



The Echo



SAT, Nov 12 & SUN, Nov 13

CONSECRATION WEEKEND IS COMING...



Congregations that approach financial stewardship from a biblical perspective do not view the money Christians give to their church merely as a way to pay its bills. Rather, such congregations see financial contributions as a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God by supporting their church's mission and ministry with a percentage of their incomes.

Our congregation's finance committee has selected the **New Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program** as a way to teach the biblical and spiritual principles of generous giving in our stewardship education emphasis this year.

New Consecration Sunday is based on the biblical philosophy of the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual development, rather than on the need of the church to receive. Instead of treating people like members of a social club who should pay dues, we will treat people like followers of Jesus Christ who want to give unselfishly as an act of discipleship. *New Consecration Sunday* encourages people toward proportionate and systematic giving in response to the question, "What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?" During each of the worship services on Consecration Weekend, we are asking our attendees and members to make their financial commitments to our church's missionary, benevolent, and educational ministries in this community and around the world.

Every attendee and member, who completes an *Estimate of Giving Card* does so voluntarily by attending one of the worship services on Consecration Weekend. We urge people to attend who feel strongly opposed to completing a card. The procedure is done in such a way that no one feels personal embarrassment if he or she chooses not to fill out a card.

We will do no home solicitation to ask people to complete cards. During each worship service on Consecration Weekend, our guest leader will conduct a brief period of instruction and inspiration, climaxed by members asking their commitments as a confidential act of worship.

We will encourage participation in Consecration Weekend events through the Consecration Weekend task force. Since we will make no follow-up visits to ask people to complete their cards, we will make every effort to inform, inspire, and commit everyone to attend one of the worship services during Consecration Weekend on Saturday, November 12 and Sunday, November 13, 2005.

Thanks in advance for your enthusiastic participation in Consecration Weekend events.

– The Consecration Weekend Task Force

FOLLOWING EACH SERVICE, WE WILL CELEBRATE TOGETHER OVER A MEAL OR DESSERT.

Sat, November 12 5 PM service – followed by dessert

Sun, November 13 8 & 9:30 AM services – followed by brunch

11 AM service – followed by lunch

Reservations will be made on Sunday mornings – October 30 and November 6.

St. Martin's Lutheran Church

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 csommer@saintmartins.org

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will be directed to the
 appropriate staff program
 director for review.
 Email copy submissions to:
 dsheehan@saintmartins.org or
 place in Denise Sheehan's box in
 Room 231. Please send **Address
 changes** to Max in the church
 office at 476-6757 or email
 mottmer@saintmartins.org.

From Pastor Craig

"Sing to the Lord a new song!" (Psalm 96:1)

At my installation as the new Sr. Pastor at St. Martin's we sang this psalm. It is a wonderfully appropriate theme for us as we begin a new chapter in the life of this congregation.

I want you to know that I am very confident about the future of St. Martin's.

In a relatively short period of time, I have come to appreciate the wealth of talented leaders and willing volunteers in this community of faith. I have been reminded of the rich tradition of worship and music that has inspired so many over the years. Few congregations have so many fine opportunities in the areas of youth, family, and Christian education.

Even though there have been changes in the way ministry gets done and the faces that are in leadership positions, these traditions are alive and well. By the grace of God, St. Martin's will continue to be a place where people come to know the love of God present in the face of Jesus.

As we move into this new chapter of life together, I have a few simple requests. First, please pray for St. Martin's, its members, staff, and future. Secondly, strive to have an open heart and spirit. Look for the positive movement of God to shape this place. Develop the gift of encouragement in your heart. Finally, when you feel moved by the Spirit, volunteer to help. Too often we minimize the importance of what we can do. Making sandwiches for a new members' luncheon, folding bulletins, being a confirmation mentor, changing a light bulb, etc. are all important in building community at St. Martin's.

I have another favor to ask. When you see me, please keep telling me your name! There is one of me and approximately 1500 of you! Also, I want to make an invitation to you. My office door is open every day. Stop by and visit.

God's peace,
 Pastor Craig

New Classes on Wednesdays at 7 PM

Nov 2: "Lutherans in Palestine" presented by Pastor Laura Holck.

Nov 9: "One Who Practices Islam" presented by Mohammad Al-Bedaiwi, Vice President of the North Austin Muslim Community Center, NAMCC.

Nov 16 – Dec 14: Christmas: The Real Story

Pre-registration strongly encouraged so books can be ordered. Cost: \$10.
 Come discover new wonder, richness, and inspiration in the story of the infant Jesus with this four week series.

High School Youth are also encouraged to attend!

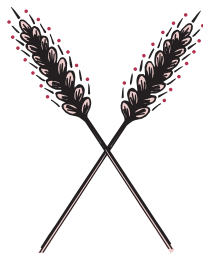
For more information, contact Kathy Krebs.

Annual Joint Thanksgiving Eve Eucharist

Wednesday, Nov 23 • 7:00 PM

St. Martin's hosts

St. David's Episcopal Church



Featuring combined choirs of both parishes and music by St. Martin's Chamber Ensemble.

The Rev. Mary Vano, St. David's, preaches

Reception follows in St. Martin's Fellowship Hall.

Meet Our New Members Joined 10/9/05



Hayley Freasier
1020 E. 45th St
Austin 78751



Debbie Kissman
7310 Halbert Dr
Austin 78750; 343-7477



Jason Palmer
1020 E. 45th St
Austin 78751



Melissa Swearingen
1616 W. 6th St
Austin 78703



Mike Unger
1020 Harwood Place
Austin 78704; 444-8795



Pr. Craig & Debbie Sommer
3517 Ashmere Loop
Round Rock, 78681; 310-2667



Advent Vespers

A special Sunday evening Worship series, celebrating the anticipation of Christ's birth. Bring your friends and family to enjoy this wonderful Advent experience.

Sunday, November 27 • 5:00 PM

Holden Evening Prayer, with special music provided by the Section Leader/Soloists of St. Martin's Choir.

Sunday, December 4 • 5:00 PM

Holden Evening Prayer, including "A Ceremony of Carols" by Benjamin Britten, sung by St. Martin's Choir and Section Leader/Soloists.

Sunday, December 11 • 5:00 PM

"Christmas Vespers" presentation by the choir of Texas Lutheran University.

Sunday, December 18 • 5:00 PM

Advent Service of Lessons and Carols, with music by St. Martin's singers and instrumentalists.

The more we know, the more we understand!

St. Martin's continues the discussion of the **Middle East** by having two forums in November on Wednesday evenings at 7 PM in Room 230.

- **Nov 2:** "Lutherans in Palestine" presented by Pastor Laura Holck.
 - **Nov 9:** "One Who Practices Islam" presented by Mohammad Al-Bedaiwi, Vice President of the North Austin Muslim Community Center, NAMCC.
- Contact: Kathy Krebs

Saintly Seniors Luncheon Nov 8 at 12:15 PM in the Parlor. Topic: *What I Want to Know When a Hospital Stay is Necessary.* Contact Kathy Krebs to reserve a lunch.

St. Martin's Blood Drive will be Sunday morning, Nov 20. Please sign up on the St. Martin's bulletin board if you are interested in donating blood.

Decorate for Christmas Tues, Dec 13, 8:30 AM. All are invited to help decorate the Nave for Christmas. The St. Martin's all volunteer luncheon follows.

The Jr. High Synod Gathering in Kerrville

is Nov 11-13. Those who are registered should meet at SMLC on Friday at 5 PM. Bring a sack dinner. The group will return on Sunday at 3 PM. Bring \$10 for snacks and lunch on Sunday.



Youth Ministry Breakfast Club Come for breakfast! Come with your ideas! Come to partner together in ministry. Volunteers, parents, youth – you're all invited to share your thoughts on St. Martin's 6th-12th Grade Ministry and plans for Spring 2006. 8 AM in the parlor on Sun, Nov 27.

Contact: Whitney Myers.

JAM (3rd – 5th Grade) Advent Retreat

"Come to the Stable" December 2 & 3. Watch the mail for registration information! Cost: \$50. Registration deadline: Sun, Nov 20. Contact: Whitney Myers.

Youth Group Reunion Tues, Dec 22 – it's a Reunion for Classes 2002-2005 (high school) and...anybody else. Get OUT of the house and IN to the spirit of the season. Contact: Whitney Myers.

Columbarium Committee Readies Report

In January 2005 the Congregational annual meeting provided that a committee would study and report to the 2006 annual meeting on the possibility of establishing a Columbarium at SMLC.

A Columbarium is a place for permanently providing a secure location for the repose of one's cremated remains. It usually consists of niches in a wall or in the ground on church property.

Establishment of a Columbarium can go forward upon approval by the January 2006 annual meeting. It is recommended that this will be a self-supporting project. No funds from the church budget are anticipated to be used to either build or maintain the Columbarium. Approximately 20 pre-construction purchases would be needed.

Committee Shares Findings With Members

- Brochures and briefings provided in October and November for virtually every SMLC group.
- November mailing of brochure and letter to all households having a member over age 50.
- Invitation for interested members of any age to attend one brief 45 minute, no obligation orientation session on November 16 at either 11 AM, 6 PM or 7 PM. Bring your questions and comments.

Your preference, with no commitment or obligation whatever, where SMLC should establish EITHER the Indoor or Outdoor location is needed by the committee at these meetings or earlier to be part of the committee report.

Brochures are available in the church office or the narthex information center. Or contact committee members: Norman Hummell, Chairperson, 837-3431; Patsy Ashabranner, 515-7952; Anita Bynum, 452-4346; and Joy or Andy Alexander, 442-6884.

"COMPLETING THE



CIRCLE OF LIFE"

A Columbarium within the sanctity of the church where one has celebrated Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Communion or Marriage facilitates completion of the Circle of Earthly Life when Last Rites are commemorated within the church.

The brochures and orientation meetings will suggest the benefits, eligibility and possible costs as well as provide ample time for questions and comments.

St. Martin's invites all to the Annual German Christmas Service

Saturday, Dec. 17 • 5 PM, Reception follows
Come to a special event celebrating German heritage at St. Martin's. The entire service is spoken and sung in the German language (English translation provided).

Preacher: The Rev. Dr. David Zersen
 Special Music: The Austin Saengerrunde Choir



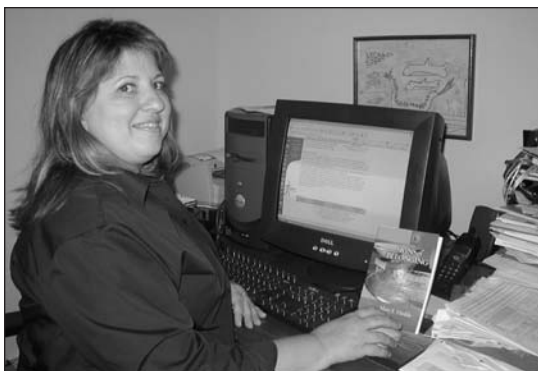


Cruzando Corner

St. Martin's is preparing for the 2006 ELCA National

Youth Gathering in San Antonio, Texas. The Southwestern Texas Synod is the host synod for the event, and St. Martin's will play a major role!

- Fifteen St. Martin's high school youth are currently registered for the 2006 ELCA national Youth Gathering in San Antonio and there is plenty of room for more! The theme for the Gathering is Cruzando. Contact Whitney Myers ASAP if you are interested.
- Adults: Attend the Gathering yourself as a volunteer. If you are 18 and older, you can download an application at www.elca.org/gathering/GVCAApp.pdf. You can sign-up to volunteer during week ONE (July 3-9) or during week TWO (July 10-16). Dates for Volunteers include training time. St. Martin's will be attending week TWO of the Gathering! The Gathering will cover most of your meals and hotel accommodations during your stay in San Antonio.
- Check back here next month for information about how you can help the St. Martin's Sr. High Youth attending Cruzando and log onto www.elca.org/gathering/home.html to find out more about the mission and goals of the Youth Gathering, purchase Cruzando merchandise, and more!



At home, Melissa Ingram logs on to St. Martin's Thursday evening Lutherans On-line class to chat and learn with others from around the city.

From Pastor June

Our hope for you is unshaken; for we know that as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our consolation.

— 2 Corinthians 1:7



For the first few weeks of September, it seems like all we heard about on TV was New Orleans and Mississippi and the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina. As the media showed pictures of people suffering and being rescued, there was a sense of excitement and even glamour to the coverage. Celebrities were even getting on the bandwagon offering money and publicity to the crisis.

But as a couple of months have past, life goes on and other things occupy our minds and our television sets. It is easy to forget that a majority of the people of New Orleans are still displaced and there is still an enormous amount of rebuilding needed which could take years to complete. In these devastated areas, there are also at least 8 ELCA churches that have suffered damages. (For pictures of the damaged churches, see www.gulfcoastsynod.org/gallery11.htm) We know how difficult it is to make ends meet in churches on a normal day, but with a crisis like this it might be too much for these churches to recover from.

Just because the hurricanes are not the top stories on the news anymore it doesn't mean that there are not many people still in need. That is why the council and the Benevolence/Outreach Committee have decided to renew our efforts to help.

In the month of November, the council of St. Martin's is challenging the congregation in the month of November to match their gifts for hurricane relief. Collectively, the members of the council have given \$2,900 and they are asking that the whole congregation work together to bring that total to \$6,000. The funds will then be distributed by the Benevolence/Outreach Committee to selected churches in the region or to certain projects or Lutheran organizations helping with relief and rebuilding.

Even though much has been given by St. Martin's to organizations helping with recovery, the leaders of this congregation wanted to do even more.

There are also other opportunities to help out: Stephen Ministers are offering their care to evacuees still in Austin, people are helping Mobile Loaves and Fishes take many trips with food and clothing into the devastated areas, and once Lutheran Disaster Relief is allowed into the area, we are hoping we will be able to get our hands dirty and help out in the rebuilding.

As followers of Jesus, we are called to help not only when it is fashionable and when everyone is watching, but when no one is watching as well.

Pr. June

Pastor June Wilkins,
Associate Pastor

Mission Trip to Agua Viva (St. Martin's partner congregation in Laredo) will be the weekend of Nov 4-6. Help work on the finishing touches of their new building and (some more simple improvements for the less experienced.) To volunteer, please contact Pr. June or sign up on the Outreach bulletin board. (You do not have to attend all days of the trip.)

Wednesday Night at St. Martin's

Children (5th Grade & Under*)

5:30–7:00 PM	Dinner for All
6:00–8:30 PM	Kids Club (Room 207)
6:30–7:00 PM	Children's Choir (Grades 2-6) (Room 340)

Junior High Youth (6th – 8th Grade)

5:30–7:00 PM	Dinner for All
6:30–7:00 PM	Children's Choir (Grade 6) (Room 340)
7:00–8:30 PM	Confirmation (Chapel)

Sr. High Youth (9th – 12th Grades)

5:30–7:00 PM	Dinner for All
7:00–8:30 PM	First Wednesdays

Sr. High Youth are also invited to participate in Adult Ed opportunities, musical groups or to volunteer in the children's area.

Adults

5:30–7:00 PM	Dinner for All
6:00 – 6:50 PM	Godly Play for Adults (Room 313) Life Together Bible Study (Room 230)
6:00–7:00 PM	Chamber Ensemble (Room 333)
7:00 – 8:00 PM	Parenting on Point (Parlor) Centering Prayer (Room 126) Yoga (Gym) Lecture & Discussion (Room 230) (See page 2 for descriptions)
7:30 – 9:00 PM	St. Martin's Choir (Room 340)



*Food "to go" available on Wednesday
Nights in the Fellowship Hall.*

Grab your food and go to class OR stay and visit
in the Fellowship Hall (5:30 – 7:00 PM).

Council Challenges Congregation to Katrina Relief Fundraiser

The St. Martin's Council has made a commitment of \$3,000 for Hurricane Katrina relief. The Council has challenged the St. Martin's congregation to meet that \$3,000, totalling \$6,000 in relief donations. So far, the Council has raised \$2,900 and expects to raise the full amount in the upcoming month.

On September 13, St. Martin's representatives met with Austin Area Interreligious Ministries and, subsequently, held a St. Martin's strategy meeting to discuss guidelines for giving and future goals for St. Martin's. A presentation was then made to the Church Council at their regular meeting on September 19. In this presentation, giving guidelines identified certain agencies for receipt of monetary donations, furniture, kitchen equipment and bedding, cleaning supplies and housing. Future goals included ongoing support of a congregation in the New Orleans areas that had been devastated by the storm, adoption of families during the Christmas season, assistance to local East Austin churches that have borne the major costs of evacuee assistance, and a special concert which was held on October 2 at St. Martin's.

The Council has appointed Jim and Bunny Oliver, Charlie Oertli and Norm Hummell to a task force to work on Hurricane Katrina relief and St. Martin's response for nine months.

St. Martin's benevolence focus for November is the Katrina Relief effort. If you would like to make a designated gift to this effort, please write a check to St. Martin's and note "St. Martin's Katrina Relief" in the memo line.

November

- 6 All Saints Sunday**
First Communion Milestone
- 11 Happy Birthday Martin Luther**
- 11-13 Jr. High Synod Youth Gathering at Camp Chrysalis**
- 12-13 Consecration Weekend**
Women of the Church Thank Offering
- 20 Christ the King Sunday**
St. Martin's Blood Drive
- 23 Thanksgiving Eve Joint Eucharist with**
St. David's Episcopal – 7 PM, St. Martin's Nave (see page 3)
- 24 Thanksgiving Day – Offices closed (also closed on Nov. 25)**
- 27 First Sunday in Advent**

St. Martin's HIGHLIGHTS

Special Events or Opportunities – Everyone is Welcome!

“TAKE MY LIFE, THAT I MAY BE
CONSECRATED, LORD TO THEE;
TAKE MY MOMENTS AND MY DAYS;
LET THEM FLOW IN CEASELESS PRAISE.”

December

- 2-3 JAM (3rd – 5th Grade) Advent Retreat at**
Camp Chrysalis (see page 4)
- 4 Second Sunday in Advent**
- 11 Third Sunday in Advent**
- 13 Volunteer Luncheon/Christmas Decorating**
- 18 Fourth Sunday in Advent**
- 22 Youth Group Reunion (see page 4)**
- 24 Christmas Eve Eucharists at St. Martin's**
- 25 Christmas Day, no Sunday School**
- 28-30 Sr. High Synod Youth Gathering in Kerrville**

January

- 4 WNSM Kick-off / Epiphany Celebration**
- 6 The Epiphany of Our Lord**
- 8 The Baptism of our Lord**
Baptismal Anniversary Milestone Recognition
Sunday Education Classes resume
- 11 WNSM resumes**
- 15 St. Martin's Annual Congregational**
Meeting
- 22 Baptism Instruction Class**



Blessing of the Animals - Oct 2



Blessings & Bow Wows – On Oct. 2, many “barks” resounded during Sunday services, although a few felines also attended. (Left) Deb Johnson blesses a happy pooch. (Center) Pets enjoy hanging out in the pews. (Right) Pr. June blesses Pr. Craig & Debbie's dog, Gracie.

Sr. High Youth

Contact: Whitney Myers



Wed, Nov 2 – FIRST WEDNESDAY, 7– 8:30 PM

Thurs, Nov 3 – FIRST THURSDAY Mobile Loaves & Fishes Run. Talk to Whitney Myers if you are interested in partnering with Mobile Loaves & Fishes this month to serve food to those in need.

Sun, Nov 6 is the deadline to register for this year's Southwestern TX Synod Sr. High Gathering at the Inns of the Hills Resort in Kerrville – December 28-30. Cost: \$120 (includes two nights lodging, transportation, meals, and shirt) Full and partial scholarships are available. Meet at the church on Wednesday at 1 PM and return Friday at 3 PM. Cancellations after Nov 6 are non-refundable or become the responsibility of the individual who has cancelled to find a same-gender replacement. Return form (available on door of Room 212) and money to Whitney Myers TODAY.

Sun, Nov 20 – Dinner at the Bockhorns! Come for a "Thanksgiving dinner" at the home of Glen & Carol Bockhorn. Meet at SMLC at 5 PM. Pick-up at 8 PM. Sign-up on the Youth Bulletin Board.

Sun, Nov 27 – Breakfast Club Got ideas for Spring! Come to the Breakfast Club & share your input! Meet at 8 AM on Sunday, November 27 in the parlor. Breakfast is free.

Look for information about the Sr. High Spring Break Ski Trip.

VOICE OF A VOLUNTEER:

Bess Sommer



Volunteering has always been a way of life for me. And, what better place to practice it than at church. As far as St. Martin's is concerned, my first bit of volunteering involved singing in the choir, which I no longer have time for, and donating items for the Youth's Silent Auction.

Then I joined the Elizabeth Circle where I sometimes teach the lesson and agreed at the first of last year to assume the position of treasurer...I didn't realize that this position involved such high finance (a pleasant surprise!). I am also chairman of Mission Community for WELCA.

Being part of the Round Rock small group has presented numerous chances to volunteer, both at church and in Round Rock. Working with the Sainly Seniors group presents similar opportunities for service.

As a Stephen minister I have a care receiver, and I deliver home communion to a couple from the congregation who are no longer able to attend church. Being a Stephen minister has allowed me to become acquainted with, and hopefully a help to, people I might not have met otherwise.

Nearly two years ago John and I began the Foundations adult Sunday school class. This involves hours of preparation each week, but the friendships and fellowship which have resulted make that time worthwhile.

Last spring, I spent Wednesday evenings in the Fellowship Hall working with children and young adults on knitting and crocheting. This was a delightful way to become acquainted with the younger generation at St. Martin's. During this period, I made several prayer shawls for the elderly and/or ill. This is a ministry that I wish the people of St. Martin's would adopt.

Volunteering has always given me a feeling of satisfaction and self worth. It also presents opportunities to make new friends and help others. Any time one can do something constructive that helps others; one should jump at the opportunity.



St. Martin's Youth attended Lutherstock at Camp Chrysalis in Kerrville. Lutherstock is an all-day faith and music festival, bringing together young Lutherans and their friends. You are never too old to go to camp! See page 9 for more information.

Camp: An Experience For All Ages

◆ Upcoming Retreats

- **Crosstrails Family Advent Festival – "O, Tannenbaum!"**
For families, singles, & couples: Nov 25 – 27 or Dec 9-11,
Camp Chrysalis, Kerrville.
Focus on the true meaning of the holiday with lots of old fashioned fun. Construct a gingerbread house to take home, make old-time crafts, play games, worship, hike, sing carols and more all in the context of preparing for Christmas. Babysitting for ages 3 & under.
- **3rd - 5th Grade Advent retreat** (see page 4 for more information)
- **Spring Break Ski Trip for high school youth**

◆ Summer Camp Registration Information Now Available

Crosstrails Ministry Summer Camp is rooted in the Gospel, led by carefully selected young adults, an opportunity to worship, play and be immersed in Christian community, a safe place to explore new skills and interests, and a great way to make new friends. Crosstrails Ministry is Lutheran Camp Chrysalis (located in Kerrville), Ebert Ranch Camp (located in Harper), and Off-site Opportunities (Beach Camp & Criados Por Cristos)

Current Grade	Program	Location
1st-3rd	Young'ns (1/2 week)	Chrysalis
2nd-3rd	Explorers	Chrysalis
4th-5th	Yearlings	Chrysalis
	Trail Bosses	Ebert
6th-8th	Confirmation Camp	Chrysalis
9th	Extreme Adventurers	Chrysalis
9th-12th	Exodus	Chrysalis
	Mavericks	Ebert
	Beach Camp	Off-Site
	Criados Por Cristo	Off-Site

Current 10th – 12th Graders may also make application for LYLE (Lutheran Youth leadership Experience) I & II.

More information and registrations forms are available in Room #212.

◆ **Opportunities to Serve** – Cross Trails Ministry needs volunteers throughout the year. If you have weekdays free, volunteer for the "First Wednesday" program. Adopt-a-project if you are handy with tools or willing to give some time. Do you know someone who might make an excellent summer cabin leader? Encourage them to apply to serve on Cross Trails' summer staff.

◆ **Opportunities to Give** – Cross Trails Ministry is about to embark on a Capital Campaign and can use your financial donations. They also have a "Wish List" of new or gently used items including the following: PA systems, Rubbermaid plastic storage tubs, children's instruments or books, golf cart, telescope, ping pong table, dutch ovens, laptop computer, guitars, digital camera, high chairs, and more...

For information about Cross Trails Ministry or to give your time, talents, or treasure, contact: www.crosstrails.org, 830.257.6340 or email info@crosstrails.org for information.

Women of the Church

Please remember to save Saturday morning, December 3rd for our Festive Christmas Brunch. We will gather in the Parlor at 9:30 AM. Hope to see you there! Also, see information on Thankoffering Weekend on the back cover.

– Shirley Scott, President

November Highlights:

Nov 1–Work Day

Nov 8–Circles Meet

Sarah–9:30 AM, WELCA Work Room,
Hostess: Joyce Nelson

Elizabeth–9:30 AM, Parlor

Rebecca–7:00 PM, Parlor
Hostess: Doris Butler

Nov 12-13–Thankoffering Weekend celebrated

FLOWERS IN ST. MARTIN'S CHURCH Altar flowers are a wonderful way to mark a milestone in one's life: remembering a departed loved one, a birthday, a baptism, confirmation or marriage anniversary or to mark important social and church events.
Dates available for 2005 are: Nov 20
Pulpit flowers are also available for many dates. To reserve flowers contact Nell Hielscher at: **243-0467**.

HOW TO JOIN ST. MARTIN'S Attend a one day class on for both non-Lutheran and Lutheran transfers. Members are received the following Sunday. Register with Max by email: mottmer@saintmartins.org or by phone: 476-6757.

WEDDINGS AND BAPTISMS Contact the church office. Engaged Couple Workshops and Baptism Instruction Classes are required. Next Baptism Class: Jan 22, 2006.

BIRTHS Weslie Elizabeth Warmink, 8/17/05.
Parents: Greg & Jennifer Warmink.

Noelle Debra Hannan 4/1/05.
Parents: Pete & Amy Hannan.

WEDDINGS Christina Chapa & Clayton Thieme 9/24/05.
Anne Marie Speir & Michael Delaney, 10/1/05.

SYMPATHY Cindy Kelly and family, death of Cindy's father, A. Earl White, 9/25/05.

Judy Schweers and family. Death of husband, Hugo Schweers, 9/28/05.

The McGookey family on the death of Judy's mother, Alberta Anita Klinksiek Oehler, 10/1/05.

Kristina Smith and family, death of grandfather, Richard Fletcher, 10/7/05.

Thanks and Praises

Dear St. Martin's,
 Thank you very much for the food donation you brought to our house. Your generosity is greatly appreciated and was put to good use.
 – The staff of Casa Marianella

Dear Christian Friends,
 Your Gift in Kind (teddy bears, afghan sweaters, boxes of yarn, cosmetics and toiletries) [from the Women of the Church] received in August designated for the New Life Children's Treatment Center is helping make a difference in the lives of people who rely on people like you to be partners in service with LSS. As Christians, we rejoice in God's love through Christ Jesus. St. Paul writes, "Rejoice in the Lord always; Again I will say Rejoice." Today, the people you help...also rejoice as they experience your Christ-centered love.
 – Karen Bernstein,
 Lutheran Social Services of the South, Inc.

Steward's Passage

No servant can be the slave of two masters; for either he will hate the first and love the second, or he will be devoted to the first and think nothing of the second. You cannot serve God and money.
 – Matthew 6:24

Our Stewardship

September 2005

Operations	2004	2005	
Receipts	\$653,824	\$635,201	3% decrease
Disbursements	\$708,545	\$614,083	15% decrease
School	2004	2005	
Receipts	\$853,355	\$691,287	23% decrease
Disbursements	\$837,054	\$697,362	20% decrease
Building Fund	2004	2005	
Receipts	\$152,538	\$159,965	5% increase
Disbursements	\$188,199	\$188,224	0%
Average Weekly Attendance			
Worship	428	Sunday Education	85

Council Highlights

September 19, 2005

- ◆ Dale Elmshaeuser, Interim Director of Music, gave update on the music program noting that fall activities were going quite well. An enthusiastic choir has begun to meet and prepare for the fall. The children's choir for grade 2 through 6 will meet on Wednesday nights. Instrumental groups are practicing.
- ◆ Treasurer's Report – Consecration Sunday will be held on November 13. The August Operating Fund balance was \$11,600, the Building Fund balance was \$71,000 and the School Fund balance was \$9,000. Giving for August 2005 was the lowest received in the last five years. If September through December gifts matched those months for 2004, total giving for 2005 would approximate \$884,000.
- ◆ Pastor's Report – Pastor Sommer starts at St. Martin's on October 1; his installation is October 16, and first preaching duties on October 23.
- ◆ The Installation Committee, including the Board of Fellowship, Linder Zander and others, will plan activities for October 16 with a single church service at 11:00 AM and a Sunday School hour offered at 9:30 AM.
- ◆ Hurricane Katrina relief activities – St. Martin's representatives met with Austin Area Interreligious Ministries on September 13 and, subsequently, held a St. Martin's strategy meeting. A handout that summarized guidelines for giving and future goals for St. Martin's was provided. Giving guidelines identified certain agencies for receipt of various donations. Future goals included ongoing support of a congregation in the New Orleans areas that had been devastated by the storm, adoption of families during the Christmas season, assistance to local East Austin churches that have borne the major costs of evacuee assistance, and a special concert on October 2 at St. Martin's. Jim and Bunny Oliver, Charlie Oertli and Norm Hummell were appointed to a task force to work on Hurricane Katrina relief and St. Martin's response for nine months.
- ◆ The Council committed to a \$3,000 Katrina Relief Challenge to the congregation to raise at least an additional \$3,000, with the task force to determine beneficiaries.
- ◆ Old Business – Laura Raun Carroll continues to work on the Nominating Committee. New Member Lunch is October 9 after the 11:00 AM service. Background checks on all youth program volunteers will be completed as quickly as possible.

A Word from Pastor Bennett

October 10, 2005

Dear friends in Christ,

The day has come, too soon, and yet it should not be postponed; the time has come. There has been joy in the ministry and that does not cease and gratitude to God does not end. However, after 45 years in service to Lord and church, I need to step away from ministry and retire.

I have been truly blessed in the ministry to which I was called over fifty years ago. My ministry was nurtured in the Pittsburgh Synod of the United Lutheran Church in America. That synod had been a part of the "Mother Synod", the Ministerium of Pennsylvania and adjacent states and she left her mark on me. The motto of that Synod was Ecclesia Plantanda, Plant the Church, and that has been a characteristic of my ministry through the years. I was privileged and called to serve in a variety of ways and concluded that service here in Texas.

Having vowed in a previous parish that I would never move further south (then living in Kentucky), God in His way moved me to accept a call to St. Martin's in 1987. For almost 20 years here I have been. It has been time much loved. It is here that Char and I have chosen to stay and it is here that the time to retire has come. You are a fine congregation and I was blessed to have had my last baptism, wedding and funeral here in this congregation among people whom I grew to love and for whom I have cared over the years. I will now enjoy sitting in the pew with you as a regular member of St. Martin's.

There is only one commitment which I will be working to fulfill and that will be completed in 2006. I promised Pastor Lou Flessner that I would help raise one million dollars to assist the campus ministry at Texas State University in purchasing St. Mark's Episcopal Church which would serve as a home for that ministry. We are on our way to completing that task and it may well be completed earlier.

As to St Martin's, there are many among you who are left to carry out the ministry of Jesus Christ and who will still plant the church in the lives and hearts of persons not yet knowing the Lord Jesus Christ or who have yet to grow into discipleship. May God bless us all and especially the pastoral leadership whom you have called to care and lead this congregation into new days and ministries.



In gratitude to God and to you,

Pastor Bennett

St. Martin's Contact Information

ST. MARTIN'S PASTORAL STAFF

The Rev. Craig Sommer, Senior Pastor
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The Rev. June A. Wilkins, Associate Pastor, Dir. of Congregational Ministries,
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The Rev. Dr. Hilmer C. Krause

ST. MARTIN'S MINISTRY STAFF

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Benevolence Focus Update

Organization	2005 Support*
The Salvation Army	\$805
ELCA World Hunger Appeal	\$4112
Habitat for Humanity	\$961
Mobile Loaves & Fishes	\$2793
Meals on Wheels	\$2349
Agua Viva	\$4343
SafePlace of Austin	\$3091
NewLife Treatment Cntr	\$1251

*contributions as of 9/30/05

Help beautify the sanctuary this Christmas Eve with the gift of a fresh poinsettia. Orders will be taken following worship on Sundays, Nov 20, 27 and Dec 4. The deadline for orders is Dec 4. Contact the church office for more information.



Christmas Eve at St. Martin's

Celebrate again in word and song the wondrous story of the birth of Jesus Christ on December 24.

Come to worship at one of four times:
Noon, 4, 7 & 11 PM

St. Martin's Lutheran Church
WOMEN OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AMERICA

Thankoffering Message

WELCA Purpose Statement

As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society and the world.

Our Thank Offerings are our gifts to God. We show God joy and thanksgiving for our blessings. These gifts support our partnership with God so the entire world may know Christ.

Contributions help National, Synodical and Local WELCA groups provide the resources, events and programs to support the ministries of the Women of the ELCA.

These ministries help women of the ELCA address concerns of women and children in crisis, especially the crises related to poverty, health/AIDS and domestic violence. It also helps us reach out in worldwide ministry.

It provides an opportunity to "Lift up the work of women" in our congregation! It shows their projects and helps us to realize how together we can multiply local efforts beyond what we can accomplish alone!

WELCA Thankoffering Tradition at St. Martin's (November 12-13):

- Worship acknowledges WELCA in songs and prayers.
- WELCA basket brought forward during offertory for congregational thank offering contributions.
- Colorful quilts, handmade by St. Martin's WELCA, are displayed on the backs of the church pews. These quilts are given to Lutheran World Relief and New Life Treatment Center.
- Display tables, in our lobby area, display layette bags, health kits, school bags and quilt projects.
- The WELCA Thankoffering contributions received are used to further the projects of National, Synodical and our St. Martin's WELCA group.

Please give generously to help our WELCA "Share God's Love"!

St. Martin's Worship

SUNDAY

- 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist
9:30 AM Holy Eucharist
11:00 AM Holy Eucharist

WEDNESDAY

- 12:10 PM Healing Prayer Eucharist

SATURDAY

- 5:00 PM Traditional Eucharist

St. Martin's Education

SUNDAY

Childcare available for Infants and Toddlers all morning, Room 207

Children: 2 & 3 years old

11:00 AM, Room 308

Children: Age 4 – 5th Grade

9:30 & 11:00 AM, Upper Level

Youth: 6th – 8th Grade

11:00 AM, Room 151

Youth: 9th – 12th Grade

11:00 AM, Room 150

ADULTS

9:30 & 11:00 AM, Main Level

(see web-site or Sunday education brochure in the Welcome Center for additional information)

WEDNESDAY NIGHT AT ST. MARTIN'S

Dinner, Fellowship, Education, Music and more. Come experience WNSM. (See page 6 for full WNSM schedule.)

www.saintmartins.org

**THANKSGIVING EVE EUCHARIST • WED, NOV 23
7 PM - St. Martin's hosts a joint celebration
with St. David's Episcopal Church.
A reception follows the service.**

The Echo

PERIODICALS

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