



Week of Nov. 27 - Dec. 3 2016

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

Commitment Cards

Please consider if you have not yet turned in your commitment card. *Thank you to all who have!*

Copies of the form can be found at the church.



Name: _____

Remember this saying, "A few seeds make a small harvest, but a lot of seeds make a big harvest." (2 Corinthians 9:6)

To care for those in faraway lands (Young Adults in Global Mission)

To share with neighbors near and far (Sainthood of all believers)

To give for the future –God's mission (God's kingdom draws near)

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

Time: _____

Talents: _____

Money: \$ _____ General Fund Per Week / Month / Yr.

Upcoming events and volunteer opportunities:

November 27: *Decorate the church for the Christmas season* – The more hands, the lighter the load (see more information, below)

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 then get them to the families. The families come to the church for the presents.

Church Leaders From Four Denominations Prepare A Series of Advent Devotions

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), and leaders from The Episcopal Church, the Anglican Church of Canada, and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada have prepared a series of Advent devotions for members of the four denominations.

“Over fifteen years ago, our churches’ respective full communion agreements inaugurated new relationships in which we fully recognized each other ‘as churches in which the gospel is truly preached and the holy sacraments duly administered,’” the bishops wrote in a joint cover letter.

“May our prayers united be a modest but hopeful sign of what our churches can do together as we bear witness to the One who first reconciled himself to us.” In addition to Eaton, devotions were contributed by the Most Rev. Michael B. Curry, presiding bishop and primate, The Episcopal Church; the Most Rev. Fred Hiltz, primate, Anglican Church of Canada; and the Rev. Susan C. Johnson, national bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada.

The Advent devotions are available at: [Advent Devotions](#)

[download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/2016_Advent_devotions_all.pdf?_ga=1.204465683.282221521.1475871637]

Time to Order Poinsettias!

Christmas is coming and it is time to order your poinsettias for the holidays!
Red or white, cost is \$12.50 per plant ordered.

Look for order forms at church. Orders are due by Sunday, Dec 11th.

Thank you!

2017 Giving Envelopes

With the end of 2016 approaching, now is a good time to determine if you wish to change the type of Giving Envelope you are using. We have Weekly and Monthly envelopes. Direct Deposit is also available and forms are on the wall in the Narthex. (Direct Deposit users do not receive envelopes.) We also have the option of PayPal - you do not need to have a PayPal account to donate.

If you would like to change the type of envelope you are receiving, please contact Lois at bookkeeping@stmartinscp.org or leave a note in her mail slot in the work room. If you are not receiving envelopes, but would like a set, please let Lois know if you prefer weekly or monthly ones. Please get your requests in by **Monday, December 5**.

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.*

Save the Date: Holiday Cookie Sale!

**Saturday, Dec. 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.



Christmas Caroling!

Join us on **Sunday, Dec. 18th (from 5:30 to 7p)** for Christmas Caroling!

All are welcome! Individuals, families, children - the more the merrier! Join the fun! We will visit and carol for local home-bound, elderly and nursing homes. Sheet music will be provided.



Please meet at St. Martin's at carpool at 5:30pm. See you then!

A Unique Partnership with “Heights Unlimited” and St. Martin’s “Reverse Advent Calendar”

In November Church Council members approved St. Martin’s involvement with Heights Unlimited, a new community service center in Black Earth scheduled to open in January, 2017. The primary focus of Heights Unlimited is to provide basic necessities for individuals and families in Black Earth, Mazomanie and the surrounding areas, while working to bring people to self-sufficiency. The center will be open once weekly and one Saturday each month. There are many ways our congregation can support this new, vital ministry including food donations, providing volunteers to work at the center, the writing of grants, and monetary donations, to name a few.

This December St. Martin’s will begin our partnership with “Heights Unlimited” by donating the food that is collected during our Advent emphasis featuring the “Reverse Advent Calendar”. What’s that you say? Typically, Advent calendars mark the 25-day journey from Dec. 1st through Dec. 25th. Often we receive a piece of chocolate or scripture reading as the daily “doors” of the Advent calendar are opened. With the “reverse” concept, we do not receive anything, but actually give back something to the calendar. You will experience this each Sunday during Advent, when our congregation’s food donations are placed into St. Martin’s life-size Advent calendar as each ‘door’ is opened. You can help make St. Martin’s calendar come to life, by bringing in non-perishable food items (typically those that are also needed for MOM). Please place your food items in the baskets provided in the narthex marked “Reverse Advent Calendar Donations”. Come, join in the fun as our congregation begins our partnership with “Heights Unlimited”.

Make a Reverse Advent Calendar With Your Family

Have some fun by making your own family “Reverse Advent Calendar”. Just follow the link below or pick up a handout in the narthex that provides all the instructions required. Decide as a family where you would like to donate your food items. You’ll be glad you did! [Reverse Advent Calendar](http://30dayadventures.ca/create-a-reverse-advent-calendar-that-gives-back/) [http://30dayadventures.ca/create-a-reverse-advent-calendar-that-gives-back/]



**South-Central Synod of Wisconsin
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**
God's work. Our hands.

Brothers and sisters, grace to you and peace in our Lord Jesus Christ!

The recent presidential election has revealed deep divisions among the people of the United States, but none has been more bitter and painful than the conflict over immigration. The incoming president has challenged all efforts to make the path to legal residence easier for those who have come to this country without documentation. The evil spirit of racism is more visible than it has been for a long time. The threat of deportation may now increase. This targets immigrants from every place, but falls especially hard on those from Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central and South America.

Our congregations include many people who may feel frightened or worried by these developments, people who are undocumented or have family members or friends who are. To all these people I want say that I, as your bishop, continue to support you and your families in your desire to live in this country in peace, safety, and happiness. Our church supports you, too; the ELCA has often called for compassionate immigration reform and an end to deportations. The election results do not change this; we still stand in solidarity with you.

I call on our pastors and congregations, to renew and reassert our church's ongoing welcome to all, regardless of legal status. Together we are the Body of Christ, and no earthly citizenship or immigration status has any meaning within the communion of the baptized. Our congregations should continue to be places of safety and refuge; places where immigrants of every kind feel their hopes are supported, their privacy respected, and their families cherished.

I also call on all those pastors and laypeople who feel safe to do so, to join together with me in public activism and protest to resist deportations, to promote compassionate immigration reform, and to fight racism. I call on our Anglo allies and the whole church to stand with us. Please stay involved; please help me find the best ways to help us all take a stand together.

We know that as Christians, it is our duty to pray for the governing authorities: let us pray for them to show compassion for the burdened and bring justice for the oppressed. And let us love one another, as Christ has loved us.

God's Peace,

Mary Froiland, Bishop

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!

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

Church Council welcomes your participation in the first 15 minutes of each Council meeting (third Monday of month) 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.

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. 27 - Dec. 3 2016

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Sunday, Nov 27

8:00a -- Choir Rehearsal CR

9:00a -- Sunday Worship

10:15a -- Church Decorating & Potluck! *Today!*

Monday, Nov. 28 -- Open Schedule

Tuesday, Nov. 29

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

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

Wednesday, Nov. 30

6:30p -- Confirmation (Missions Service Project—Cookies!)

Thursday, Dec. 1

6:30p-- Worship Planning Team

Friday, Dec. 2

4:30p-6p -- Cookie Sale setup FH

Saturday, Dec. 3

9:00a—11:00a Cookie Sale FH

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. 27

Presiding Minister -- Pastor Kirsten Curtis

Preaching Minister -- Pastor Dan Odden

Accompanist -- Sherri Hansen

Song Leader -- Karen Windels

Special Music -- Jason Niebuhr, Sherri Hansen

Greeters -- Van & Judy Valasky

Lector / Reader -- Lee Swanson

Communion Assistants -- Bill & Karen Windels

Ushers -- Kay Meier, Susan Nelson

Acolytes -- Jenna Rogers

Counting Team -- Team 5 (Brian Graedel, Kevin Boehnen)

Altar Guild -- Deb Wipperfurth

AV Team -- Phil Fish, Bill Windels

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