



Week of Nov. 19-25 2017

Thanksgiving Day is our nation's food-and-family festival, and Christians add to the rituals of this holiday a time to thank God for all that we have received. Join us at worship, before you "eat your fill," and "bless the Lord for the good land" in which we live.

Grief Support Seminar

When you are grieving a loved one's loss, the holiday season can be especially painful. Join us for an encouraging seminar 'Surviving the Holidays', **Saturday, Nov. 18 (10 a.m. - Noon) at St. Luke's Lutheran Church, 7337 Hubbard Ave., Middleton.** There is a \$5 fee. For more information, contact Maureen at 798-4820, msberghoefer@tds.net.

Service Receipts -- Comparison

Below is a chart that represents the Church Service Receipts (monthly giving) for 2017 compared to 2016.

You can see that the receipts are down significantly. This year we also experienced large expenditures that were not anticipated like the \$5,000 insurance deductible for the hail damage, elevator repairs, replacing the water softener, and repairs to the alarm system. We've also had some expenses that didn't materialize as expected but because the receipts are lower, we will likely be going into our line-of-credit before year's end.

If you'd like more information, please contact me at esser5@yahoo.com and I will do my best to answer any questions. Thank you, Gordie Esser, Treasurer.

	2017	2016
Jan	23,112.00	20,240.25
Feb	18,697.00	16,000.00
March	14,733.55	22,921.00
April	16,962.00	20,853.00
May	17,351.44	15,084.25
June	11,072.00	15,338.00
July	13,902.00	17,660.00
August	15,734.56	12,554.00
Sept	11,500.86	14,833.00
Oct	16,315.15	27,989.42



Annual Holiday Cookie Sale - Dec. 2nd!

Mark your calendar! The annual cookie sale will be **Sat., Dec. 2 (from 9am-11am)** in the Fellowship Hall. *All are welcome!*

Please consider baking a few dozen of your favorite holiday cookies. Drop-off is Friday, Dec. 1 in the lower level kitchen (from 4:30pm-6:30pm) or Saturday morning (by 8:45am).

Cookies are needed, and appreciated!

Thank you!

(Have a question? Can you help with setup, sales, cleanup? Please contact Gail Johnson -- gailjmadwi@gmail.com)

THANK YOU!

We would like to report to our church family that the week-end backpack program (Feed Our Children) is going extremely well. The social worker from Park School is very pleased. We would like to THANK all of you for the tremendous outpouring of support. Currently we have enough food donated to get us to Winter break and our storage area is overflowing. We would also like to thank all the volunteers for their help packing and our buyers for their time in getting the fresh fruits and veggies weekly. *God Bless all of you!* Debbie and Doris

Looking ahead ...

As we near the end of the year, I'll be preparing the Giving Envelopes. We offer a choice of Weekly or Monthly. In addition, we also offer Direct Deposit through Vanco Solutions and we also offer PayPal for another option. You do not need a PayPal account, just find the link on our website and it will take you to the church's account.

If you are interested in Direct Deposit, we have forms in the Narthex that can be completed. A three-day time period is needed to process an account. Some of you may be assigned a different number this year as we have reduced the number of boxes ordered. If you wish to switch from weekly to month or vice versa, please leave me a note in my mail slot or email me at LoisWeiland@gmail.com. If you sign up for direct deposit or PayPal, no boxes will be issued.

Lastly, for those of you on Direct Deposit with Vanco, please let me know if you wish to change your amount of giving or change the schedule.

-- Lois Weiland, Bookkeeper (608) 220-3123 LoisWeiland@gmail.com

Pledge Cards

If you still have your pledge card please turn it in to Lois (put in her mail slot in copy/work room next to office) or give to an usher who can turn it in. If you need a card they are available in the narthex. *Thank you!*

Know a family for the Giving Tree?

Seeking Families and Individuals in the Cross Plains area who would benefit from being adopted by the Giving Tree. Deadline to receive names is Dec. 1st. Please share contact information with Maureen (798-4820 or msberghoefer@tds.net).

Giving Tree Volunteers Needed

Please sign up at the table in the narthex if you can help with preparing ornaments, setting up the tree, shopping, sorting and wrapping gifts, meeting & greeting the families picking up gifts, or if you can join the team who organize the Christmas closet.

Christmas Closet Is Back!

The Christmas Closet returns to St Martin's this year. Please bring your gently used items that are in good condition to the table in the narthex. *Thank you!*

Legacy Endowment Match Challenge - Deadline Dec 1st

We are almost there! We are at \$8,500 towards the matching Legacy Endowment Fund Challenge of \$10,000. *Great job St. Martin's!*

Please consider any of your over and above giving for 2017 to help bring this challenge to the finish line. Please put "LEF Challenge" in the memo of the check and have to St. Martin's by December 1st.

Thank you—Your LEF Board

Become a 'Founding Member'

From now through Dec. 1 is a good time to become a "Founding Member" for St. Martins Legacy Endowment Fund. Contribute \$2500 or more before Dec. 1 and you will be a "Founding Member." (See the requirements below.) During the "Challenge Drive" ending Dec. 1, 2017 (see information, above), individuals contributing \$2,500 qualify, as their \$2,500 is matched totaling \$5,000. Founding members and all members will be recognized on a plaque in the Narthex. We also have some other ideas to visually identify the many who become members unless people choose to be anonymous. Putting the fund in your estate plan is a traditional way to contribute to an endowment fund; however, contributing during your lifetime will give you the satisfaction of seeing your money being put to work to spread the Word of God and/or help needy members within and beyond our church wall.

The Living Vine Legacy Membership Defined

Founding Members of St. Martins Legacy Endowment Fund:

- are required to give a current gift/s of \$5,000 or more to the Fund
- must contribute \$5,000 before the first \$100,000 is collected for the Fund

Members of St. Martins Legacy Endowment Fund:

- may give a current gift or asset of any amount to the Fund
- or notify the Fund's Board of Directors that they have completed the paperwork to include the Fund in their estate plan

Fund member/s will be recognized in name only in Church Communications and on a name plaque in the narthex, unless the donor requests to be anonymous.

Thank you!

St. Martins Lutheran Church - Legacy Endowment Fund

Church Council -- Position Openings

There will be *two Congregational Council position openings* to be filled this coming year. Ron Goplin and Kyla Schoenwetter will be stepping down from Council this year, after having served

their terms.

For interested congregation members who would like to be considered for a position on Council, please reach out to one of the three Council Nomination committee members, in person or by phone: Maureen Berghoefer (608)-347-9504, Joyce Richardson (608)-413-0204 or Matt Wildman (608) 798-1882.

Rotation Workshop Sunday School

Many thanks to the teachers and shepherds that have stepped up for our first rotation.

A teacher/shepherd sign-up sheet can be found in the Narthex near the Sunday School bulletin board. No experience is needed to teach or shepherd, and any assistance is greatly appreciated! All questions can be directed to any member of the Youth and Family Ministry Team, or call Karen Windels 798-5031.

Feed Our Children

Please sign up at the table in the Narthex if you can help with shopping or packing the week-end snack backpack program for Park Elementary kids. A rotational schedule will be prepared to include all volunteers and make the work load light.

Food Donations for the month of Oct and Nov will focus on the Feed Our Children Program. Please bring your offering to the Mission Table in the narthex. Suggested items are: instant oatmeal packets, single serving cereal boxes, granola bars, single serving fruit cups, fruit squeezes, small cans of soup, chicken/tuna, mac & cheese boxes, ramen noodle packets, Spaghetti O's with meat, noodle mixes (Rice a Roni, Knor, etc), crackers packaged in sleeves, peanut butter or Nutella (single servings or 8-12 oz plastic jar), individual packets of pretzels, peanuts, cookies, Goldfish crackers, etc, individual servings of hot chocolate.



Choir Director Needed

The Worship Planning Team (WPT) is seeking a volunteer choir director for the senior choir. We're looking for someone to lead rehearsals at 8:00am on Sundays and be present to lead us in our

9:00am Sunday services as well as special occasions (e.g., Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday).

Ideally, this person can join us at WPT meetings (1st Thursday each month), or we can coordinate and plan through other means as needed. We can provide music selection or coordinate with the director in any way that is helpful.

We are a welcoming choir and hope to find a leader who loves music, singing, and praising God as much as we do. We also have some promises of back-up leaders (with advance notice), so the new director will be supported with regard to their schedule.

This could be a rewarding opportunity for any musician (active or retired) or for a music student at the university or high school level. If you, or someone you know, might be interested in directing our choir, please contact any member of the Worship Planning Team: Pastor Kirsten, Debbie or Jeff Miller, Jan Doyle, Sherri Hansen, Karen Windels, Deb Goplin.

Birthday & Anniversary Announcements

Do you (or someone you know) have a birthday coming up? Anniversary? Let the office know by sending a note (om@stmartinscp.org) with dates and names. (For birthdays, we only need date ... birth year, age, not needed *unless you want to provide it!*) *Please let the office know of any corrections needed.*

Nov. Birthdays

11/18 - Jacqui Swanson, Patty Harper, Dan Trappe

11/19 - Shawn McCue

11/21 - Rebecca Brunner, Valerie Niesen

11/26 - Robert Shields

11/28 - Jasmine Green

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. Council meets on the third Monday of each month at 6:30 PM in the church library. Contact any member at the following numbers: Pastor Curtis (798-2777), Mark Richardson (413-0204), Gordie Esser (438-4176), Matt Wildman (798-1882), Kyla Schoenwetter (434-4950), Jenny Niesen (798-2132) or Ron Goplin (798-2518).



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).

Want to submit something for the bulletin or Weekly Bread?

If yes, please send it to the office (om@smartinscp.org) by 2pm the Wednesday before publication for consideration. Thank you!

Church Calendar

Wondering about meetings at the church (when, where), if a room is available, etc.? Check out 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.

Suicide Prevention

Need to talk to someone, or know someone who needs to talk to someone?

Dane County Suicide Crisis Line: (608) 280-2600

National Suicide Prevention Line:

1-800-273-TALK (8255)

1-800-SUICIDE (784-2433)

For Veterans Press 1, En Español Oprima El 2

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@smartinscp.org

-- Pastor Kirsten: PastorKirsten@smartinscp.org

-- Church Property Management Team (building & grounds maintenance requests / issues):
Property@stmartinscp.org

CHURCH CALENDAR

Also available on the church web site (www.stmartinscp.org)

Nov 19 - 25 2017

Sunday, Nov. 19

9:00a - Sunday Worship

Monday, Nov. 20

6:30p - Church Council L

Tuesday, Nov. 21

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

7:00p - Boy Scout Troop 87 LL / FH

Wednesday, NOV. 22

7:30p - Thanksgiving Eve Service at St. Francis (No Confirmation Class)

Thursday, Nov. 23 -- Office Closed. (Happy Thanksgiving!)

Friday, Nov. 24 -- Office Closed

Saturday, Nov. 25

8:45a - 10a Overeaters Anonymous LL

L—Library; FH—Fellowship Hall; S—Sanctuary; YR—Youth Room; LL—Lower Level Classroom

Planning ahead?

Saturday, Dec. 2 - Holiday Cookie Sale (9a - 11a)

Sunday, Dec. 24th - Children's Christmas Program (9am)

Sunday, Dec. 24th - Candlelight Service (7pm)

Monday, Dec. 25th - Christmas Day Service (9am)

Worship Participants - Sunday, Nov. 19, 2017

Presiding Guest Minister—Rev. Marsha Swenson

Accompanist -- Sherri Hanson

Song Leader -- Jason Niebuhr

Special Music — Brian Graedel, Ed Neumueller

Greeters -- Bob & Redgy Nelson

Lector / Reader / Communion Assistant-- Maureen Berghoefer

Communion Assistants -- Mark Niesen, Kathy Graedel

Ushers -- Jacqui & Lee Swanson

Acolytes -- Joelle Jackson, Dylan Klock

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

Altar Guild -- Deb Goplin

AV Team -- Jeff Postle

Coffee/Treats — Karen Seibel, Linda Sebree

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