



***Week of Aug. 21 - 27 2016***

## **St. Martin's Restoring God's House Campaign Kicks Off**

Before we get into the reason and need of this letter a greater need is paramount. This critical need is that everyone in our congregation at this particular time is looking to our future as a family joined together with each other in serving our Lord. We have so many blessings and a rich history of loving our neighbors and working together for the greater good of all.

As you may remember, at St. Martin's last annual meeting, our congregation voted to move forward with a capital campaign in 2016, designed to cover the cost of three property projects. These projects include:

- 1. Seal the surface of the upper parking lot and repaint stall lines – this will prevent further damage to the surface and a costlier repair later.*
- 2. Paint wood areas on the exterior of the church and repair soffits – this will prevent further damage to the wood areas and greatly improve the appearance of the church. \_*
- 3. Replace the lower parking lot – this will make the surface for walking safer, level the surface for better water drainage, and enhance its appearance so that it is more welcoming to the community groups that use our building. This repair will last about 20 years before a more extensive repair may need to be considered.*

These three projects were identified through a comprehensive property assessment conducted by our Property Management Team. The Property Team's diligent work is consistent with our congregation's objective to "...proactively enhance and maintain the value and functionality of our physical assets ... from a preventative perspective (Continuing Resolution CR4.04)".

THIS SUNDAY at our regular Sunday Service the committee will be announcing the Kick-Off for this project. Donation/Pledge Card will be available to make your gift(s).

Please "prayerfully consider" this campaign as we update our churches house.

*From the committee of Restoring God's House Campaign*

## Fall Kick Off at St. Martin's -- Lets Rally 2016

Hello St. Martin's! Are you ready to Rally? Mark your calendar for Rally Day at St. Martin's Lutheran Church on **Sunday, September 11th**, 2016. Plan to be there. And, invite a neighbor or friend. It's time to put summer to rest. It's time to plan for the fall and holiday season activities available at St. Martin's. *Your energy, excitement, and commitment are needed!*

Rally Day begins with a special worship service at 9:00 AM in the sanctuary. Following the service you will want to move downstairs to our fellowship area where you can enjoy fellowship with your St. Martin's friends and guests. There will be a chance to meet with representatives from each of the St Martin's Teams. Informational materials and displays will also be available. Team Leaders will be on hand to inform you of opportunities and answer your questions. Families should be sure to enroll their youngsters in Sunday School and meet with youth representatives.

At 10:30 there will be youth activities and a special visit from the '*Lions Train*' with rides starting in the lower parking lot area. At 11:00 to 11:30 is our scheduled time for the now famous *St. Martin's pie auctions* led by none other than master pie auctioneer Phil Fish. Starting at 11:30 you can enjoy our bountiful and classic Lutheran Pot Luck Luncheon Meal.

Watch for additional specific information posted in the weekly bulletin, the Narthex, and in subsequent editions of the "Weekly Bread". *Let's Rally!*

St. Martin's TLC  
Bob Nelson

## Council Invites Your Input

Starting in September, Church Council welcomes your participation in the first 15 minutes of each Council meeting for the purpose of sharing your ideas and insights. If you are interested in participating in this open forum time, please let one of the Council members know of your interest. Church Council meets on the third Monday of each month at 6:30 PM in the church library. Contact any one of us at the following numbers: Pastor Curtis; 798-2777, Karen Windels; 798-5031, Gordie Esser; 438-4176, Greg Hinz; 798-1556, Kyla Schoenwetter; 434-4950, Mark Richardson; 413-0204 or Ron Goplin; 798-2518.

## Audit Team and Finance Team Vacancies

The Church Council is seeking interested persons for both the Audit Team and Finance Team. No experience is required to participate in either – just a willingness to crunch a few numbers, learn from others and monitor St. Martin's finances. The Finance Team meets monthly, while the Audit Team does most of its work in the fall months. Terms of office are three years for both teams. If you are interested in either of these important ministry opportunities, please contact Karen Windels (798-5031) or Pastor Curtis (798-2777).

## Meet Rev. Dr. Dan Odden

I am pleased to be working part-time with your congregation in the months ahead!

I have served congregations in southern Wisconsin for over 30 years and am now retired, but I do some interim work part-time. During these months when Pastor Kirsten is re-engaging her pastoral work at St. Martin's I will be helping out a little. It may be helpful for you to know a few basics about me. I and my wife, Cynthia, live in Sauk City. We have four grown children who live near and far (Sun Prairie, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, and Portland OR), and four grandchildren. We also have three cats and a dog.



Besides travel to see family and friends, we do volunteer and part-time work! Cynthia teaches about 2 days a week at a small parochial school and this time of the year is doing canning of vegetables. I have been doing part-time work at Grace Lutheran in Cambridge and before that at St. Paul Liberty in Deerfield. I serve as the South Central Synod Refugee Resettlement Task Force co-chair as well.

Thank you for the opportunity to work alongside you and Pastor Kirsten!

God's Peace be with you,  
Pastor Dan Odden

## Retirement Plans to Fund St. Martin's Legacy Endowment Fund

You may have a qualified retirement plan such as a 401(k) or 403(b) that may still contain funds that have not yet been totally distributed at your death. This money will normally be passed on to beneficiaries you have designated in the plan. Here is the problem....except for Roth IRA's, your beneficiary will now have to treat these funds as ordinary income and pay taxes on that income. However, there is a great opportunity to avoid paying these income taxes and leave a legacy that will make a difference in people's lives, if St. Martin's Legacy Endowment Fund were listed as the beneficiary.

On the other hand, the assets beneficiaries receive from a Will at death are not taxed as income because they have already been taxed as income during your lifetime. Retirement plan assets are not part of a Will. So if you have a family member you want to pass assets to, then use assets within your Will and not from qualified retirement plans.

Example: Assume you want to give \$50,000 to a family member and \$50,000 to the St Martin's Legacy Endowment Fund. Also assume the family member or individuals you want to inherit are in the 25% Federal income tax bracket and Wisconsin 4% income tax bracket. Here is how to get a \$14,500 tax savings in this example:

A. You decide to pass \$50,000 to a family member from a Retirement Fund and \$50,000 from your Will to the Endowment Fund:

\$50,000

Less: Federal income tax 25% ( 12,500)

Less: Wis. Income Tax 4% ( 2,000)

**Net Amount received by family member \$35,500**

**Net Amount received by Endowment Fund \$50,000**

B. You decide to pass \$50,000 to a family member from a Will and \$50,000 to the Endowment Fund from the Retirement Fund

**Net Amount received by family member (no tax) \$50,000**

**Net Amount received by Endowment Fund (no tax) \$50,000**

If you are not depending on funds from a retirement plan and are over 70.5 years of age, then you have to start taking annual contributions, which are taxed as ordinary income. A great option during your lifetime is to designate your annual distribution or a portion of it, to the Legacy Endowment Fund on an annual basis. This amount will be excluded from your taxable income even though you have never paid any taxes on this money.

The workshops this fall will answer questions and discuss options you can consider during your lifetime and at death to save taxes. Remember everything we have is a gift from God. You can make a difference helping others and spreading the Gospel while getting a significant tax benefit.

## **Mark Your Calendar-**

Workshops to learn more about the St. Martin Legacy Endowment Fund will be Saturday, November 5th and repeated on Tuesday, November 8th. Watch for details!

*Please note that this Endowment Fund is NOT a part of any other St. Martin Capital Campaign or SHOULD NOT replace any regular offering to St. Martins. The St. Martin Legacy Endowment Fund is a way of leveraging you're planning to spread the Gospel and serves those in need for generations into the future.*

*Please contact any current Board of Directors member for confidential assistance in direction: James Hartung, Hilary Kirkow, Tom Johnson, Van Valaskey or Lois Weiland.*

*Because it is important that you have a will with specific language regarding your donation, it is crucial to have someone with expertise help with the preparation. For more information regarding this, please contact your own attorney and/or financial planner.*

Free advice for funding the St. Martins Legacy Endowment is also available at:

**Lutheran Planned Giving of Wisconsin**

**Rev. Larry Westfield**

**2909 Landmark Place, Suite 202**

**Madison, WI 53713**

**Telephone: 262-224-9574**

**E-mail: [larry.westfield@elca.org](mailto:larry.westfield@elca.org)**

## **Habitat Thank You**

On a beautiful Saturday, Aug 6 Team St. Martin's served at the Habitat Madison West location. All of the framing was completed by the Team and the site supervisor said they were one of the best groups of the season. Thank you to Alan Harper, Van Valaskey, Doug Fowell, Annette Kerl, Bill Windells, Todd & Sue Duhr and Team Leader Phil Fish for your helping hands and big hearts. A round of applause to Doris Fish for supplying another delicious lunch for the volunteers.

## **School Backpack Drive**

Please bring your donations to the table in the Narthex within the next two weeks to help give area underprivileged kids the tools they need to succeed in schools OR for your convenience consider "buying" items already purchased with Mission funds from the table in the Narthex OR leave a financial donation in the box provided and Mission volunteers will do the shopping for you. Thank you for joining MOM in their goal of completing 1,000 backpacks this year.

## **Lions School Clothing Drive**

Your gently used clothing for needy school aged kids is being collected in the Narthex bin in conjunction with the MOM Backpack Drive. Suggestion: Socks and underwear are always needed and very much appreciated - please consider donating.

## **Youth and Family Ministry Team Opportunity**

The Church Council is seeking to establish a Youth and Family Ministry Team as outlined in our Constitution. This Team will work with Pastor and, hopefully, a Youth & Family Ministry Coordinator to establish and oversee our Christian education programs for St. Martin's children of all ages. We are hoping to get this Team off the ground before September. The Team would likely meet monthly to make programmatic and procedural decisions, as well as support our staff in executing the programs. If you are interested in serving in this vital ministry opportunity please contact Karen Windels (608-798-5031, or karenwindels@gmail.com). Thank you!

## Next Book Club Book — *The Tiger's Wife*

The supreme storyteller Téa Obreht weaves together masterfully a narrative that is mesmerizing. The reader gets lost in the stories of war, death, love and life. Pick up a copy and start reading today, and put **Oct. 24th** on your calendar to get together and discuss this wonderful book!

## Youth and Family Ministry Coordinator Position

St. Martin's is seeking to hire a half-time, Youth and Family Ministry Coordinator who can work effectively with children of all ages.

The purpose of this position is to direct and coordinate a comprehensive and expanding ministry for our children, youth and families. This position will work with Pastor, our Youth and Family Ministry Team, parents and other lay ministers.

Send or email a cover letter and resume to St. Martin's Lutheran Church, 2427 Church St, Cross Plains, WI, 53528 or [om@stmartinscp.org](mailto:om@stmartinscp.org). A job description can be viewed on our web site, [stmartinscp.org](http://stmartinscp.org). (Or call Deb McCue – 798-3294)

## Stayed Informed!

Monthly Church Council Minutes and Financial Reports can be found in the Narthex (on the bulletin board) for your review. Please review, make copies as you would like (but please put the original copies back).

## 'Simply Giving' direct deposit

**Interested in using Direct Deposit for your church giving?** You can find authorization forms (the 'Simply Giving' program) in the Narthex, under the Stewardship section, far right. If you would like a form emailed to you, contact the office and we will send one.

There is also a link for this form on the home page of the website ([www.stmartinscp.org](http://www.stmartinscp.org)).

## Church Office Hours & Additional Email Addresses

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

*Call ahead if you want to stop by (in case there has been a last minute change).*

-- OFFICE: Ph: (608) 798-2777 Email: [om@stmartinscp.org](mailto:om@stmartinscp.org)

-- Pastor Kirsten: [PastorKirsten@stmartinscp.org](mailto:PastorKirsten@stmartinscp.org)

-- Church Property Management Team (building & grounds maintenance requests / issues):  
[Property@stmartinscp.org](mailto:Property@stmartinscp.org)

## CHURCH CALENDAR

Upcoming Schedule (Also available on the church web site - [www.stmartinscp.org](http://www.stmartinscp.org) - and in the Weekly Bread):

### Aug. 21 - Aug. 27

Sunday, Aug. 21

\* 9:00a -- Sunday Worship

Monday, Aug. 22 -- Open Schedule

Tuesday, Aug. 23

\* 6:30a - 8:00 am -- Men's Bible Study L

\* 7:00p - 9:00 pm -- Boy Scout Troop 87 LL FH

Wednesday, Aug. 24 -- Open Schedule

Thursday, Aug. 25

\* 6:30p -- Centering Prayer

Friday, Aug. 26

\* 5:00p -- Morris / Flanagan Wedding Rehearsal

Saturday, Aug. 27

\* 9:00a -- 10a Overeaters Anonymous LL

\* 2:30p -- Morris / Flanagan Wedding

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; K - Kitchen

## Worship Participants

### Sunday, August 21

Presiding Minister -- Pastor Kirsten Curtis

Accompanist -- Debbie Miller

Song Leader -- Jason Niebuhr

Special Music -- Brian Graedel

Greeters -- Jordan Green, Kathy Graedel

Lector / Reader -- Bill Windels

Communion Assistants -- Steve Schunk, Kim Johnson

Ushers -- Sandy Salvo, Artis Schulenberg

Acolyte -- Joelle Jackson, Cole Ferguson

Counting Team -- Team 4 (Steve & Patty Hillebrand, Deb Wipperfurth)

Altar Guild -- Deb Goplin

AV Team -- Jason Niebuhr, Jeff Postle

Coffee -- Jeannie Hering-Schumann (*Cake provided by Bob & Redgy Nelson in honor of their 50th Wedding Anniversary!*)

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