



St. Martin's 'Weekly Bread' May 3 - 9 2020

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

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

Butternut Squash Garden -- 2020

Seedlings have been started and plans are underway to prepare the garden for planting following the last frost (hopefully that has happened!).

Garden Needs - **Phase One:** Till the soil and plant the seedlings. **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.)

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 Jeannie Hering-Schumann and Lucille Hoffmann;
 - 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.
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May happenings!

Tuesday Bible Study has finished the book of Esther and is now moving on to the story of Jonah! You may think you know the story of Jonah and the “whale” from Sunday School, but there’s a lot more that this story has to teach us about overcoming difficulty and isolation. This Bible study is open to all, so feel free to join us **Tuesday evenings at 7 PM** on Zoom. ([Click her for Zoom Link](#)) Password: jonah

Weekly Happenings at St. Martin’s!

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

- **Sunday morning worship** (9 AM) *live on Facebook*. Videos will be posted on YouTube for later viewing.
- **Sunday morning Bible Study** (10:30 AM). Follow this link and enter the password “revelation” ([Click here for Sunday morning Bible study](#)):
- **Sunday evening Youth Group** (7 PM) on Zoom (contact Lars to join)
- **Tuesday night Bible Study** (7 PM). Follow this link and enter the password “jonah”. ([Click here for Tuesday night Bible Study](#))
- **Wednesday afternoon Qigong** with Sandy Salvo (2 PM) on Zoom. Contact Sandy at spowers28@gmail.com for more info.
- **Wednesday night devotional** (7 PM) 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.

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.

Calling all you talented folks! (Yes, you!)

Do you have a special skill you’d like to share with the congregation? Knowledge about something interesting or useful you’d like to share?

Pastor Maggie is looking for volunteers who can film themselves for some short fun, informative videos we can share with the congregation. *Do you know how to show people how to make a craft? Or can you share some information about something that gives you Spiritual joy? We are looking for you!*

Send an email to PastorMaggie@stmartinscp.org for more info.

Yes! Worship Services are on-line!

Watch live Sunday broadcast of services on Facebook!

If you aren't able to make the live worship on Facebook, feel free to watch the videos at any time on YouTube or by following the links on our church website.

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

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

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

Curbside Service at the Rosemary Garfoot Library Begins May 4

The Rosemary Garfoot Public Library will be providing Curbside Pick-Up Service beginning May 4. *Due to no delivery or inter-library loan services at this time, patrons are limited to requesting materials owned and available at the Rosemary Garfoot Public Library. During this time, the library building will remain closed.*

To reserve materials, or find out more information, call the library between 9-5, M-F (608-798-3881). You can also place holds using LINKcat or send an email request to csplib@rgpl.org. (Check <https://help.linkcat.info/> for tips on finding available materials at a specific library.)

There are scheduled pick-up times (15 minute time slots from 10-12p and 3-5p, M-F) that you can reserve by calling (608) 798-3881. You must pick-up materials in your reserved time slot. Materials not picked up, will go back into quarantine for 72 hours. If you miss your pick-up time, please call for another appointment. Materials will be checked-out to you before you arrive.

Pick-Up Location is outside the front entrance in the brick ellipse. Materials will be placed on tables for pick-up. In the event of inclement weather, the pick-up tables will be under the outside front entrance overhang.

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS -- Per the Department of Public Health and adhering to social distancing requirements and restrictions, staff cannot have any physical contact with patrons at this time. Your materials will be placed on a table in the center of the sidewalk leading up to the library. Please do not approach the table until the library staff member is back in the building. If you cannot walk to the table, please let us know when you make your reservation. Staff will deposit items in your trunk. Please open your trunk before a staff member brings out your materials. Do not get out of the car at any time a staff member is still outside.

Returning Materials -- The outside book return will re-open on May 4. If returns become unmanageable, the book return will be only be open during scheduled hours. All returned materials must go through a 72 hour quarantine period before being checked-out.

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!

MOM Food Pantry closed (but drive through established)

As you may know, MOM is NOT accepting food or clothing donations at this time.

A drive through pantry, with pre-packed food boxes, has been established to continue to meet the needs of our neighbors. (Working closely with Second Harvest and the rapidly changing recommendations for food safety and distribution.)

Financial donations are gratefully accepted. You can make your check payable to St. Martin's (no cash, please) with MOM indicated on the memo line and place in the lock box located outside the church office door until services are rescheduled. We will make a single donation to MOM from all donations received. (Donations can be brought to the Mission Table once church resumes.)

Thank you everyone!

Lower Level Door Policy

As of May 1st, 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.

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.) As noted, if you need to enter the building please use the upper level doors. *Thank you everyone for your understanding!*

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!*

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

Anniversaries

5/3 - Todd & Casey Peterson
5/7 - Jim & Linda Knudtson
5/8 - Brad & Deb Niebuhr
5/20 - Ronald & Debra Goplin

Birthdays

5/1 - Steve Broyles
5/2 - Dana Fuhrman
5/3 - Alex Kirikov
5/4 - Ruth Kerl, Shannon McCauley, Austin Wildman
5/13 - Henry Kjol
5/14 - Greg Valaskey, Travis Flannery
5/15 - Linda Sebree, Sophia Eisele
5/17 - Glen Meister
5/18 - Thomas Kurr
5/19 - Jason Niebuhr
5/20 - Charles Klein
5/24 - Seth Johnson
5/25 - Darvin Goldben
5/30 - Frank Durham

Know of an addition? Correction? Please let the office know (om@stmartinscp.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@stmartinscp.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) for your review. Please review, make copies as you would like (but please put the original copies back).

Weekly Bread and Bulletin Submissions If you want to submit something for the bulletin or Weekly Bread *please send it to the office (om@smartinscp.org) by 2pm the Wednesday before publication* for consideration. Thank you!

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.smartinscp.org. Events are updated on a regular basis. *Questions?* Send a note to the office (om@smartinscp.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.smartinscp.org)

Sunday, May 2, 2020

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

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

Mon., May 3 -- Open Schedule

Tues., May 4 -- Open Schedule

Wed., May 5 -- Open Schedule

Thur., May 6

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

Friday, May 7 -- Open Schedule

Saturday, May 8

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

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

Worship Participants

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

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