

Pastor's Message

As with every established Mainline Protestant denomination in the US today, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is losing members. Since its formation in 1988, ELCA membership has declined 14 %, from 5.2 million to about 4.63 million in 2008. St. Martin's Lutheran has experienced losses as well. Since our high in 2003, worship attendance is down 31.8%. But that's not the whole story or the inevitable end.

Twenty years into my ministry I am beginning to understand what "success" means for a congregation. I used to think it meant something that could be measured mostly by numbers: membership size, worship attendance, increases in annual budget, growth in the youth program, etc. But, as St. Paul says, there is a "still more excellent way."

Merriam's Webster dictionary defines success as "*the attainment of wealth, favor, or eminence.*" This is sad, isn't it? I prefer the much older, but now obsolete definition which dates back to Martin Luther's time in 1537: "*favorable or desired outcome.*" For Christians, the "favored or desired outcome" is what pleases God.

Thankfully, I sense a strong commitment among our members to work toward God's favorable and desired outcome. One way I believe God is equipping us for "success" is through Faith Inkubators "Faith Five," or **Faith Acts In The Home.** "Every Night in Every Home," is the vision of Faith Inkubators. The Faith Five discipline calls for the entire family to devote at least 5 minutes each night to:

- **SHARE** your "highs" and "lows" for the day.
- **READ** a short word of Scripture.
- **TALK** about how God's word addresses your highs and lows.
- **PRAY** for each others' highs and lows
- **BLESS** each family member with a simple blessing.

To get this started here at St. Martin's, I am looking for at least 7 families who will commit to do this for the next 6 weeks. If you live alone, perhaps you could partner with a close friend. I believe our entire congregation will receive great blessings and will experience a favorable spiritual outcome which will ignite the entire St. Martin's community with the fire of God's Holy Spirit.

Will your family commit to this spiritual discipline for 42 days? Please pray about it, and let me know if you'll join our family in the "Faith Five." There will be a commissioning of the participants on **Sunday, October 11.** I will schedule a brief meeting before we begin, and we will meet along the way to support each other. Please let me know very soon if you will participate.

The Peace of Christ be with you all,
✝ *Pastor Rick*

President's Message

This is a very upbeat time at St. Martin's and it is terrific to see after struggling together for several years to keep up the moral. Judy told me as we entered the church for Rally Day how excited everyone seemed to be as people were bustling about to be a part of a wonderful day. Everyone seemed to be smiling and full of enthusiasm. That is an atmosphere that has been missing for a few years and I am glad to see it back.

Rally Day was very special. I want to especially thank Diana Munoz-Postle for organizing this event. She did a terrific job, but she will also be the first to admit that there were many other people that put in hours of hard work to make this happen from Jim & Jan Doyle in all the set-up and take-down, to all the musicians that supplied special music. I also want to give special thanks to my son Mark for the time-consuming task of roasting the pig. That pig provided us food for Rally Day, the Faith Inkubators event and I understand there were enough leftovers for the next homeless shelter event we serve.

Several people made major contributions to the success of the day and they include: Pastor Lund, Doris Fish, Jeannie Herring-Schuman, Julie Schultz, Kim Johnson, Tom Johnson, and Elaine Smiley. Others who also made significant contributions include Phil Fish, Tony Frey, Jan Doyle, Rick Haller, Paula Elver, Carmen Fowell, Brian Graedel, Blake Hartung, Ann Houck, Catherine Lund, Mike and Kay Kelvin Family, Ed & Patty Neumueller, Jennifer and Valerie Niesen, Jeff Postle, Stacy Carlson, Darlene Schulenberg, Mary Vassalotti, Hallie Wendorff, Randy Hunt, Trigve Lund, Lucille Hoffman, Gail Johnson, Kevin and Ann Boehnen, Karen Windels, Christie Howell-Yrios, Melissa Hinz, Judy Valaskey, Maureen Berghoefer, Donna Blumer, Tim Knipfer and Kathy Gregory. Many of our youth helped including: Mariah Carlson, Mikala Durham, Nick Dodsworth, Jordan Shelton, Joe Joyce, Amy Harper, Matthew Harper, Blake Hartung, Kendra Calvin, Ben Calvin, Derek Calvin, Travis Zander, Jake Knipfer and Lauren Calvin. We made over \$710 on our pie auction thanks to the following people that provided pies: Kim Johnson, Diana Munoz-Postle, Shirley Starczynski, Carmen Fowell, Kathy

Graedel, Ann Houck, Beth Dodsworth, Deb Goplin, Judy Valaskey, Bev Brunner, Linda Sebree, Geri Schuman, Blake Hartung, Ann Boehnen, Bill Wendorff, Kay Calvin, Virginia Diebold, Bill Diebold, Mariah Carlson, and Nancy McCauley.

Many others brought dishes and desserts to pass for our potluck including: Brenda Joyce, Cheryl Hartung, Redgy Nelson, Tracie Rogers, Karen Trappe, Karen Seible, Mary Kay Knipfer and Shirley Strczynski

I probably missed some people and I apologize upfront for that. There are obviously many people to be thanked for this special day and for those not there I want you to know about the enthusiasm displayed by our membership for what is happening at St. Martin's these days. Come and be a part of it.

As you can see, a significant number of people pitched in to make our Rally Day and Pastor's Installation a success. Check out the Photo Galleries on the website to see some pictures of Rally Day activities.

<http://www.stmartinscp.org/>

Rally Day Receipts For the Day

Income:

Pie Auction	\$710
Thrivent	200
Lunch Donations	<u>240</u>
	\$1150

Expenses:

Roasting Pig	593.91
Food Supplies & Cakes	143.13
Cabbage	<u>12.77</u>
	\$826.13

Net Income **\$323.87**



President's Message (continued)

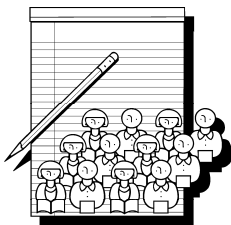


The **Book of Faith Initiative** team had a chance to share with adult members a list of suggestions for conversations with scripture. The list was generated by the Book of Faith team: Karen Windels, Mary Kay Knipfer, Brenda Hagman, Van Valaskey, and Pastor Lund. Van Valaskey presented and explained this list and conducted a survey to see what ideas are likely to be implemented. Watch for announcements throughout the coming year on this initiative as suggestions are put forth to generate more conversations with scripture in our church ministry.

The **Faith Inkubators** event on the following Wednesday was also very well attended and ideas from that event will be part of the Book of Faith initiative. Some wonderful thoughts about how families can become involved with conversations in scripture were presented. You will be hearing a lot more in the near future about how ideas from Faith Inkubators can be incorporated into family settings. The idea is for our church to serve as a partner to all our families in their children's Christian education and to build stronger family relationships with each other and the Lord.

The afternoon installation service was very special as well. Bishop Bruce Burnside was there to install Pastor Rick and Pastor Laura Sutherland, from Bethel, did the preaching. There were many people from Bethel in attendance as well, which speaks to the relationships Pastor Rick developed with Bethel members. Nancy Kurr's music on the violin was beautiful and Peter Lund shared his talent through a solo with the bells which I have never seen done before.

So let's use Rally Day to kick off a new era at St. Martin's. After our council meeting on Monday night we were laughing and enjoying one another's company when the Pastor said something like: "why would people not want to be a member of this church community – the people you meet are the kind of people you want to spend time with." To that I say AMEN!



Membership Class

JOIN US!
Ready to make the leap into membership? Interested in learning more about the ministry of St. Martin's? Have ideas and visions for our ministry here? Please join Pastor Rick and other church leaders for an orientation session on Saturday, October 10 from 9:00 to 11:00 am, **OR** Thursday evening, October 22 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. New, transferring, or re-committing St. Martin's members are heartily welcomed. Refreshments will be served and childcare provided.

A New Member Commissioning will take place at both Sunday Services on Reformation Sunday, October 25. To reserve a spot at the table, please call Maureen at the Church Office at 798-2777.

Sr. High Life Line Meetings

Every Thursday from 6:30 – 8:30

6:30-7:15

Dinner

7:15 – 8:30

Music with our Youth Band “ The Project”

Devotions, free time to Hang out, do home work and just “be a kid”

Sr. High Youth Up Coming Event's

Sign up on our Facebook group, St. Martin's Youth Group

Or On the youth bulletin board in the narthex

Fundraiser

- Bake Sale (October 4th)
- For the LYO Youth Gathering, Dec. 4-6

Mission meeting

- October 4th (After 10:30 a.m. Church)
- Discuss the trip and fundraising idea's

Camp Wollerup /Next Step Mission Weekend

- October 9-11
- Cost \$50
- Our youth band “The Project” will be playing

LYO Youth Gathering at the Alliant Center

- Dec.4-6
- Cost \$180 (We will fundraise for this.)

Aldo Leopold Retreat Weekend

- Jan.8-10 (\$50)

Mission Trip with Next Step Ministries

- Hancock County Mississippi
- June 19-26, 2010



SHARE

“Save Time, Save Money, Join Share”

OCTOBER specials are SIDE BY SIDES containing hash brown patties and Vidalia onion rings for \$10.50 and CINNAMON ROLLS, 32 individually wrapped Danish pastry topped with glaze and nuts for \$10. Also featured this month are a PORK ROAST PACKAGE containing 2 boneless top sirloin roasts and one boneless tenderloin for \$11.00, ORGANIC GROUND BEEF from Black Earth Meats for \$13, and RIBEYE STEAKS FOR \$13.

Other food packages available for \$ 15 or \$25 contain an assortment of frozen meat, fresh fruits and vegetables and other items. You can purchase select items. Choices change each month. As the farmer's market season is winding down, please consider the ORGANIC PRODUCE ASSORTMENT PACKAGE - 10lbs of assorted fresh fruits and vegetables for \$15.

Now is the time to think about the holidays. Turkey and ham dinners are \$25 and contain numerous items.

If interested, please pick up a newsletter with order forms and more information in the church narthex, call Donna Blumer at 798-0114, or check out the internet at sharewi.org. The deadline for the October orders is October 6th or October 11th if ordering online.



MISSIONS

"They will know we are Christians by our love."

MIDDLETON OUTREACH MINISTRY (MOM)

Art Auction, October 8

Love auctions? There will be an wonderful Art Auction at FCI (Food Concepts, Inc., 2551 Parmenter St., Middleton) on Thursday, October 8 from 6 To 9. This is a fun and worthwhile event. All of the art objects are donated, some by the artist and some by people in the community. Last year there was a huge variety, and all of the proceeds go to MOM! It's a silent auction, while you are deciding which piece of art you want to bid on there will be wonderful appetizers and beverages (also donated). The cost of admission is a canned food donation. Don't miss this fun community event! If you have art objects you would like to donate (paintings, pottery, wood, sculptures, etc.) please take them to FCI before Oct. 6.

Eat Out and Contribute to MOM

The first Tuesday of each month, **The Hubbard Avenue Diner** is going to contribute 10% of their sales to MOM. Give your family's mom (or dad) a break from cooking dinner and go to the Hubbard Avenue Diner.

Food Pantry's Most Needed List

Baking Goods (four, sugar, cake mixes), Rice, Household Cleaning Supplies, Meal In A Can or box, Jello/Pudding, Laundry Detergent, Dried Soup Mix, Cereal, Toothpaste.

Judy Valaskey

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

A heartfelt thank you to EVERYONE who contributed to the LWR drive in September. At Crossways publication 56 kits have been assembled and lovingly tied together by the generous people of this congregation and placed in the narthex, which means we surpassed our 2009 goal of 50 kits. On October 4th those kits will be blessed prior to being packed with the beautiful handiwork of our dedicated quilters who faithfully piece and sew throughout the

year – thank you ladies, you bless many with your time and talents – and delivered to the boxcar in Madison on October 10th to begin their long trip overseas. Thank you St. Martin's!

CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

The Giving Tree will celebrate its 20th Anniversary this year. It hardly seems possible that so many years have passed since first I partnered with Maxine Knipfer to begin this program that has, through the people of our congregation, reached out to hundreds of individuals and become a Christmas tradition for our congregation. While the need within our community and beyond is great, especially at this time of year, it has also been revealed to me how much our congregation has a need to give. It's an amazing calling and I feel so blessed to work with so many of you each year and am always deeply touched by the miracle of the Giving Tree.

A goal for the number of families &/or individuals to serve in this milestone year has not been set yet, but whatever that number is I am certain it will be extraordinary – it is every year, and Christ will have His hand in it.

I am pleased to report Thrivent Financial for Lutherans has once again approved a formal request of \$500 for the program and I lift them up with thanks for all the support they continue to give St. Martin's and the community in so many areas.

This month the Giving Tree Team will begin to contact families who have been identified as potential adoptees by the members of St. Martin's. Families are secured through your recommendations, area social workers and MOM. If you know of someone who should be contacted by our team, please get those names to me at your earliest convenience. Thanking you again for your amazing outreach and care for those less fortunate.

Maureen Berghoefer
Missions Cluster Coordinator

ADULT EDUCATION & ACTIVITIES

FRIENDS Activities- A group of adults that goes places and eats out together.

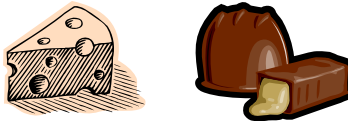
- ❖ October 27 - Brewery Tour – We will leave church at 10:00 a.m. for a tour of New Glarus Brewery, shopping if you choose and lunch off the menu at Glarner Stube. The tour is free, but we will collect money to reimburse our drivers for gas. Friends of members are always welcome. Sign up in the narthex or let Tom Smiley know if you would like to come.
- ❖ December – movie or Christmas Program. If you have any ideas, please let us know

Adult Member Event Night (AMEN) – members sharing their talents and interests with other members.

“Pistols, Pasta and Passion”, a mystery dinner, was postponed due to illness. Watch for a new date.

Future **AMEN** Activities

- ❖ December 6 – Christmas Caroling at homes of shut ins and nursing homes.
- ❖ Travelogue of Australia (date pending)
- ❖ December – Cookie Sale by the pound, coordinated by Gail and Tom Johnson. Please let Johnson’s or Hallie know if you would like to bake or sell cookies or have any ideas of other things we can offer for sale to the community.
- ❖ February – Cheese and chocolate tasting presented by Bill Wendorff.



SMALL GROUPS

We have been talking about starting some small groups for a few years now. The new idea of Faith Inkubators being introduced by Pastor Rick for families is very much like small groups for adults. Faith Inkubators use families as the group, while small groups are formed around some special interests of their members.

If you are interested in helping start a small group please let me know. My vision is that a group of folks would gather about once a month to pursue a common interest, such as reading, crafts, cooking, etc. If the group chooses, they could also follow some or all of the Faith Inkubators guidelines; share highs and lows, read a little scripture, talk, pray and bless one another. Actually I think many older adults have been doing most of these things for years. We just haven’t had written guidelines telling us to do them before.

Hallie Wendorff
Adult Education & Activities Cluster Coordinator

WORSHIP & MUSIC



Handbell Ringers and Handbell Wanna-Be's, please join us on Oct.14 & 28th at 6 - 7:15 p.m. in the choir room. Anyone who would like to give ringing a try is encouraged to come to one of these rehearsals. Those of you who have been ringing in the past, I hope you can continue. If anyone has questions, please contact Elaine at 767-2104.

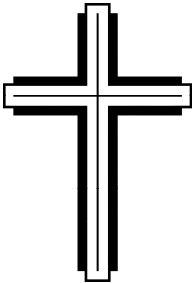
Simply Worship comes to the 10:30 Service

Mark your calendars for October 11. On October 11 at the 10:30 Service we will be following the liturgy used by the Saturday Simply Worship Service. It is a very easy to follow format, which is focused on the Message for the day, presented by Pastor Rick and Praise Songs. If you can't make this service, you are always welcome to join us on Saturday Evenings at 5pm. The Simply Worship Team is very excited to be able to share the liturgy we use on Saturday Evening with the congregation. As with any team at St Martin's, we would gladly welcome new members to the team. Feel free to contact a team member at any time, if you would like to become a member, or have questions or suggestions. The team is made up of Tony and Renee Frey, Michael and Carrie Roesch, Kevin and Anne Boehnen and Cheryl and James Hartung. We would also welcome anyone who would like to provide music and/or vocals during a Saturday Simply Worship Service.



The Glue That Holds Us Together

(Submitted by Maureen Berghoefer)



Recently a friend send me an email I would like to share with you. It linked me to a presentation by Louie Giglio, a Christian pastor and founder of Choice Ministries at Baylor University. I invite you to Google "Louie Giglio-Laminin-posted by Dave Eshuis" to view an 8½ minutes video that will take your breath away! In it Giglio shared how inconceivably BIG our God is...How He spoke the universe into being...How He breathes stars out of His mouth that are huge raging balls of fire and how this star-breathing, universe creating God also knitted our human bodies together with amazing detail and wonder. Giglio spoke about how we can trust that the God who created all this, has the power to hold it all together when things seem to be falling apart...how our loving Creator is also our sustainer.

Then he began speaking about some medical stuff, laminins to be specific. Wikipedia describes laminins as a family of proteins that are an integral part of the structural scaffolding of basement membranes in almost every animal tissue. Laminins hold us together..... LITERALLY. They are cell adhesion molecules; without them, we would fall apart.

What does the structure of laminin looks like... check it out yourself in any scientific/medical piece of literature, or simply Google as indicated above for the presentation, and what you will see is Amazing! The glue that holds us together.... ALL of us.... is in the shape of the cross.

Colossians 1:15-17: 'He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; All things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him **All things HOLD TOGETHER.'**

Thousands of years before the world knew anything about laminin, Paul penned those words. And now we see that from a very LITERAL standpoint, we are held together...One cell to another...By the cross. This is the mark of a Creator who knew EXACTLY what laminin 'glue' would look like long before Adam breathed his first breath!! We praise YOU, Lord !!!!

(Please submit your short articles, internet links, poems, personal messages, etc. to the Church Office. They will be published in Crossways when space permits – thanks for sharing!.)



NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT #11
CROSS PLAINS, WI 53528

Return Service Requested

