

News and Views



NEW YEAR'S EVE WORSHIP



It's not an every year occurrence. But this year New Year's Day falls on Sunday. So, in order to end 2011 and begin 2012 it was proposed to have our worship on New Year's Eve followed by a time of family fellowship. A poll was taken and the results were resoundingly in favor of service moving to Saturday evening (over 2-1 in favor). Sunday School was already canceled for that day and the Youth are also scheduling a lock-in for this night as well as sharing family time. The lock-in, then, will not conflict with any Sunday morning activities.

Therefore, St. Paul Worship will be on New Year's Eve, Dec. 31, at 5:00 PM.

We will have a special worship that will include Holy Communion. Following worship will be a coffee/cookie fellowship time with games of all kinds.

While this may be a change from the ordinary, it is currently being done in many Lutheran churches as a way to allow for greater family worship as the year draws to a close. I hope you will join us this year.

Christmas Play Scheduled for December 11

This year the youth and our young ones will present the Christmas play during worship on December 11. The play "A Blessing Comes Down" will have the children's choir present several songs during the production. Make sure to mark you calendar and come and see their hard work, practice and song give thanks to God's perfect blessing.



Children's Christmas Program

CROSSWALK YARD SALE FUNDRAISER

Saturday, December 10th

The Youth are still accepting donations for their sale.



He will be called
Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God,
Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace.

I s a i a h 9 : 6

St. Paul Lutheran Church
401 W. 7th Street
Taylor, Texas 76574

Rev. Gary A. Veit, Pastor
Rev. Walter J. Miller, Visitation Min.
(512)352-6574

Ben Walker, Youth Director
Office: (512) 352-2327
Metro & Fax: (512) 365-1509
Sunday School: (512) 352-6154
Mr. Walker: (512) 912-6149

Evening and Weekend Emergencies:
Pastor Veit: (512) 309-4902

Emails: stpaultaylor@austin.rr.com
pastorgary@austin.rr.com
benwalker505@yahoo.com

News & Views: kerriveit@austin.rr.com
Web Site: www.stpaultaylor.com

St. Paul Congregational Leaders:

Bob Grimm – President
365-5884/bgrimm@austin.rr.com
Mel Bullock – VP & School Brd.
365-8731/mbullock@austin.rr.com
Pat Erwin – Secretary
352-5915/perwin@eccwireless.net
Michael Schwettman – Treas. & Stew.
856-2788/michaelschwe@yahoo.com
Mark Stoll – Parish Education
963-1602/markstoll92@yahoo.com
Chris Koehne – Youth
361-550-8036/ckoehne@austin.rr.com
Rose King – Senior Ministry
446-3667/rleking1@gmail.com
Buddy Townsend – Property
365-9706 cell: 217-2579
jwttownsend@gmail.com
Dave Kinnaman – Outreach
846-2499/DKinnaman@austin.rr.com
Ray & Rhonda Ochoa –
Sunday School Superintendents
352-2523/rhondachoa@live.com
Lynn Prinz – Community Service
352-2129/lprinz1@austin.rr.com
James Preece – Worship
626-9993/james9898@aol.com
Sharon Pick – Fellowship
352-3785/sharons.pick@gmail.com
Glynda Vanecek – Director of Music
352-5913/
fairfieldfarmgv@yahoo.com

Bible Stick – Faith Comes by Hearing

The “offering jug” is in the Narthex, waiting to be filled. It costs roughly \$25 for each Bible Stick that allows our service personnel to listen to the Bible. There are regulations that prohibit broadcasting Christian Faith Programs which can be overheard by others.

These Bible Sticks allow for personal use. Our faith is always supported by our reading scripture. In some combat areas the Bible is all you have. But you have to be alert and keep your eyes open at all times. The Bible Stick allows our soldiers a chance to hear what God has done for them and how the Holy Spirit is with them still.

So thank you for your contributions and your support. The program will continue throughout the Advent season.

Thank you to everyone who donated items or money to Operation Christmas Child. The Hospitality Circle and CrossWalk packed boxes to send. Between our congregation, the youth group, and the CDC youth we were able to put together approximately 55 boxes to be sent to needy children in other countries. Thank you especially to Ben Walker and Bonnie George for organizing the packing parties.



Lynn Prinz



Thank you so much for having us as your “Mission of the Month” in October. The HOPE Pregnancy Center hopes to help more women in our community with these funds.

God Bless You All, Beth Gillum

Cross Walk



It seems like we're just flying through the fall. We've barely even blinked and we're closing in on Christmas...Amazing! November saw Cross Walk youth getting into the "meat and potatoes" of the fall semester, and as workloads increased, attendance at youth activities saw an across the board drop. Life, it seems, is always a competition. One worthy goal competes against another—time in academics vs. time in sports; time at church vs. homework; time with friends vs. time with family. Life is always about trade-offs. Some are worth it, but some aren't. As we make the final push towards winter break and the end of the semester, how do we balance our time spent in various pursuits—all of which are worthwhile?

There's no simple answer, of course—but it begins with determining what we are building our foundations upon. Those youth who have attended our Wednesday night Bible Studies know that our life is a series of building blocks that make up our personal "life house". Those blocks take many forms—sports, academics, family, church, friends, and even the clubs we belong to are all essential to building a well-balanced, personal life house. But under each of those bricks is a foundation that provides the basis for everything else. It's the one underlying cause that affects every other facet of our internal building. That foundation is our single most important thing that has priority over everything else.

For some, that foundation is sports. For others, it's academics. As I said earlier, both are worthwhile goals. No one can be faulted for pursuing either, because neither is wrong to pursue. But are they our *foundation*? At the end of the day, do we *live* for them? Some would say their foundation is family. Certainly, we hear from politicians and religious groups that family is the building block of society—and that may be true in the social sense. But as great as family is, should it be our *foundation*?

Matthew 7:24-27 says the wise man only builds his house upon one foundation—the rock. Or more appropriately, the Rock. According to Matthew's illustration, the house built upon the rock withstood all that the world could throw at it—and it was not shaken. All other foundations are built upon sand, and do not last when the tempests of life assail it. It says the house built upon the sand fell, "and great was the fall thereof!" (v. 27)

As this busy season gets into full swing, take a moment to reflect on your life's foundation. What is it—and how strong is it? Do you even know for sure what it is? One easy way to figure it out is to look at where you spend most of your time. Throw out the job, throw out hours spent actually in school—those are things we *have* to do. But with the time that is left, what do you give the most time to? That, more often than not, is what you are building your foundation on. Is it the Rock, or is it sand?

In Christ,
Ben



"THE BLACKBOARD"

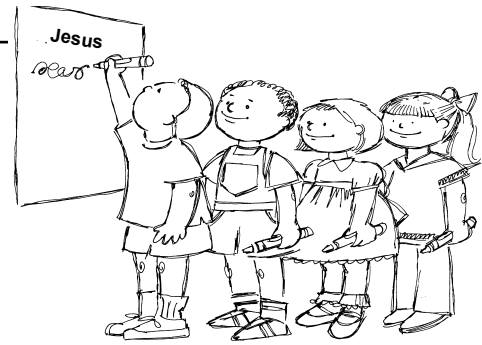
News from our St. Paul Lutheran schools

Child Development Center—Lorene Prinz, Director

(512) 352-2773

Elementary School—Sheila Debus, Principal

(512) 365-6161



CDC News - -

After Thanksgiving thoughts quickly turn to celebrating Christmas. The children anxiously wait for the appearance of the nativity on the church lawn, the walks to view the Baby Jesus in the manger as the teachers tell the story of Jesus and His birth. The excitement continues with thoughts of going to grandparent's house for the big Christmas dinner and presents, too.

The children are busy decorating their rooms and practicing Christmas carols for their neighborhood caroling strolls. Santa always stops by with a bag of candy treats to add excitement to Jesus' Birthday party.

Christmas Child Shoe Boxes are packed and shipped to children who have never experienced bright Christmas lights and stores filled with toys. It was a rewarding experience for the children to share with children less fortunate than they.

The CDC will be closed Friday December 23rd and Monday December 26th for the Christmas Holidays.

The staff of the CDC wish you a Merry Christmas.

Lorene Prinz, Rita Kelm, Becky Martinez, Darlene Pyle, Evelyn Davis, Brenda Pitts, Doris Cathey, Denise Jechow, Linda Shugart, Deborah Marek, Kim Vega, Melissa Pachicano, Melanie Martinez, Mary Salazar, Katherine Cmerek, Rebekah Martinez, Phyllis Hickson, Greg and Miriam Buetikofer.

St. Paul Elementary School

The year is going by so quickly. Thanksgiving is past and it's almost Christmas!

The school collected fifty-one shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child! This is 13 more boxes than we collected last year. Thanks to all who participated.

The school will have a float in the Taylor Christmas parade on December 3rd. Thanks to Mrs. Retchloff and the parents who are helping to organize this.

Our annual Christmas dinner and program will be on December 13, at 6:00 pm. The program will be in the church and the dinner will follow in the fellowship hall afterward. The PTO will provide the meat, drinks and paper goods. Each family will be asked to bring a side dish or dessert. This year the program has been written by our Third and Fourth Grade teacher, Mrs. Christiansen. Our Second Grade teacher, Mrs. Wehling, is helping to produce. The name of the program is "The Common Thread". Be sure to mark the 13th on your calendar. Each class will present a different piece

of the program and the audience will be invited to sing along as we sing the Christmas carols that we know and love.

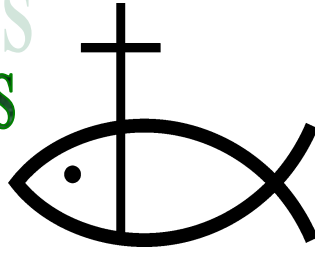
The it will be time for the Christmas break. School releases on Friday, December 16th, at noon. We will return on Tuesday, January 3rd.

Many blessings to you and yours this holiday season. *Jesus is the reason for the season.*

And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6



Go WARRIORS!



A Christmas Tree is a Christmas Tree

I was given an article a week or so ago with the above title. I read it and thought it had some very good points. I set the article aside and went about the daily duties of the office. But every so often I would come back to that article and skim over those hard hitting points again. A few days later I read it again. Today I share it with you. Not because I can't think of something to write...but because I can't think of something better to write. Because of space I have edited out portions of the article, but I hope you find it both intriguing and inspiring. It is written by Ben Stein.

"My confession: I am a Jew, and every single one of my ancestors was Jewish. And it does not bother me even a little bit when people call those beautiful lit up, bejeweled trees, Christmas trees. I don't feel threatened.

It doesn't bother me a bit when people say, 'Merry Christmas' to me. I don't think they are slighting me. It doesn't bother me at all that there is a manger scene on display near my house in Malibu. If people want a crèche, it's just as fine with me as is the Menorah a few hundred yards away.

I don't like getting pushed around for being a Jew, and I don't think Christians like getting pushed around for being Christians. I have no idea where the concept came from that America is an explicitly atheist country. I can't find it in the Constitution and I don't like it being shoved down my throat.

Or maybe I can put it another way: where did the idea come from that we should worship celebrities and we aren't allowed to worship God?

Billy Graham's daughter was interviewed on the Early Show and asked, 'How could God let something like this happen?' (regarding Hurricane Katrina). Anne Graham gave an extremely profound and insightful response. She said, 'I believe God is deeply saddened by this, just as we are, but for years we've been telling God to get out of our schools, to get out of our government and to get out of our lives. And being the gentleman He is, I believe God has calmly backed out. How can we expect God to give us His blessing and His protection if we demand He leave us alone?'

I think it started when Madeleine Murray O'Hare (she was murdered and her body found a few years ago) complained she didn't want prayer in schools, and we said OK. Then someone said you better not read the Bible in school. The Bible says thou shalt not kill; thou shalt not steal, and love your neighbor as yourself. And we said OK.

Then Dr. Benjamin Spock said we shouldn't spank our children when they misbehave, because their little personalities would be warped and we might damage their self-esteem. (Dr. Spock's son committed suicide). We said an expert should know what he's talking about. And we said OK.

Now we're asking ourselves why our children have no conscience, why they don't know right from wrong, and why it doesn't bother them to kill strangers, their classmates, and themselves.

Probably, if we think about it long and hard enough, we can figure it out. I think it has a great deal to do with 'WE REAP WHAT WE SOW.'

Funny how simple it is for people to trash God and then wonder why the world's going to.... Funny how we believe what the newspapers say, but question what the Bible says."

The article goes on, but ends with the hope that we would seriously consider what is being said. As we begin the Christmas Season and all the celebrating, I would hope that we would be intentional about saying **why** we are celebrating and **who** we are giving thanks to. I would pray that this season and throughout the year we would **invite God BACK** into our lives and our country.

A Blessed Christmas to you all.

See you in Church.



PRAYER : Savior Lord, Healing Spirit, in this moment, lead my heart to hold carefully all for whom I pray. Help me to consider all that You have done for your children, and then, I pray that Your Holy Spirit bless them with healing and wholeness. Bring light and peace into each life that we all might feel your comforting presence. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

Members: Abby Johnson, Randall Bohls, Nema Bohls, Emma Heselmeyer, Gussie Arledge, Norman Stauffer, Edna Werchan

Family, friends, and loved ones: our nation, Harold Walker, Jim Ferrier, Lee Schaefer, Gladys Lindgren, Diana Beran, Jennifer Neddeau, Dara Rozell, Lizzie Tennyson, Loraine McCarty, Karen Hyer, Brian Gross, Christi Davidson, Lou Ann Maddox, John Brown, Keith Sowers, Samantha Munkowsky, Abby Alderete, Marilyn & Donna DeMari, Gay Keys, Josie Mowers, Elisabeth Skrovan, Sylvia Slagle, Trent Holmstrom, Susan Shores, Trishia Mueller, John Brown, David Click & Family, Marie Davis, Betty Cruz, Wilma Hoerig, John Graff, Abigail Alexander, Luke David Jackson, Joshua Bockerstette, Julie Johnson, Pamela Morton, Connie Steelhammer, Evon Higgins, Gail Matthys, Eric Richardson, Mike Parry, Jessica Golden, Cole Riddle, Larry Rydell, David M. Bulgerin, Alton Peters, Carole Byler, Margaret Smith, Kimberly Jones, Robert Garrett

Military: Thomas Teggeman, Afganistan

Asst. Living/Nursing Home:

Grace Place- Hannah Hays, Dorothy Rhea

Court of Round Rock- Aline Kautz

Cottages of Chandler Creek- Helen Scruggs

SPJST AL- Lena Leschber

SPJST NH- Hattie Becker, Mamie Danek, Olga George, Ruth Preston, Bernice Schroeder

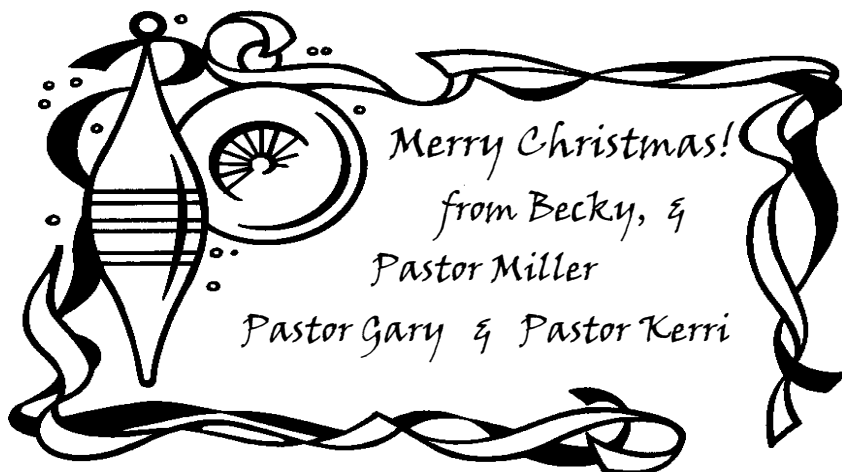
Granger Villa- Alma Heselmeyer, Emma Heselmeyer, Frances Moehnke, Desy Mueller, Edna Werchan

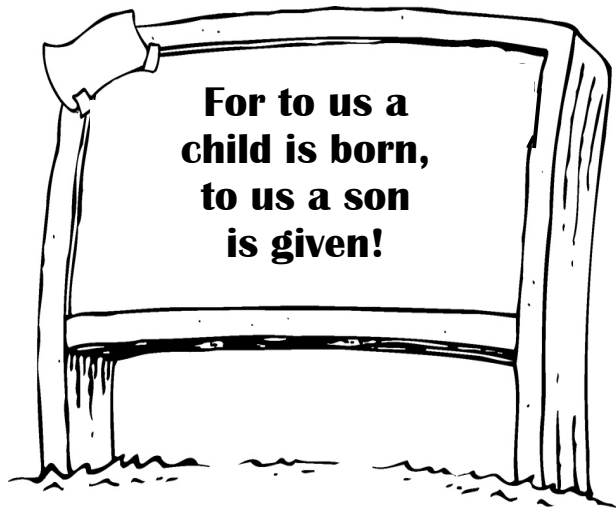
Will'O'Bell- Gussie Arledge, Erwin Teggeman

Pflugerville Care Ctr- Susie Priesmeyer

Regency, Temple - Willie Pokorny

Trinity Care Ctr- Rylie Brewer, Annie Schernik, Pauline Sorenson





**Church Statistics
October
2011**

Sunday Worship ave. Attendance: 158
 Sunday School ave. Attendance: 52

Income & Expenses:

Monthly

Income	\$23,189.63
Expenses	\$30,111.80
Income Minus Expenses	-\$6,922.17
<i>Transfer from Spring Praise Festival</i>	<i>\$5,676.23</i>
Final Total	-\$1,245.94

Year-to-Date

Income	\$220,955.52
Expenses	\$222,555.06
Income Minus Expenses	-\$1,599.54
<i>Transfer from Spring Praise Festival</i>	<i>\$5,676.23</i>
Final Total	\$4,076.69

Benevolence

<i>Goal for 2011</i>	<i>\$13,000</i>
Received for the month	364.00
Received YTD	\$4,689.50

Mission of the Month:

HOPE Pregnancy Center	\$925.00
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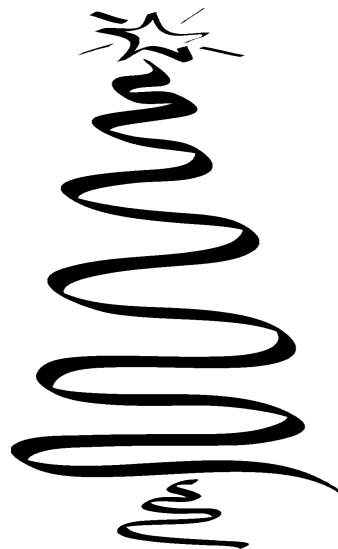


Norman Fuessel will turn 85 years young December 4th.
Dorothy Grimm will turn 83years young December 4th.
Pauline Sorenson will turn 92 years young December 18th.
Wilbert Reichenbach will turn 88 years young December 20th.
Delphine Slivensky will turn 83years young December 22nd.



.. The family of Elmer Zeplin - son Larry & Patty and family, brother Albert , sister Elda & Willie Heselmeyer, grandson Matt & family. Elmer's funeral was held at St. Paul on November 16th.

.. The family of Birdie Eulenfeld. Birdie's funeral was held at St. Paul on Wednesday, November 30th.



December 2011

DECEMBER WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

December 4, 2011

Asst. Minister: James Preece
Council Ushers: Michael Schwettman, James Preece, Sharon Pick
Altar Set-up: Carol Lantzsch, Naomi Pasemann, Kathie Preece Altar Asst: Rhonda
Altar Clean-up: Marilyn Raschke, Beverly Ash, Elaine Oser

Greeters: Katrina Jansky, Margaret Kerlin
Asst. Ushers: Susan Basco, Bertha Mary Beran
Reader: Dinna Cohen
Acolytes: Rosie Morgan, Peter Erwin

December 11, 2011

Council Ushers: Mel Bullock, Lynn Prinz, Dave Kinnaman

Greeters: Bonnie Kiesling, Jackie Kotrla
Asst. Ushers: Janet Brinkmeyer, Jennifer Bullock
Reader: Darlene Dodson
Acolyte: Christian Stoll

December 18, 2011

Asst. Minister: Allison Erwin
Council Ushers: Bob Grimm, Buddy Townsend, Mark Stoll
Altar Set-up: Marilyn Raschke, Beverly Ash, Elaine Oser Altar Asst: Marilyn Grimm
Altar Clean-up: Marilyn Grimm, Janet Brinkmeyer

Greeters: Carol Lindell, Mark Lindell
Asst. Ushers: Sheila Bullock, Chad David
Reader: Katrina Jansky
Acolytes: Carolyn Gauthier, Colton Prinz

December 25, 2011

Council Ushers: Rose King, Pat Erwin, Chris Koehne

Greeters: Peggy Mathis, Bethany Matthys
Asst. Ushers: Kristi Gauthier, Dan Jansky
Reader: Debbie Matthys
Acolyte: Colton Schiller

CHRISTMAS EVE

Acolytes - Kenneth Kruse and Jackson Rohlack

JANUARY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

January 1, 2012 (DEC. 31st worship)

Asst. Minister: James Preece
Council Ushers: Michael Schwettman, James Preece, Sharon Pick
Altar Set-up: Marilyn Grimm, Janet Brinkmeyer Altar Asst: Tracy
Altar Clean-up: Sheila Bullock, Rhonda Ochoa, Tracy Richter

Greeters: Gary Mohel, Romadene Mohel
Asst. Ushers: Allyson Matthys, George Matthys
Reader: George Matthys
Acolytes: Ashley & Wesley Stolte

January 8, 2012

Council Ushers: Mel Bullock, Lynn Prinz, Dave Kinnaman

Greeters: Elizabeth Ochoa, Mary Miller
Asst. Ushers: Romadene Mohel, Elizabeth Ochoa
Reader: Paige Morris
Acolyte: Bethany Cohen

January 15, 2012

Asst. Minister: Allison Erwin
Council Ushers: Bob Grimm, Buddy Townsend, Mark Stoll
Altar Set-up: Sheila Bullock, Rhonda Ochoa, Tracy Richter Altar Asst:
Altar Clean-up: Carol Lantzsch, Naomi Pasemann, Kathie Preece

Greeters: Billie Miller, George Matthys
Asst. Ushers: Naomi Pasemann, Irene Pence
Reader: Naomi Pasemann
Acolytes: Richie Reed, Katie Stolte

January 22, 2012

Council Ushers: Rose King, Pat Erwin, Chris Koehne

Greeters: Elaine Oser, Naomi Pasemann
Asst. Ushers: Amanda Prinz, Jody Prinz
Reader: Kathryn Paulsen
Acolyte: Garrett Johnson

January 29, 2012

Council Ushers: Michael Schwettman, James Preece, Sharon Pick

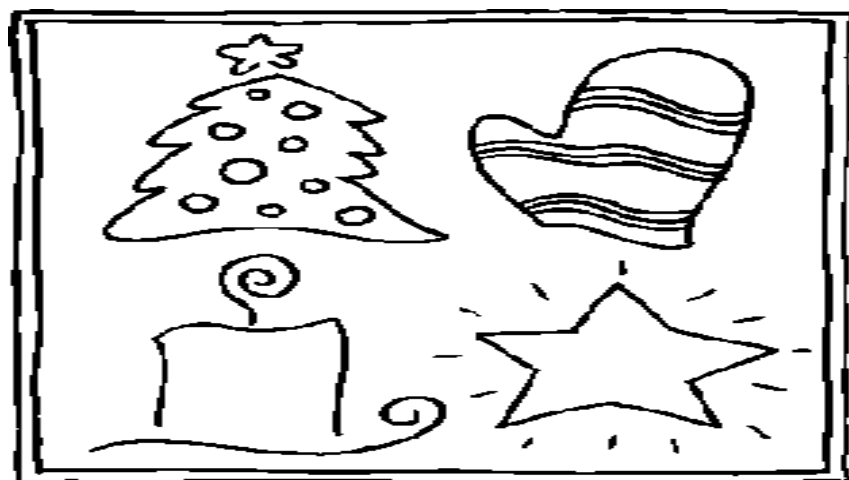
Greeters: Kathryn Paulsen, Irene Pence
Asst. Ushers: Dennis Richter, Jeff Rinderknecht
Reader: Irene Pence
Acolyte: Dante Reed

News & Views

St. Paul Lutheran Church

401 W. 7th Street

Taylor, TX 76574



DECEMBER