



Weeks of July 17 - 23 2016

Pastor Kirsten Update!

Dear St. Martin's Family,

It is with great pleasure that I share with you that Pastor Kirsten will be back with us on August 1st, having been cleared by her doctor to return to work part-time. As many of you know, she suffered a brain aneurism in late February, and has undergone two medical procedures to repair the aneurism, the last on June 13th. As with these types of brain insults, the recovery time is typically long. Since Pastor has been working very hard to build up her stamina, she is now "ahead of the curve" on her recovery. Upon her return, the Church Council is committed to supporting Pastor Kirsten in whatever ways she may require. I know you will join me in making her return as smooth and stress-free as possible. Pastor continues to care so deeply for her church family and is eager to reconnect with everyone. We praise God for her past and continued healing.

Bishop Mary Froiland reminded me several times over the past months that our time without Pastor Kirsten will be hard, but that we can and will rise to the challenges before us by working together. While the past several months have certainly been challenging, together we have more than met those challenges. I thank God every day for the leadership of our Church Council and our congregation Teams. Their thoughtful, solid, fine work has not gone unnoticed.

Pastor Jack Finney has reminded us that the most critical prayer to pray is one of gratitude – gratitude for all we have been given by God. God has surely walked with us and blessed us during this unprecedented time of challenge. May the shared strength that we have demonstrated over the past several months continue to grow, so that we can carry out, with enthusiasm and dedication, the work God has called us to do in this place, at this time.

With sincere gratitude,

Karen Windels,
Church Council President

Please keep Pastor Kirsten in your prayers as she continues to recover! She appreciates your phone calls, cards and scheduled visits. (Home phone: 608-437-5472)

WHAT MATTERS: Special Edition, July 7, 2016

Black Lives Matter. Say it with me: **Black Lives Matter.**

I'd say All Lives Matter if it were true. But the fact is, from the founding of America through the current day, black lives have not mattered as much as white lives. Our country was built on the backs of black people. People who were captured, brutalized, sold, owned, beaten, enslaved, killed, because their lives didn't matter. This is the reality of our history as a nation. America's original sin. Systemic racism continues to disadvantage black people and other people of color, creating and perpetuating poverty, profiling, violence, incarceration, murder. As a society, we place less value on black lives than white.

Wednesday night (July 6th), in my home community, St. Paul, Minnesota, Philando Castile, died after being shot by a police officer during a traffic stop. Because of technology and social media, we are all witnesses. This follows right on the heels of a similar occurrence in Baton Rouge, where the killing of Alton Sterling at the hands of a police officer was also filmed and shared on social media. While we can't know the whole story of every circumstance, these shootings and others like them, have been raising our awareness that something in our society is deeply flawed. We are witnesses. What do we see? What can we learn from what we see? How can we change what we see?

I am a white person of privilege. Doors have been opened to me throughout my life that may not have been opened if I were black. Assumptions have been made about me just because I am white, assumptions that have usually proven to be beneficial to me. Whenever I have been pulled over by the police, it has never been because of my skin color or because I found myself in the "wrong" neighborhood. It has always been because I was driving too fast. During those traffic stops, it never once crossed my mind to keep my hands visible. Before the officer even reached my car I was digging in my pocket, my purse, my glove compartment for my license and registration. No police officer ever thought I might be going for a weapon. Why not? I'm privileged that way. Not everyone is granted that privilege. Black people are not granted that privilege. Apparently, Wednesday night in St. Paul, that lack of privilege cost a black man his life.

If you are, like me, a white person of privilege, I urge you to join with me in confessing the reality of privilege and the racism it fosters. Join me in learning more about our shared history – not just our history from a white perspective. Read *The New Jim Crow*, by Michelle Alexander; *Waking Up White*, by Debby Irving; *Just Mercy*, by Bryan Stevenson. Read without defensiveness, self-justification or guilt. Read seeking understanding and compassion.

We white people of privilege need to listen to black voices just as we need to listen to the voices of other people of color and LGBTQ voices. We need to listen to voices other than our own, because we white people of privilege only have a very small part of the story, and we lose the depth and beauty and wonder and brilliance and pain and tragedy of the human story when we don't listen to all. Moreover, when our brothers and sisters are not listened to and not valued, when they don't matter, it can be a matter of life and death for them.

It is incredibly painful that this is the reality of the world we live in today. As Christians, as recipients and bearers of God's compassion, it's a reality we are called to confront and challenge and dismantle.

As you gather to worship this Sunday, I encourage you to pray for Philando Castile, Alton Sterling, and their families and friends. Pray for the police officers involved and their families and friends as well. Pray for the spirit of compassion and understanding that is necessary for the work of repentance and reconciliation that is so desperately needed in our country and in our world.

Until that day when we live in a society where all lives really do matter, we need to keep saying it: **Black Lives Matter**. Say it with me. Please.

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

RALLY DAY HELP NEEDED

Rally Day is scheduled to follow Sunday Service on September 11th. This is a very important service at St. Martin's as it involves signup for Sunday School, confirmation, youth and much more! (TLC will also have a display table setup.)

The TLC team is looking for Rally Day volunteers to help:

- * Organize
- * Activates (face painting, games, etc.)
- * Music
- * Putting up posters, etc.

A **volunteer organizational meeting will be held on Wed., July 27th at 6:30p** in the library. All are welcome! *Please sign-up on sheet in the Narthex.*

FAMILY VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

St. Martin's Family Vacation Bible School is now scheduled for three evenings -- August 9th, 10th and 11th (Tues, Wed & Thurs.) from 5:30 to 7:30 PM. This switch to an evening time **gives families an opportunity to participate and learn with their child in a fun and meaningful way** that will surely bring everyone closer to God and each other.

The format will look like this:

- * 5:30 to 6:00 PM -- A time to dine and fellowship together (light supper provided)
- * 6:00 to 6:30 PM -- A time for all ages to learn together as a large group.
- * 6:30 to 7:15 PM -- A time for kids and parents to huddle in small groups for an expanded learning time, grouped by child's age/grade mates. This time will include skits, crafts, games, videos, and other fun, hands-on activities.
- * 7:15 to 7:30 PM -- A time for all ages to gather together in song and prayer.

Our planning team needs help in the following ways:

- * Music leaders
- * Small group leaders
- * Large group instructors
- * Middle and High School youth to assist children (if interested, meet right after worship, July 10th)

Planning meeting - Wednesday, July 20th 6:30 PM in the library

Parent and Youth Participant meeting - Monday, July 25th 6:30 PM in the library

Registration for children age 3 through 5th grade begins on July 11th. Just go on the St. Martin's website, or fill out a registration form in the Narthex. Need help with child care for younger ones? Just indicate this on the registration form. Friends and an accompanying parent(s) are also welcome. Questions can be directed to any member of the planning team, Jeannie Hering-Schuman, Kim Johnson, or Karen Windels.

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!

Kitchen Equipment Missing

The Congregational Care Team has noticed that there are several items missing from St. Martin's kitchen. If you accidentally have taken home an item from the kitchen, please return it to the counter, and we will gladly re-shelve it. It is St. Martin's our policy to not loan out any equipment, dishes, linens, etc., as it is too difficult to track loaned items. We ask that everyone adhere to this policy. Thanks!

Vacation Bible School Needs Your Leadership and Help!

A number of congregation members have asked about VBS this summer for our youngest members. We have held VBS in August, but other models can be considered. A planning meeting is now scheduled for June 30th at 6:30 PM in the church library. If you would like to help plan or participate in VBS this year, please let Karen Windels know of your interest (608-798-5031 or karenwindels@gmail.com).

Our Legacy Fund in 2019

Fast forward to May of 2019... The special outdoor Sunday service has ended and we are milling around the Prayer Garden and talking about the wonderment of God's work in the Legacy Endowment Fund that St. Martin's created only a few short years ago.

The conversation goes like this:

"Wow, isn't it just wonderful how that \$2800 from the interest of the Endowment Fund provided seed money to help start the local Single Parent program. The program helps with child care expenses and offers grants for retraining in jobs. This program is one that gives hope for the future of these parents and children.

Also, that Legacy Fund helped a mission in the country of Chad. The mission started a Christian school that provides funding for teachers and to build their school. Our church joined a group of ELCA churches that created the Chad project, exposing 100's of children to the Gospel and basic education.

Yup, and that fund last year helped purchase quilting supplies, and paid for shipping St. Martin's hand-crafted quilts to earthquake victims in South Korea."

Now back to today when we are just establishing our fund. We ask you to pray and find in your heart the determination to assist in creating the principal needed to fund missions and good works for our future generations. Please consider looking into how you may use your will, cash gift, life insurance, common stock donation, trust designation or how a plan specifically tailored to your situation can be made part of this Endowment Fund. The Legacy Fund Board has made it simple to act, as you only need to meet with the experts at the ELCA Synod office in a confidential, non-binding appointment.

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.

Using a will to fund an endowment

Did you know that everyone has a will? The question is, who wrote the will? If you wrote a will to disperse all of the gifts you have received from God over the years, then hopefully you considered giving part of those assets back to God. If you did not write a will, then upon your death, you take all of those assets God has given you to a judge and say, "Here, God gave me all this, but you decide what happens now." Do you think God would want you or a judge to decide what to do with all that he has given you. Everyone needs to write their own will.

With a good plan you can give back to God leaving a donation that keeps giving long after your death. Although it's something most people don't like to think about, funds from your will can be directed to a specific purpose, such as the St. Martin's Legacy Endowment Fund. One way to use your will to fund an endowment is to use it to create a trust, such as a charitable remainder trust. In the charitable remainder trust, a certain amount of income can be paid to your beneficiary for a specified period of time or circumstance. After that, the remainder of the amount in the trust goes to a charity of your choosing, such as an endowment fund. Another way is to simply include a statement in your will that says: "After all my bills are paid, I want 10% of my estate (a tithe) to go to St. Martins Legacy Endowment Fund."

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

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

June 2016 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 = \$151,596.00

Year-to-date offering receipts = \$110,436.50

-\$ 41,159.50

Total Income: (again, the negative number below is not good)

Budget YTD Income = \$198,216.00

Year-to-date Income = \$138,763.95

-\$ 59,452.05

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

Budget YTD expenses = \$178,888.00

Year-to-date expenses = \$142,725.56

-\$ 36,162.44

Last year at this same time our weekly offerings were \$1,142 ahead of budget. Also, the most we were behind last year was \$26,123. This year we are already \$41,159.50 behind in our giving.

Save the Date! Picnic Potluck & Worship

Special outdoor potluck picnic and Worship Service at the Swanson's to celebrate the beauty of God's creation!

When: Wednesday, July 20th, rain or shine

Where: Lee & Jacqui Swanson are hosting at 'Picnic Hill' on Scheele Rd. (west on Hwy 14 to KP, north about 1/4 mile to Scheele Rd, go left. You will see picnic area from Scheele.)

Time: Arrive anytime after 5:30 PM

What to Bring: A dish to share (meat, drinks, table service provided).

Who: Adults, Kids and Friends!

Transportation: If you need a ride, call Deb Goplin at 798-2518

(Bathroom services provided on site.)

Please sign-up in the Narthex on Sunday so we have a head-count.

Don't miss this! Fun for Everyone!

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)

CaringBridge for Bobby Rogers

A CaringBridge Site was created for Bobby Rogers. We will use this online space to share health news, and you can write messages of encouragement in return. Please visit often to keep updated and show your support.

Site Link: www.caringbridge.org/visit/bobbyrogers

Site Name: bobbyrogers

CaringBridge is a nonprofit offering trusted spaces where family and friends can connect and share during any type of health event.

Office Coverage Help Needed

During Pastor Kirsten's recovery time we are looking for help with office and phone coverage on Tue. & Thur (10a–noon). Please contact the office (798-2777 or om@smartinscp.org) or sign up on the sheets in the Narthex. Call ahead if you want to stop by to make sure someone is at the office.

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

Pastor Contact Information

If you need pastoral assistance, please call Pastor Jeff Miller (608-370-9155, or jwdmiller@outlook.com) or one of our emergency contact pastors: Pastor Rob Nelson (New Heights Lutheran W: 608-767-2247 or C: 608-513-0032) or Pastor Barry Hoerz (Vermont Lutheran W: 608-767-3312 C: 608-370-3100 vermontlutheran.org).

CHURCH CALENDAR

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

JULY 17 - JULY 23th

Sunday, July 17

9:00a -- Sunday Worship

Monday, July 18

6:30p -- Church Council L

Tuesday, July 19

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

5:30p - Personnel Team L

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

Wednesday, July 20 -- Open Schedule

Thursday, July 21 -- Open Schedule

Friday, July 22 -- Open Schedule

Saturday, July 23

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

JULY 17

Presiding Minister -- Pastor Jack Finney

Accompanist -- Eileen Porter

Song Leader -- Jason Niebuhr

Special Music -- Brian Graedel, Ed Neumueller

Greeters -- Jeff & Debbie Miller

Lector / Reader -- Sandy Salvo

Communion Assistants -- Ron & Deb Goplin

Ushers -- Jeannie Hering-Schumann, Amy Wildman

Acolyte -- Joelle Jackson, Lexi Boehnen

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

Altar Guild -- Deb Goplin

AV Team -- (open)

Coffee & Treats -- Doris Fish, Karen Smiley

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