



ST. MARTIN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH



This Sunday: Fifth Sunday of Easter



Donor Challenge Met!

St. Martin's has stepped up and met the \$10,000 challenge extended by a generous congregational member. ***To be precise, \$12,170 has been donated by congregants to date!*** This means that we can go ahead and replace our aging furnaces and water heaters. Any funds not needed for this project will be put toward other projects that the building assessment team identified at the last annual congregational meeting. Although we have met and exceeded our goal, it's not too late to contribute: just use the donor challenge envelopes if you wish, or indicate "donor challenge" on the memo line of your check. ***Thanks to all who made the donor challenge drive possible, and thanks be to God!***

High School Synod this Sunday -- May 3rd (5:00 - 7:00pm)

Sunday, May 3rd, St. Martin's is hosting the High School Youth Gathering for our Synod at the church.

This is a chance for St. Martin's to show our hospitality to youth groups in the surrounding area.

ALL 8th graders AND high school students are welcome! Please come!

Church locks HAVE changed ...

Church locks have been changed. Keep your old keys for now, but you will need a new key to get into the building, etc. New keys are available at the office on Mondays or Wednesdays (8:30a to 3:30p), or Friday (8:30a to 10:30a) Can't come by then? Please contact Chuck at the office to make other arrangements. (Ph 798-2777 or om@stmartinscp.org)

Mark Your Calendars for a Violin, Viola and Piano Recital on May 31st (3 - 4pm)

There will be a student violin, viola and piano studio recital, accompanied by Nancy Kurr and Stacy Regehr, on the afternoon of Sunday, May 31st (weekend after Memorial Day) from 3 to 4pm at the church. Open to the public, admission is free, so please stop in to enjoy the music!



Church Directory pictures ...

We have two volunteers who will help with the new church membership pictures (to be taken June 10th to 13th) - More information to follow soon on how to sign up for time slot, etc. If you would like to help, please call or send a note to the office. Thank you! Office Ph 798-2777 email om@stmartinscp.org

Youth Announcements!

Upcoming youth events:

- **May 3rd** - Rite of Confirmation Sunday
- **May 3rd** - High School Synod Night at St Martin's (5p - 7p)
- **Butter Braid Fundraiser** . Butter Braids to be sold on 5/10, 5/17 and 5/24 with delivery on 6/7



Infant Care Items Needed -



Infant care items will be collected over the next few weeks for **Global Health Ministries**.

Please place your gently used (or new) newborn cotton t-shirts, stocking caps, cotton receiving blankets (approx 30" x 30"), cloth diapers, diaper pins, wash cloths, bath towels (not longer than 48") and sheets (any

size) in the basket provided in the Narthex.

Pastor will present our gathered kits at the upcoming Synod Assembly.

Suggestion: *Keep this list handy for Trout Days shopping.*

Meet 'n Greet - Sunday May 10th

On Sunday, May 10th, after the service make sure to have some cake and stop and get to know more about Cassie along with our new office manager, Chuck, who will be there along with his wife, Mary. Yes, it is 'Meet n' Greet' Sunday! Home life, pets, other things we do ... ask away!

Cassie was planning to bring her cats (Digit and Rylee) while Chuck was going to bring his pug (Annie), cat (Pumpkin) and pet tarantula (Frankie) but it turns out all of them have other commitments that day. (Yes, very busy pets ... Sorry!)

First Communion Classes

First Communion classes are being offered by Pastor Kirsten -- If your child has been baptized and would like to receive communion and has not taken First Communion class yet, plan on attending one of the times offered, as well as the bread-making day. Please let Chuck know if your child is planning on attending, so there are enough materials and space to accommodate the group. Email Chuck at om@stmartinscp.org.

- Wednesday, May 13, 6:00-7:00 – class option
- Sunday, May 17, 10:15-11:15 – class option
- Saturday, May 23, 10:30 A.M. – bread-making day
- Sunday, May 24, 9:00 A.M. – First Communion Worship – participants will receive special recognition and commune first with their families this day.

New Member Orientation

Interested in becoming a new member at St. Martin's? Plan on attending a “**new member**” orientation, **Sunday, May 3, starting at 10:30, after coffee fellowship**. New members will be received on Sunday, May 18th.

Bake Sale for Trout Days this Saturday May 2nd! (10a-2p)

Stop in at St. Martin's bake sale Saturday, May 2nd, 10:00am to 2:00pm.

If bringing something over please **drop them off at the church on Friday, May 1, or early Saturday morning, May 2**. (Please have your items priced for sale.)

All money collected will go towards supporting the Global Health Ministries mission of putting together infant care kits to be presented at synod assembly in May.

Pastor Kirsten will need a few volunteers to help her oversee the bake sale on May 2. If you're available, please let her know.



Pastor's Post - May

Through our Christian tradition we recall that out of darkness comes light – the light of Christ. In each of us, Christ's light lives, residing in communion with God and one another. In the weekly worship service, the assembly hears Christ proclaimed, uniting all believers with those present, those saints who have gone before, and those yet to come, and this must be shared with all those we encounter, including a stranger who comes in off the street for help.

This practice of communio enables us to relate to God's mission – purpose for the world. Because

Christ has overcome the darkness – because Christ has conquered death – because Christ has risen - all are free to enter into God’s mission of reconciling all of creation. Christ’s death on the cross brings forth life in the resurrected Christ – life that shall never be overcome by darkness, so Christ’s light shines as a beacon of hope and joy of the resurrection promise which is celebrated in Holy Communion. Participating in this communion weekly reminds us to serve others, connecting and serving the stranger, in any given community, by extending the church walls in a tangible, life-giving way.

Advocating for the voiceless, being a public voice, assists those seeking help, as well as their families, feel Christ’s presence in their lives. Coming together as the Body of Christ means sharing in the joys, as well as the burdens of life. (Gal. 6:2) When others walk beside you, accompany you, it is not a burden but a journey – a thing that I call life. This is what the Christian tradition calls us to be with and for one another.

Many churches establish a Good Samaritan Fund, which offers financial assistance to the stranger off the street, along with parishioners facing hardships. I encourage us to ponder this idea and pray about whether or not this is something St. Martin’s would like to do as part of its local mission work.

Experientially, I am a proponent of advocating for justice, serving the poor, and seeking to give voice to the voiceless. The Good Samaritan Fund is one means to serve this purpose, and the means by which it is conducted enables it to connect with those seeking assistance on a personal level. Because of the assuredness of God’s love, as seen in the act of Christ’s death on the cross for us, we are able to love others, seeking to do justice in God’s world – again, the Good Samaritan Fund is one way to accomplish this task.

First and foremost, it is imperative that we remind those we encounter that God is a God of Love. A Theology of Love is conducive to an act of healing for those who have been hurt because of life situations. Loving our neighbor does not mean that we can pick and choose who our neighbors are because all are considered neighbors. Regardless of whether they live next door or across the ocean, we are all God’s children and neighbors to one another. Serving those who enter the church through the Good Samaritan Fund is one way to welcome the neighbor. In welcoming the neighbor, it is necessary to ensure that God’s love transcends all boundaries – no thing can separate us from the love of God. (Rom. 8: 38-39) Many times those who need help need it not only financially but many times physically, emotionally, and spiritually. One young lady that was a recipient of assistance through such a fund was not an exception, as she shared that she was a recovering drug addict whose parental rights had been revoked because of her substance abuse issues. Upon hearing her story, it was apparent in her own words that she felt unworthy of any kind of assistance, and definitely not God’s love. Giving her the time and attention to share her story opened a sliver of a window for her to view herself in a different light. One of the most moving, sacred moments of my ministry occurred at the close of our visit together. Standing and facing the young lady, I held her hands and prayed with her. Upon the completion of the prayer with her and for her, I looked up to witness tears trickling down her face. She shared with me that she had never ever thought of herself as God’s precious child nor had she been called one, which I had referred to her in the prayer – God’s Spirit breathed life into her at that moment, making God’s life-giving presence known to both of us that day. I praised God for this opportunity to serve God by serving her. May God Bless us in our conversations and send the Holy Spirit to guide us.

God’s peace,
Pastor Kirsten

May youth fund-raiser ... Butter Braids!

The fundraiser for the mission trip for the month of May is the selling of wonderfully delicious butter braids. (Cassie has had them before, and completely recommends them.) The high schoolers will be selling them before and after worship on May 10th, May 17th, and May 24th. Bring your checkbooks to pre-pay for your butter braids, and they will be delivered on June 7th.

Church Office Hours

Scheduled office hours are:

Mon: 8:30 - 3:30 Tue: 10-2 Wed: 8:30 - 3:30 Thur: 10-2 Fri: 8:30-10:30

Ph: 608-798-2777 Email: om@stmartinscp.org

Church Calendar for May 3 - May 9

Sunday, May 3

8:15 Choir Warm Up MR

9:00 a. Worship -- Rite of Confirmation S

12:00-5:00pm - Crafting Group FH

5:00-7:00p ELCA HS Synod Gathering at St Martin's

Monday, May 4

Open calendar

Tuesday, May 5

6:30 a. Men's Bible Study L

6:30p TLC Meeting L

7:00 - 9 p. Boy Scout Troop 87 LL FH

Wednesday, May 6

7:15 - 8:15 p Choir Practice MR

Thursday, May 7

Open calendar

Friday, May 8

Open calendar

Saturday, May 9

9:00 - 11 a. Overeaters Anonymous LL

Additional dates (and events) to keep in mind:

May 10 - Meet and Greet (Cassie, Chuck and his wife, Mary)

May 18 - New Member Sunday

May 24 - First Communion Sunday

May 31 - Guest Speaker (Pastor John Ruppenthal)

June 7 - Celebration of those graduating

S—Sanctuary; L—Library; B—Building; MR—Music Room; FH—Fellowship Hall; CR—Choir Room; OS—Off Site; N—Nursery; PG—Prayer Garden; GLC—Gunderson Life Center; YR—Youth Room; LL —Lower Level Classroom

Worship Participants for Sunday, May 3

Presiding Minister -- Pastor Kirsten Curtis

Accompanists -- Debbie Miller

Song Leaders -- St. Martin's Choir

Music -- St Martin's Choir

Greeters -- Bill and Karen Windels

Lector -- Mike Calvin

Communion Assistants -- Bob and Redgy Nelson

Ushers -- Dan and Mary Trappe

Jr. Usher -- Joelle Jackson

Acolyte -- Ella Rogers, Elizabeth Boehnen

Nursery -- Cole Ferguson

Counting Team -- Team 5

Altar Guild -- Deb Goplin

AV Team -- James Hartung, Paul Schluter

Coffee & Treats -- Karen Seibel, Jeannie Hering-Schumann

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