



Week of Aug. 7 - 13 2016

Pastor Kirsten's letter to St. Martin's Congregation

Grace and peace to you, sisters and brothers, from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

It is with excitement and anticipation that I return to serve God as your pastor at St. Martin's Lutheran Church. I have awaited this day and am glad it has finally arrived. It has been a long and trying time for my family and me, and I attribute my recovery to excellent health care, the hard work of following the doctors' orders, and the prayers and support of my family and my faith community at St. Martin's. It is now good to be able to move forward.

Moving forward will happen through the ongoing love, resilience, and community-based ministry that has always been St. Martin's Lutheran Church. I am so excited to partner with you in continuing to serve God by serving our neighbors in Cross Plains, the United States, and across the globe. The Holy Spirit is at work in the world, including St. Martin's Lutheran Church, and we will continue to participate in God's kingdom, being the body of Christ together.

Centered in God, ministry is a shared venture. Thank you for your commitment and service to God's kingdom, being disciples of Christ. I know that this has been a difficult, anxious time for St. Martin's, as well. This is because we are never certain of what's going to happen on any given day in our lives, which was most certainly true February 21st when I experienced a medical emergency during the worship service. As a result, the whole congregation was effected by this event, and that is part of our shared life experiences.

In life, we want certainty, but that is just not possible. God's love is the only certainty in our confusing and sometimes unsteady world because we know that Jesus died on the cross and rose again three days later, so that you and I live.

We live in the sure and certain hope of the resurrection, sharing all the joys and burdens that happen in life. Galatians 6:2 says, "Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." I heard a comment recently that described this relationship. It said in sharing the burdens, it becomes half the burden, and in sharing in the joys, it doubles the joy, enabling all in building up the body of Christ.

My burden of being sick and unable to be present was bearable because of the support I received in so many different ways, including the cards, meals, love, and prayers from so many of you. I will continue to need your ongoing support as I recover. I have been restricted by my doctor to work 20 hours per week in a low-stress environment. To assist in this time period of transition, a retired

pastor will be contracted to work 10-15 hours to ensure that a pastor is available to support the ongoing ministry taking place at St. Martin's.

In this transition, it's important to know that my brain is still healing. As a result, I want you to be aware of symptoms that I am still experiencing. I am having difficulty with short-term memory. Please send emails or place requests on written notes. I also am experiencing occasional headaches, which are usually a result of overdoing it because I easily fatigue. This usually occurs because of overstimulation to my brain.

My recovery has centered on limiting my brain to stimuli. This meant a lot of rest initially and very limited activity. As I improved, I longed to return to worship. I felt lost when I was unable to worship and praise God in communion with God and others. I wanted to return to St. Martin's, but my doctors feared this would impede my recovery because I would experience overstimulation. Since I wanted to recover as quickly as I could, I followed the doctor's orders and worshipped elsewhere, but I missed worshipping with my St. Martin's family weekly.

I thank God that I am alive and able to return to my call to serve St. Martin's as your pastor. One of my greatest joys in that role is leading us all in worshipping and praising God. God has plans for us. The Holy Spirit is at work, and you and I are being called to focus on hearing God's voice and not be distracted. We will do this together through encouragement, support, communication, and love, living out our faith in our daily lives.

God's peace and blessings,

Pastor Kirsten

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. A job description can be viewed on our web site, stmartinscp.org. (Or call Deb McCue – 798-3294)

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

Contributing Cash to the Legacy Endowment Fund

Many persons give cash to an endowment fund as it is one of the easiest ways to contribute to the St. Martin's Legacy Endowment Fund. Giving to the church budget is important for our churches month to month expenses. Additionally giving as to add-on to an endowment fund will exclusively benefit others for decades, even centuries and is truly satisfying to the giver.

Writing out a check to the endowment fund can offer tax advantages for people who itemize deductions. It is a charitable contribution and with planning it could even lower a person's tax bracket. Contributions can be made at anytime throughout the year.

Memorial monies after the death of a member of our church family may be directed to the Endowment Fund. Memorializing or honoring a family member or friend for any special occasion is a rewarding way to make a difference in the lives of others for years and generations to come!

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 needs 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

Homeless Shelter (Thursday, Aug. 11th)

Volunteers are needed to help serve at the Madison Homeless Shelter on Thursday, Aug. 11th (provide food or serve). Meet at the church at 6:30p. Signup sheets are on the bulletin board in the Narthex. If you have any questions contact Doris Fish (cell: 608-279-5418).

MOM Backpack School Program

St Martin's is collecting the following items: Extra large backpacks (for high school students), dry erase markers, protractors, compasses, black Sharpies, Crayola crayons, 3 x 3 Post-it notes, scotch tape. Help MOM reach their goal of supplying 1,000 low income students with the tools they need to succeed in school. Please bring your donations to the table in the narthex. *Thank you!*

Clothing Collection

The Lions Club is collecting new and gently used clothing for school aged kids in our community (*don't forget socks and underwear*). Please bring your offering to the bin in the Narthex.

Habitat For Humanity Build

Saturday, Aug 6 in either Sun Prairie or West Madison (site to be determined) Join the St. Martin's Team! Call Maureen at 798-4820 for more information and to register.

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!

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).

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@smartinscp.org

-- Pastor Kirsten: PastorKirsten@smartinscp.org

-- Church Property Management Team (building & grounds maintenance requests / issues):
Property@smartinscp.org

CHURCH CALENDAR

Upcoming Schedule (Also available on the church web site - www.smartinscp.org - and in the Weekly Bread):

Aug. 7 - Aug. 12

Sunday, Aug. 7

* 9:00a -- Sunday Worship (with Baptism)

* 10:00a -- Curtis' Family Gathering FH

Monday, Aug. 8

* 6:30pa -- Berry Hist. Soc. FH

Tuesday, Aug. 9

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

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

Wednesday, Aug. 10 -- Open Schedule

Thursday, Aug. 11

* 6:30p -- Centering Prayer

Friday, Aug. 12 -- Open Schedule

Saturday, Aug. 13

* 8:30a -- LUAD Council Meeting FH

* 9:00a -- 10a 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; K - Kitchen

Worship Participants

Aug. 7

Presiding Minister -- Pastor Kirsten Curtis

Accompanist -- Debbie Miller

Song Leader -- Karen Windels

Greeters -- Bruce & Sandy Salvo

Lector / Reader -- Redgy Nelson

Communion Assistants -- Bob Nelson, Elizabeth Collin

Ushers -- Haley Osborne, Casey Peterson

Acolyte -- Valerie Niesen, Lexi Boehnen

Counting Team -- Team 1 (Jenny Niesen, Darlene Schulenberg, Gale Kooistra, Joyce Richardson)

Altar Guild -- Deb Wipperfurth

AV Team -- James Hartung, Paul Schluter

Coffee & Treats -- Enjoy some cake!

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