



Week of Nov 22 - Nov 28 2015

Remember -- Choir Practice, now on Sunday mornings at 8am. (Not on Wed.)

All are welcome!

Care Packages for College Students

If you have a college student, *please submit his or her name and address to the office (om@stmartinscp.org) by Thanksgiving, along with the date they will have this semester's finals.* St. Martin's would like to send a care package to support them as they wrap up the semester.

If you would like to help out with this great ministry opportunity, please bring in items for the care packages: all snack items - cookies/bars, gum, crackers, trail-mix, popcorn, raisins, licorice or other candy, etc.

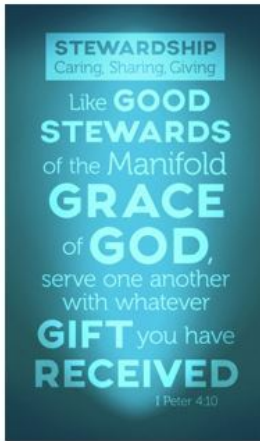
Have items to church by Tuesday, December 1st. Home-baked goods are great, too! Just bake your treats on Tues or Wed and drop them off on the *day of packaging – Wed. December 2.*

Join the Confirmation students in the fun of putting the care packages together on Wednesday evening, December 2, starting at 6:30 P.M.

Please let Pastor Kirsten know if you are able to help assemble the care packages.

Pledge cards still being accepted

Did you overlook turning in your pledge card? If so, please put yours in the narthex mail box. Thank you!



Name: _____ (optional)

"Steward's ship" was launched. Jump on board & join the crew!

To show I care.

I want to share.

and give this way to get us there.

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

Time: _____ (All hands on deck!)

Talents: _____ (Grab an oar and pitch in!)

Money: \$ _____ (Keep the boat afloat.) *General Giving.*
Per Week / Month / Year (circle one)

No High School Youth Group on Sundays ...

High School Youth Group will NOT meet Sunday nights.

We will be taking a break for awhile. During this time, we will evaluate current youth programming and plan for the future.

If you would like to be a part of this important process, contact Pastor Kirsten. Thank you!

Let's study the Bible!

When? Nov. 22nd

Where? Library

What Time? 10:45, after worship and coffee fellowship

Why? *To encounter God through the living Word and grow in our faith together.*

Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service - Wed. Nov 25 at 7:30pm

Please join the Congregations of St. Martin's Lutheran and St. Francis Xavier on Wednesday, Nov 25th (7:30pm) -

Sharing faith and friendship together for over 30 years!

This year's service will be held *at St. Francis Xavier Church.*

Non-perishable food items and donations will be collected. Donations will benefit the Christians in Action Community Food Pantry in Mazomanie. Fellowship, refreshments and treats to follow the service.

Calling all (holiday!) Bakers!!

The Annual **Holiday Cookie Walk Sale** is fast approaching -- *Saturday, Dec 5th, 9am-11am.*

The success of the sale is having your home baked holiday favorites available to sell.

Please drop your cookies off on Friday, Dec. 4th (fellowship kitchen) from 4:30pm-6pm or 8am on the morning before the sale starts.



Please mark containers with or without nuts.

Your contributions are greatly appreciated!

Questions or to volunteer contact Gail Johnson at 575-0170.

Promoting racial equality

Interested in finding out more about how to promote racial equality? Do you want to live out your baptismal promises of caring for others and working for justice and peace?

I am looking for a group of 10-15 people to commit to a year-long journey, studying a resource that the ELCA has published called "*Troubling the Waters for Healing of the Church.*" It is defined as a journey for white Christians from privilege to partnership.

If this sounds interesting to you, and you would like to sign up or find out more, please contact Pastor Kirsten.

The **start date for the group is November 29**, the first Sunday of Advent. I look forward to this journey with you.

Christmas Cards Please ...

The holidays can be especially depressing for the men and women in Madison jails. With the exception of a small scoop of ice cream for dessert, Christmas will go unnoticed. It will be the same as every other day in jail.

A simple card with a hand written note will bring a smile and a bit of joy to someone's day. Many of the men and women keep them all year long reflecting on them regularly.

Please place your cards in the box on the Giving Tree Table. (Sign with your first name only, stickers can be used to decorate envelopes, no beads, paper clips, ribbons, etc.)

Church Decoration - Nov 29th (after service) with Potluck to follow

All are invited on *Sunday, November 29th* 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 living advent calendar!

Help trim our new Christmas trees in the Sanctuary, and Fellowship Hall tree.

For the kids, decorate cookies, make an ornament for the tree and paint the 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!

Giving Tree

Giving Tree Families / Individuals now being accepted through Sunday 12/6. If you or someone you know needs a little extra help this Christmas, please contact Maureen at 798-4820.

Volunteers Needed for Giving Tree. Lots of opportunities are available - shoppers, gift sorters, gift wrappers, Christmas Closet organizers, Greeters to welcome families pick up gifts on 12/19, tear down, etc. Please sign up on the GT clipboard.

Ornaments have been requested by a Giving Tree family. Please consider donating one and make Family A's Christmas tree truly beautiful. Place your offering in the basket on the GT table.

Gently used clothing, shoes, bedding, towels, kitchen goods, toys and children's books are needed. Please bring your items to the large classroom in the lower level marked Christmas Closet.

October 2015 Financial Snapshot for Saint Martin's Lutheran Church

Service Receipts: (the negative number below means we are behind budget, which is not good)

Year-to-date offering receipts = \$211,337.00

Budget YTD offering receipts = \$235,970.00

(\$ 24,633.00)

Total Income (not including Donor Challenge receipts): (again, the negative number below is not good)

Year-to-date Income = \$241,499.31

Budget YTD Income = \$260,090.00

(\$ 18,590.69)

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

Year-to-date expenses = \$244,086.77

Budget YTD expenses = \$260,150.00

(\$ 16,063.23)

Our monthly service receipts increased in October, as compared to September. However, we are currently \$24,633.00 behind budget in our offerings for the year. Fortunately, our expenses through October have continued to be below budget.

The date to turn in your commitment cards for stewardship was 11/18, but you may still turn them in if you have not done so. We would like to get 100% of the cards returned this year.. Thanks and praise to God!

Upcoming Opportunities for Involvement at St. Martin's

Consider being involved in these activities at St. Martins --

November 22: Wishes for the Giving Tree will be available for pickup

November 25: (Wed.) Combined Thanksgiving service at St. Francis (7:30pm)

November 29: (Sunday, after church) Church Christmas season decorating. *Potluck to Follow!*

December 3: Assemble 'care packages' for college students

December 5: Holiday Cookie Walk Sale (*cookies needed!*)

December 13: Caroling

December 16: Serve at the homeless shelter

'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

-- 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

Office will be closed Thanksgiving (11/26) and the Friday after (11/27)

Church Calendar for Nov 22 - Nov 28 2015

Sunday, Nov 22

8:00a - Choir Practice

9:00a - Sunday Worship / Sunday School

10:45a - Bible Study L

Monday, Nov 23 -- Open Schedule

Tuesday, Nov 24

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

6:30p - Council Meeting L

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

Wednesday, Nov 25

7:30pm -- Ecumenical Thanksgiving service at St. Francis Xavier Church

Thursday, Nov 26 -- Happy Thanksgiving! (Office Closed)

Friday, Nov 27 — Office Closed

Saturday, Nov 28

9:00 - 10 am Overeaters Anonymous LL

Remember — CHOIR PRACTICE is now on Sunday Mornings (8am). All are welcome!

FUTURE EVENTS to mark on calendar:

Sunday, Nov 29th -- ***Church Decorating after worship service (potluck to follow!)***

Saturday, Dec 5th — ***Cookie Walk***, 9am-11am (*cookies needed!*)

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 11.22.2015

Worship participants for this week are listed below. Thank you!

Presiding Minister -- Pastor Kirsten Curtis

Accompanist -- Eileen Porter

Song Leader -- Jason Niebuhr

Greeters -- Patty & Steve Hillebrand

Lector / Reader -- Sandy Salvo

Communion Assistants -- Ron & Deb Goplin

Ushers -- Susan Nelson, Amy Wildman

Acolyte -- Nick Hinz, Thomas Kurr

Counting Team -- Team 1 (Jenny Niesen, Darlene Schulenberg, Gale Kooistra)

Altar Guild -- Kim Mahaffey

Altar Flowers -- Karen & Bill Windels

AV Team -- Phil Fish, Bill Windels

Coffee & Treats — Jeannie Hering-Schumann, Judy Valaskey, Carmen Fowell

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