bring people into a fellowship—the local congregation—that has been such a treasure to me and my family. This year I am aware of about 25 families who visit St. Martin's Lutheran Church frequently, and who will be invited to enter the process to become members.

If you know families or individuals who might like to learn more, please have them join our Lenten ALPHA sessions. Open to everyone, prospective members will learn

together with existing members what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ in the Christian Church.

Beginning Sunday, March 13 (9:30 am.) and repeated Wednesday, March 16 (at 7:30 pm, after the Soup Supper and Worship), the ALPHA—Introduction to the Christian Faith will be offered. Sunday sessions will be in the Library; Wednesday sessions will be at Gunderson Life Center next door.

New Members will be formally received on Easter Sunday, April 24. Please call the Church Office (798-2777) or contact me if you'd like to join us.

—Pastor Rick

Singing as One *cont. from page 1*

English, though admittedly sermons in an unknown language can seem prolonged. From opening prayers, to the readings, to the offering, to communion, we listened to familiar phrases in an unfamiliar way. Then in a wonderful moment, we recited the *Lord's Prayer* together in English while they did in Santali.

Even more incredible was the music. All hymns were sung a cappella and each worshipper owned their own Seren Puthi (hymnal). At each service some kind worshippers let us borrow their hymnals and would whisper the English hymn numbers to us so we could sing with the congregation. Santali is written with Latin script, so we were soon singing with the Lutherans of India in their own language. Once again, the familiar met with the strange, as most of the hymns carried recognizable tunes, as we sang to the tunes of *Beautiful Savior*, *Jesus Loves Me*, and others. Though

Dhamek Stupa, 1st century, birthplace of Buddhism



of course we did not know what words we sang, we all sang together, not as Americans and Indians, but as one people singing to God. The unifying power of music surrounded us as our voices filled the sanctuary. Two peoples together as one.

Once again, this experience, and all the others I had are thanks to you. I hope that I have piqued your interest in my trip with the stories I have told thus far, as I look

forward to continuing to share in the next few months. Please come and talk to me about my trip or ask any questions that you may have whenever you would like. I am excited to write more of my stories, share tales personally or at events, and telling the church about my travels to India that you as the church made possible.

Thank you!

—Kristofer Rhude



Baptism at the church in Mohulpahari



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

Organizing our thoughts for 2011

Your newly elected Council held its annual Planning Retreat Friday & Saturday, February 11 & 12, at Bethel Horizon church camp. What a wonderful place to reflect and take in nature's beauty! After hours of deliberation, four main goals and objectives were identified for the 2011 Church year:

1. Youth and Family Ministries

A. Integrate Middle School and High School programs

B. Implement new Sunday School format (*Faith Inkubators*) to include families in Christian education of their children

2. Community outreach ministry

A. The 4-year-old Kindergarten program possibly at St. Martin's

B. Look for things we can do to have St. Martin's be visible in the Cross Plains community

1) Events (golf outing, soup sharing, concerts, etc.)

2) Combined social/service events

3) ALPHA and new member classes

3. Revitalizing Church Connections

A. Clarifying our visions for St. Martin's

B. TLC—strengthening and identifying leadership gifts

C. Creating more effective communication between Council and Team Ministries

1) Effective TLC

2) Using communication tools (*Crossways*, website, Facebook, etc.)

a. member highlights

b. photo of the week

4. Financial Stability and Responsibility Goals

A. Converting debt to ministry

B. Consecration Sunday on-going

C. Develop a Legacy Giving program

In the coming months we will touch on all aspects of this blueprint we want to follow. Many actionable items need to be created and acted upon to achieve much of this planning. **We will need help and input from all!**

We all owe Bill Windells an enormous amount of thanks for his tireless serving on Council the past three years. Bill held the offices of Secretary two years ago and Vice President last year.

Ministry partners are the lifeblood for the activities and programs at St. Martin's. Opportunities to serve are plentiful and can appeal to a wide variety of talents and skills. All are welcome to get involved in what ministry is comfortable and fulfilling to individual preferences.

Consider getting involved with our St. Martin's family. Saint Francis, in a part of his ageless prayer, says it simply, "For it is in giving that we receive."

Blessings,

—Tom Johnson, Council President



Youth news

In preparing for this article, I started thinking of where we are as a Youth Group and am pleased to say we are in a good spot.

We still meet every Thursday for Youth Group, starting at 6:30 pm. We have 15-20 youth coming regularly. We share a meal; listen to contemporary live music. We then join in a short message, usually led by a teen and share our week together.

Our Youth Team meets regularly to plan upcoming events and evaluate past programs. This



team is comprised of teens and adults.

On Wednesday, March 30, we will be at Culver's all day raising money for our trip to Flat Head. We will be given a percentage of all the proceeds that day so come over, eat some Culver's food, and help us reach our goal.

The next event is the 30hr Famine scheduled for Saturday, Sunday on April 2-3. This event has been the corner stone of our youth ministry here at St. Martin's. To participate, we fast for 30 hours to raise money for starving children in our world through the organization, "World Vision". We break our fast at worship on Sunday morning. All senior high and 8th graders are encouraged to join us.

We are also excited about our servant trip to Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp in Montana. We will be gone the first week of August to work and have fun in God's beautiful mountains.

As I stated in the beginning, I think our Youth Group is in a good spot. That doesn't mean we are not looking for new ways to grow in our spiritual journey. Our relationship with God is an on-growing process which is why we meet every week. We need each other to grow in our faith.

If you are a parent of a teen, encourage them to come. If you are a teen, you need to come. Life is hard. We all need positive people in our lives!

God's peace to you all,

—Tim Knipfer
Youth Ministry Director

The Outlook

The *church kitchen* is in need of a spring housecleaning and we would like to clean it before we get into the Lenten season. Please join us at 9 am. Tuesday, March 1, to clean cupboards, refrigerators, freezers and take an inventory of things needed. We hope to finish by noon. Call Doris at 203-5160 if you have questions.

Join us Sunday, March 6, between services at the Library to hear *Sacred Stories* from well known Christian authors and speakers Fred Buechner, Maya An-

gelou and James Carrol who will move you to both laughter and tears as they reflect on how God has been faithful through painful times in their lives.

Their touch on personal experiences of desperation, terror, alcoholism, anorexia, each ending with very hopeful and life-giving experiences of God's presence.

Crossways March 1-15 Calendar

❖ **Tuesday, March 1**
 6:30 a. *Men's Bible Study* L
 6:30 p. *Women's Bible Study* OS
 7:00 p. *Boy Scouts Troop 87* FH

❖ **Wednesday, March 2**
 9:30 a. *Staff Meeting* L
 6:00 p. *Tiger Scout Pack 87* FH
 6:30 p. *Confirmation Class* S
 7:30 p. *Adult Choir Practice* MR

❖ **Thursday, March 3**
 9:30 a. *Pal Zone* N
 10:00 a. *Women's AA*
 6:30 p. *Youth Group Lifeline* S/FH

❖ **Sunday, March 6**
 8:30 a. *Worship w/ Communion* S
 9:15 a. *Sunday School* B
 9:45 a. *Gardening Group*
 9:45 a. *Sacred Stories* L
 10:15 a. *Nursery open* N
 10:30 a. *Worship w/ Communion & Baptism* S
 5:00 p. *The Project practice* S

❖ **Monday, March 7**
 7:00 p. *Soul Purpose* S
Deadline for March 15 Crossways

❖ **Tuesday, March 8**
 6:30 a. *Men's Bible Study* L
 6:30 p. *Women's Bible Study* OS
 7:00 p. *Boy Scouts Troop 87* FH
 7:00 p. *Centering Prayer* S

❖ **Wednesday, March 9**
 9:30 a. *Staff meeting* L
 6:00 p. *Tiger Scout Pack 87* FH
 7:00 p. *Asb Wednesday Service* S
Confirmation (attends service)
 7:45 p. *Adult Choir Practice* MR

❖ **Thursday, March 10**
 9:30 a. *Pal Zone* N
 10:00 a. *Women's AA*
 6:30 p. *Youth Group Lifeline* S

❖ **Sunday, March 13**
 8:30 a. *Worship w/ Communion* S
 9:15 a. *Sunday School* B
 10:30 a. *Worship w/o Communion* S
 12:00 p. *Craft Day* FH
 5:00 p. *The Project practice* S

❖ **Monday, March 14**
 9:30 a. *Quilting Group* FH
 6:00 p. *Town of Berry meeting* L
 7:00 p. *Soul Purpose* S

❖ **Tuesday, March 15**
 6:30 a. *Men's Bible Study* L
 6:30 p. *Women's Bible Study* OS
 7:00 p. *Boy Scouts Troop 87* 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

March 1-15 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>
3/6	8:30 Deb/Ron Goplin	Deb/Ron Goplin	Jan Doyle	n/a	Patty Hillebrand	Wendorff Team	Kaitlin Conroy	Courtney Conroy	n/a	James Hartung	D/R Goplin
3/6	10:30 Maureen B.	Maureen B.	Soul Purpose	Team 2	open	Postle Team	Samantha Flogel	Ryan Flogel	Liam Turley	Postle/Neumueller	open
		Nancy McCauley, Patty Harper									
3/13	8:30 Deb Wipperfurth	Deb Wipperfurth	Mary Vassalotti	n/a	Jan Doyle	Wendorff Team	Derek Kalvin	Lizanne Dodsworth	n/a	Bill Wendorff	Karen Trappe
3/13	10:30 Ron Siggelkow	n/a	Rick Haller	Team 1	n/a	Postle Team	Matthew Harper	Leif Mann	Megan Lange	Jeff Postle	Darlene S.



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