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The Messenger

Celebrating love and hope

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ST. MARTIN'S

LUTHERAN CHURCH, SUGAR LAND, TEXAS

July 2010

Happy Independence Day!

From PK

A People's Passion

The Oberammergau Passion Play was first performed in 1634 and is the result of a vow made by the inhabitants of the village that if God spared them from the effects of the bubonic plague then sweeping the region they would perform a passion play every ten years. The play is now performed in years ending with a zero, (except 1984 which was the 350th anniversary), and involves over 2000 actors, singers, instrumentalists and technicians, all residents of the village.

For such a small town, these singers, actors, and instrumentalists are outstanding. Of course the whole play is in German and lasts several hours broken up by a three to four hour intermission when the townspeople go to the shops and stores to tend to the tourists who have come for the play.

Theresa and I along with the Metzgers and later Norma Becker and Terrie Neill, will be attending this decade's play in the early part of July.

I have seen it once (1990) and enjoyed it immensely. 20 years later what still gets me is these people's passion for the Passion of Christ. Not only that, but to keep a vow made by their ancestors now 375 years ago is nothing short of amazing in my book.

We, too, have a passion at St. Martin's to a vow taken by our spiritual ancestor, Martin Luther who said "Here I stand....." thus making a vow to be faithful to the scriptures that shows us salvation by the grace of God.

As I write this, our Vacation Bible School is in session and it is a delight to see the "next generation" step up and take leadership. Our young people in Jr. high and High school are leaders, sharing God's love with children. What a tribute to them with the loving guidance of our adults. May we all be passionate about this Gospel of love that Jesus has given us!



Upcoming Events

July 4: Independence Day Cookout 11:00

July 18–23: Week 1 at Lutherhill

July 25–30: Week 2 at Lutherhill

June31: DIVA's @ Saskia Mehlhorn'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!



Family Promise Host Week

The next host week for Family Promise is from August 22nd through 29th. Volunteer signup begins Sunday July 18th at the table near the name tags. Currently there are 14 guests enrolled with three families on a waiting list.

Volunteer Opportunities

Each host week has approximately 45 volunteer positions to fill. The following is a brief descriptions of the positions available:

Volunteers go to the previous host church around 12 noon on the first Sunday of the host week to load and move beds to St. Martin's.

Persons help remove contents of the Sunday School rooms for storage and set up bedrooms at approximately 12 noon on the first Sunday of the host week.

Each evening, a person or persons prepares a meal at their home and brings the meal to the church for the guests to eat at around 6:30PM.

Two persons stay at the church each evening from approximately 6:30 to 8PM. Hosts are there to assist guests if needed, answer questions, help the guests with cleanups and sometimes assist with discipline.

Overnight hosts stay and sleep at the church from 8PM to approximately 5 or 5:30AM when the van arrives for the guests to take them to the Family Promise Center. This is one of the more difficult positions to fill, but is one of the easiest jobs to do. The hosts are available for the guests, but the guests are generally in bed by around 9PM.

A morning host is needed each day at the Family Promise Center from 5:30AM to around 8:30AM. The morning host keeps the Center open and is available to the guests until the Director arrives.

At least three persons are needed to take the laundry from the host week to their home on the last Sunday of the host week, clean it, and return it to the church over the next two weeks.

Persons are needed to take down the bedrooms and return the contents from storage to the Sunday School rooms and set up the rooms. This is done at the end of the host week at about 7:30AM Sunday morning.

Volunteers are also needed for two hour shifts during the weekend to stay at the Family Promise Center when the guests are there. This is the hardest position to fill, but all you need to do is show up and be available for the guests. Most of the time, it is a great time to catch up on personal work or read a book.

To date, St. Martin's persons have stepped up to the plate and filled the positions each time and for that Arlene and I are grateful. We are always seeking new volunteers so that those who do volunteer do not have to serve in more than one position or on more than one date during a host week. To be a volunteer for the program, the person must go through approximately 1½ hour training before serving. Anyone wanting to become a volunteer should contact Bob Metzger at 281-793-8352 so he can arrange for the training.

Loving, Caring, Learning, Sharing

Sunday, July 4

As there is no Sunday School on July 4, Theresa Kelly is having an “Old Fashioned” hot dogs and stuff in an indoor picnic for the congregation (we hate the heat!) in honor of PK’s 65th birthday. Plan to stay following worship. Corey will have games for not only the young, but the young in heart!



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).

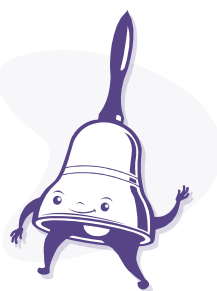
Kroger Rewards Program Coming in July, more details soon!



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 patience.

From Council

Unrestricted receipts were favorable to the budget in May. However, Council continues to be concerned about the budget and has been discussing ways to improve the church’s current financial situation.

The Call Committee has met a couple of times in the past few months. They are working to complete the Ministry Site Profile as required by the synod. The committee is working to develop a survey that will be provided to the congregation to answer.

The next Parish Life event is the Food Adventure coming up on July 10th.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristin Tudmon

Council Secretary



Music Notes

MUSIC NOTES– July 2010

Too operatic?

This month, we continue our look into major works of sacred music with another Requiem, this one composed by Giuseppe Verdi.

Giuseppe Fortunino Francesco Verdi was born in Roncole, Italy on October 10, 1813. He first studied music in Busseto, applying for the Milan Conservatory in 1832 (he was rejected because he was too old). He then went on to study with Milanese composer Vincenzo Lavigne. He returned to Busseto in 1833 as the conductor of the Philharmonic Society.

His first opera, *Oberto*, premiered at La Scala (historically, Italy's most important opera house) in 1839 with some success. His second opera, a comedy entitled *Un giorno di regno* (King for a Day) had its debut in 1840 and was a failure. This, coupled with the death of his wife and two children, compelled Verdi to give up composing. The management of La Scala, however, compelled Verdi to write another opera, *Nabucco*, on the story of Nebuchadnezzar and Israel's captivity in Babylon. The subject matter spoke to the heart of many in Italy at the time, for much of Italy was under Austrian rule. Indeed, Verdi's own name would become a battle cry for Italian freedom fighter, who would chant "Verdi!" (Viva Emmanuele, Re di Italia!)

Verdi would go on to compose many more operas, including *Macbeth*, *Rigoletto*, *Il Trovatore*, *La forza del destino* (The Force of Destiny), *La Traviata*, *Un ballo in maschera* (A Masked Ball), *Don Carlo*, *Aida*, *Otello*, and *Falstaff*. He would become known the world over as "The Grandfather of Italian Opera".

In 1868, the renowned Italian opera composer Gioachino Rossini (composer of such works as *The Barber of Seville*, *La Cenerentola* (Cinderella), *Guillaume Tell* and many others), died. Verdi was very saddened by this death, and he felt that a fitting tribute be made to such an important man of music. He rallied together many of Italy's best composers and proposed that a grand Requiem be composed to be performed on the first anniversary of Rossini's passing. Each composer would contribute one section of the work, and Verdi was given the task of composing the "Libera me" ("Deliver me from eternal death") section. Verdi wrote his portion, but when the one year anniversary came, no other composer had completed their parts. The Requiem for Rossini would never be heard.

Another death would prompt Verdi to write a complete Requiem setting. Alessandro Francesco Tommaso Manzoni was an Italian poet and novelist, most well known for his novel *The Betrothed*. Verdi admired Manzoni as a writer, but also as a statesman (Manzoni had been named a senator by Emmanuele II; Verdi himself would also serve as an Italian statesman). When Manzoni died in 1873, Verdi would write a full Requiem in honor his honor.

Verdi's Requiem is set for Soprano, Mezzo-Soprano, Tenor, and Bass soli, mixed choir, and orchestra. Written at the "end" of his career (his supposedly last opera, *Aida*, debuted in 1871; Verdi would be pulled from retirement later for the revision of *Simone Boccanegra* and the creation of both *Otello* and *Falstaff*), the Requiem shows Verdi at the height of his compositional powers. The work, which takes a good hour and a half to perform, has all the prerequisites of opera: soaring arias, intricate duets and trios, bombastic choruses, and raging orchestral writing. It is also rife with subtlety and nuance, and indeed, sitting through a performance can be demanding on a listener used to sacred music of a more serene or humbly reserved nature. Critics of this Requiem have called it "too operatic", "something unbecoming of sacred music", even "blasphemous". In this writer's opinion, for Verdi to have composed his Requiem in anything other than an operatic medium would have been to defy who he was as an artist, to negate the skills it had taken him a lifetime to learn.

Verdi's Requiem follows the order of the Roman Catholic Mass for the Dead and is structured as follows:

Requiem aeternam [including Kyrie] (Grant them rest eternal [Lord, have mercy]) - all soloists and chorus

Sequence – Dies irae (Day of anger):

Dies irae – chorus

Tuba mirum (The trumpet sounds) – bass solo and chorus

Liber scriptus (The written book) – mezzo-soprano solo and chorus

Quid sum miser (What am I, miserable, to say?) – soprano, mezzo, and tenor soloists

(continued on pg 5)

Rex tremendae (Tremendous God) – all soloists and chorus

Recordare (Remember) – soprano and mezzo soloists

Ingemisco (I sigh) – tenor solo

Confutatis (The cursed are rebuked) – bass solo and chorus

Lacrymosa (Day of tears) – all soloists and chorus

Offertory – Domine Jesu Christe (Lord Jesus Christ) – all soloists

Sanctus (Holy, Holy, Holy) – double chorus

Agnus Dei (Lamb of God) – soprano and mezzo-soprano soloists and chorus

Communion – Lux aeterna (Light eternal) – mezzo-soprano, tenor, and bass soloists

Libera me (Deliver me) – soprano soloist and chorus

Verdi did not choose to set the entirety of the Mass for the Dead, however. He chose not to use the Gradual or Tract sections, as these texts mirror the sentiments of the Requiem aeternam and Kyrie, respectively. Nor did he use the final section of the Mass, “In paradisum” (Into paradise), probably for a similar reason (the “Libera me” ends with the phrase “Grant to them eternal rest, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them”, which is the same basic message of “In paradisum”).

As you can see from the summation of the work above, this Requiem is a major work of music, and truly it must be heard to be appreciated. If you would like to listen to this work, Tony has a favorite recording he can direct you to, or you can stop by his office for a listen. Tony also recommends highly that you hear it live, and next season you will have the opportunity as the Houston Symphony will present this work in January 2011. It is surely a night of music not to be missed!

Youth Quake

Successful VBS!

St. Martin’s would like to give a GREAT big thanks to ALL who participated, supported and, of course who volunteered in this year’s Vacation Bible School. The nearly 50 kids who attended had a great time and learned a great deal about God’s love and what it means to be in His family. Special thanks to Lauralie Francis and Sally Clesi for all of their time spent preparing for this week long event! Also, thanks to Tony and PK for acting out their parts so well each day—Tony even shaved his head for the authentic Egyptian look! Talk about dedication!



Away at Lutherhill

June was a Busy month at St. Martin’s for in house activities— Vacation Bible School and the Confirmation retreat and a Community Night. July will be busy too! Looking at my calendar, I will be at Lutherhill a lot this month! I’ll be away from the church for several weeks out of the month for camps, Synod Council Meeting, and personal vacation.

Needless to say, I’m very excited about joining our youth at Lutherhill for camp. And being with them as they experience a wonderful week of camp learning about God and being in His great creation. I will be at camp with the Kids during the last two weeks in July (18–23, 25–30).

At the last Synod Assembly, I was elected to the Synod Council. As such, I will be at the Synod council meeting at Lutherhill towards the beginning of the month (9–11).

Stay tuned for Happenings in August!

Corey H.

August Happenings

Stay Tuned for more info!

High School/ Junior High Back to School Pool Party





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 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



July Celebrations

Birthdays

Braden Dupree	1
Olene Peckham	5
Gunter Faig	7
Jason Miura	10
Jim Beamer	11
Elvena Baptiste	15
Drew Waters	15
Jim Walters	19
Glenda Moya	21
Shelly Horne	24
Nina Jibrin	26
Tracy Castañeda	28
Jennifer Healy	28
Taylor Hood	29
Gerry Paap	30

Matthew Purgason	30
Harvey Jacobson	31

Anniversaries

David and Nancy Roth	10	1
Philip and Darlene Larson	24	3
Michael and Linnay Cummings	41	5
Mychal and Jamie Alexander	3	14
Michael and Bobbie Cook	4	15
Parlee and Florida Kweekeh	24	19
Stephen and Theresa Kelly	13	19
Matthew and Rachal Purgason	13	26

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.

July 2010

Things to do at St. Martin's this Month

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 Grubbers: Team Miura
4 <i>Independence Day</i> 6th Sunday of Pentecost 9:30am Worship 10:45 Independence Day Cookout	5	6 7:00pm: Boy Scouts 7:00pm Stephen's Ministers	7	8	9	10 Grubbers: Team Warner
11 7th Sunday of Pentecost 9:30am Worship 10:45am SCS for all	12	13 7:00pm: Boy Scouts 7:00pm Council Mtg.	14	15	16	17 Grubbers: Team Eaton
18 8th Sunday of Pentecost 9:30am Worship 10:45am SCS for all Lutherhill, Wk 1	19 Lutherhill, Wk 1	20 7:00pm: Boy Scouts 7:00pm Stephen's Ministers Lutherhill, Wk 1	21 Lutherhill, Wk 1	22 Lutherhill, Wk 1	23 Lutherhill, Wk 1	24 Grubbers: Team Miura
25 9th Sunday of Pentecost 9:30am Worship 10:45am SCS for all Lutherhill, Wk 2	26 Lutherhill, Wk 2	27 7:00pm: Boy Scouts Lutherhill, Wk 2	28 Lutherhill, Wk 2	29 Lutherhill, Wk 2	30 Lutherhill, Wk 2	31 Grubbers: Team Warner 5:00 DIVA's at Saskia's 6:00pm Garrison Wedding

Worship Team Schedule for July 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>
July 4	Parlee & Florida Kweekeh	Carl & Arlene Peters	Meagan Gillar Delaney Dupree	Keith Johnson	David Scott Dale Moquist	Norma Becker Terri Neill	Norma Becker
July 11	Bob & Janet Metzger	Freda Duncan Holly Duncan	Taylor Hood Cassie O'Sullivan	John & Carolyn Carlson	Shannon Gillar Lauralie Fr.-Bed.	Mary Ann Manning Fay Hood	Fay Hood
July 18	Leon & Monika Miura	Cle Edwards Andy Strom	Cassy & Kiara Castañeda	Leon & Monika Miura	Linda Blankenship Janet Metzger	Denise Cope Janet Metzger	Linnay Cummings
July 25	Chris & Brenda Moore	Nancy Roth John Carlson	Brittany Peters Rusty Reider	Chris & Chrisy Woessner	Leon Miura Chris O'Sullivan	Jean Short Glenda Oakes	Lucille Cochran