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## ***Week of Oct. 8-14 2017***

One definition of a parable is “an earthly story with a heavenly meaning.” The gospel for this coming Sunday is a parable about a vineyard, but we understand that the story is really about the call to accept and honor Christ as our master. Come on Sunday to worship Christ, the Son of God, the cornerstone who secures our lives.

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## ***PLEASE - No through traffic in parking lot***

For safety reasons ('The Little Red Preschool' using lower level rooms, children in area, etc.), please do *NOT* use the parking lot for through traffic. *Thank you!*

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## ***Lower Parking Lot Re-Surfacing Update***

*Latest information from paving company is that **work should start Oct. 9th or 10th** (Monday or Tuesday).*

- Lower lot will be completely closed during work – no parking and no access to building through lower level doors. (Drive from upper lot will be blocked off.)
  - Access to lower level of church building will be through main doors (upper level), then stairs or elevator down until work is completed.
  - Lower level doors should not be used to exit building unless there is an emergency. (Signs will be posted.)
  - Work is expected to take 3-5 days, depending on weather.
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## Homeless Shelter Meal Serving — LAST TIME!

The last time serving at the Madison Men's homeless shelter is this coming *Thurs., Oct. 12th*. Please check the signup sheet in the Narthex.

*Thank you to everyone who has helped over the years!*

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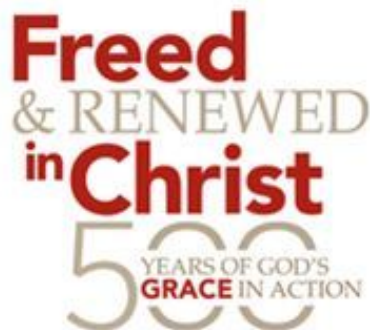
## Sabbatical Information Meeting (this coming Sunday)

In an effort to look to the future, Council is beginning to make some visionary, long-term plans to prepare for a sabbatical for Pastor Kirsten during her 7th year with our congregation in 2021. As we begin these preliminary plans, there may be many questions.

*Please join us this **Sunday, October 8th, after our 9:00 service** as we welcome Ginny Nelson to give a brief presentation about what a sabbatical is and how her congregation, New Heights Lutheran Church in Black Earth, survived and thrived during their pastor's sabbatical.*

This will be an opportunity to learn what a sabbatical is, what value a sabbatical provides to both the pastor and the congregation, and how a church can grow as a result of a sabbatical. *Please plan to attend this educational discussion!*

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## Synod-Wide Reformation Events - All Are Welcome!

Worship Planning teams invites everyone to be involved in one or all of the upcoming celebrations marking the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. These will include a synod event in Janesville – an ELCA event in the Twin Cities – and an ecumenical event (Lutheran and Catholic Bishops co-presiding) in Milwaukee.

Please see information below and articles in following weeks!

## Oct. 27-28: Reformation Festival Hosted by Luther Seminary and National Lutheran Choir

Spend this Reformation weekend learning and reflecting on the future of our faith from leading scholars, theologians and musicians assembled by Luther Seminary and the National Lutheran Choir. Everyone from lay people to worship leaders can enjoy this two-day festival filled with

workshops and presentations by more than 20 theologians and musicians.

*Other highlights include:*

-- An optional Oktoberfest dinner followed by a premiere performance by the National Lutheran Choir of Holy Spirit Mass a new choral work commissioned for the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation.

-- A closing festive worship service at Central Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, with ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton preaching and massed choirs from area churches along with the National Lutheran Choir.

A complete schedule, including registration information is available at:  
<http://www.luthersem.edu/reformation> or < [Click here](#) >



## **Oct. 31st: Reformation 2017 - 500th Anniversary**

*Commemoration Statewide Catholic and Lutheran Faith Event In Milwaukee - October 31 with Catholic and Lutheran Bishops - You Are Invited!*

A special invitation from Archbishop Jerome E. Listecki, Archdiocese of Milwaukee, and Paul Erickson, Bishop of the Greater Milwaukee Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

On **Oct. 31, 2017**, the ELCA and Catholic bishops of Wisconsin will gather with the faithful at *Ascension Lutheran Church, Milwaukee* to give thanks for the gifts received through the dialogues that have taken place over the last 50 years. You are invited to join in this very special event!

A video invitation awaits you: <https://milwaukeeesyndod.org/reformation-events/>

## **Nov. 4: Reformation Commemoration Synod-Wide Event!**

*South-Central Synod of Wisconsin invites you to a Special Reformation Commemoration Synod-Wide Event!  
SATURDAY, NOV. 4 (at 7:00 pm)*

Join the Reformation 500th Choir! All choirs and singers are invited to join in the SCSW-ELCA sponsored Reformation 500th Commemoration, held at the **First Lutheran Church of Janesville** on Sat, Nov. 4th (7pm).

This ecumenical event will feature full orchestra, handbell groups, and a festival choir composed

of many different Protestant and Catholic backgrounds. Through music, word and prayer, we will highlight the role the Reformation has served in the development of the modern age. Above all, our joint commemoration focuses on the amazing mercy and love of God in Jesus Christ, the firm foundation by which all people of God stand.

*For more information and to sign up, please contact Jan Knutson, (jknutson604@gmail.com -- 608-921-6534)*

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## Feed Our Children

Please sign up today 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.

### Meeting Notice

**Please note** - there will be a meeting of volunteers of 'Feed Our Children' in the library after the service on Sunday, Oct. 8th and next week (Oct. 15th).

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## St Martin's Council Highlight

St. Martin's Church Council is the governing body of St. Martin's, meeting at least monthly to oversee the activities of the church. The council consists of six church members and the Pastor. Members serve three-year terms and are elected on a rotating basis. The primary objectives of the council are to set the overall goals for the congregation and communicate them to the members; oversee business functions of the church; create and implement church policy; oversee church property maintenance; oversee team ministry of the congregation; encourage all church members to participate in the life of the church; provide general oversight of the spiritual life of the church, including the worship opportunities. Current council members include Mark Richardson (President), Matt Wildman (Vice President), Gordie Esser (Treasurer), Kyla Schoenwetter (Secretary), Ron Goplin (Member at large), Jenny Niesen (Member at large) and Pastor Kirsten Curtis.

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## Matching Gift Challenge

The St. Martins Legacy Endowment Fund Board of Directors is pleased to announce a \$10,000 matching gift challenge by a generous anonymous donor. During the challenge, taking place through Dec. 1, 2017, your contribution will be matched dollar-for-dollar up to \$10,000. We are

required to accumulate \$25,000 in the fund before we can start using interest to promote our fund's mission of spreading the Word of God and helping the needy within and beyond our church walls. Currently we have \$14,383 in the fund and we see this as an opportunity to start putting the Legacy Endowment Fund to work for making a difference in the lives of people.

1. Either make check payable to St. Martins Lutheran Church or Mission Investment Fund and put the following account number in check memo: 54750500005705
2. Or, send check directly to St. Martins Lutheran Church, 2427 Church St, Cross Plains, WI 53528 or use Green Challenge Grant Envelopes in Narthex

*Update: As of 9/21 The Legacy Endowment Fund is \$2000 towards its \$10,000 Matching Campaign goal. Great work St. Martin's. Keep it up!*

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## **Understanding Financial Planning Documents - *taking care of those you love***

You are invited to a no-cost seminar offered by the St. Martin Legacy Endowment Fund. Everyone will come away with information useful for the young or old. Discover ways to donate to what you feel is important and do so with positive tax benefits that will help you "plan smartly"! Learn about simple Power of Attorney and Medical directives and much, much more. All information reduced to simpler terms and take home outlines.

*On either Saturday, Oct. 21, at 9:00am or Monday, Oct. 23, at 6:30pm* you are invited to a seminar at St. Martin's Church where you will be provided withvaluable financial insight and recommendations for various types of plans to consider for meeting your goals that would be of benefit to you and the church. The seminar's purpose is to educate. There will be no solicitation of money.

Our presenters will be Oscar Seibel, retired wealth management advisor M&I Bank and Joe Gabriel, financial associate with Thrivent Financial.

Your Legacy Endowment Board

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## **Choir Director Needed**

The Worship Planning Team (WPT) is seeking a volunteer choir director for the senior choir. Our excellent director, Debbie Miller, is stepping back from this position soon so she can devote more

time to family, friends, and travel.

We're looking for someone to lead rehearsals at 8:00 on Sundays and be present to lead us in our 9:00 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) including Debbie, 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.

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## Birthday & Anniversary Announcements

Do you (or someone you know) have a birthday coming up? Anniversary? Let the office know by sending a note ([om@smartinscp.org](mailto:om@smartinscp.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.*

### Oct. Anniversaries

10/7 Alan & Pastor Kirsten Curtis (27)

10/17 Frank & Barbara Durham (34)

### Oct. Birthdays

10/13 Joelle Jackson

10/16 Kimberly Kahl

10/17 Gus Wenning

10/18 Samantha Flogel, Colton Klein

10/22 Jim Knudtson, Jenna Rogers

10/24 Debra Wipperfurth

10/27 Dale Jacobson

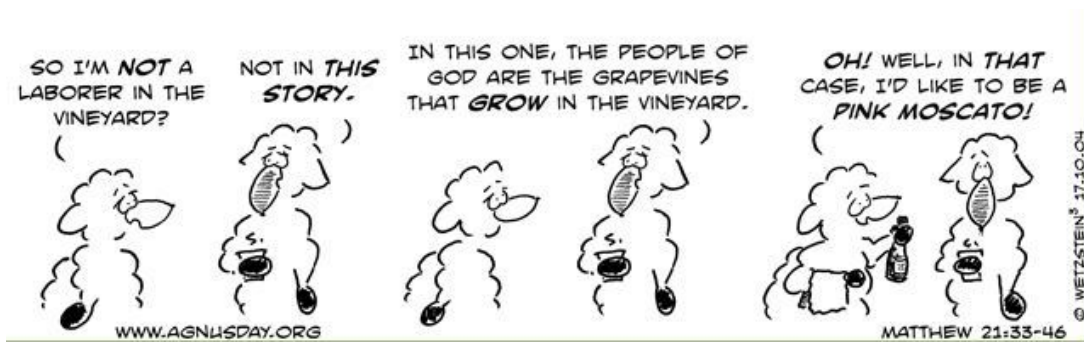
10/30 Shirley Coulson

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## 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).

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## 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

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## 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](mailto:om@smartinscp.org)

-- Pastor Kirsten: [PastorKirsten@smartinscp.org](mailto:PastorKirsten@smartinscp.org)

-- Church Property Management Team (building & grounds maintenance requests / issues):  
[Property@smartinscp.org](mailto:Property@smartinscp.org)

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## CHURCH CALENDAR

*Also available on the church web site ([www.smartinscp.org](http://www.smartinscp.org))*

## Oct. 8 - 14 2017

### Sunday, Oct. 8

9:00a - Sunday Worship

### Monday, Oct. 9

9:30a - Quilting Group FH

6:30p - Berry Hist. Soc. FH

### Tuesday, Oct. 10

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

6:30p - TLC L

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

### Wednesday, Oct. 11

6:00p - Confirmation Class (Bible Lesson)

### Thursday, Oct. 12

6:30p - Worship Planning Team L

6:30p—Homeless Shelter (serve meal) *Last time!*

**Friday, Oct. 13** -- Open Schedule

### Saturday, Oct. 14

8:45a - 10a Overeaters Anonymous LL

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

**Remember** - Next Sunday (Oct. 15th) is 'Go Pack! The Pew!' Come dressed in your best Packer gear! Prizes for best costumes!

### **Save the Date!**

\* **Dec. 2nd** Holiday 'Cookie Walk' Sat, Dec. 2nd (9-11am) Have a question? Please contact Gail Johnson [gailjmadwi@gmail.com](mailto:gailjmadwi@gmail.com).

## Worship Participants - Sunday, Oct. 8, 2017

Presiding Minister—Pastor Kirsten Curtis

Accompanist -- Debbie Miller

Song Leader -- Jason Niebuhr

Special Music — Lee Swanson, Jan Doyle

Greeters -- Karen & Bill Windels

Lectors / Readers / Communion Assistant -- Jenny Niesen

Communion Assistants -- Cathy Kittle, Amy Wildman

Ushers -- Ralph & Darlene Schulenberg

Acolyte -- Tyler Duhr

Counting Team -- Team 2 (Marci Bartlett, Donna Blumer)

Altar Guild -- Darlene Schulenberg

AV Team -- Al Curtis

Coffee/Treats — Dana Fuhrman, Joyce Richardson

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