



# ST. MARTIN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH



## Week of Dec 20 - Dec 26, 2015

Please remember - **Choir Practice is now on Sunday mornings at 8am. (Not on Wed.)** All are welcome! Also note, **NO practice Dec 27th or Jan 3rd** -- Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

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## Christmas Caroling! This Sunday (Dec. 20th)

*Join us on Sunday, Dec. 20th from 5:30p to 7p. for Christmas Caroling!*

All are welcome! Individuals, families, children—the more the merrier! Join the fun! We will visit and carol for local home-bound, elderly and nursing homes. Sheet music will be provided. (*This date is the new date, postponed from Dec 13th.*)

*Please meet at St. Martin's to carpool at 5:30pm.*

See you then!

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## "Blankie" Blessing (4pm Christmas Eve Service)

*Children young and old ...*

Bring your favorite blankie or stuffed animal to the 4:00 Christmas Eve worship for a special blessing!



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## Christmas Cards Please ...

The holidays can be especially depressing for the men and women in Madison jails. With the exception of a small scoop of ice cream for dessert, Christmas will go unnoticed. It will be the same as every other day in jail.

A simple card with a hand written note will bring a smile and a bit of joy to someone's day. Many of the men and women keep them all year long reflecting on them regularly.

Please place your cards in the box on the Giving Tree Table. (Sign with your first name only, stickers can be used to decorate envelopes, no beads, paper clips, ribbons, etc.)

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## Ra-pa-pa-pum, ra-pa-pa-pum!

You may have noticed that the area under the overhead screen in the Sanctuary has been spiffed up a bit. Not only do we have three beautiful new Christmas trees, but unused AV speakers and music equipment has been temporarily removed to help “deck the halls” for Advent and Christmas.

Our drum set has been carefully stored, but can easily be set up for that special someone who will step forward and offer their percussion talents!



If you or someone you know would like to play the drums for our worship services, please let any member of the Worship Planning Team know (Pastor, Deb, G., Karen W., Debbie M., or Jan D.).

*As always, we welcome any congregants who would like to offer their musical talents in praise to God!*

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## November 2015 Financial Snapshot for Saint Martin's Lutheran Church

Service Receipts: (the negative number below means we are behind budget, which is not good)

Budget YTD offering receipts = \$259,567.00

Year-to-date offering receipts = \$233,444.31

(\$ 26,122.69)

Total Income (not including Donor Challenge receipts): (again, the negative number below is not good)

Budget YTD Income = \$286,099.00

Year-to-date Income = \$265,402.29

(\$ 20,696.71)

Expenses: (the negative number below is good - we are not spending as much as we budgeted for)

Budget YTD expenses = \$286,165.00

Year-to-date expenses = \$265,638.42

(\$ 20,526.58)

Our monthly service receipts increased again in November, thank you to everyone who is contributing to that upward trend in giving. We are still over \$20,000 behind in our income; fortunately, our expenses continue to track that deficit pretty closely.

As we journey through this Advent season in anticipation of the God's Ultimate Gift to us, our Savior Jesus Christ, please prayerfully consider how you can respond. Thanks and praise to God!

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## **St. Martin's Legacy Endowment Fund**

On January 25, 2015 St. Martin's Congregation adopted a permanent resolution for the creation and governance of St. Martin's Lutheran Church Legacy Endowment Fund (hereafter referred to as the Fund). I am happy to announce The Legacy Endowment Fund Board of St. Martin's has been formed, and effective December 1st has its first \$100 in the Fund. The Board held a meeting on November 16, 2015 and elected Van Valaskey Chairperson, Hilary Kirikov Secretary, Lois Weiland Treasurer, Tom Johnson Marketing Director and yours truly, James Hartung, Congregation Liaison.

As Congregational Liaison I would like to give you a quick overview of the St. Martin's Legacy Endowment Fund. You will also hear a Temple Talk December 13 with more details. The purpose of this fund is to enhance the mission of St. Martin's Lutheran Church apart from the general operation of the congregation. Gifts to this Endowment Fund ensure the continuation of the many ministries and missions of St. Martin's into the future. It is the intent that distributions from the Fund shall not be used for the annual operation budget of the Congregation.

Consider give a gift which will change lives for generations to come. Gifts to the Fund can come in many different asset forms such as Cash, Investment Accounts, Stocks, Bonds, Mutual Funds, Retirement Plans, Insurance, Personal Property, Real Estate, Business Ownership Interest and other Assets. The Endowment Board is here to help you carry out your legacy wishes and oversee investments in the Fund.

Checks can be made to St. Martin's Lutheran Church Legacy Endowment Fund. To arrange a personal and confidential visit, or to learn more, please contact a Board Member above or email [LEF@stmartinscp.org](mailto:LEF@stmartinscp.org)

St. Martin's Legacy Endowment Fund is a new opportunity to strengthen St. Martin's faith journey for the future through legacy giving. The faith of tomorrow blooms from the seeds of today.

In Christ,  
James Hartung

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***It's Advent. That Holy time of Waiting and Preparation***

This year, as we wait together for the Child born of migrant parents displaced from their home in Nazareth by political powers beyond their control, with no place to stay and no bed to rest in, I invite you to join me in preparing a bed for another wanderer. We are all well aware of the growing global refugee crisis. Many of us have wondered what we can possibly do to make a difference. We have a very active Refugee Resettlement Team in our Synod, made up of folks and congregations who have been working with Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin for many years to provide homes and welcome to hundreds of refugees.

During the month of November alone, 18 people were settled in the Madison area. An ongoing **need for our refugee resettlement efforts is new mattresses**, and this is where you and your congregation can help.

*Please consider a special Advent offering to replenish our mattress fund. Provide a clean bed for someone who is in need of a home. A new bed in a safe home is even better than a manger in a stable.*

God's Peace,  
Mary Froiland Bishop, South-Central Synod of WI

Note: To make an offering, please send your check payable to SCSW and write Refugee Mattress Fund in the memo or on the remittance form and send to: South-Central Synod of Wisconsin, 6401 Odana Road, Suite 20, Madison, WI 53719. Thank you for your prayerful consideration!





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## 2016 Giving Envelopes (want a change?)

Now is the time to request a change to your Giving Envelopes for 2016. Would you like Weekly or Monthly envelopes? If you are happy with what you now have then you do not need to do anything. *Please let Lois know if you would like a change by putting a note in the Bookkeeper's mail slot in the office workroom.* (People on Direct Deposit or bank transfers do not receive envelopes.) Thank you!

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## Upcoming Opportunities for Involvement at St. Martin's

Consider being involved in these activities at St. Martins --

December 20 (Sun.): Caroling (meet at church at 5:30pm)

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## '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)).

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## New address for Synod Office

Sending something to the Synod Office, or planning to stop there? Please note they have moved!

South-Central Synod of Wisconsin  
6401 Odana Road, Suite 20  
Madison, WI 53719

Phone: 608-270-0201 (same phone numbers)  
Fax: 608-270-0202  
General E-mail: [scswoffice@scsw-elca.org](mailto:scswoffice@scsw-elca.org)

*They are still receiving mission support and newsletters and general mail at their old address, so please update your address book .... Thank you!*

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## 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

-- 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)

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## Saturday (12/19) events of note ...

**Sunday School Christmas Program Rehearsal:** 8:30a - 9:30a

**Giving Tree:** 9:30am through 12:30pm.

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## Church Calendar for Dec 20 - Dec. 26, 2015

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

Sunday, Dec. 20

8:00a - Choir Practice

9:00a - Sunday Worship / Christmas Program

5:30p - Christmas Caroling (meet at church)

Monday, Dec. 21

6:30p - Church Council L

Tuesday, Dec. 22

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

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

Wednesday, Dec 23

6:30pm -- NO Confirmation

Thursday, Dec 24 -

4pm — Christmas Eve Service (with Children's message)

9pm — Christmas Eve Service (traditional)

Friday, Dec 25 --

9am — Christmas Day Service

Saturday, Dec 26

9:00a - 10a Overeaters Anonymous L

Remember — CHOIR PRACTICE is now on Sunday Mornings (8am). All are welcome!

(**No** choir practice Dec 27th or Jan 3rd. *Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!*)

**No** Sunday School on Dec. 27 or Jan. 3

**No** pre-Confirmation or Confirmation on Dec. 23 or Dec. 30

**OFFICE CLOSED**

Thurs Dec 24th and Friday Dec. 25th

Thurs Dec. 31st and Friday Jan 1st.

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

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## Worship Participants 12.20.2015

*Worship participants for this week are listed below. Thank you!*

Presiding Minister -- Pastor Kirsten Curtis

Accompanist -- Jan Doyle

Special Music— Brian Graedel, Ed Neumueller

Greeters -- Brian and Kathy Gradel

Communion Assistants -- Katie Doyle, James Krot

Ushers -- Frank & Barb Durham

Acolyte -- Henry Hartung, Tyler Duhr

Counting Team -- Team 2 (Steve Schunk, Frank Durham, Kim Johnson)

Altar Guild -- Kim Mahaffey

AV Team -- Jeff Postle, Jason Niebuhr

Coffee & Treats — Doris Fish and Parents of Sunday School Students

Narrators — Henry Hartung, Jenna Rogers, Chase Rogers, Austin Wildman, Oliver and Kate Wenning, and Colt Klein

Actors — Mary, Joseph, Angels, Palm Trees, Shepherds, and Wise Men -- The children of St. Martin's Church School

Props Master — Gus Wenning

Coaches — Tracie Rogers, Ryan McCulloh, Amy Esser, Jenny Niesen, and Marci Bartlett

Costumes — Cheryl Roenneburg and Allison Klein

Sets and Props — Jenni McCulloh, Lori Madigan, and Amy Wildman

Fellowship Treats — The parents of our Church School Children

Program Coordinators — Karen Windels and Ann Boehnen

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