



Week of October 25 - October 31 2015

*Remember to wear **RED** this Sunday, October 25, as we celebrate Reformation Sunday!*

Interested in Joining St. Martin's?

Are you, or someone you know, interested in "formally" joining the St. Martin's Lutheran Church family?

Come to a meeting on **Sunday, October 25**, following worship and coffee fellowship. **Beginning at 10:30am**, we will talk about becoming a member of St. Martin's, the opportunities to be involved in the community, specifically as it relates to serving God and one another.

It will be a time to ask questions and find out more about faith formation experiences as members of St. Martin's. Hope you can join us!

New Member Sunday - Nov. 1

Next Sunday, November 1, we will be receiving "New Members." If you or someone you know would like to "formally" join St. Martin's, please let Chuck know in the office, at 798-2777 or om@stmartinlutheran.org, so we can plan accordingly.

Plan on attending worship and coffee fellowship time to welcome our newest members.

Planning meeting for Summer 2016 Youth Mission Trip

8th Graders and High School Families!

After church **THIS Sunday** (October 25) we are having our first planning meeting for the mission trip we'll go on, Summer of 2016.

Stick around for fellowship hour, and then we'll head down to the youth room to begin planning this wonderful faith formation experience.

Lutheran Men in Mission 'One Year to Live' Retreat

Each year, the Lutheran Men in Mission gather in retreat at the MacKenzie Center in Poynette, Wisconsin for this *spiritual boot camp*. This 45-hour experience is not for the faint of heart! You will be adventurous and courageous, genuine and spiritual and you will be banded together to examine your life and make decisions.

DATE: November 6 – 8, 2015

LOCATION: MacKenzie Center, Poynette

Powerful testimonials include: *"Wow, I had no idea how powerful this retreat was and still is in my life. I have found true brothers and developed friendships that have just grown richer over time."*

For more information and to register, visit: www.lutheranmen.org

You can also call or text Randy Dahlinger at (608) 219-1579 or email him at highlander6022@gmail.com



Fall Book Club book – 'Just Mercy, a Story of Justice and Redemption'

This fall, the Book Club will be reading *Just Mercy*, a *Story of Justice and Redemption*, written by Bryan Stephenson.

One description of this moving story - "*Just Mercy is at once an unforgettable account of an idealistic, gifted young lawyer's coming of age, a moving window into the lives of those he has defended, and an inspiring argument for compassion in the pursuit of true justice.*"

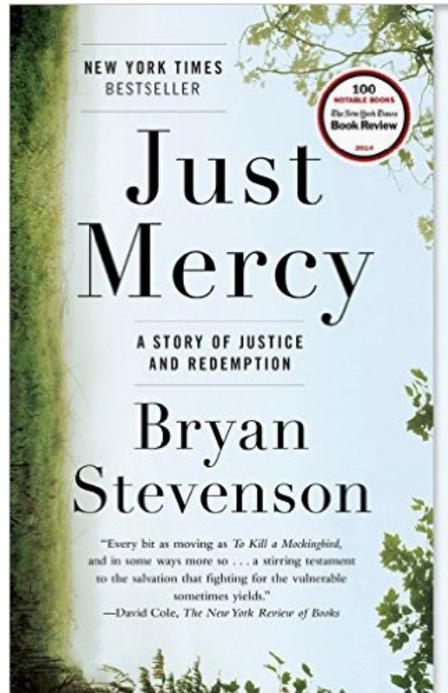
Pick up a copy of your own and begin reading. Then join the discussion nights:

**Tuesday, October 27 (3/4 Classroom) &
Tuesday, November 17 (library)
Start at 6:30 P.M.**

Attend one or both of the discussion nights.

This is also the UW – Madison “Go Big Read” book, so there are a number of opportunities to discuss the book with people outside our community, in the Madison and surrounding areas.

Check out the schedule of events at <https://today.wisc.edu/events/tag/Go%20Big%20Read> and read more at <http://news.wisc.edu/24000> .



Trick-or-Treating for the Hungry!

On Wednesday, Oct. 28, our Confirmation Students will be participating in a service project, *collecting non-perishable food items door-to-door in our community for the food pantry.*

Collection will take place from 5:30-7:30 that night (Wed., Oct 28th).



If we miss your place, please drop off your items at the church.

Sorting help needed! Not going out to collect, but looking for a way to participate? Come to church to help sort the food they come back with! Meet at church at about 6:30pm (estimated time we would start needing help to sort) ... in your best costume, of course!

Please share this information with friends and neighbors to make sure we have a great response!

Questions? Please contact Cassie, St Martin's Youth Director, at youth@smartinscp.org or 798-2777.

Let's study the Bible!

When? November 1, 8, 15 & 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.*

CONFIRMATION STUDENTS – MARK YOUR CALENDARS! Wed, Nov. 4, 2015

On Wednesday, November 4th we will be joining 1,000 other middle schoolers in our area for worship!



The schedule looks like this:

Date: Wed., Nov. 4, 2015

Location: Alliant Energy Center, Madison

5:15p - Leave St. Martin's (carpool to event)

5:30p – 6:00 Registration / Check-in (returning around 8:30.)

6:00 – 8:15 Lively Worship and Conversation with Bishop Mary and Conversations with Missional Leaders

8:30p - Return

Pizza and beverages will be served.

In-kind offering for TEP: Bring Toothpaste, toothbrushes, feminine hygiene items, and trial size hygiene items especially body wash, soap, lotion, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant.

We hope to see you there!

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.

Financial Snapshot ...

September 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 = \$194,646.30

Budget YTD offering receipts = \$212,373.00
(\$ 17,726.70)

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

Year-to-date Income = \$224,219.20

Budget YTD Income = \$234,081.00
(\$ 9,861.80)

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

Year-to-date expenses = \$211,532.25

Budget YTD expenses = \$234,135.00
(\$ 22,602.75)

Our monthly service receipts continued to decline in September. We are currently \$17,726.70 behind budget in our offerings. This deficit has almost doubled since last month. Fortunately, our expenses through September continue to be managed well and we are still below our budgeted amount.

As the school year starts up, there are always additional expenses for families to handle, and we understand this. However, if this downward trend in offerings continues, we will need to borrow money in order to pay our bills.

Our stewardship program is in full swing, and we ask that you prayerfully consider how you can respond to God and St. Martin's with what God has blessed you with. Thanks and praise to God!

I can do that!!

Give a breathing offering to God – yourself! Volunteer to participate in worship. Be open to where God is calling you to serve as a worship leader. Allow for the Holy Spirit to guide you. Help St. Martin's practice in worship being "the priesthood of all believers."

Here are some suggestions, but feel free to create your own:

- Assist with serving communion
- Read the Bible lessons for Sunday
- Act as a greeter, welcoming others to church
- Provide special music
- Be a song leader for the congregation
- Serve as an usher
- Donate flowers for worship
- Connect with others during coffee fellowship
- Welcome all you encounter

Upcoming Opportunities for Involvement at St. Martin's

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

October 28: Trick-or-treat for the hungry by the confirmation students

November 12: Cross Plains business fair (at St. Francis). We will have a table there.

November 15: Commitment Sunday

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

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

November 28: (Sat.) Church Christmas season decorating

December 5: Holiday Cookie Walk Sale

December 13: Caroling

December 16: Serve at the homeless shelter

Also, put together food packages for finals week on campus.

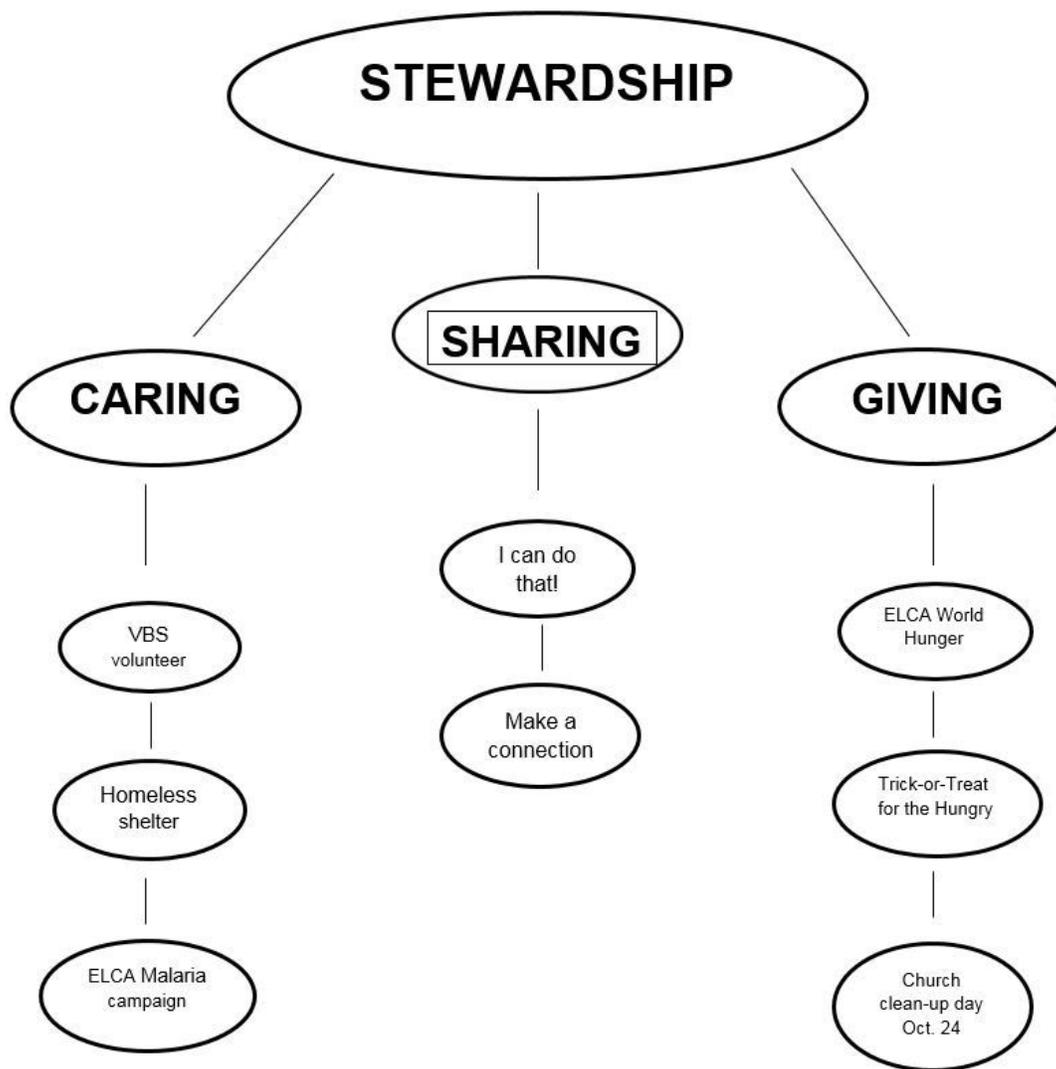
STEWARDSHIP = Caring + Sharing + Giving

October's Stewardship theme is "giving." The Stewardship Team offers three challenges to "give" this month.

First, Sunday, Oct. 18, we are lifting up ELCA World Hunger - "give" your support to this important ministry either through prayers or a financial contribution.

Second, we are hosting a fall clean-up day at the church on Saturday, October 24, starting at 9:00 A.M. - "give" your time and energy to beautify our building and grounds.

Third, we challenge you to "give" towards ending hunger in our community by contributing non-perishable food items when Confirmation kids Trick-or-Treat for the Hungry on Wednesday, October 28. Together - we can "give" of ourselves, our time, or our money to share God's love with others and help further God's mission in the world.



'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

-- Youth Director: Youth@stmartinscp.org

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

Church Calendar for Oct 25 - Oct. 31 2015

Sunday, Oct 25

9:00a - Sunday Worship / Sunday School

After Fellowship —2016 Youth Mission Trip Planning (Youth Room)

Monday, Oct 26 -- Open Schedule

Tuesday, Oct 27

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

6:30p - Book Club 3/4 Classroom

6:30p - Legacy Committee L

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

Wednesday, Oct 28

5:30p Confirmation—Trick or Treat for the Hungry (note time)

7:00p Choir Practice MR

Thursday, Oct. 29

Finance Team L

Friday, Oct. 30 — Open Schedule

Saturday, Oct.31

9:00 am -- LUAD L

9:00 - 10 am 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

Worship Participants 10.25.2015

Worship participants for this week are listed below. Please contact a substitute if you are not available. Thank you!

Presiding Minister -- Pastor Kirsten Curtis

Accompanist -- Debbie Miller

Song Leader -- Jason Niebuhr

Greeters -- Bruce & Sandy Salvo

Lector / Reader -- Steve Schunk

Communion Assistants -- Jenna Rogers, Casey Peterson, Bev Brunner

Ushers -- Ralph & Darlene Schulenberg

Acolyte -- Valerie Niesen, Ryan Roenneburg

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

Altar Guild -- Deb Goplin

Altar Flowers -- (open)

AV Team -- Phil Fish, Bill Windels

Coffee & Treats -- Karen Seibel, Lori Madigan, Barb Wittler

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