



Week of Dec. 18 - 24 2016

Choir Rehearsals - Sunday before church (8am) in Music Room. *All are welcome!*

Giving Tree Challenge

Thank you to everyone who has already participated in the 2016 Giving Tree Program. It remains our Christmas tradition and one of the largest community outreaches of our congregation. This week we have been "called" to adopt four more families who have extenuating circumstances that prevented them from contacting us prior to our deadline. Please examine your heart and ask - *How do we say "No" at Christmas to a needy family?* Your help is needed and God will direct us through this challenge.

New wishes will be displayed on the Giving Tree table this Sunday. You can help by taking an additional wish. Those gifts must be returned no later than Thurs. 12/22. You can also help by placing your financial donation in the "Donation Box" at the Giving Tree table and our volunteers will do the shopping for you. If weather conditions force a cancellation of service this Sunday, a list of unfilled wishes will be emailed for your review.

Thank you for considering helping all of God's children who have been directed our way. Please call Maureen at 798-4820 with questions, or for more information. *Merry Christmas!*

Commitment Cards

Please consider if you have not yet turned in your commitment card. *Thank you to all who have!*

Copies of the form can be found at the church.



Name: _____

Remember this saying, "A few seeds make a small harvest, but a lot of seeds make a big harvest." (2 Corinthians 9:6)

To care for those in faraway lands (Young Adults in Global Mission)

To share with neighbors near and far (Sainthood of all believers)

To give for the future –God's mission (God's kingdom draws near)

I will make an offering to God in the following way(s):

Time: _____

Talents: _____

Money: \$ _____ General Fund Est. Week / Month / Yr.

Please bring non-perishable food item on Sunday

This Sunday (12/18), please remember to bring a non-perishable food item to church. These items will be donated to the new food pantry, Heights Unlimited.

Heights Unlimited is a 'mission outpost' in the community whose primary focus is providing basic necessities for individuals and families in Black Earth, Mazomanie, and the surrounding area while working to bring people to self-sufficiency. Food and clothing distribution, a 'handyman' program, school supply distribution and a self-sustaining ministry are some of the program services provided by Heights Unlimited.

Contact Brad Delwiche (608-284-0970), Pam Gattenby (608-469-7241) or Francine Rask (608-212-5100) for more information or to get involved in some way.

Thank you!

Have something for the 2016 Church Annual Report?

Do you have something that needs to go in the 2016 Annual Report?

If so, please **submit it by January 5th** so it can be included. (You can email your report to the office, MS Word format. om@stmartinscp.org) Thank you!

Weather Issues / Church Closings

When there is a Church closing information can be found on the church web site (www.stmartinspc.org), by calling the office (798-2777), watching the news 'ticker' on Channel 3, Madison, or by checking their website, channel3000.com.

Christmas Caroling!

Join us on **Sunday, Dec. 18th (from 5:30 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.

Please meet at St. Martin's at carpool at 5:30pm. See you then!



Pajama Sunday!

Sunday, January 1, 2017, wear your favorite winter pajamas to church.

Bring your leftover cookies and your cup of coffee and come to worship "just as you are when you wake up" on the first day of the year.

Let's praise God for a new year and relax and worship in God's house together.

Christmas Eve – 4:00 Family Service

Please have your children bring their favorite stuffed animal or two to worship for a special blessing during Christmas Eve worship.



A note from Pastor Kirsten

Please know that I am available if you need help. Know how to help others as well. If you can't reach me at church, my cell phone number is 438-5834.

Suicide Prevention Helpcard *

If someone you know:

- threatens suicide
- talks or writes about wanting to die
- appears depressed, sad, withdrawn, hopeless
- shows significant changes in behavior, appearance, mood (either from being "normal" to being depressed or the reverse)
- abuses drugs, alcohol
- deliberately injures himself or herself
- says he or she will not be missed if gone
- gives away treasured belongings . . .

You can help:

- stay calm and listen
- take threats seriously
- let him or her talk about his or her feelings
- be accepting; do not judge
- ask if he or she has suicidal thoughts
- ask how intense and frequent these thoughts are
- ask if he or she has a plan
- ask if he or she has a means to carry out the plan
- don't swear secrecy—tell someone
- assure the person it is okay and necessary to get help . . .

Get help: You cannot do it alone

Accompany the person to your:

- hospital emergency room
- mental health services
- police
- family, friend, relative
- clergy, teacher, counselor
- family doctor
- or call your crisis line

Call your 911 number for emergency assistance or check the inside front cover page of your telephone book for local crisis services. The National Crisis Helpline is 888-784-2433 (1-888-SUICIDE). The National "YOUTH" Crisis Helpline is 800-999-9999.

For information on the nearest ELCA social ministry organization providing non-emergency counseling for suicidal persons, call Lutheran Services in America (LSA), 800-664-3848. You may visit LSA online (www.lutheranservices.org).

* Adapted from The Suicide and Information Center online (www.siec.ca/helpcard.htm).

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 in 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!

Restoring God's House

As of Sunday, Dec. 11th, we have collected \$35,490 and have another \$5,700 in pledges for a total of \$41,190! We need \$12,860 to complete the lower parking lot project. With everyone's participation we can Restore God's House, St. Martin's, with your contribution. Your contribution can take the form of a onetime gift, or a monthly gift, over the duration of 2017. Please reply with your pledge gift amount by Dec. 31, 2016 so the Capital Campaign Team and Property Management Team can work on project bids for spring 2017. Please make checks payable to St. Martin's Restoring Appeal and mail to the church or place in the offering plate during Sunday worship. (*Your gift qualifies for Federal/State tax deduction and you will receive a receipt.*) Thank you for your support to Restoring God's House, St. Martin's. It will take everyone in our congregation joining together, to make this effort a success.

Looking for Group Confirmation Pictures (2000-2014)

Do you have group pictures of confirmation students from the years 2000 through 2014? We are trying to update our church history / records and are looking for pictures from those years.

If you have any, please forward to the office (om@stmartinscp.org)

Thank you!

Council Invites Your Input

Church Council welcomes your participation in the first 15 minutes of each Council meeting (third Monday of month) 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.

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)

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).

Cross Plains Community Blood Drive

Thur, 12 Jan. 2017 (1:00 to 6:00 pm) at St. Francis Fellowship Hall. For an appointment, contact 1-800-733-2767 or visit www.redcrossblood.org (use sponsor code 'Cross Plains'). *Walk-ins welcome!*

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

-- Pastor Kirsten: PastorKirsten@stmartinscp.org

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

CHURCH CALENDAR

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

Dec. 18-24, 2016

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Sunday, Dec. 18

8:00a -- Choir Practice

9:00a -- Sunday Worship (Children's Christmas Program)

Monday, Dec. 19

6:30p -- Church Council L

Tuesday, Dec. 20

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

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

Wednesday, Dec. 21

6:30p -- Confirmation (Christmas Caroling / Party)

Thursday, Dec. 22

6:30p -- Centering Prayer

Friday, Dec. 23

9:00a -- Liturgical Arts Team

Saturday, Dec. 24 Christmas Eve!

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

4:00p -- Christmas Eve Service (Family oriented)

9:00p -- Christmas Eve Service (traditional)

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

No choir practice Dec 25th or Jan 1st

No Sunday School on Dec. 25th or Jan. 1st

No Confirmation on Dec. 28 or Jan. 4th

OFFICE CLOSED -- Mon., Dec. 26th and Monday, Jan 2nd (2017!)

Limited hours on Tues, 27th, Wed. 28th and Thurs 27th (call ahead if stopping by)

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, Dec. 18

Presiding Minister -- Pastor Kirsten Curtis

Accompanist -- Jan Doyle

Special Music— Brian Graedel, Ed Neumueller and Paula Elver

Greeters -- Lee & Jacqui Swanson

Communion Assistants -- Bev Brunner, Casey Peterson

Ushers -- Owen Roenneburg, Jon Roll

Acolyte -- Ryan Roenneburg, Gus Wenning

Counting Team -- Team 2 (Marci Bartlett, Donna Blumer)

Altar Guild -- Deb Wipperfurth

AV Team -- Jason Niebuhr, Jeff Postle

Narrators — Oliver Wenning, Chase Rogers, Austin Wildman, Cole Ferguson, and Kate Wenning

Actors — The Sunday School Children of St. Martin's

Props, Sets, Costumes, Coaches — The Children's Parents

Fellowship Treats — Karen Seibel, Dana Fuhrman & Dorothy Howell

Program Coordinator — Karen Windels

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