



Week of Nov. 13 - 19 2016

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

Joint choir rehearsal (for Ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve Service)

Join other choir members on **Sunday evening, Nov 13th, at 6:30 p.m.** at St. Martin's to practice for the joint Catholic – Lutheran Thanksgiving Eve service. (Service to be held at 7:00 p.m., Thanksgiving Eve, at St. Martin's this year.) All are welcome!

Commitment Sunday – November 13, 2016 – Things to consider ...

Based on a biblical understanding of Stewardship, Chick Lane says, “Stewardship is a word that describes how a follower of Jesus Christ faithfully travels through this life. There is a direct correlation between generosity and growing in faith.”

Rev. Lane was the keynote speaker at the recent Bishop’s Convocation that I attended. His topic of expertise is Stewardship. He’s written books and presented all over the U.S. His information has resulted in years of practicing stewardship in various church contexts, serving as an ELCA pastor. I found him to be thought provoking and insightful. Here are the takeaways from his presentations.

- Everything belongs to God. (Psalm 24: 1-2; Psalm 95: 3-6; Psalm 89:11)
 - o With God there is no transfer of ownership!
 - o God created and owns all things, so the question for us to consider is – what would God have me do with all this?

- We are all stewards.
 - o We take care of something that belongs to someone else – God.
 - o Stewards must be trustworthy and accountable. (1 Corinthians 4: 1-2)
 - o Stewards exist to serve others in a responsible way. (1 Peter 4: 10)

- There is duty and delight in living a generous life.
 - o 1 Timothy 6: 17-19
 - o 2 Corinthians 9: 6-8

Rev. Lane warned about the threat of money, citing Matthew 6: 24 – “No one can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.” The more one has, the greater the threat. (Matthew 19:22)

Now each of us has a chance to make a promise to God to give back from what God has entrusted to our care,

- Giving of our time
 - Sharing our talents
 - Giving money
- to support God’s mission through St. Martin’s ministry.

“Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things and all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.” (2 Corinthians 9: 6-8)

Please prayerfully complete your Commitment Card when it arrives in the mail and return on Sunday, November 13, 2016.

Interested in Young Adults in Global Missions ('YAGM')?

YAGM participants serve in a variety of fields in one of more than 10 countries, and experience the transformation that comes with one year of international mission service. Service placements vary widely, from congregational and youth ministry to alternative education and health and development projects, volunteers placed according to their individual interests, skills or growth areas.

If Laura Hermanns' talk interested you (10/30), you can find more about YAGM on the ELCA web site [YAGM Information](#).

Upcoming events and volunteer opportunities:

November 20: Gift tags put out for the Giving Tree – First chance for people to pick up the tags so they can pick up the presents (hopefully at great Black Friday sales)

November 23: Ecumenical Thanksgiving service – This year it will be held at St. Martin's

November 27: Decorate the church for the Christmas season – The more hands, the lighter the load

December 3: Annual Holiday Cookie walk sale – Bake your holiday favorites, drop off at the church fellowship hall on Friday from 4:30pm-6pm or Saturday morning at 8am before the sale at 9am. Volunteer to help out by making cookies, helping to set up, package, sell, and clean up.

December 17: Giving tree give away – Help is needed to organize presents and the get them to the families. The families come to the church for the presents.

Everyone, Come, "Deck the Halls"!

All are invited on **Sunday, Nov. 27th** to participate in our annual Advent Intergenerational event, when we will prepare our hearts and minds to anticipate the birth of our Savior. Activities will include:

- Worship at 9 AM; come see the life size 'reverse' Advent Calendar!
- Help trim the Christmas trees in the sanctuary and fellowship hall.
- For the kids, decorate cookies, make an ornament for the tree, make Christmas cards for the needy, and help decorate the sanctuary windows!
- Decorate the narthex, sanctuary, and outdoor bushes with lights and boughs.
- *Stay for a potluck lunch* in the fellowship hall. Sign up to bring something to share!

Bring a friend you have been meaning to invite – this is an informal, fun way to introduce St. Martin's to a newcomer!

Messiah (Dec. 9th)

St. Martin's members will be involved in the only performance of **Messiah** this year with the Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra on **Friday, December 9th**. *Mark your calendars and get your tickets if you are interested as this one typically sells out.*

Update from The Committee: Restoring God's House

We are raising dollars needed to complete the upper parking lot consisting of paint lines and improvements, repairing and painting lines to the bottom parking lot, and paint the church.

The membership voted at the annual meeting in January, and we are responding to your vote to move forward and Restore God's House, our church from the recommendations from the property management committee.

As of 11/09 we have raised \$38,770 in donations/pledges and need an additional \$15,280 to complete our maintenance projects. With everyone's help, we can Restore God's House, our church, with your contribution. Our church is available to local community groups, member activities, funerals and more. We need to provide a safe walking parking lot for all to use. With your help we can make this happen and get the repairs done with the least amount of inconvenience.

The upper and lower parking lots are our avenue to welcoming our congregation and guests. For some, they drop off their Sunday school youth, for others they bring prepared meals for the homeless shelter (year round use), funerals, Boy Scout Troop & Overeaters Anonymous meetings, fellowship gatherings, weddings, confirmation meetings, cookie walk, regular Sunday worship and more. It gets used, and it's not safe.

We need everyone's help to make this happen. We are asking for you to pray on your contribution, make a onetime gift, or a monthly gift over the duration of 2017. We ask that you please reply with your pledge gift amount by December 31, 2016 so the committee and property management team can work on securing bids for spring 2017. Please make checks payable to St. Martin's Restoring Appeal, mail to the church or place in the basket during our Sunday service offering. Your gift qualifies for Federal/State tax deduction and you will receive a receipt.

Thank you for your support of restoring God's House, our church.

It will take everyone in our congregation, joining together to make this effort move forward.

Committee of Restoring God's House

Council Invites Your Input

Starting in September, Church Council welcomes your participation in the first 15 minutes of each Council meeting 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.

Save the Date: Holiday Cookie Sale!

*Saturday, December 3rd
from 9am-11am,
Fellowship Hall.*

Bake your holiday favorites,
drop off at the church
fellowship hall on Friday
(from 4:30pm-6pm) or

Saturday morning at 8am before the sale at 9am. Sign up in the narthex to bake, volunteer day of sale from 9am-11am. *(Pictured is the 2015 sale.)*



Carolers needed during the cookie sale from 9am-10am. Debbie Miller has volunteered to play the piano - *please join us young and old!*

Thank you in advance to everyone that helps to the success of this community outreach / fundraiser for St. Martin's. Gail Johnson

'Cookie Walk Wreath'

Barb Wittler has hand-knitted this gorgeous wreath (pictured) and donated it to the cookie sale fundraiser as a silent auction item.

Bidding will start Sunday, Nov. 6th and end on Sat., Dec. 3rd after the cookie sale.

Watch for wreath display and bidding numbers in the Narthex.



Middleton Outreach Ministry (MOM) Food Pantry Tour

Have you ever wanted to have a tour of the MOM Food Pantry but weren't sure how to arrange it? Well, now is your chance! There will be *free tours on Thursday November 17, 2016 from 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM*. Go to the following web site to register [MOMs tours](http://www.momhelps.org/events/food-pantry-tours/)(www.momhelps.org/events/food-pantry-tours/)

This is a great chance to see one of the busiest food pantries in Dane County. The address of the pantry and the MOM office is 3502 Parmenter St. in Middleton. If you have any questions you can call the MOM office at 836-0799.

Volunteers Needed to Support Our Local Communities

Heights Unlimited Community Service Center will open in Black Earth in January 2017. This Center will distribute food, essentials and clothing to those in need in the Wisconsin Heights School District and surrounding communities. Many volunteer opportunities are available for adults, families and organizations.

Interested? Please attend one of these informational meetings to learn more:

* Monday, Nov. 14, 6:00p at Mazomanie Public Library (102 Brodhead St.)

* Thursday, Nov. 17, 6:30 p.m. at Black Earth branch of the State Bank of Cross Plains (1030 Mills St.)

If you're interested but can't attend one of the meetings, contact Carole Ecker, volunteer coordinator, at 608-767-9367 for more information.

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!

Winter Safety Tips

Yes, winter is coming! Below are some links to videos about things you can do, building, ice safety and driving tips.

The first two videos were produced by Church Mutual Insurance Co. and are geared to churches but lessons can be learned for all! The last video is from AAA. Stay safe, everyone!



Avoiding Frozen Pipes

(www.youtube.com/watch?v=2_8x0GMhUZo)

Preventing Slips and Falls

(www.youtube.com/watch?v=-VQWawY4qc8)

AAA Winter Driving Tips

(youtu.be/m5LkTkW3TDY)

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).

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):

Nov. 13 - 19 2016

Sunday, Nov 13

8:00a -- Choir Rehearsal CR

9:00a -- Sunday Worship

10:15a -- Audit Team L

6:30p -- Choir Practice for Ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve Service

Monday, Nov. 14

6:30p -- Berry Hist. Soc. FH

Tuesday, Nov. 15

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

6:30p -- TLC Meeting L

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

Wednesday, Nov. 16

6:30p -- Confirmation (Small Group Night)

Thursday, Nov. 17 -- Open Schedule

Friday, Nov. 18 -- Open Schedule

Saturday, Nov. 19

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 - Sunday, Nov. 13

Presiding Minister -- Pastor Kirsten Curtis
Accompanist -- Sherri Hansen
Song Leader -- Karen Windels
Greeters -- E. Kay Meier, Kathy Graedel
Lector / Reader -- Jenny Niesen
Communion Assistants -- Mark & Jenny Niesen
Ushers -- Linda Knudtson, Jim Knudtson
Acolytes -- Cole Ferguson
Counting Team -- Team 2 (Marci Bartlett, Donna Blumer)
Altar Guild -- Darlene Schulenburg
AV Team -- Alan Curtis
Coffee / Treats -- Dana Furhman, Elizabeth Collin

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