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# The Messenger

Celebrating love and hope

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ST. MARTIN'S  
LUTHERAN CHURCH, SUGAR LAND, TEXAS

*December 2009*

## From PK

### Advent and Christmas Schedule 2009/1

**November 29 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent (Luke 21:25-36)**

**December 6 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent (Luke 3: 1-6)**

**December 13 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent (Luke 3:7-18)**

**December 20 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent, Special Christmas Music at 11:00am service.**

**December 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve**

5:00pm Children's Candlelight Service, Christmas Play and Live Nativity.

7:30pm Traditional Candlelight Communion Service

**December 25 Christmas Day**

9:30am Communion Service, Peace on Earth

**December 27 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas, one service at 9:30am, no Sunday School**

### Upcoming Events

December 11–12: Junior/ Senior High  
Advent Retreat @ Lutherhill

December 1–13: Poinsettia Orders taken

December 15: Youth and Family Ministry  
Advisory Meeting @ 6:30

December 27: Worship Schedule changes to  
9:30, and Sunday School at 10:45



# Serving the Lord

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## Next Family Promise Host Week

The last Family Promise host week for 2009 is from November 29th to December 6th. Thanks to all who signed up to volunteer.

## Taste of Sugar Land Fund Raiser

Thank you to all who attended the Taste of Sugar Land Fundraiser. More in the future about receipt amounts.

## Family Promise Photos Wanted

Photographs of Family Promise volunteers are still needed. If you have not already submitted a photograph, please send it to Bob Metzger at [bobandjanetmetzger@windstream.net](mailto:bobandjanetmetzger@windstream.net), or alternatively give him a photo print. Include a brief statement of how you have volunteered for Family Promise in the past.

## Guest Updates

Currently, there are 7 guests in the program. Another family of two (mother and daughter) will join within the next several weeks. The daughter is expecting and will probably give birth by the time you read this.

A thank you letter from former guest Brandi is posted on the St. Martin's bulletin board next to the coffee bar.

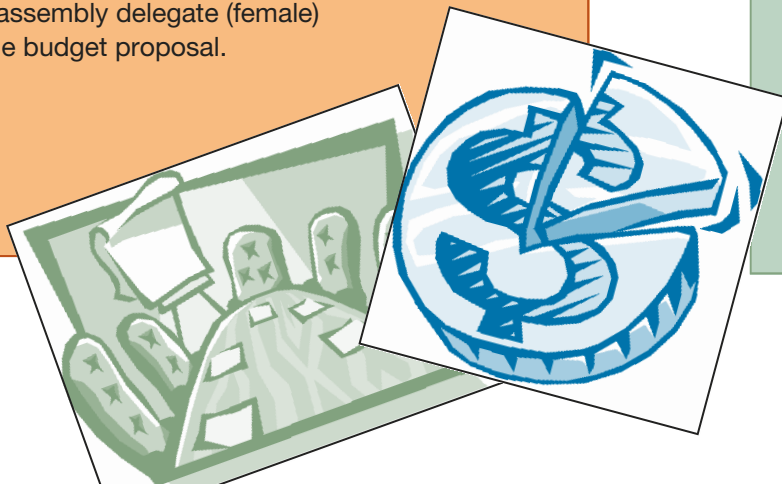
## Training

Welcome to David Scott who was recently trained for volunteer work with Family Promise. All volunteers need to be retrained once every three years. This retraining will start in the summer of 2010.



## Council Election, National Assembly, and Budget

January 10<sup>th</sup> is the annual meeting of the congregation to elect council, elect assembly delegate (female) and to pass the budget proposal.



## Get Linked In

Visit our website every few days to stay up with Morning Prayer, events at the church, worship schedules and calendars for assistants.



## Loving, Caring, Learning, Sharing

### Preparing For Christmas at St. Martin's

**I**f this is your 1<sup>st</sup> Christmas with us at St. Martin's let me flesh out our services come Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Our 5pm Children's Candlelight Service is uniquely designed for our children to hear the Christmas story and sing the familiar carols of Christmas. This year, the Son Shines will be presenting a short play about the birth of Christ. Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus will make an appearance with live animals from a petting zoo. We usually try to have a couple who has had a baby within the last 6 months prior to Christmas. This year it will be Mychal and Jamie Alexander and their son, Jaden.

Our traditional candlelight service with Holy Communion will be at 7:30pm and the only service of the evening. In the "old" days, the 11:00pm service was popular but in recent years the attendance at that service has fallen off dramatically so all our efforts will be towards the 7:30pm service.

On Christmas Day we celebrate the birth of Jesus in a quiet and small informal service at 9:30am. The emphasis is the song of the Angels, "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to all on whom his favor rests." We gather together to pray for peace.

#### Poinsettia Pre-Order

December kicks off our Poinsettia Pre-Order. These Poinsettia's will decorate our Church until after Christmas. Order forms will be available December 1 - 13.



#### Sunday Service Time Change

St. Martin's Returns To One Service on December 27 and will continue with that format through 2010. Worship will be at 9:30 and Sunday School will be at 10:45.



## Upcoming Production at St. Martin's

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### "Guess who's coming to Bethlehem"

THE SON SHINES will present the Musical "Guess Who's Coming To Bethlehem" at the 5:00 P. M. Children's Service on Christmas Eve. They will be joined by an All Star cast of the St. Martin's

Ready For Prime Time Players-----Lauralie Bedminster, Lauren Carlson, Cassy and Kiara Casteneda, Chris, Daniela, and Nathaniel Hammons, Norina Johnson, Florida Kweekeh, Chris O'Sullivan,

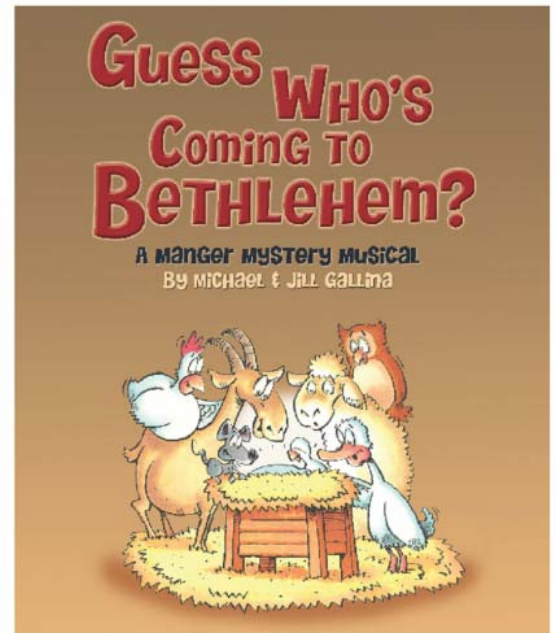
Carl Peters and our esteemed Narrator, Chris Moore.

The Musical which depicts a Christmas manger mystery is both fun and moving. It conveys a simple yet profound message featuring animals and angels at the manger scene of Christ's birth.

The manger mystery will touch the hearts of all members of the St. Martin's congregation and all are invited to attend.

Please join us for a Christmas cookie reception in the narthex at the close of this service.

- Priscilla Niermann, Director



## Music Notes

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### Question: What very important time happens between Thanksgiving and Christmas?

While out in the world, holiday decorations will adorn every storefront and many homes. You'll see wreaths tied to the grills of people's cars, inflatable Santas and Frosties in front yards; the very air will be thick with the feeling of Christmas.

Within the church, Christmas will not arrive for a few more weeks! After Thanksgiving and before Christmas, will begin journey through the season of Advent, the beginning of the church year and the season in which we prepare our hearts and minds for the arrival of the newborn King!

In our worship, we will shift to the tried-and-true liturgical setting ELW 3 (which you long-timers will recall is the same liturgy as the LBW 1). We will use this more "formal" setting for the seasons of Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany. Also, you will notice that our Sunday hymns won't feature too many Christmas carols, but will mostly feature hymns from the Advent portion of the hymnal. This is the only time of the year we get to sing these hymns, and I encourage you to use their words in your meditations for the season!



Wishing you the most joyous Advent and Christmas seasons, and see you in church!

## Youth Quake

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### Lutherhill Events:

#### Advent Retreat

On December 11–12, the Confirmation and High School Youth at St. Martin's will be going to Lutherhill for a weekend of learning, fun, and of course, the outdoors! There's still room for more youth, the cost is \$60.

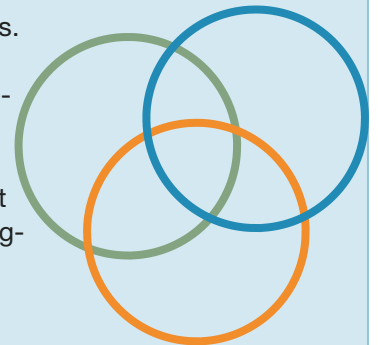
#### Lutherhill @ Sunday School

On Sunday, December 20, Lutherhill will be coming to St. Martin's to lead both adults and youth in Sunday School Learning, **Camp Style!**



### Join in the Fun, Plan for the Future

Youth and Family Ministries at St. Martin's is constantly looking for new ideas. Each month, Corey invites any and all members to take part in planning and direction meetings for this ministry. With two successful meetings, Y & F Ministry has some pretty cool things coming up, but we still need your help. Time and ideas are our most needed resources. If you have any of either come share it with us! Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, November 10, at 6:30pm. Our meetings stick to an hour, when possible and are open to all suggestions! We truly hope you can help!



### Operation: Christmas Child

This year St. Martin's is getting into the spirit of the season by helping spread the good news of Jesus and the miracle of Christmas to children all around the world. Operation: Christmas Child is a nationwide program where families send Christmas presents with other children around the world. This project is simple and easy for all families to participate in. We simply fill a shoebox with some gifts—toys, candy, health essentials (toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, etc), school supplies, notes of affirmation as well. See Lauralie Francis-Bedminster for more info!





Pastor: Rev. Stephen J. Kelly

1123 Burney Rd.  
Sugar Land, Texas 77498

Phone: 281.980.0695

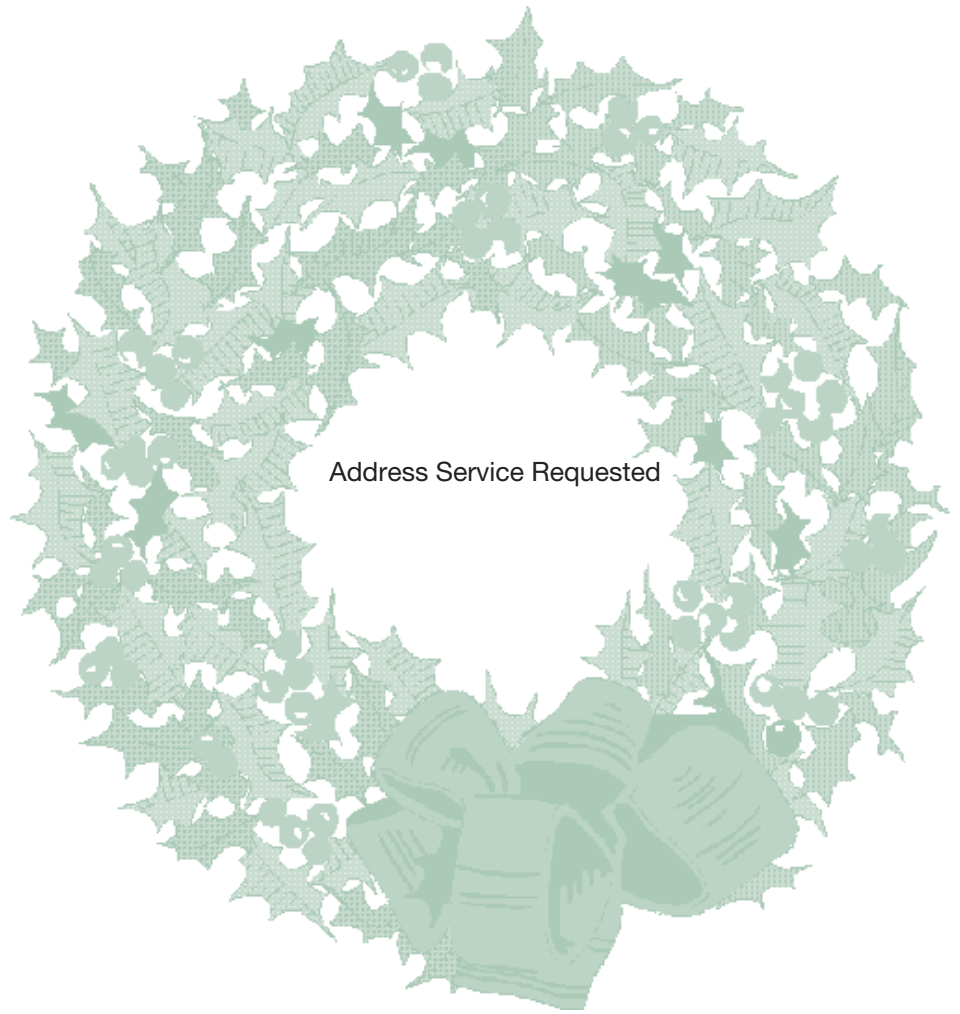
Fax: 281.980.0895

website: www.stmartinslc.org

Worship with Holy Communion  
Every Sunday 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM  
**9:30 AM after December 20, 2009**

Sunday School Classes for  
Children and Adults  
Every Sunday at 9:45 AM

St. Martin's Lutheran Church  
a member of the Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America



Address Service Requested

## December Celebrations

### Birthdays

Chris O'Sullivan	3
Pat Walters	4
Marcus Cacéres	5
Shannon Gillar	5
Chrissy Woessner	5
Jim Nix	7
Tiffany Ferrell	8
Gladys Wilson	8
Margot Twardowski	13
Tony Martinez	15
Janelle Waters	15
Shirley Nix	17
Jerik Kiser	19
Mary Nealon	20
David Scott	21
Ruth Stadtfeld	23

### Anniversaries

Jeff and Tabitha Yarbrough (4)	1
Robin and Aaron Brusio (2)	8
Greg and Barbara Badgett (33)	18
Phil and Linda Blankenship (29)	20
Louis and Fay Hood (48)	23
Jim and Karol Beamer (25)	31

# What to do at St. Martin's in December 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1  6:30pm Stephens Ministers 7:00pm Boy Scouts	2  6:30pm Handbell Choir 6:30pm Confirmation 7:30pm Bible Study	3  6:30pm Contemp. Singers 8:15pm Late Service Choir 7:30:	4	5 Grubbers: The A - Team 5:00pm DIVA's
6 2nd Sunday in Advent  7:00am Matin Choir 8:30am Worship 9:45am Sunday School for All 11:00am Worship	7  7:00 pm Bible Study @ The Cumming's	8  7:00pm Council Mtg 7:00pm Boy Scouts	9  6:30pm Handbell Choir 6:30pm Confirmation 7:30pm Bible Study	10  6:30pm Contemp. Singers 7:30pm Festival Choir	11 Junior / High School Advent Retreat @ Lutherhill	12 Grubbers: Team B  Junior/ High School Advent Retreat @ Lutherhill
13 3rd Sunday in Advent  8:30am Worship 9:45am SCS for all 11:00am Worship	14  7:00 pm Bible Study @ The Cumming's	15 6:30pm Y&F Advisory Mtg  7:00pm Boy Scouts	16  7:30pm Bible Study	17  6:30pm Contemp. Singers 7:30pm Festival Choir	18	19 Grubber's: Charlie's Angels
20 4th Sunday in Advent  7:30am Matin Choir 8:30am Worship 9:45am SCS for all 10:45am Worship	21  7:00 pm Bible Study @ The Cumming's	22  7:00pm Stephens Ministers 7:00pm Boy Scouts	23	24 Christmas Eve OFFICE CLOSED 5:00pm Youth Christmas Eve Service  7:30pm Candlelight Christmas Eve Service	25 Christmas Day OFFICE CLOSED 9:30am Christmas Day Service	26  Grubbers: Muir's Marauders
27 1st Sunday after Christmas  9:30am Worship <i>No Sunday School</i>	28  7:00 pm Bible Study @ The Cumming's	29	30	31 New Year's Eve OFFICE CLOSED		

