



St. Martin's 'Weekly Bread' May 24-30 2020

Where all are welcome to worship, to learn, to serve in the name of Jesus Christ.

ON-LINE COFFEE WITH COUNCIL (Sunday, May 31st)

All are invited to join council for an online 'Coffee with Council' meeting on **Sunday, May 31st following worship at 10:30 AM.**

This meeting will be hosted online via Zoom with a call in option for folks who prefer a non-internet option. Topics will include an update on church finances and the PPP loan and an update on when and how we will be resuming in-person worship.

HOW TO JOIN THE COFFEE WITH COUNCIL MEETING

By Computer/Smart Phone (please ensure your device has a microphone/camera):

Simply ([CLICK here for ZOOM link](https://luthersem.zoom.us/j/97460444181?pwd=bW9Zem9tZjY2Qmx4S1VPS2JEUjd1d)) to be connected (<https://luthersem.zoom.us/j/97460444181?pwd=bW9Zem9tZjY2Qmx4S1VPS2JEUjd1d>)

If prompted, enter the **password "coffee"** and the **Meeting ID 974 6044 4181**.

By Phone (if you do not have access to the internet or a computer/smart phone with microphone/camera):

Dial +1 312 626 6799. Your carrier rates will apply.

When prompted, enter the meeting ID 974 6044 4181 followed by #.

You may be prompted to enter a unique participant ID. Press # to skip.

If prompted, the meeting password is "coffee."

Keep in touch with Congregation!

Do you have a submission for the Weekly Bread? Want to let people know what is going on -- church team, event, something else?

If yes, please submit by 2pm the Wednesday before publication for consideration. *We are trying to keep everyone informed but need updates to do that!*

Thank you!

Food Pantry Drive at American Legion

On **Memorial Day (from 10am-Noon) -- YES! This coming Monday!** -- the community of Cross Plains can show their care and concern for one another during this incredible time of uncertainty by donating items to the Food Pantry.

The American Legion Families of 245 Cross Plains & 313 Black Earth will be teaming up with our Cross Plains Boy Scout troop #87 to collect donated items with NO CONTACT.

Non-food items will be collected curb side, in front of the American Legion hall on American Legion Drive and on Julius Street.

Donors can pull up, pop the trunk, product will be unloaded and trunks closed before the donor goes! Never leaving your vehicle. Cross Plains is truly the Friendliest place!

Pantry Wish List:

Toilet paper; paper towels; Kleenex; feminine products; laundry detergent; dish soap; shampoo; hair conditioner; hand soap; deodorant; facial cleaning products; disinfecting wipes; surface cleaner or other items along this line of products. *(All items should be small containers. Multi-packs will be broken up at the pantry.)*

Update Regarding PPP Loan

What an unusual time we are living in. Who would have thought that 2020 would bring self-isolation or stay-at-home policies for all of us? You hear it on the news, we're all in this together and we truly are. It doesn't make any difference what state, county or even country that you live in, almost everyone has been affected by this. What if you had been told that you would celebrate Easter services online? Would you have believed that? Probably not, but that's exactly what we did and we continue to worship online both on Sunday and Wednesday nights. Thank you to Pastor Maggie and Geoffrey for providing these opportunities to worship.

All of us are feeling the effects of this differently. Some of you are essential workers and must continue to go to work, others are trying to fulfill their work obligations at home while others were furloughed or laid off. Even our children are trying to stay connected to school virtually. The Council recognized what this could mean to our staff and made the decision early on to try to maintain support by not cutting their hours or pay. They can depend upon their wages and not have to claim unemployment compensation. Are we being good stewards? Yes, we believe we are! To help us out, we applied for the Payroll Protection Program, a small business relief loan that the government set up for businesses with fewer than 500 employees. We were approved and have received \$17,000 to help cover our payroll for 2.5 months. One of the stipulations is that we maintain our payroll as it was prior to the pandemic. We will need to provide documentation to

prove that we have done this and if we do, the loan will be forgiven.

YOU have been fantastic. You have been continuing to make your contributions so that we can pay our bills which continue to show up in the mailbox. This loan will give us a sense of relief as we know that we can pay our employees, but it likely will not cover the payroll for the entirety of the "stay at home" order. We are trying to look ahead and be prepared so this money could buy us some time. The benefit of this loan is that it is interest free. If we have to tap into our line of credit that would not be the case. Although we are excited that we were approved for the Payroll Protection Program (PPP) loan, it should not be viewed as a reason to stop making your contributions. Though \$17,000 may seem like a lot of money, on its own the loan is not a complete guarantee that we can continue payroll without tapping into the line of credit. Given the uncertainty of when we will be able to resume in-person worship, it is very important that we make our limited resources stretch as long as possible. Your consistent giving remains vital to ensure we are able to serve you and the rest of our community. We have Faith that we can get through this time together and that our finances will reflect that we are faithful stewards.

Sincerely,

Pastor Maggie Andersen Peterson
Bruce Salvo, Treasurer
Greg Valaskey, Council President
Lois Weiland, Bookkeeper

QUARTERLY FINANCE REPORT

As of April 30, 2020

Giving has continued to be strong during this difficult time. YTD Service Receipts were \$85,247.50 which is below our YTD budget of \$91,324.00. However April Monthly Service Receipts were \$23,830.75 which is above our monthly budget of \$22,830.75. We are also above our expenses for the year, which along with a government loan of \$17,000 leaves us with an operational balance of \$36,609.19. In addition, we received a gift of \$4,000 designated for IT and received \$1,250 for MOM.

Keep up the good work!
Bruce Salvo, Treasurer

Prayer List

Please pray for:

- Caregivers, medical teams, researchers, service providers, policy advocates, and all those who are working on combating COVID-19 around the world;
- Teachers and education workers who are providing education opportunities to students at home;
- Essential workers who risk their lives to provide for our basic needs;
- Those who struggle with depression, anxiety or mental illness;
- Those who have lost employment;

- Those who are now quarantined in homes that are unsafe or unsupportive;
 - Those who are ill, hospitalized, or recovering, especially Melissa Graedel, Jeannie Hering-Schumann, Lucille Hoffmann, Elda Meier, Bob Windels, and Sara;
 - Those who are homebound especially Irene Brockmann, Shirley Coulson, Arline Schmidt, and Gary Trappe;
 - Those who mourn their dead and cannot come together to grieve;
 - Local and national leaders to ensure the health and well-being of all people.
-

Youth & Family Ministry Update

Hello St. Martin's families!

I hope you have been staying healthy and positive during these times of uncertainty, and remember that the power of connection and prayer is still very strong during all of this. I wanted to give a couple of updates and notices in regards to the Youth and Family department.

First, if you have not done so and were contacted, please please PLEASE be sure to complete our survey for Sunday School and Pre-Confirmation. We are in the midst of planning programming for this coming Fall and we would like your feedback in regards to any changes or new ideas that we can implement.

Next, Sugar Creek has recently notified affiliated congregations that their summer camp season will now be shortened and will begin on Sunday, July 12th. Our YFM team had agreed on two possible weeks for our St. Martin's youth to attend, and both of them would still be available, being the weeks of July 19th-July 24th and August 2nd-August 7th. If you are still interested, please be sure to visit their website and sign up. Have them bring a friend!

Lastly, our high schoolers have been meeting weekly on Sunday evenings for Zoom sessions which have included general conversation, game nights, and devotional conversations. We are currently working to see if there are any local mission opportunities that our students can participate in.

I want to wish everyone the safest wishes, and know that each of you are called by name, and that you are His, even during times of chaos.

God's Peace,

Lars Haskins
Youth and Family Ministry Coordinator

Pastor's Post

Greetings, my beloved siblings in Christ!

I don't know about you, but I've started to lose all sense of the calendar! It's hard to believe that May is upon us. Ordinarily, May would be filled with plans for outdoor gatherings of family and friends. We'd be turning our minds towards summer plans, end of the school year festivities, and just taking advantage of the longer sunlit hours. So what do we do with this May, so unlike any

other Mays? Back in March when we made the decision to suspend in-person worship, nobody anticipated that we'd be staying in our homes this long. Perhaps all those usual May celebrations feel like a cruel joke now.

If you feel like this, I want you to know that this is okay. If there is one message I hope you hear from me, it's that every emotion you are feeling is valid and real right now. You don't have to put on a brave face or a fake smile every day. It's okay if your honest self doesn't feel like being happy or positive. You are not unfaithful to feel scared, depressed, or angry right now, and you aren't unfaithful if you want to direct those emotions towards God. Trust me, God can take it!

I'm reminded of how the disciples first received the message of Christ's resurrection. They weren't celebrating either. They weren't rejoicing or expressing gratitude. They were afraid. They were grieving. They had begun to doubt. Many of them were sheltering in a locked house for fear of what was happening outside. Others were trying to run away. They were so depressed, so scared, that when they did hear the good news, none of them believed it! Not a single disciple believed the Easter message until they could experience Christ's presence among them in the flesh.

This is what crisis does to us. Crisis alters our ability to see and understand hope in the world. Crisis makes scary and terrible things loom large in our minds. Crisis makes each day feel like a struggle to survive in a way we may have never experienced before. Crisis is exhausting. Those disciples were experiencing crisis, just as we are today. They did not have the means to see or believe anything other than their own grief and danger, just as it might feel for you right now.

And that was okay, because no matter how depressed, alone or scared the disciples felt, Christ still broke into the locked room, showed up on the road, held out his wounds, and offered everything the disciples needed to have faith and believe that they were safe. God didn't need the disciples to be anything other than their authentic, honest, miserable selves to show up and offer hope and promise. God desires our raw, truthful emotion in order to have real relationship with us so God welcomes our grief as part of our faith.

This may not be the pep talk you were expecting, but I think it's the pep talk many of us need right now. I wish I could tell you that we will be able to go back to normal soon, but the truth is we just don't know. I want to be honest with you, just like I want you to be honest with me and with God. There is so much uncertainty right now, and I'm sick of it! But instead of trying to control the uncertainty, or deny the grief I am feeling, I'm offering it all up to God. Frankly, it takes too much energy to pretend to be fine with what is happening when I am not, and I need all the energy I can get! My prayers are more like angry raging or miserable weeping right now, but I am praying with my authentic self. And God is showing up, breaking in, and offering hope in new and ever-expanding ways.

I promise you that there will be a time when we can gather again and when we do we will rejoice, but in the meantime I hope you can take comfort in knowing you are not alone right now. Your grief is shared by all of us, and we are persisting through this crisis together. Christ is with us, Christ has broken through, and Christ will bring us hope.

The Peace of Christ is with you always,
Pastor Maggie

Seedlings have been started and plans are underway!

Garden Needs - **Phase Two:** Maintain the garden. Excessive weeding is unnecessary due to the nature of the crop, but a little hoeing around the plants and watering will be needed. **Phase Three:** Harvest the crop in early Fall and transport to the MOM and Heights Unlimited Food Pantries. *(Social distancing will be observed for the safety of all volunteers.)*

If you would like to help or have questions, please contact Maureen msberghoefer@tds.net or 608 798-4820. *"Inch by inch, row by row, gonna make this garden grow."*

(Watch for other announcements in the coming weeks about a possible mini food pantry, another about a Feed Our Children food pick-up location and also one about delivery of Infant Care Kits to Minneapolis. When details are worked out information will be posted.)

Weekly Happenings at St. Martin's!

Here is a rundown of what to look forward to in the next few weeks:

Sunday morning worship live on Facebook (9am). Videos will be posted on YouTube for later viewing.

Sunday evening Youth Group (7pm) on Zoom (Contact Lars to join)

Wednesday afternoon Qigong (2pm) with Sandy Salvo on Zoom. Contact Sandy at sandy@centered-connections.com for more info. (and see note, below).

Wednesday night devotional (7pm) live on Facebook.

Every day at 1 PM join us in Spirit for prayer. *This is not an online event, just take a moment wherever you are, whatever you are doing, to join with the St. Martin's community in prayer.*

Bible Study is taking a break till June.

Both Sunday and Tuesday night Bible studies have finished their readings and are taking a brief break till the first week of June. Tuesday Bible study will resume June 2nd at 7pm and Sunday Bible study will resume June 7th at 10:30am. Stay tuned for new Zoom links and information on upcoming readings.

Stay tuned for more updates! This too shall pass, and when it does we shall celebrate the glory of the resurrection with a renewed understanding of what it means to have new life in Christ who left the tomb. In the meantime, we are still God's people and we still here for each other.

Free Online Qigong Practice (Wednesdays at 2 pm)

Sandy Salvo is offering a free Qigong Practice via Zoom every Wednesday from 2-2:45 pm, open to anyone looking for gentle movement that will stimulate the immune system and help relieve

anxiety during these uncertain times. *Qigong is done standing or seated and requires no equipment or special skill. All ages can enjoy and benefit from Qigong!*

The flowing movements are designed to help us connect with the healing properties of our natural world and within ourselves. Sandy is certified through the Institute of Integral Qigong and Tai Chi and teaching Qigong and Tai Chi Easy classes and workshops.



Please email Sandy if you'd like to receive the Zoom link for this free offering for health and healing (Sandy@centered-connections.com)

Watch live Sunday Worship Services on Facebook!

If you aren't able to make the live worship on Facebook (Sunday mornings, 9am), feel free to watch the videos on YouTube (posted after service) or by following the links on our church website.

For Facebook: ([click here for Facebook live link](#))

Youtube:(videos posted after live event): ([click here for YouTube](#))

Links are also available on the church website: Stmartinscp.org ([Click here](#))

What can you do ... Flu Prevention

- Wash your hands frequently.
- Use hand sanitizer frequently.
- Avoid touching your face.
- Sneeze and cough into a tissue or your elbow.
- Use a face cover if going out in public.
- Avoid crowds and standing near others.
- Stay home if you think you might be sick.
- When in doubt consult with a healthcare professional.

As always, if you feel unwell or think you might be contagious, we encourage you to stay home.

Health Links:

More information can be found on the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) web site: [CDC - COVID-19 Info](#)

or

World Health Organization ('WHO'): [WHO COVID-19 Info Page](#)

Ways to continue Giving

Here are some ways you can continue your support

- Try the old tried and true method - *snail mail!* That's right, mail your check in! (2427 Church St., Cross Plains, 53528)
- Drop off your contribution by using the locked box by the office door. No need to come in contact with anyone and it gets you out of the house for a few minutes. Someone will check this box daily.
- Contact your bank and ask them to help you with online banking. Most banks will send out a check as you direct them to. Most will even pay for the stamp!
- Try Give Plus. Yes, there's an App for that and it's FREE. Easy to use prompts help you get set up easily, quickly. There's no fee to you and a small fee to the church.
- Paypal -- We have PayPal set up on our website. You do not have to have PayPal account of your own.
- Direct Deposit. Many of you already use this method. If you wish to set this up, contact our bookkeeper, Lois Weiland, by calling 608-220-3123.

Questions? Call Lois!

Prayer List

If you would like to add a name to the prayer list, please call/email Pastor Maggie (pastormaggie@stmartinscp.org) or the office manager (om@stmartinscp.org). Names will stay on the list for six weeks unless otherwise indicated by the prayer requester. Prayer requesters are responsible for making sure their loved ones are placed and remain on the list. *Thank you for your help in praying for those in need!*

Lower Level Doors to remain locked

As previously announced, please note all lower level doors will remain locked at all times, including before and during Sunday Services (once they resume). To enter the building please do so through the main level doors. *If you have a question please talk to a council member.*

Also please remember, when school resumes the **lower level doorbell** is *only* for use by *Little Red staff and families of Little Red students*. (They don't have staff to answer if you ring.) If you need to enter the building please use the upper level doors. *Thank you everyone for your understanding!*

Stay up-to-date with Synod Newsletter '*What Matters*'

Stay connected to synod happenings, news, & events! To receive copies of the electronic newsletter '*What Matters*', email Assistant to the Bishop for Media, Communications & Leadership Development, Deacon Vicki Hanrahan (vickih@scsw-elca.org) and asked to be added ... *a great way to find out what is happening in the synod!*

Birthdays & Anniversaries

MAY

Birthdays

5/24 - Seth Johnson

5/25 - Darwin Goldben

5/30 - Frank Durham

JUNE

Anniversaries

6/4 Dean & Deb Archer

6/5 Darwin & Joann Goldben

6/14 Ian & Mindy Eisele

6/21 Pastor Maggie & Geoff

6/23 Alan & Patty Harper

6/24 Phil & Doris Fish

Birthdays

6/4 Deb Archer

6/6 Bev Brunner

6/9 Debra Meister

6/12 Herb Niebuhr

6/14 Kathleen Graedel

6/17 Lisa Voss, Hilary Kirikov

6/18 Remington Lockwood

6/19 Jason Klock

6/20 Jaelyn Green

6/21 Nicole McCue

6/24 Joan Goldben

6/25 Ben Calvin, Derek Calvin, Lauren Calvin

6/27 Veronica Kurr

6/28 Cole Klock

Know of an addition? Correction? Please let the office know (om@smartinscp.org). Thank you!

Pastoral Care During COVID-19

During this time, all in-person visits are suspended, save for emergency situations. But that doesn't mean that we aren't here to provide support! Pastor Maggie is available for private phone calls or Zoom meetings.

If you would like to make an appointment, please call/text her cell at 608-515-8618 or send her an email at PastorMaggie@smartinscp.org.

Church Office Hours & Email Addresses

Office hours:

Please call ahead (to make sure someone is there) if you want to stop by.

OFFICE Phone: (608) 798-2777

OFFICE Email: om@stmartinscp.org

Property Management Team (building & grounds maintenance requests / issues):

Property@stmartinscp.org

-- Todd (building manager) can be reached at 444-6765.

Stay Informed! Monthly Church Council Minutes and Financial Reports can be found in the narthex (on the bulletin board), when the church is open, for your review. Please review, make copies as you would like (but please put the original copies back).

Church Calendar Wondering about meetings (if happening, when, where), if a room is available (when COVID restrictions are lifted), etc.? *Check the church calendar on the website—* www.stmartinscp.org. Events are updated on a regular basis. *Questions?* Send a note to the office (om@stmartinscp.org) or call 798-2777.

CHURCH CALENDAR

All events are subject to change, especially with COVID-19 Virus restrictions. Calendar is also available on the church web site (www.stmartinscp.org)

Sunday, May 24, 2020

-- 9:00a -- Sunday Worship, *Live on Facebook!* Check website for links: www.stmartinscp.org

-- 5:30p -- Narcotics Anonymous (library)

Mon., May 25 -- Open Schedule - Memorial Day!

Tues., May 26 -- Open Schedule

Wed., May 27 -- Open Schedule

Thur., May 28

-- 6:30pm -- AA Meeting (library)

Friday, May 29 -- Open Schedule

Saturday, May 30

-- 9:15a -- Overeaters Anonymous (lower level)

Have an update? Please send a note to the office (om@stmartinscp.org)

Worship Participants

On-Line! Check church website for links: www.stmartinscp.org

Presiding Pastor -- Pastor Maggie

Video Team -- Geoff Peterson

Remember - *Pastor Maggie is available!* If you would like to talk to her or make an appointment, please call / text her cell at (608) 515-8618 or send her an email at PastorMaggie@stmartinscp.org.

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