

ST. MARTIN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

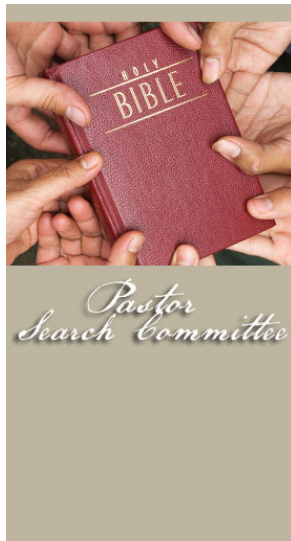


This Sunday: Second Sunday of Lent

In this Sunday's gospel, Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are given a new birth as daughters and sons of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.



Pastoral Call Committee Update



The Call Committee is submitting the Ministry Profile Survey to the Bishops office this week. This starts the process of identifying candidates for the interview process. The committee is currently working hard on compiling questions for the interviews.

We want to express a sincere **Thank You** for the great response to the survey. We listed our membership as 397 at the end of the 2013 and we received 115 surveys, a 29% response. More impressive is the fact that there are several common themes in the written responses. Also, a sincere Thank You for those who have attended the listening sessions, it is appreciated. Without your input this process would be extremely difficult.

Here is a list of the common themes from the written responses, those in bold were the most common comments from the survey.

The pastor needs to reside in the Cross Plains community and be active within the community. Community presence is essential for the Pastor and St. Martin's.

Strong faith based sermons that inspire and how it relates to the congregation are essential. Teach important life lessons in Christ, adult learning is important.

A pastor with experience, a family, and interested in staying long term.

Children's sermons are a must. Pastor should be a strong leader for the GIFT program and confirmation.

Youth and family ministry is a very important ministry at St. Martin's, we need to maintain the program.

A good match between a pastor and our congregation is paramount. A person who can listen, communicate, and be compassionate.

Reaching out to the community is very important for St. Martin's; that involves children, youth and adults.

A pastor that is engaging, brings new ideas, open minded, and has a sense of

humor.

Maintain Mission and Ministry teams emphasizing Word, Share and Prayer are important.

The traditional and contemporary services should be rotated every few months so there is a change in the time the services are held.

Please join us this Sunday, March 16 from 9:15 am. - 10:00 am. in the church library for a summary of comments from the survey and provide any recommendations as we finalize the Ministry Profile Survey to submit to the Bishop.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve,

Phil Fish, Chair Call Committee
608.203.5160 or pfish@fishassoc.com

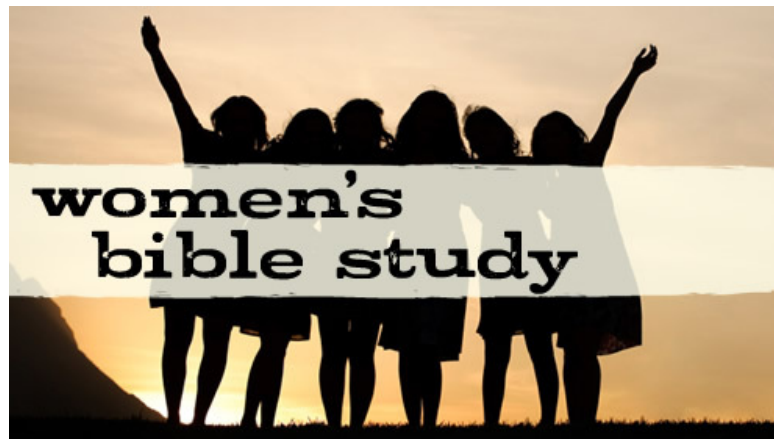
First Communion Preparation Classes

We offer Communion Preparation Classes prior to First Communion. First Communion will be celebrated on Thursday, April 17 at the 7:00 pm. Maundy Thursday Worship. Suggested ages for the classes are four years old and up.

First Communicants and their parents can attend the classes to be held on Sunday, March 30 and Sunday, April 6 from 11:30 am to Noon. Please plan on attending both sessions.



Contact Sharon in the church office at om@stmartinscp.org or 798-2777 if you are interested in attending the sessions. Please let us know the age of your child so that we may tailor the sessions appropriately.



You Are Invited to Women's Bible Study

Thursday Night, 6:30 to 8:00 pm.

St. Martin's Lutheran Church Library

God's word has strongly influenced each of us, often in different ways, at different times. We have also had hours of growing pains in this faith walk by crying, experiencing frustration & confusion, we have felt anxious, joyful, thankful, and prayerful along with laughter to the point of tears. We have and continue to share all of this and more as a group of women who come together. We have learned to care and trust each other and we welcome you to join us on this journey. We are friends and sisters in Christ. Bring a bible or we have many to share. Come and check it out. Please call me if you have any questions at 608-215-1442

Peace!
Mary Kay Knipfer

Fit the Need Youth Service Day



On Saturday, April 12 our Confirmation Participants and leaders are available to come to your home to assist with household chores/projects (housekeeping tasks, window washing, cleaning garages, etc.). Outside tasks will be dependent on weather conditions. If you would like to be on the list of homes to visit, sign up in the church narthex or contact Diana Postle at 608.212.4072.

Lent Worship & Soup Suppers



On Wednesday evenings during Lent we will have delicious Soup Suppers in Fellowship Hall at 6 pm. with worship to follow at 6:45 pm. Please sign up in the narthex to bring soup, bread, milk or cookies.

Upcoming Lent Soup Supper and Worship dates:

March 19 - Lent 2 *Woman, Behold your son*

March 26 - Lent 3 *My God, My God, why have you forsaken me*

April 2 - Lent 4 *I Thirst*

April 9 - Lent 5 *It is Finished*

BE SAFE FROM



Join Officer Scott Kroetz of the Cross Plains Police Department and learn tips and procedures to keep yourself safe from identity thieves and other predators.



Monday, April 7th, 7:00 - 8:30 PM

**Rosemary Garfoot Public Library
Community Rooms**

Refreshments provided by Jodi's Bar & Grill

Please bring a non-perishable food item for the food pantry.

This program is sponsored by Jodi's Bar & Grill.
Co-hosts include The Cross Plains Police Department, The Merry Mothers Homemakers Club and The Rosemary Garfoot Public Library.



TGIF Night Out

Parents take advantage of a night out while caring providers care for your awesome kids free of charge! Our ministry provides free child care on Friday nights on the last Friday of each month for families in our community who need a night out. Kids play games/activities, enjoy snack and watch a movies on the big screen. Our groups are comprised of infants to children about 10 years old.



Our next event is scheduled for Friday, March 28 from 6 to 10 pm. Please sign up by Wednesday, March 26 by contacting Sharon at om@smartinscp.org or 798-2777.

Easter Lilies for the Easter Garden



Please consider purchasing a beautiful lily for our Easter Garden. You can dedicate your lily in honor of, or in memory of loved ones. Forms will be available at the church or you can contact Sharon in the office at om@smartinscp.org or 608.798.2777. Please place your order by April 7.

Church Calendar for March 16 - March 22



Sunday, March 16

8:30 a. Traditional Blend Worship
9:15 a. Call Committee Listening Session L
9:45 a. GIFT Christian Ed FH
10:15 a. New Rhythm Worship

Monday, March 17

9:00 a. 4K Kids Arrive
11:30 a. 4K Kids Depart
7:00 p. Soul Purpose S
7:30 p. Narcotics Anon. LL Classroom

Tuesday, March 18

6:30 a. Men's Bible Study
9:00 a. 4K Kids Arrive
11:30 a. 4K Kids Depart
6:30 p. Worship Planning Team L
7:00 p. Boy Scout Troop 87 FH

Wednesday, March 19

9:00 a. 4K Kids Arrive
10:30 a. Staff Meeting
11:30 a. 4K Kids Depart
5:45 p. Confirmation Participants attend Soup Supper & Lent Worship
6:00 p. Soup Supper FH
6:45 p. Lent Worship S
7:30 p. Call Committee Meeting L
7:30 p. Choir Practice MR

Thursday, March 20

9:00 a. 4K Kids Arrive
11:30 a. 4K Kids Depart
6:30 p. New Rhythm Band Practice S
6:30 p. Sr. High Youth Group YR
6:30 p. Women's Bible Study L
7:00 p. Church Council Meeting FH

Friday, March 21

9:00 a. 4K Kids Arrive
11:30 a. 4K Kids Depart

Saturday, March 22

9:00 a. Overeaters Anonymous LL

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, March 16



Presiding Minister Pastor Rich Collier

Accompanist & Musicians (8:30) Jan Doyle (10:15) Soul Purpose

Song Leaders (8:30) Natalija Goomey (10:15) Soul Purpose

Trio (8:30) Natalia Goomey, Deb Lohr-Foster & Karen Windels

Flute (8:30) Mark Richardson

Lectors (8:30) Doris Fish (10:15) Kay Calvin

Communion Assistants (8:30) Doris Fish (10:15) Kay Calvin, & Kevin & Ann Boehnen

Ushers (8:30) Steve & Patty Hillebrand (10:15) Frank & Barb Durham

Acolytes (8:30) Joelle Jackson (10:15) Elizabeth

Boehnen

Counting Team 3

Altar Guild (8:30) Patty Hillebrand (10:15) Darlene Schulenberg

AV (8:30) Jason Niebuhr (10:15) Jeff Postle & Patty Neumueller

Coffee Carmen Fowell

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