



## ***Week of Sept. 4-10 2016***

### **Choir Rehearsals have started again - Sunday, 8am**

Choir rehearsals are Sunday mornings, 8am in the Choir Room. *As always new members are welcome!*

### **Sunday School Teacher Meeting**

We will be meeting next **Wednesday, September 7, at 6:30 P.M.** in Fellowship Hall to review last year and discuss the upcoming school year. It is going to be another exciting year of learning and faith formation – *thanks to our parents and Sunday School teachers!*

### **Backpack Blessing**

Remember to *bring your backpacks* to church on Rally Day **Sunday, Sept. 11**, for a Backpack Blessing during worship.



### **Fall Kick Off at St. Martin's -- Lets Rally 2016**

Plan to celebrate our kick off Rally Day as a congregation at St. Martin's on Sunday September 11th. The day starts with our worship service at 9:00 AM.

**Rally**; verb, New Webster's Dictionary and Thesaurus: To summon together for a common purpose, to regain strength of body or mind. In what is tradition for many Lutherans as Christians, to rally means to gather in worship, to recognize the gifts we have been given, and to reach out in spirit and action to seek the means to help others.

What does rally mean for each of us individually and for the congregation at St. Martin's as a whole? We celebrate our Christian commitment each autumn with a Rally Day event set aside to come together, listen for the voice of God at this time, and gain strength to do God's work. We

worship on that day and hear the word of God. We come together in congregational fellowship. We recognize that we have received a bounty of gifts and talents given freely to us from God. We ask for the Holy Spirit to help direct our efforts and help us make a commitment to use our gifts and talents to meet the needs of others. Like Advent before Christmas, and Lent before Easter, our rally season serves as a reminder to us to consider what it means to be a Christian. With faith and vision of our Lord and Savior, we focus on the example set by Jesus to act in accordance with God's plan. Our commitment is to do God's work with our hands.



The kick off for Rally Day is a celebration of our commitment to God. As the summer fades it offers a day for worship, of prayer, reconnection to our church family, fellowship, a reflection on our common mission, and an opportunity for recommitment to serve our Lord. As in scripture {1 Corinthians 12 and Romans 12}, we are called to be the living body of Christ's Church on Earth. Like the individual parts of a human body, all are needed to make the whole. Each of us is important, yet none more important than another. Rally day is a means by which we can give our thanks for the many blessings received. And, it gives us an opportunity to see the many ways St. Martin's makes a positive difference in the lives of our congregation, our local community, and the larger community we seek to serve. It is a time to recognize the many missions and tasks that are needed in doing God's work through St. Martin's. It is intended to let you see the many possible ways open for you to make a positive commitment as a statement of your faith. In our busy individual lives, Rally Day gives us an opportunity to pause, renew, and reconnect with our commitment to use our gifts as part of God's plan.

#### **Here is what you can do!**

- Plan to attend the Rally day kick off event.
- See what is happening at St. Martin's. Invite a friend or neighbor to attend with you
- Gather information about opportunities to serve. Talk with Team Leaders. Look for events and needs listed in service bulletins, on signs in the Narthex, and published in the "Weekly Bread".
- Be actively involved. Get a perspective on what might be opportunities for you to consider as commitments to the missions of St. Martin's
- Plan to worship regularly and stay connected with your church family
- Grow in your spirit life through prayer and scripture
- Be a good steward of your gifts of time, talents and financial resources
- Seek out others and pass on the Good News. Plan to make a positive difference in their lives.

*Come Rally!* There is a role for everyone. Each of us is an individual with different strengths and abilities. *The needs are great. All efforts are appreciated as many hands help to make light work.*

## **Confirmation/Pre-confirmation meeting – *mark your calendar!***

There will be a Confirmation/ Pre-confirmation Orientation Meeting on **Sunday, Sept. 25, at 10:30** in the library.

Confirmation and Pre-confirmation Students and Parents/Guardians please plan on joining Pastor Kirsten to talk about the upcoming year, including the curriculum and calendar. We will be meeting weekly again on Wednesday evenings this year.



## Update From The Committee: Restoring God's House

We have started our ask of support to raise 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.

**The painting of the church took place** this summer and came in under budget at \$12,430 and was paid for by the money that was set aside. This leaves us with a goal of raising \$54,000 to complete the upper and lower parking lot.

**We need everyone's help to make this happen.** We are asking for you to pray on your contribution, make a one time gift and/or pledge over 2016-2017. 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.**

Committee of Restoring God's House

## Council Invites Your Input

Starting in September, Church Council welcomes your participation in the first 15 minutes of each Council meeting 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.

## Audit Team and Finance Team Vacancies

The Church Council is seeking interested persons for both the Audit Team and Finance Team. No experience is required to participate in either – just a willingness to crunch a few numbers, learn from others and monitor St. Martin's finances. The Finance Team meets monthly, while the Audit Team does most of its work in the fall months. Terms of office are three years for both teams. If you are interested in either of these important ministry opportunities, please contact Karen Windels (798-5031) or Pastor Curtis (798-2777).

## Retirement Plans to Fund St. Martin's Legacy Endowment Fund

You may have a qualified retirement plan such as a 401(k) or 403(b) that may still contain funds that have not yet been totally distributed at your death. This money will normally be passed on to beneficiaries you have designated in the plan. Here is the problem....except for Roth IRA's, your beneficiary will now have to treat these funds as ordinary income and pay taxes on that income. However, there is a great opportunity to avoid paying these income taxes and leave a legacy that will make a difference in people's lives, if St. Martin's Legacy Endowment Fund were listed as the beneficiary.

On the other hand, the assets beneficiaries receive from a Will at death are not taxed as income

because they have already been taxed as income during your lifetime. Retirement plan assets are not part of a Will. So if you have a family member you want to pass assets to, then use assets within your Will and not from qualified retirement plans.

Example: Assume you want to give \$50,000 to a family member and \$50,000 to the St Martin's Legacy Endowment Fund. Also assume the family member or individuals you want to inherit are in the 25% Federal income tax bracket and Wisconsin 4% income tax bracket. Here is how to get a \$14,500 tax savings in this example:

A. You decide to pass \$50,000 to a family member from a Retirement Fund and \$50,000 from your Will to the Endowment Fund:

\$50,000

Less: Federal income tax 25% ( 12,500)

Less: Wis. Income Tax 4% ( 2,000)

**Net Amount received by family member \$35,500**

**Net Amount received by Endowment Fund \$50,000**

B. You decide to pass \$50,000 to a family member from a Will and \$50,000 to the Endowment Fund from the Retirement Fund

**Net Amount received by family member (no tax) \$50,000**

**Net Amount received by Endowment Fund (no tax) \$50,000**

If you are not depending on funds from a retirement plan and are over 70.5 years of age, then you have to start taking annual contributions, which are taxed as ordinary income. A great option during your lifetime is to designate your annual distribution or a portion of it, to the Legacy Endowment Fund on an annual basis. This amount will be excluded from your taxable income even though you have never paid any taxes on this money.

The workshops this fall will answer questions and discuss options you can consider during your lifetime and at death to save taxes. Remember everything we have is a gift from God. You can make a difference helping others and spreading the Gospel while getting a significant tax benefit.

## **Mark Your Calendar-**

Workshops to learn more about the St. Martin Legacy Endowment Fund will be Saturday, November 5th and repeated on Wednesday, November 9th (day after election). Watch for details!

***Please note that this Endowment Fund is NOT a part of any other St. Martin Capital Campaign or SHOULD NOT replace any regular offering to St. Martins. The St. Martin Legacy Endowment Fund is a way of leveraging you're planning to spread the Gospel and serves those in need for generations into the future.***

***Please contact any current Board of Directors member for confidential assistance in direction: James Hartung, Hilary Kirkow, Tom Johnson, Van Valaskey or Lois Weiland.***

***Because it is important that you have a will with specific language regarding your donation, it is crucial to have someone with expertise help with the preparation. For more information regarding this, please contact your own attorney and/or financial planner.***

**Free advice for funding the St. Martins Legacy Endowment is also available at:**

Lutheran Planned Giving of Wisconsin  
Rev. Larry Westfield  
2909 Landmark Place, Suite 202  
Madison, WI 53713  
Telephone: 262-224-9574  
E-mail: [larry.westfield@elca.org](mailto:larry.westfield@elca.org)

## 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](mailto:karenwindels@gmail.com)). Thank you!

## Next Book Club Book — *The Tiger's Wife*

The supreme storyteller Téa Obreht weaves together masterfully a narrative that is mesmerizing. The reader gets lost in the stories of war, death, love and life. Pick up a copy and start reading today, and put **Oct. 24th** on your calendar to get together and discuss this wonderful book!

## 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](mailto:om@stmartinscp.org). A job description can be viewed on our web site, [stmartinscp.org](http://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](http://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@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)

## CHURCH CALENDAR

Upcoming Schedule (Also available on the church web site - [www.smartinscp.org](http://www.smartinscp.org) - and in the Weekly Bread):

### Sept. 4 - Sept. 10

Sunday, Sept. 4

\* 8:00a -- Choir Rehearsal

\* 9:00a -- Sunday Worship

Monday, Sept. 5 -- Labor Day (office closed)

Tuesday, Sept. 6

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

\* 6:30p -- Legacy Endowment Board L

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

Wednesday, Sept. 7

5:30p -- *Worship Planning Team - L*

Thursday, Sept. 8

6:30p -- Centering Prayer

Friday, Sept. 9 -- Open Schedule

Saturday, Sept. 10

\* 9:00a -- 10a Overeaters Anonymous LL

Sunday—Sept. 11 -- **Rally Day!**

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, Sept. 4

Presiding Minister -- Pastor Kirsten Curtis

Accompanist -- Debbie Miller

Song Leader -- Karen Windels

Special Music -- Mark Richardson

Greeters -- Linda & Jim Knudtson

Lector / Reader -- Jenny Niesen

Communion Assistants -- Bruce & Sandy Salvo

Ushers -- Lee & Jacqui Swanson

Acolyte -- Valerie Niesen, Ryan Roenneburg

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

Altar Guild -- Jan Doyle

AV Team -- James Hartung, Paul Schluter

Coffee -- Jeannie Hering-Schumann, Carmen Fowell, Jacqui Swanson

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