



Color printing

❖ special thanks to Tom Johnson for printing last Crossways in color!



Financial update

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Youth fundraising

❖ Youth programs on page 5

CROSSWAYS

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

- April 15, 2010
- Volume 1, number 5
- ELCA



The Niesen family as Valerie receives Communion

First Communion for 40 children

At the 5:30 pm. service on Maundy Thursday, April 1, forty children received their First Communion in St. Martin's sanctuary. The church was packed with families and their friends. A dull roar filled the room as 204 people participated.

The kids sat in pews by grade, 5th, 4th, 3rd, 2nd graders, kindergartners and four-year-olds. During Communion time, each group came up to the Communion railing with their parents and sponsors. The children received their First Communion from Pastor Rick and were given a ceramic chalice of wine with which to commune his/her family. The chalice later went home with them as a gift from St. Martin's.

How did the kids feel about their experience? Jeff and Diana said, "First Communion was a very special event for Teresa Marie and our family. Teresa Marie talked about it for weeks before it happened and even had a count-down to the actual night. She picked out a special dress for the occasion, although I told her a few times that communion was all about Jesus and not so much about a dress. She insisted that she wanted to look her best that evening and stated that it was Jesus' dress anyway. I didn't have a good response for that except to say, 'Yes, I guess it is.' She told me today after her second communion that she felt the presence of Jesus so I believe she gets the idea."

How did the kids feel about

The collective mood was that of

continued on page 4

JAM kids learn to 'think outside the box'

Check out St. Martin's JAM activities on page 3. At right, Michael is making his own popcorn with alternative fuel. JAM's April schedule will make you want to be a kid again!



Meals for Haiti exceeds its target

Frank Durham of St. Martin's worked on the Meals for Haiti program on April 8. His report is on page 5.



Women's East/ West meeting

The East/West Lake Conference Spring Gathering (for ELCA women) begins at 8:30 am. (with coffee & registration) on April 17 at the Vermont Lutheran Church in Black Earth. The program will be *Haiti Friends & Family* by Pastor Mary Pharmer. Other programs are *Nutrition in the 21st Century*, *Synodical Board News* by Rebecca Nelson. Guatemalan products will be for sale. Each car of women attending is asked to bring a salad for a salad potluck.

Homeless Shelter feedback

Thank you to everyone who contributed food and helped with our effort for the Homeless Shelter on April 8.

— Doris Fish

Thank you

Thank you so much for all your prayers and cards during my recovery from hip surgery. They really worked — I felt lifted up and supported through the whole process. I can't tell you enough how blessed I feel to be a part of the St. Martin's church family.

—Patty Neumueller



Newsletter of
St. Martin's Lutheran Church
2427 Church St.
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From the Finance Team

Our First Quarter Finance Report

Happy Easter from the Finance Team. As part of our commitment to report to you quarterly, this is our first quarter report for 2010.



Lets start with good news! Our attendance is up for the first three months of the year with the largest increase at the 10:30 service. The 8 am. service attendance is similar to last year, however at the 10:30 am. service average attendance is up 23%!! In addition, our Lenten attendance was up 10%! Lets pray this trend continues, as increased attendance will help resolve our budget concerns!

Our giving for the year is up 18% over last year using the same period. While this is a strong improvement, this is behind our anticipated 23% increase needed to fund our budget. As you recall, in January

we met as a congregation and approved a budget that was a \$50,000 increase over the previous year. A large part of this increase was the result of our full time pastor, our Youth Director, and support for our Youth Groups.

For the month of March our total giving was behind our planned giving. This is largely due to Easter being in April this year. We expect this to rebound and be more closely in line with our budget plans. We will track this closely and let you know accordingly.

Final thoughts: Our attendance is beginning to trend up; our overall giving is increased, but lower that what is needed through the year. We must continue to remain diligent to our plans, we will report back to you with significant changes.

—Mike Calvin, Finance Team Chair

To the family of St. Martin's,

It has been a great privilege to serve you during the recent interim and transition period. I thank everyone who has made the journey a pleasure including Pastor Tim, Pastor Rick, Council, a caring staff, the conscientious office volunteers, the dedicated bulletin team, the knowledgeable IT team and everyone who lent a helping hand, shared a smile, a friendly hello, or a kind word. It has truly been a joy.

A heartfelt thanks to all the friends and family of St. Martin's who honored me on March 28th with a lovely reception, beautiful cakes, thoughtful gifts, treasured cards and messages. I look forward to continuing to serve with many of you and most of all sharing the sanctuary and Communion rail with all of you. You warm my heart and my soul!



Blessed be the journey,
—Maureen Berghoefer

The Outlook

The Outlook section includes upcoming events at St. Martin's listed in chronological order with the most immediate events listed first.

Women's Bible Study, led by Mary Kay Knipfer and **Men's Bible Study**, led by Tim Knipfer is held each Tuesday at 6:30 pm.

A new daytime **Women's Circle** will begin at 1:30 pm. on April 28 with Brenda Hagman as group leader. They will meet in the church library each fourth Wednesday for Bible study, fellowship, and desert. All are welcome.

The **Dane County Jail Ministry** will hold its Fourth Annual Quilt Auction & Pie Sale beginning at noon on Saturday, April 17, to support the Jail Chaplaincy Program at Christ Lutheran Church in DeForest. View the blankets at www.malc-online.org.

Tea Time Down Under—The AMEN group will meet at 3:30 pm. on Sunday, April 18. At this time, Brenda and John Hagman will share a travelogue of their 2009 trip to Australia. Join them in the library for tea time then enjoy their photos on the big screen in the sanctuary.

The Senior High Youth Group will be selling **Fresh Baked Cinnamon Rolls** on Sunday, April 18, after each service. The money raised will be used for the mission trip to Hancock County, MS.

The Capitol Chordsmen Chorus (Barber Shop Concert) —at 6:20 pm. on Saturday, April 24. Join us as for their annual concert at the Middleton Performing Arts Center. Tickets are



\$16 (for 12 or more); seniors (55 years) pay \$12. A stop at Culvers in Middleton is planned afterwards for

desert. Sign up in the narthex.

A **Scrapbooking Event** will be held from 8:30—5:00 pm. on Saturday, April 24, with proceeds to benefit the St. Martin's Youth 30-Hour Famine Event. The cost will be \$10 per person (for 4 foot table space) or \$20 per person (for 8 foot table space). Contact Mary at 279-0703 or mvas@charter.net if you are interested.

St. Martin's is having a **Garage & Bake Sale** during Trout Days April 29 – May 1. Please consider donating items (except adult clothing). Articles can be dropped off now at Deb

& Gary Foster's (798-0339 to call ahead) or the week before the sale, at Liz & Mark Wiebe's house (798-2199). Please bring 2-4 dozen baked treats to the Garage Sale location (Wiebe's house) beginning Wednesday evening, April 28, from 6-10 pm. We will also accept baked goods throughout the weekend. This fundraiser will benefit the St. Martin's Senior High Mission Trip.

We are collecting for our **MOM (Middleton Outreach Ministry) Food Drive** until April 30 so bring non-perishable food items anytime. A container and lists of most needed foods are in the narthex. If you have questions, call Judy Valaskey at 798-2752.

Gardening Group—A new Gardening Small Group meeting will meet at 9:15 am. on Sunday, April 18. Possible activities include a labyrinth, prayer garden, and/or a church vegetable garden. Please attend if you are interested.

The **Youth Lifeline group** will be taking orders for Butterbraids on May 5-20. Orders will be delivered to the church on Thursday, June 3 at 2:30 pm. (the butterbraids are frozen.)

Jonathon Overby and the Lighthouse Singers will be at St. Martin's for a special **Mother's Day Concert and Dinner** on Sunday, May 9, at 5:00 pm.

Centering Prayer, coordinated by Ann Boehnen will be held on Tuesday, May 11.

Confirmation at St. Martin's for 2010 will be held at 10:30 am. on May 23.

On Sunday, May 23, there will be **Teacher Appreciation** at the end of the 8:00 service for all Sunday School Teachers, Confirmation Guides and Bible Study leaders.

Gardens needed for 2nd Annual St. Martin's Garden Tour—on Sunday, June 27. All types of gardens are welcome: mix of flower, vegetable, water, perennial and shade gardens would be ideal.

If you are interested, or know of someone who has a nice garden, please contact Gail Johnson at 798-4186.

A Salad lunch is scheduled for Creekside Retreat on Wednesday, August 18.



JAM for April

Since Ms. Sandy and myself have both been Girl Scout leaders longer than we wish to admit, we decided to spread some of our camping and alternative cooking experience with the JAM program in early April.

We spent late March making "Buddy Burners" which were later used to cook Jiffy Pop popcorn for our snack on Monday. We then lined a box with tin foil and baked a cake for our afterschool snack on Wednesday.



JAM will soon begin a theme of Space and Planets ending with a Star Wars party on early release day.

In celebration of Earth Day, April 22, JAM will be looking for a geocache that is in the area of St. Martin's Church. We will also be picking up trash and observing nature during our treasure hunt for the geocache.

Geocaching is a project organized by Groundspeak, which holds the trademark for the activity. It is an outdoor activity in which the participants use a Global Positioning System (GPS) receiver to seek containers (called

"geocaches" or "caches") anywhere in the world.

A cache is usually a small waterproof container containing a logbook.

As always, our goal is to learn and have fun while at JAM.

—Virginia Diebold,
JAM Director

Request from the kitchen crew

In an effort to make a more efficiently running kitchen, please note:

- bring back towels, dish cloths, and aprons if they have been taken home to be washed
- if you have an event that uses the kitchen linens, please wash and return them
- if borrowing church kitchen equipment, please make a note of it (with date, name, phone number and when it will be returned) on the kitchen use forms in the office or a short note on the dry-erase board
- when using the kitchen, please clean it afterward. If you don't know where a utensil or item goes, please leave it out and someone will put it away. Kitchen items are sometimes put in places that are not marked for them and are then assumed to be lost

Thank you for your help. It is a challenge for us all to use the same kitchen and keep it functioning well.

—Virginia Diebold, JAM Director

Children's Education

Sunday Schedule

April 18—opening and instruction (children to sing *Someone Song* at 10:30 worship)

April 25—opening and instruction Preschoolers

Two & three-year-olds will meet on April 18 right after the children's sermon at the 10:30 service.

Please remember parents are always welcome to participate in your child's Sunday School experience.

Three persons have stepped up to help plan this summer's Vacation Bible School so it is a 'go.' If anyone else would like to join us, please contact me. It will be a wonderful event!

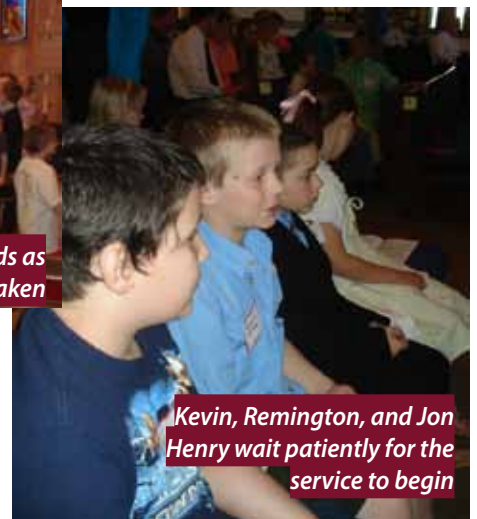
—Julie Schultz



Olivia holds out her hand for the Communion bread



An excited bunch of kids as their pictures are taken



Kevin, Remington, and Jon Henry wait patiently for the service to begin

First Comm. *continued*

controlled excitement as families with small children and babies added to the background noise. "It was so great to have all the kids and their families fill up the church! I want people to feel like the church as family and I think it felt like that on Thursday night," said Julie Schultz, Children's Education Director.

Because of the sheer number of children for the event, the service time ran longer than anticipated. When it was all over, Jon Roll got his equipment out to take pictures and the scene seemed like organized chaos: excited kids, relieved parents, and antsy toddlers and babies all adding to the mood and energy. It was indeed like one big extended family sharing a memorable event in their children's lives.

—Sally Averkamp



Waiting was not easy for Madison

30 Hr Famine coming on April 24-25

The youth of St. Martin's will be joining thousands of teens from around the country raising money to help feed starving children from around the world through a program by World Vision.

St. Martin's has over 20 teens willing to go hungry for 30 hours to raise donations for starving children.

The statistics are grim:



Each day, over 25,000 children under the age of 5 die from preventable diseases such as malnutrition, malaria, diarrhea, and acute respiratory infections. Malnutrition is associated with over half of those deaths. Every \$360 raised on this weekend will feed a child for one year. The money raised will be designated to provide food and care for children and families in countries of our choice.



For 30 hours, Famine participants will get a taste of hunger by not eating — something more than a billion people around the world experience every day. They begin their fast early Saturday stay through Sunday morning at St. Martin's. The Youth will break their fast at the 8:00 service with Holy Communion then will host the 10:30 worship service where the youth band, *The Project*, will be playing.

Please come and worship with us. Donations will be accepted after both services. For more information about the 30 Hour Famine Project, see www.30hourfamine.org.

See other upcoming events on page 3.

St. Martin's Youth Group, Lifeline, meets weekly at 6:45—8:30 pm. on Thursdays. All high school kids are welcome.

—Tim Knipfer, Youth Ministry Director

Meals for Haiti leave for Miami



The Meals for Haiti project It was a huge success! The 40 tables with eight people each were always full Thursday, Friday and Saturday. We exceeded our goal of packaging 500,000 meals. By the end of Saturday we had packaged 522,000 meals.

The semi truck with 500,000 meals is on it's way to Miami where it will be put on a Relief International ship headed to Haiti. The extra 22,000 will go to Dane County food pantries.

THANK YOU to all that participated and helped make this such a successful event!

—Frank Durham



In March the Lifeline sponsored a fundraiser at Culvers and made about \$700 towards their summer mission trip to Hancock, MS.

Crossways APRIL Calendar

❖ Thursday, April 15

9:30 a. Pal Zone N
 10:00 a. Women's AA
 5:00 p. TOPS YR
 7:15 p. Youth Group Lifeline

❖ Saturday, April 17

9:00 a. New Member Session L

❖ Sunday, April 18

8:00 a. worship S
 9:15 a. Sunday School K-5 FH
 9:15 a. Gardening Group L
 10:30 a. worship S
 10:45 a. Sunday School Pre K
 12:00 p. Craft Class FH
 3:30 p. AMEN—Tour Australia L
 5:00 p. The Project Practice
 6:00 p. Financial Peace University L

❖ Monday, April 19

5:45 p. Girl Scouts 188 FH
 7:00 p. Soul Purpose CR
 7:00 p. Church Council L

❖ Tuesday, April 20

6:30 p. Men's Bible Study L
 6:30 p. Women's Bible Study
 7:00 p. Boy Scouts FH

❖ Wednesday, April 21

6:00 p. Tiger Troup 87
 6:30 p. Confirmation
 7:30 p. Adult Choir Practice CR

❖ Thursday, April 22

9:30 a. Pal Zone N
 10:00 a. Women's AA
 5:00 p. TOPS
 7:00 p. Church Council L
 7:15 p. Youth Group Lifeline YR

❖ Friday, April 23

Crossways Deadline for May 1 issue

❖ Saturday, April 24

4:00 a. 30 hour Famine Youth Event begins
 6:20 p. AMEN—Barbershop Quartet OS

❖ Sunday, April 25

8:00 a. 30 Hour Famine ends
 8:00 a. worship S
 9:15 a. Sunday School K-5 FH
 10:30 a. worship S
 10:45 a. Sunday School Pre K
 5:00 p. The Project Practice
 6:00 p. Financial Peace University L

❖ Monday, April 26

6:30 p. Girl Scouts 188 FH
 7:00 p. Soul Purpose CR

❖ Tuesday, April 27

6:30 p. Men's Bible Study L
 6:30 p. Women's Bible Study
 7:00 p. Boy Scouts FH

❖ Wednesday, April 27

6:00 p. Tiger Troup 87
 6:30 p. Confirmation

❖ Thursday, April 28

9:30 a. Pal Zone N
 10:00 a. Women's AA
 1:30 p. Women's Circle L
 5:00 p. TOPS
 7:15 p. Youth Group Lifeline YR

S—sanctuary; L—library; MR—Music Room;
 FH—Fellowship Hall; CR—Choir Room;
 OS—off site

April Worship Volunteers

Lectors

4-18 8:00 Elaine Smiley/Jordan Foster
 10:30 Bill Windels
 4-25 8:00 Bev Brunner 10:30 Brenda Hagman

Communion Assistants – 10:30 am.

4-18 Schultz/Lund Team
 4-25 Tamra Harder

Accompanists

4-18 Jan Doyle
 4-25 Mary Vassalotti

Song Leaders

4-18 8:00 Deb Lohr-Foster 10:30 Paula Elver
 4-25 8:00 open 10:30 Karen Windels

Acolytes

4-18 8:00 Derek Kalvin 10:30 Hannah Miller
 4-25 8:00 Danny Schunk 10:30 Ben Kalvin

Counters

4-18 Schunk Team 2
 4-25 Niesen Team 1

Altar Guild

4-18 8:00 Debbie Wipperfurth 10:30 Julie Schultz
 4-25 8:00 Deb Goplin 10:30 Open/Deb Goplin

Ushers

4-18 8:00 Wendorff Team 10:30 Blumer Team
 4-25 8:00 Trappe Team 10:30 McCauley Team

Junior Ushers (10:30 a.m.)

4-18 Julia Tibbetts
 4-25 open

Nursery (10:30)

4-18 Conner Mickelson
 4-25 Kaitlin Conroy

AV

4-18 8:00 James Hartung 10:30 Patty
 Neumueller & Jeff Postle
 4-25 8:00 Phil Fish 10:30 Randy Hunt



St. Martin's Lutheran Church
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