



Faithful Stewards2



The German Requiem.....4



Community Nights.....5

The Messenger

Celebrating love and hope

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ST. MARTIN'S

LUTHERAN CHURCH, SUGAR LAND, TEXAS

June 2010

The BIG Issue!

From PK

What To Do With Your Doubts

Believe it or not, a sign that you are growing in your faith is the doubt that creeps into your soul from time to time. For some it is a consuming concern, for others doubt comes and goes. What can we do with our doubts about God, faith, Jesus, the Church, worship...the whole religious thing? In a simple answer, I would say "Hug them!"

What? When we were children we had or were taught ideas about what God looked like, how God acted, what God did, what God felt and how God was a part of our lives. As we grew we discovered that a lot of this was challenged just be sheer life. If we had doubts, we often "stuffed" them because all the church people around us seemed so certain.

Within the last six months or so, more of you (10 or more) have come in to talk about your doubts as if you were the only one that had them. Many of you felt guilty in doubting God. But you found out from me that doubt was a sign of an emerging and growing faith. Every Christian scholar and theologian from the beginning has had doubts. Go to Mark 9:24 and you will see a man cry out "Lord, I believe, help my unbelief."

Paul Tillich, the great theologian from the last century wrote: "We can not longer speak of God easily to anybody, because he will immediately question: Does God exist? Now the very asking of that question signifies that the symbols of God have become meaningless. For god, in the question, has become one of the innumerable objects in time and space which may or may not exist. And this is not the meaning of God at all."

He further stated that "we have to confront the dead symbol to find "the God who appears when God has disappeared in the anxiety of doubt."

What does this mean for you and our community of faith at St. Martin's? As your Pastor, entering my 12th year with you, my calling is to walk with you spiritually as you work out your doubts and growing faith just at the precise moment you might believe that all faith has escaped you. I walk beside you as we talk. I do not push you into believing something that you can not possible believe in, nor do I walk in front of you, beckoning you to "catch up" with all the faithful. The truth is, we are always walking side by side trying to figure out this "God beyond God." For some of you it has never been a problem, and for others of you it has often caused you a "crisis of faith" pulling you away from all things spiritual, worship, and community." So, let me walk with you and talk with you in our 12th year together.

Upcoming Events

June 6: Summer Sunday School Begins

June 9: Community Night @ St. Martin's: Q-Tip Conquest 6-8pm

June 12: Prayer Shawl Gathering 12pm

June 16-17: Confirmation Retreat

June 18: Schiltebahn Trip

June 21-25: Vacation Bible School 9:30-11:30

June 26: DIVA's @ Lisa Dolezal's house 5:00pm



Serving the Lord

Faithful Stewards

Thanks so much to those in our congregation who have been keeping up with their financial stewardship of God's gifts here at St. Martin's. For those who might be a bit behind or may not be on board at all, please consider the work of God in our community. The Church Council (all volunteers!) would love to be able to spend time on our mission rather than time on how to pay our bills at their monthly meetings. We have no big pot of money but only the willing hearts and hands of each of our members. Help us to move forward under the ELCA banner "God's Work, Our Hands."

And a Reminder...

During the summer months many of us travel. One result is that congregations (including ours) tend to have a decline in giving during the summer. It's natural. People are out of town. On the other hand, just as happens at home, the bills still need to be paid. The electric company doesn't take the summer off, staff still need to be compensated, and so on. Please do your best to keep your pledge commitments current during the summer -- and join in worship as often as you can!



From the Council

From the May meeting:

The budget is an ongoing and growing concern this month. Special attention is being given to areas where efficiencies can be made in an effort to help the budget. Quarterly giving statements were sent to each member last month.

Tony Martinez was approved by Council to be trained as a Eucharistic Minister. His name will be submitted to the Bishop for approval.

A proposal was submitted to Council by Lisa Dolezal to create a playgroup that will meet on the third Thursday of every month from 10 a.m. until Noon. The start date of this group is May 20th.

Respectfully submitted,
Kristin Tudmon
Council Secretary

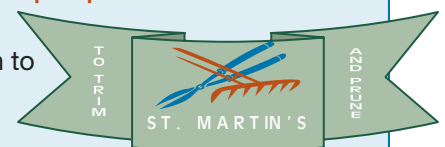


Council To Revisit Our Worship Schedule

One of our councilpersons has asked that the church council put on its June agenda a revisiting our worship schedule as we have noticed a drop in weekly attendance since the first of the year. This will involve many conversations with the whole Church, musicians, committees, assistants, staff and members of the Church. Why has attendance declined? Is it schedule? Lack of a major project? Lack of enthusiasm for mission? What is it? What might it be if you are one that attends infrequently? Without those answers we might come to the wrong conclusions. So this is just a heads up that all of this might be back on the table soon. Help us find the right answers!

The St. Martin's "Grubbers" (or Lawn Pros, if you wish) are in need of a few good people!

Our members who join Grubber teams include accountants, school administrators, engineers, business people, professors, and others who volunteer a few hours every month to keep our church property in shape. Grubbers include both men and women! Hiring others to mow, edge, trim, and otherwise make our grounds attractive would cost thousands of dollars that can now be invested in our ministry.



And the equipment is first class! Four riding mowers (two John Deere tractors, and two Dixie Choppers . . . the fastest riding mower made), all with electric start (no rope pulling). Our walk-behind mowers are all self-propelled, commercial grade. And our trimmers and edgers are also commercial grade.

Contribute a few hours a month by contacting Keith Johnson (kejohn@ev1.net).

Loving, Caring, Learning, Sharing

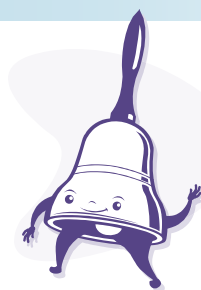
<p>College Graduations</p> <p>Jimmy Beamer, University of Houston</p> <p>Saji John Jabrin, University of Houston</p> <p>Florida Kweeka, University of Phoenix</p> <p>Fernando Moya University of Houston</p> <p>Glenda Moya, Concordia</p> <p>David Warner, Texas Lutheran</p> <p>Matt Larson, Texas A&M</p>	<p>High School Graduations</p> <p>Jake Scott, Clements</p> <p>Cameron Stadtfeld, Travis</p> <p>Ashley Peters, Bush</p> <p>Jennifer Wainscott, BF Terry</p>	<p>Confirmations</p> <p>May 16 and 23</p> <p>Cassy Castañeda</p> <p>Kiara Castañeda</p> <p>Delaney Dupree</p> <p>Duncan McNair</p> <p>Cassie O’Sullivan</p>
<p>Funerals</p> <p>May 21</p> <p>Anna Claire Moorman, aunt to Karol Beamer</p>		
<p>Baptisms</p> <p>May 30</p> <p>Clark Fraser McNeil</p>	<p>Weddings</p> <p>June 11</p> <p>Christina Smith (daughter of Mike and Lin-nay Cummings) and Brett Barest (Pastor and Theresa will fly to South Carolina for this wedding)</p> <p>June 27</p> <p>Sean Plake (son of Billie Plake) and Amy Patterson</p>	

The St. Martin’s Family

In Pursuit of Life, Liberty, and Good Food

St. Martin’s Next food adventure will be taking on a patriotic theme next month. Mark your calendars for **July 10** and plan for some good food, good fun, and good fellowship!

Please contact Chrisy Woessner for more details!



University Bells

The University bells, under the Direction of Dr. Chris Moore, recently played the Prelude for the Worship Service on Sunday, April 25. The University Bells were offered as one of the classes during St. Martin’s Lenten University, which was held each Wednesday evening during the Lenten Season. Participants included Cassy, Kiara and Tracy Castañeda, Ed and Seth Fimbel, Brenda Moore, Priscilla Nierman, and Carrie and Cassie O’Sullivan. Many thanks to Chris Moore for his expertise, time and practice.

Project: Free Money

A Reminder! Please consider changing your Randall’s Remarkable Card designation to St. Martins. It is an easy method for us to increase our revenues.

Randalls Remarkable Card Good Neighbor Program

St. Martins is registered with Randall’s “Good Neighbor Program” via their Club Card. St. Martins will receive 1% of your grocery expenditures every quarter when you designate the Church as the recipient. This is easily accomplished by going to Randal’s service desk and tell them that you wish to designate St. Martins as your choice for your Club Card using # 12320 and remove your prior selections. Thereafter, any time you show the affinity card to the cashier we will automatically receive 1% of your purchase price (less certain restricted items).



Kroger Rewards Program Coming in July, more details soon!

Music Notes

Ein deutsches Requiem

Johannes Brahms was a German composer of the Romantic period. He wrote music in just about every medium, vocal and instrumental, sacred and secular.

Brahms was born in Hamburg in 1833, the son of a double-bass player. A gifted pianist, he helped make money for the family by playing piano in the dance halls of the slum he grew up in. As he grew, he began composing and his music was first noticed by Joseph Joachim, a famous violinist of the times. He introduced Brahms to Robert Schumann, an important composer based in Düsseldorf. He and his wife Clara took Brahms under their wings and nurtured his musical development.

Brahms would go on to write folk music arrangements, choral songs, lied (solo art songs), and all manners of instrumental absolute music (music that tells no story but exists for its own sake). He would, indeed, go on to become—in the opinion of many—the true heir to Beethoven’s symphonic legacy; some had even gone so far as to call Brahms’ First Symphony “Beethoven’s Tenth”.

Tragedy struck when Robert Schumann mentally collapsed. He lingered for two years; all the while Brahms stood beside Clara. (Brahms would truly fall in love with Clara, but out of respect for his mentor, he would never act on his feelings, even after Robert died.) Schumann’s death was a terrible blow to Brahms’ spirit. To honor his mentor, he would compose a Requiem.

Brahms, whilst not particularly devout, was a Lutheran, and when composing his Requiem he jettisoned the traditional Latin Mass for the Dead in favor of verses that he himself selected from the German Bible. This piece, **Ein deutsches Requiem nach Worten der heiligen Schrift für Soli, Chor und Orchester [Orgel ad libitum]** (A German Requiem to words of the Holy Scriptures for Soloists, Choir and Orchestra [Organ optional]) was composed in six movements:

Selig sind, die da Leid tragen (Blessed are they that mourn, for they will be comforted)

Denn alles Fleisch es ist wie Gras (For all flesh is as grass)

Herr, lehre doch mich (Lord, teach me to know my end and the measure of my days)

Wie lieblich sind deine Wohnungen (How lovely is your house, O Lord of hosts!)

Denn wir haben hie keine bleibende Statt (For here we do not have a lasting place)

Selig sind die Toten (Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord)

The texts Brahms selected differed from the Latin Mass and its emphasis on God’s wrath and judgment. Brahms chose texts that reflect his own feelings about life and death. He not only exerted control over the language of the piece, but of the music itself. So critical was he of his work that he grew angry over his initial attempt at the second movement and tossed the entire thing in the fireplace, starting over and penning the second movement as we know it today. The original second movement is lost to ashes and time.

Ein deutsches Requiem debuted to great acclaim and quickly became a popular concert and church selection. But it was not yet complete. It would take one more death for Brahms to finish his greatest choral work.

When Brahms’ mother died, he was shaken even more than by the loss of his mentor Robert Schumann. As he did with that death, Brahms turned his grief into creativity, composing one final movement for the Requiem, the soprano solo with chorus that would become the fifth movement we know today. For this movement, Brahms chose three verses from Scripture which speak of current sorrow, coming joy, rest after life’s labor, and a mother’s comfort.

As any artist will tell you, art never creates the world it lives in; the world is the genesis of the art that springs from it. Brahms’ grief planted the seeds that would blossom into one of the most glorious pieces of sacred music ever set, and its message of the fleeting nature of this world, the comforting power of our God, and the glory of the life everlasting is one that time has yet to diminish.

If you are interested in hearing this piece of music, there are many fine recordings available for purchase in music stores everywhere and online at sites like the iTunes Store and Rhapsody.



Youth Quake

A Special Thank You

As the end of our Sunday School Year comes to a close, I would like to thank all the teachers, their families, our students, and all who in some way have supported our Sunday School Program. Our program at St. Martin's is high above average because of our extraordinary teachers and energy they bring each Sunday. As Summer Sunday School begins, we will already be planning for next year. If you would like to get in on this service to our congregation, please contact Corey Heidt.



Confirmation Beach Retreat/ Schlitterbahn Trip

Confirmation Retreat

Our Confirmation class will be taking its final retreat to the Lamm's beach house on June 16–17. They will be taking some time to reflect on their faith journey and what their faith means to them. PK will be joining them on this retreat.

Schlitterbahn Trip

Our Junior High and High School Students will be going to Schlitterbahn on Friday, June 18. This trip will be a day of fun in the sun for the youth. It will be a good way to help our incoming high school youth get to know our current high school youth, and our new Junior High/ Confirmation youth get to know the current ones as well! Please look for a sign up sheet in the narthex!



Community Game Night

June 9: Q-Tip Conquest 6–8pm

This game is for the brave of heart! We will be staging all out WAR at St. Martin's on this evening! Only this war will be with Q-Tips and straws. And some hot air to send these Q-Tips a-flying! We'll gather at 6 for bring-your-own-brown-bag dinner. And then draw battle lines! This game is fun for all ages.



Friday July 2: Campfire Night 8–11pm

The whole St. Martin's congregation is invited for a Campfire Night on our property! We'll have s'mores, songs and fellowship around a campfire. We'll be starting at around 8 and everyone is encouraged to stay as late as they desire. This campfire night will be a chance for everyone to relax, and have a nice evening of rest and relaxation. All ages are welcomed to Campfire Night!



St. Martin's VBS June 21–25

Please put this on your calendar. St. Martin's VBS will be the week of June 21; we will be doing a Holy Land Adventure by studying Joseph's journey from prison to palace. We look forward to guiding our youth through Egypt.

Registration is now open online! Go to www.stmartinslc.org/youth to register. Or you can pick up a paper registration form online.

Adults, now is the time to be thinking of signing up for this adventure; be one of the leaders on this exciting tour. If you are interested, please see Sally Clesi or Corey Heidt





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Sugar Land, Texas 77498

Phone: 281.980.0695

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website: www.stmartinslc.org

Worship with Holy Communion
Every Sunday 9:30 AM

Sunday School Classes for
Children and Adults
Every Sunday at 10:45 AM

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

June Celebrations

Birthdays

William Cote	3
Ray Short	4
Jessica Johnson	7
Simon Castañeda	13
Garet Carlson	15
Alpha Wurie	16
Greg Badgett	23
Cle Edwards	24
Randi Eaton	25
Linnay Cummings	26
Karol Beamer	29
PK	29
Al Parks	29

Anniversaries

Joe and Patty Patane	17	5
Bruce and Shelly Horne	10	7
Russ and Gloria Reider	54	10
Rene and Amanda Gutierrez	13	14
Cassius and Glenda Oakes	9	15
Gary and Deanna Morrow-Parmenter		15
Vito and Marlene Susca	31	23
Michael and Lisa Dupree	16	24
Doyle and Millie Brown	45	25

If you would like your name added to the Celebrations List, or notice it's missing/ incorrect, please e-mail Corey Heidt (corey.heidt@gmail.com)

We're compiling a new system for birthday/ anniversary recognition.

June 2010

Things to do at St. Martin's this Month

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 6:30pm: Facilities Mtg 7:00pm: Boy Scouts 7:00pm: Stephen's Ministers	2	3 9:30am Women's Bible Study	4	5 Grubbers: Team Eaton
6 2nd Sunday of Pentecost 8:00am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Worship 10:45am SCS for all	7	8 7:00pm: Boy Scouts 7:00pm Council Mtg.	9 6:00pm Q-Tip Conquest	10 9:30am Women's Bible Study	11	12 Grubbers: Team Miura 10:00am Handbells 12:00pm Prayer Shawl Gathering
13 3rd Sunday of Pentecost 9:30am Worship 10:45am SCS for all	14	15 7:00pm: Boy Scouts 7:00pm Stephen's Ministers	16 Confirmation Retreat	17 Confirmation Retreat 9:30am Women's Bible Study	18 HS/ JH Schlitterbahn Outing	19 Grubbers: Team Warner
20 <i>Father's Day</i> 4th Sunday of Pentecost 8:00am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Worship 10:45am SCS for all	21 9:30 Vacation Bible School	22 9:30 Vacation Bible School 7:00pm: Boy Scouts	23 9:30 Vacation Bible School	24 9:30 Vacation Bible School 9:30am Women's Bible Study	25 9:30 Vacation Bible School	26 Grubbers: Team Eaton 5:00pm—DIVA's @ the Dolezal'ss 5:00pm Plake-Patterson Rehearsal
27 <i>VBS Sunday</i> 5th Sunday of Pentecost 8:45am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Worship 10:45am SCS for all Plake-Patterson Wedding	28	29 7:00pm: Boy Scouts	30			

Worship Team Schedule for June 2010

<u>Date</u>	<u>Readers</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Acolytes</u>	<u>Tellers</u>	<u>A/V</u>	<u>Altar Guild</u>	<u>Bread Bakers</u>
June 6	Robin Brusco Melinda Schuler	Cle Edwards Andy Strom	Taylor Hood Delaney Dupree	Keith Johnson	Shannon Gillar Lauralie Fr.-Bed.	Pat and Andy Strom	Daniela Hammons
June 13	Paul Whitaker John Carlson	Norma Becker Terrie Neill	Cassy & Kiara Castañeda	Carl & Arlene Peters	Linda Blankenship Janet Metzger	Gunter and Monique Faig	Linnay Cummings
June 20	Rosalie Fontenot Hildy Warner	Paul Whitaker Dale Lipps	Brittany Peters Rusty Reider	Joe & LaMona Weaver	Leon Miura Chris O'Sullivan	Bill and Norma Kolwes	Alice Griffin
June 27	Mary Ann Manning Nancy Roth	Marcus & Shannon Hood	Marcus Caceres Grant Gillar	Harvey & June Ja- cobson	Todd Pfenninger Monika Miura	Gay Atkinson Phyllis Staskus	Maggie Anderson