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Church Council

President and Stewardship:

Steve Raabe

Vice President and Fellowship:

Heather Tuckfield

Secretary and Christian Education:

Linda Wetz

Financial Secretary: Glenn Hollenbeck

Church Treasurer and Finance:

Mick Thistle

Finance Chairperson: Greg Maxwell

Design: Rick Ruhf

Evangelism: Jonathan Aseltine

Memorials: Mick Thistle

Property: Tim Doyle

School Board: Joe Stensland

School Treasurer: Molly Michaelson

Worship & Music: Marianne Drumm

Youth: Amy Buckner

President Emeritus: Larry Laubscher

Social Ministry: (Barbara Freeman)

Pastor's Corner

November is all about THANKSGIVING...something we know about in the church. Indeed, our whole lives are to be a thankful response to the Lord. All that we have is a gift- so we're to live in perpetual thanksgiving before God. That said, it's still good to have set periods to focus our thanksgiving...and November is just such a time.

All Saints Sunday, November 2nd prompts us to thank God for those who have blessed us and now dwell in His heavenly Kingdom. Come to church on All Saints Sunday to hear about our hope of heaven as we lift gratitude for our dearly departed and their joy in Christ's nearer presence.

Our Stewardship Response, November 9, 16, and 23. Each year we are all asked to pledge our money, time, and commitment to God's work in the world. In the next few weeks you'll receive a letter inviting you to pray about your response in 2015. On November 9th we will be blessed to have Pastor Russell challenge us to be good stewards. On the 16th and 23rd I'll continue the theme and then **within worship on the 23rd we are all asked to submit our pledge forms**. Our responses take the form of a simple letter from us to God and will say:

Dear God,

With gratitude for your love and blessings in my/our life I/we:

___ Pledge to make regular worship, prayer, and reading of your Word a priority in 2015.

___ Pledge to use the gift of time and unique spiritual gifts to glorify You and help others.

___ Pledge to give \$ _____ weekly/monthly to support the work of St. Martin's Lutheran Church and to help the needy of our world.

Please begin to pray and discern how you will give in the coming year. I thank God for so many generous souls here at St. Martin's and trust that we will continue to grow in our giving and Gospel work! If you can't attend on the 23rd you may return your form to me or Glenn Hollenbeck, our financial secretary.

Veterans Day, is November 11th. Remember to lift prayers and thank the veterans in your life.

Thanksgiving Eve Ecumenical Worship, Wednesday, November 26th at 7:00 PM (pre-service music begins at 6:00PM). **This year we are hosting this wonderful service**. I hope everyone will be here as we extend hospitality to our sisters and brothers in Christ from other congregations and as we raise our hymns of thanksgiving to our loving God.

Rest assured that I do and will continue to give thanks to God for all of you. It is a joy and an ongoing blessing to serve as your pastor! Thanks to all of you for your faithfulness to Christ. I hope to see you in church soon.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Dave+

A Special Stewardship Blessing...

Here at St. Martin's we are blessed to frequently have Pastor Russell and Barbara Fink in our midst. Pastor Russell's ministry is known to many of us through his Bible study leadership and periodic preaching. You may not know, however, that Barbara has long been highly regarded for expertise and writing (numerous books and articles) about Martin Luther. In this issue of Table Talk we are featuring one of Barbara's articles that appeared in The Lutheran Witness in July of 1999. Our deep thanks to her for allowing us to reprint it. Since the month of November prompts all of us to think about our stewardship in life, it's most appropriate that we would be blessed by her outstanding article entitled, "Martin Luther's Thoughts About Money."

Martin Luther's Thoughts About Money

Money. Martin Luther never shied away from the subject. He was generous with his own money, goods and hospitality, and spoke about money as one of God's many gifts. Luther saw God loving us so much that when we realize this, we will naturally want to give as God gives. As he put it, "If I have won someone's heart, I will soon have his purse too."

Psalm 62:10 tells us: "Though your riches increase, do not set your heart on them." In this discussion of this verse, Luther states, "Even if you should become rich justly and with God's help, do not depend on this either, and do not make mammon (material wealth) your god. Property is not given you for you to build your trust upon or boast about, all of which is vanity and nothing, but for you to use, enjoy and share with others."

Luther went on to warn, "Possessions belong in your hands, not in your heart." The worldly view about individual wealth was changing in Luther's time. Until the 16th century, the accumulation of private wealth was considered a danger to the soul.

But in Luther's time, new foreign trade and the banking industry were changing things. Luther saw greed becoming worse. He wrote this about the human heart: "The more it has the more it wants. If it possessed the whole world, it would like to have two worlds; if it had two, it would like to have ten."

In one of his sermons, he said, "Nowadays one sees a scrambling after riches from the lowliest station up to the highest, even among those who want to be called Christians...But such behavior may well be called a life of swine. For the strongest hog at the trough pushes the others away, as though it wanted to devour everything alone. Everybody goes his way in security and not only gives nothing but takes whatever he can possibly get."

Put Money to Work

Pastor Luther said we should be the master of our money, not its servant. "When one sees a man who has no coat, he says to his money: 'Come out, young Mr. Gulden (a high value coin)! There is a poor naked man who has no coat; you must serve him. Over there lies a sick man who has no refreshment. Come forth, Sir Dollar! You must be on your way; go and help him.' People who handle their possessions in this way are masters of their possessions. And, surely, all honest Christians will do this. But the folk who are saving much money and are forever scheming how to make the pile larger are servants (to their money).

How, then, are we to be masters of our money, and have it serve others? In explaining Eph. 4:28, Luther notes: "The Apostle commands us to work with our hands so that we may give to the needy, although he might have said that we should work to support ourselves. This is what makes caring for the body a Christian work, that through its health and comfort we may be able to work, to acquire, and to lay by funds with which to aid those who are in need, that in this way the strong member may serve the weaker, and we may be children of God, each caring for and working for the other..."

Invest in Education

In "A Sermon on Keeping Children in School," he urges governments and individuals to spare no means in educating children, "so that there will always be preachers, jurists, pastors, writers, physicians, schoolmasters, and the like, for we cannot

do without them.” But the devil wants to keep children from education. Luther calls it “a war with the very devil” who is out to keep our children from education. “That is, indeed, to starve a land and destroy it without a battle before anyone is even aware of what is going on.”

Children of both rich and poor should be in school. “If the father is poor, the resources of the church should be used to assist. Let the rich make their wills this work in view as some have done who have established scholarship funds.”

Put money to work in God’s plan for salvation

Luther also reminds us that the Spirit will perform powerful deeds in the hearers of God’s Word so that “you are ready to surrender your money, property, everything you have for (your neighbor’s) salvation. Although Martin Luther is very direct in how we should use our money freely for others, he also has a pastoral understanding of how in gratitude can make one not want to give. He explains: “This is what the devil is looking for. When he sees that you want to do your neighbor a favor and to make good use of your money, he says: ‘I will spoil your good deed and make it sour!’ This goes against nature, and thus love and kindness are suppressed even in the best and most prominent people. For it is a rare person indeed who can bear it if he does his best for country and people and gets nothing in return but shameful ingratitude...This is what the devil is trying to achieve.”

If money becomes one’s master and not the servant, “he sinks deeper and deeper into greed, he gets farther and farther away from the Word of God, and finally he becomes completely hostile to it.”

Luther also takes on corporate greed: “Even in secular law it is decreed that everyone should carry on his business in such a way that others can still get along and support themselves. But now there is no room for anyone next to (those) who monopolize every kind of business. And meanwhile they want to be called pious and honorable people.”

Pastor Luther was not against money. It is a gift of God. Abraham, known in the Old Testament for his hospitality, was certainly rich. “But...,” Luther says, “he keeps on managing and using his possessions, and his special effort is to keep his heart pure. He does not become proud because of his wealth and does not gain and preserve it in a greedy manner; but he is generous and hospitable...If God has given you wealth, give thanks to God, and see that you make the right use of it. There are needs all around us. We do not have to search far to find God-pleasing ways to put our money to work. But you might ask (Pastor Luther says), ‘why does God not do it all by Himself, since He is able to help everyone and knows how to help everyone?’ Yes, He can do it. But He does not want to do it alone. He wants us to work with Him. He does us the honor of wanting to effect His work with us and through us.”

St. Martin's Music News

Children's Choir Rehearsals have begun! We're meeting Sundays after the 10 am service for about 20 minutes while parents enjoy coffee and fellowship in the Narthex. Right now, we're preparing for the Christmas season. All Sunday School and Day School children through Confirmation Class are welcome to participate. If your child is interested, please fill out a form (*find them on tables in the Narthex, the receptionist's desk or see Kerry Heyes*) and join us as soon as you can!

Bell Choir Rehearsals have resumed! We're meeting Wednesdays from 6:00 – 6:45 pm in the Sanctuary and are preparing for St. Martin's December 14th Candlelight Concert and for Christmas Eve. Please join us, even if you're a beginner; we're working on easy music, but training is always available, if needed.

Adult Choir Rehearsals continue (and we still need your help)! We meet Wednesdays, 7 – 8 pm and Sundays, 9:15 – 9:45 am. All are welcome to join us, (Confirmed and older), even if it is just to help out during the holidays when attendance can be low due to family/travel commitments.

We have many upcoming opportunities for you to consider. As we host this year's **Ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve's Service** at 7 pm, our Adult Choir could use some extra voices. A joint choir rehearsal will take place at 6 pm and anyone is welcome to join. Participating choirs' preludes will begin at 6:30 pm. We are also preparing for our annual **Christmas Candlelight Concert**, (a community favorite), on December 14th at 4 pm and for **Christmas Eve worship** at 9 pm.

We know you're busy; so are we! Our Choir rehearsals and schedules have been planned with great care for your time, convenience, and for minimal effort with maximum flexibility. In addition, your voice has its own carrying case, but if you play an instrument, perhaps you'd like to help enhance a worship service in this manner. Please consider these acts of Stewardship by donating your time and talents to our choirs this year! Thanks!



St. Martin's Garden Club News

A big thank you to the volunteers who helped on Saturday, October 18th to beautify the gardens at St. Martin's:

MaryAnn Elliott, Martha Hollenbeck. Betty and John Knupp, Deb Mangin, Julia McClenahan, Susan McCahan and Kristina Von Rosenvinge. We weeded the meditation garden in the courtyard, rain gardens and other visible areas. We also added plants to one of the rain gardens, the memorial benches garden and one of the parking islands. God's work, our hands! Our next Garden Club workday will be in the spring. - *Betty and John Knupp*

Flying Quilters

The flying Quilters will meet Mondays November 3 and 17 in Fellowship room A from 10:00-2:00. Please consider joining us. You don't need sewing skills. If you can put in a pin or tie a knot, we can use your help. Bring a lunch and stay for the day, or come for whatever time you can. This is a great way to serve others and also meet some new people (and we always have a good time!). Thanks to everyone who donated money toward shipping the quilts. We collected enough to pay for shipping 75 quilts. We delivered the money and 102
Any questions – call or email Judy Houston (410-263-3888 or djhouston1@comcast.net)

Adult Forum

The Sunday Morning Adult study of **Mere Christianity** resumes Sunday, November 16 in the Library Lounge. Join us as we look to C.S. Lewis' compelling argument for Christianity from a non-religious viewpoint. We will begin with an overview and recap of part 1. Our study will continue through December 14. For questions contact Paula Thistle at 410-703-2669.

Holiday Sharing

Saint Martin's is again sponsoring ten families with the Holiday Sharing Program for Thanksgiving and Christmas. These families have been selected through Anne Arundel County Department of Social Services. We are in need of ten individuals or families to deliver food and gifts to each of the families. Each family receives \$50 worth of groceries (or a food gift card) for their Thanksgiving and Christmas meals. In December we will also need to purchase gifts for the children in each family. If you can help deliver food and gifts, please contact Barbara Freeman at 410-798-6612/tombarb.freeman@verizon.net.

Lighthouse Shelter Dinner Coordinator

St. Martin's is responsible for serving dinner at the Lighthouse Shelter the second Monday of each month. We are looking for someone that is willing to help coordinate these meals. The coordinator is responsible for maintaining the sign-up sheet and informing the Lighthouse of the chosen menu each month. If you are interested in this important ministry of St. Martin's or have any questions, please contact Barbara Freeman at 410-798-6612 or e-mail at: tombarb.freeman@verizon.net.

St. Martin's School Open House :

St. Martin's Lutheran School will hold an OPEN HOUSE on **Friday, November 14, 2015, 9:00-11:00 am**. During the Open House parents can learn about the educational programs, meet teachers, students, the Principal and take a tour of our school. St. Martin's educates students from 3 years old through 8th grade. On **Wednesday, November 19 at 7:00 pm**, we will hold a middle school information night for parents. Come learn about all the happenings in our middle school.



St. Martin's Lutheran Seniors:

You are cordially invited to St. Martin's Lutheran Day School's Annual Thanksgiving Feast on Thursday, November 20, 2014 at 12:30 pm. The event will take place in the School's Gym.

If special arrangements are required for a handicap person, please advise Paulette Fisher when responding to this invitation. Please R.S.V.P. Paulette Fisher by **Tuesday, November 18th** via telephone number 410 269-1955, ext. 17. You can also email her at pfisher@stmartinsonline.org. Reservation limited to 30.

M.A.D. Envelope Fundraiser Is Back:

Please support our youth with your contribution to the "Make A Difference" Envelope Fundraiser! Throughout the year, you'll notice our Envelope Board in the Narthex. Take one or more envelopes and return them with the amount of money inside that matches the number on the outside! For example, if you pick up envelope #4, put \$4.00 inside or envelope #144, put \$144.00 inside (cash or check made out to St. Martin's Youth) and return it in the offering plate! Be sure to include your name and address on the envelope so we can thank you later and it can be included in your giving for St. Martin's...it is tax deductible! Your donation will go a long way towards helping our youth raise money for The National Youth gathering in Detroit next summer. So, please give what you can! Please give your "cents" for service, your "moola" for mission work and your dollars for a difference!

Advent Workshop:

Mark your calendar—Advent Workshop on **Sunday, November 30th at 4:45 PM**. We'll begin with a pot luck dinner and then make advent wreaths, crafts, and cards for homebound folks—all while listening to sounds of the season and enjoying wonderful fellowship.

Annual Christmas Caroling:

Mark your calendar—our annual caroling to homebound members (and others) will be on **Sunday, December 7th** in the afternoon. More details to come but we hope you'll join us!

Demonstrate your thankfulness this season

Each holiday season, St. Martin's Lutheran Church anticipates and relies on a seasonal increase in contributions. It is through the donations of every individual and family in the congregation that we are able to carry on our work now and throughout the year.

If you need a convenient way to make recurring contributions or plan to make an additional gift before the end of the year, we encourage you to check out our electronic giving options. As the pace of life speeds up around the holidays, you may find electronic giving a most welcome way to make contributions.

To set up a recurring giving schedule, visit us online at www.stmartinsannapolis.org and locate the Online Giving button. Or if it's easier, complete a paper authorization form and return it to the church office.

Thank you for your generosity and support!



Christmas Dedications

Christmas is a time of hope and joy, and an opportunity to reflect on all the rich blessings God has given us. Dedications for poinsettias to beautify our sanctuary and/or gifts to our homeless and hungry neighbors will be received through Sunday, December 7th. The cost is \$12.00 per plant. Poinsettias may be picked up by donors after the 10 a.m. worship service on Thursday, December 25th. Please return your dedication and payment to the church office by the December 7th deadline so it can be included in the bulletin.

Please complete the entire form

Dedication to read as follows:

Name: _____

Phone: _____

of plants ordered: _____

PLEASE FILL OUT THIS SECTION!

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Your envelope number _____

I would like to offer the following:

For our homeless and hungry neighbors

\$ _____

For dedication of poinsettias

\$ _____

NOTE to Sunday tellers: please initial here to
verify receipt of payment

Coming Soon!

Wednesday, November 26, 7 pm: Ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve Service, 7 pm; Choir preludes begin around 6:30 pm. For those interested in singing in the joint choir, rehearsal is at 6 pm. Light refreshments will follow the service.

Sunday, December 14, 10 am: Sunday School Christmas Pageant during the worship service.

Sunday, December 14, 4 pm: Christmas Candlelight Concert featuring our choir and more. (Free-will offering)

Christmas Eve, 4 pm: Children's Service

Christmas Eve, 9 pm: Candlelight Service with brass

Birthdays and Wedding Anniversaries

If your birthday or anniversary is not listed here, please provide the church office with the information so you can be included next time!

Birthdays

Gary Shenk	11/1
Michael Gill	11/7
Shannon Young	11/7
Jesse Brogan	11/15
Kimberly Laubscher	11/15
Myrtie Bartel	11/22

Anniversaries

Gary & Kelly Shenk	11/3
Michael & Lydia Huhn	11/23
Larry & Louisa Day	11/25

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

November 2014

Calendar Rev. 11/1/14
Please continue to check our website's **News & Events** tab for any new updates.

1

2

8 am Worship
9:00 Sun. School
9:15 am Choir
10 am Worship
11:30 am
Childrens Choir

3

10:00 am Flying Quilters (A)
7 pm Adult Bible Study (L)

4

12:00 pm Art Class (A)

5

7 am Men's Bible Study
10 am Staff Meeting
6 pm Bell Choir (S)
7 pm Choir (S)

6

7

8

9

8 am Worship
9:00 Sun. School
9:15 am Choir
10 am Worship
11:30 am
Childrens Choir

10

7 pm Adult Bible Study (L)

11

12:00 pm Art Class (A)
7 pm Finance Committee

12

7 am Men's Bible Study
10 am Staff Meeting
6 pm Bell Choir (S)
7 pm Choir (S)

13

14

15

16

8 am Worship
9:00 Sun. School
9:15 am Choir
10 am Worship
11:30 am
Childrens Choir

17

10:00 Flying Quilters (A)
7 pm Adult Bible Study (L)

18

12:00 pm Art Class (A)
7 pm Church Council

19

7 am Men's Bible Study
10 am Staff Meeting
6 pm Bell Choir (S)
7 pm Choir (S)

20

21

22

23

8 am Worship
9:00 Sun. School
9:15 am Choir
10 am Worship
11:30 am
Childrens Choir

24

7 pm Adult Bible Study (L)

25

12:00 pm Art Class (A)

26

7 am Men's Bible Study
10 am Staff Meeting
7 pm Ecumenical Thanksgiving

27

Thanksgiving

28

29

30

8 am Worship
9:00 Sun. School
9:15 am Choir
10 am Worship
11:30 am
Childrens Choir
4:45 pm Advent Workshop

*Also, 9:00 am Adult Forum (L) and Parent Adult Forum (Art Rm) on Sundays.



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St. Martin's Evangelical Lutheran Church

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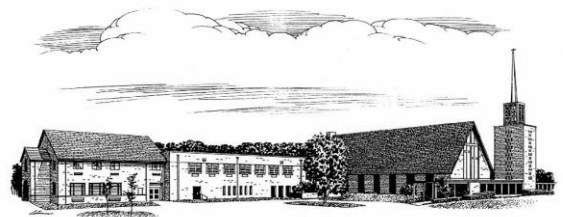
The Rev. Dr. David G. Oravec, Pastor
chapsdo@gmail.com

Sunday Worship: 8:00 am, 10:00 a.m.

Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.

St. Martin's Lutheran School

Pre K 3's through Grade 8
410-263-8016 or 410-269-1955
Mr. James D. Moorhead, Principal



St. Martin's Mission Statement:
Welcoming all and growing together
to share God's love and serve Christ
with energy and joy!