

News and Views



St. Paul's ANNUAL MEETING is scheduled for February 12th. CHURCH COUNCIL Members: If you have not already done so -- turn in your REPORT! Becky's dead line for you is January 11th.

Military Sticks

– Faith comes by Hearing
Thank you to everyone who contributed to the “offering jug” for the Military Stick program. The chaplains are currently having up to 2000 requests per day. Even though the military has left Iran, there are still thousands of troops stationed in the Middle East. The total contributed by St. Paul Lutheran is currently \$242.45. Thank you on behalf of our troops.

WOMEN OF ST. PAUL

During January and February items will be collected for **Personal Care Kits** (formerly called Health Kits). Each it includes the following items:

- 1 medium weight bath towel (appx. 52 x 27) dark color preferred.
- 2 bath size bars of soap (4 to 5 oz. size) any brand
- 1 adult size toothbrush in original package
- 1 sturdy comb
- 1 metal nail clipper

For a complete kit, wrap all items in the towel and tie with yarn or ribbon.

The Lutheran Seniorfest will be held on Saturday, February 4, 2012 at Palm Valley Lutheran Church in Round Rock, Texas. This is an all day event designed to equip mature adults to celebrate and serve, starting at 830am until 330pm. The keynote speaker is retired Chaplain Rodger Venzke speaking on a timely topic, "Faith in the Public Square". The cost is \$25.00 before January 27 or \$30.00 at the door. Included in the cost is, the keynote presentation, breaks, a choice of a morning and an afternoon workshop, lunch and fellowship. This is open to all Lutheran's 55 years or older. More information on the bulletin board with registration forms in the Narthex of the church or from any Senior Ministry Committee member.

Funeral Information Sheet

In the past few months there has been several requests for some way to record information in preparation for our own funeral. On the table in the narthex will be a stack of these information sheets. Also, unless you receive the newsletter via e-mail or on the web, an info-sheet will be included in this month's Views and News.

Please take a few minutes to fill this out. Then place it in a place where it can be found (upon your death), perhaps in your Bible, or a family file. This really helps in planning for the funeral (hymns, favorite verses, etc.). I hope you find this helpful - I did.

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
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Metro & Fax: (512) 365-1509
Sunday School: (512) 352-6154
Mr. Walker: (512) 912-6149

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

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Pat Erwin – *Secretary*

352-5915/perwin@eccwireless.net

Michael Schwettman – *Treas. & Stew.*

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Mark Stoll – *Parish Education*

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Chris Koehne – *Youth*

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Ray & Rhonda Ochoa –

Sunday School Superintendents

352-2523/rhondaocchoa@live.com

Greg Buetikofer – *Community Service*

887-0063/greg.2002@att.net

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



To my St. Paul Lutheran Church Family,

I would like to thank all of you from the bottom of my heart for all of your kindnesses during my recent illness. Thank you Pastor Gary and Pastor Miller for your visits and prayers. Thank you to all of you for the wonderful food (saving Billy & Casey). Thank you for the visits, the beautiful cards, your phone calls, and so very much for your prayers. I feel so very blessed to have all of you as my family.

May God's blessings be with all of you,
Shirley

Thank You and a Blessed New Year

Kerri and I would like to thank you all very much for your prayers through the year, and also for all your cards and gifts this Christmas. I pray that each of us would be thoroughly blessed this New Year.

Pastor Gary

Taylor Lions Club Annual Chili Supper

Tickets are now on sale for this event on Thursday, January 26, 2012. Both Dine-In and Take-Out are available from 5 PM until 7 PM at the American Legion Hall in Murphy Park. Each meal is available for a \$7.00 donation with desserts available separately. Proceeds are used to support the various charitable activities of the Taylor Lions Club. Tickets may be purchased from James Preece at the Thrivent Financial for Lutherans office at 2209 N. Main Street in Taylor or from any Taylor Lions Club member. Call 512-309-4845 for more information.



Cross Walk



And here we are...just like that—the start of *another* year! December is now behind us, and as we put up our Christmas trees and get the house back to normal, I'm often surprised at the sense of relief I feel. I'm never anxious for the return to the grind, the end of vacation, the start of a new school semester, but somehow I still feel relief when the last Christmas decoration is put in the last box and returned to the attic. I'm neither condemning nor condoning it, but I think the relief comes because, like everything else in life, we've crowded the Christmas season with so many activities and traditions that it sometimes becomes just another busy time to get through, however we can. Then, when it's over, we almost need a *break* from the break!

At the start of a new year, everybody tends to make resolutions. Even if they are never voiced, it's natural, at the beginning of something, to think about later stages of it. For many, it might just be an unvoiced decision to live a certain way—to "do" this, or "not do" that. Others might make a quiet choice to become something new—or to become a better version of something they already are. There are as many kinds of resolutions as there are people to make them.

As I start this new year, I find myself thinking more about *time* than anything else. How fast it moves, how tricky it can be, and how quickly it can end. As most of you know, I lost my father December 11th to cancer. He fought long and hard, for himself and his family, and for three plus years, it almost seemed he might beat it. Even just days before he passed, he was still himself, walking, talking, coming to my house to visit me—it seemed he would always be there. And then, in the blink of an eye, he was gone, and suddenly my time to be with him, at least on this earth, was over.

That's what time does to us—it lures us into believing it is infinite, and then in the blink of an eye, it is gone. We put off things we need to do, things we *should* do, because time offers us that deceptive "tomorrow" that we think we can depend on. We put off that thing God wants us to do. We delay seeking forgiveness and restoring a relationship that needs mending. We tell God we'll be more committed *tomorrow*. And then, just like that, time catches us unaware, and in the blink of an eye, it's over.

As we begin this new year, my pledge to myself and to God is to give Him control of my time, and of how I use it. I want my time to go to things that *matter*—to church, to family, to obedience to God. To things which restore and heal, not things that tear down. To sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ to those around me, and not just trying to blend in. To allowing God to reveal and accomplish *His* will in my life, and not to setting my own course. And most of all, I pray that *you* will take this pledge, as well, and see how God fills your time with his bounty.

God bless you all,
Ben

"THE BLACKBOARD"

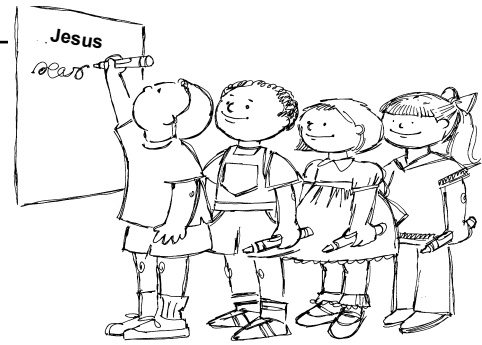
News from our St. Paul Lutheran schools

Child Development Center—Lorene Prinz, Director

(512) 352-2773

Elementary School—Sheila Debus, Principal

(512) 365-6161



CDC News - -

Happy New Year from the CDC Staff & Children

2011 was a Great Year!

A few of the fun things enjoyed at year end were delivering gifts from St. Paul Lutheran to Senior members of St. Paul, caroling at the Switzer Center, gardening the Fall Garden, caroling at the Rest home, collecting non-perishable food items to stock the Community Food Bank and spending the holidays with CDC friends.

We appreciate the prayers and generosity of the members of St. Paul Lutheran and the community of Taylor. Thanks to all of you who have remembered the CDC with your Thrivent Choice Dollars, donations of money, items, volunteer hours and many other helpful ways in 2011.

We are anticipating new and exciting happenings in 2012. Continue your prayers as we continue plans for the new CDC Building. It will be wonderful to have a modern building designed for the comfort and security of children to grow and develop in God's plan for each of them.

The New Year is dedicated to teaching preschoolers life skills and educational basics to prepare them for a successful life, the school age youth are encouraged to excel and be "all that they can be". All receive nurturing care and concern and most importantly the daily reassurance that God loves them and is always there for them.

We ask your prayers and God's Blessings for a Great New Year.

St. Paul Elementary School

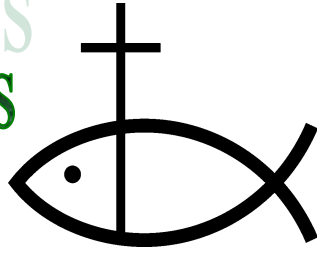
A new year and new beginning for us reminds us of God's mercies: *The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.* ~ Lamentations 3:22-23

After the Christmas holiday, staff and students are ready to begin the count-down to the end of the school year. There is much work to be done this winter. Time will pass by quickly as the beginning of this year also starts our ACSI academic events: the Spelling Bee, Speech Meet, Science Fair, and the Art Festival are coming up!

Congratulations to Claire O., Mary W., Jaimee A., Madison W., Brandon S., Justin H., and Destin L. They all scored high enough to advance to the next level in Math Olympics. Best of luck to all our students as they compete.



Go WARRIORS!



The Twelve Days of Christmas

One of our treasured Christmas songs, and probably one of the most confusing, is The Twelve Days of Christmas. Many people have calculated the cost of such an elaborate span of gifts including 12 drummers drumming, 10 maids a milking (including the cows), and the 5 golden rings. Not only that, but why would a partridge be in a pear tree in the first place? The cost would be tremendous.

So then, others have tried to determine the origin of the tradition of giving gifts on the twelve days of Christmas and they found that such a tradition was rooted in an ethnic belief whereby the gifts lead up to the Day of Epiphany. It is true that the 'twelve' days are the days from Christmas Day and ending with Epiphany, which is the season of revealing Christ's divinity.

In the last few years there has been several songs that spoof the twelve days of Christmas. One of the cute ones is "The Twelve Things I hate about Christmas." I like it because it points up the areas where we fail to appreciate the wonder and joy that is Christmas. For example: "Rigging up the lights," and "5 months of bills," or "hangovers!"

Keeping the twelve days started back in 567 A.D. and brought to light a spirituality that was rooted in Advent's yearning for God's justice and the need for a greater celebration of the incarnation: God in flesh appearing.

Counting is commonplace. We spend too much time in our lives counting. We count minutes and hours until the weekend, weeks until Christmas Day, and months until the baby is born. We have 40 days in Lent, six days of creation, and one Sabbath day! However, we stop counting on Christmas Eve! It is like coming to a cliff and then falling off! The stores take down their holiday decorations and move on to the next buying season.

But we need to keep on counting. We need to keep going. Thus, the song of the Twelve Days of Christmas! Instead of trying to get it all in before Christmas...and then come to a grinding halt on December 25...we can keep going through the season of 12 days.

During this season of Christmas and through Epiphany I encourage you to feel the tenderness of God's love for each of us. Take the time to relax and be merry. The twelve days of Christmas are a time of hospitality, looking back, and looking ahead. Take the pause that refreshes. Join us in worship for an exciting New Year of Blessings.

See you in Church.



PRAYER : Gracious God, source of healing and author of life, renew wholeness in our bodies, minds, spirits and in all our relationships. Bless our words and deeds that they may touch the heart of another. We pray not for our own, but for the many who also need your healing in their lives. Guide us in our daily living. We pray in the name of Jesus, our companion and Savior. Amen .

Members: Elinor Brinkmeyer, Rose Meadows, Vickie Hall, Wayne Kelm, Gussie Arledge, Emma Heselmeyer, Steven Scruggs, Shirley Evans, Nema Bohls, Randall Bohls

Family, friends, and loved ones: our nation, Betty Wilson, Pamela Morton, Robert Garrett, Larry Rydell, Evon Higgins, Gail Matthys, Eric Richardson, David M. Bulgerin, Mike Parry, Jessica Golden, Cole Riddle, Jim Ferrier, Alton Peters, Carole Byler, Margaret Smith, Kimberly Jones, 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, Marilyn & Donna DeMari, Abby Alderete, Gay Keys, Josie Mowers, Elisabeth Skrovan, Sylvia Slagle, Trent Holmstrom, Trishia Mueller, David Click & Family, Marie Davis, Betty Cruz, Wilma Hoerig, John Graff, Abigail Alexander, Luke David Jackson, Joshua Bockerstette, Julie Johnson, Susan, Erin & Heather Shores

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- Geraldine Cox, Lisa Cox, Abby Johnson, Lena Leschber

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

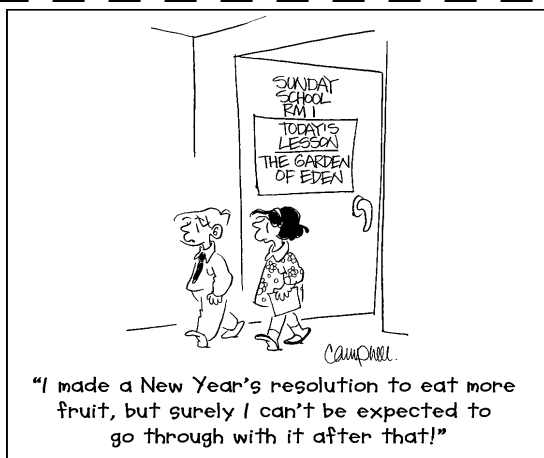
Granger Villa- Alma Heselmeyer, Emma Heselmeyer, Frances Moehnke, Desy Mueller, Edna Werchan

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





Meals on Wheels Drivers Needed! Our church has accepted responsibility for covering three delivery routes on **Mondays** for Meals on Wheels. At present, we have openings. Besides Mondays, we also have folks that deliver on other days. It only takes an hour. Be at the Nutrition Center at 10:30, deliver 15 – 20 meals (you don't have to stay and talk with each client), return the supplies, and be on your way. If you can help deliver meals, call the church office at 352-2327. For more information, call the Center at 352-5539.

Monday, January 2

- LaVerne & Dennis Richter
- Open - Volunteer needed
- Open - Volunteer needed

Monday, January 16

- LaVerne & Dennis Richter
- Open - Volunteer needed
- Open - Volunteer needed

Monday, January 9

- Naomi & Bobby Pasemann
- Mark Krueger
- Marilyn & Lonnie Raschke

Monday, January 23

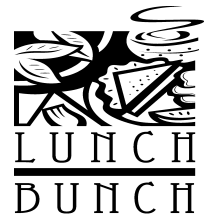
- Marilyn & Lonnie Raschke
- Open - Volunteer needed
- Open - Volunteer needed



Senior Adult Ministry

The **Senior Ministry Committee** The Senior Ministry Committee meeting will be Wednesday, January 25th at 10:00 am in St. Paul House.

The Lunch Bunch will get together for lunch on Monday, January 16th, At Java Junction. Please come and bring a friend. Everyone is invited.



THANK YOU TO THE CONGREGATION FROM THE SENIOR MINISTRY COMMITTEE for all your help in delivering the Christmas gifts to our shut in members.

Fourth Monday
Domino Day at St. Paul's

Date:
Fourth Monday
of every month
Time:
2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Place:
St. Paul Education Bldg.

JANUARY Mission of the Month
Radio Fund

“All our dreams can
come true, if we have the
courage to pursue them.”
~ Walt Disney



Sunday Worship ave. Attendance: 155
 Sunday School ave. Attendance: 52

Income & Expenses:

Monthly

Income	\$18,894.08
Expenses	\$22,174.44
Income Minus Expenses	- \$3,280.36
<i>Transfer this month</i>	\$ 0
Final Total	-\$3,280.36

Year-to-Date

Income	\$245,525.83
Expenses	\$244,729.50
Income Minus Expenses	-\$796.33

<i>Transfer from Spring Praise Festival</i>	\$5,676.23
Final Total	\$6,472.56

Benevolence

<i>Goal for 2011</i>	\$13,000
Received for the month	208.50
Received YTD	\$4,898.00

Mission of the Month:

World Hunger	\$1,306.00
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Alice N. Schernik will turn 85 years young January 1.
Deane Pfenning will turn 91 years young January 4th.
Joyce Eulenfeld will turn 82 years young January 10th.
Emma Heselmeyer will turn 86 years young January 18th.
Andrew Greinert will turn 85 years young January 26th.



Robert & Naomi Pasemann will celebrate their 55th wedding anniversary January 12th.



.. The family of Norman Stauffer. Norman's funeral was held at St. Paul on Monday, December 19th.



Thank You!

Thank you for the recent gift from Mission of the Month. The troop is growing a lot right now. Thank you for your continued support.

Boy Scout Troop 167

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, Dave Kinnaman, Greg Buetikofer

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: Kathie
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

FEBRUARY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

February 5, 2012

Asst. Minister: Dave Kinnaman
Council Ushers: Mel Bullock, Dave Kinnaman, Greg Buetikofer
Altar Set-up: Carol Lantzsch, Naomi Pasemann, Kathie Preece Altar Asst: Rhonda
Altar Clean-up: Marilyn Raschke, Beverly Ash, Elaine Oser

Greeters: Amanda Prinz, Jody Prinz
Asst. Ushers: Thomas Rohlack, Katy Safarik
Reader: Randall Pick
Acolytes: Jessica Lundgren, Ryan Talley

February 12, 2012

Council Ushers: Bob Grimm, Buddy Townsend, Mark Stoll

Greeters: Lorene Prinz, Taylor Prinz
Asst. Ushers: Paula Safarik, Chris Scheffel
Reader: Lorene Prinz
Acolyte: Aaron Prinz

February 19, 2012

Asst. Minister: Jewel Kruse
Council Ushers: Rose King, Pat Erwin, Chris Koehne
Altar Set-up: Marilyn Raschke, Beverly Ash, Elaine Oser Altar Asst: Marilyn G.
Altar Clean-up: Marilyn Grimm, Janet Brinkmeyer

Greeters: Juneva Randig, Kenneth Randig
Asst. Ushers: Jack Stolle, Byron Townsend
Reader: Lynn Prinz
Acolytes: Colton Schiller, Christian Stoll

Feb. 22 Ash Wednesday

Altar set up: Marilyn Grimm, Janet Brinkmeyer Altar Asst: Sheila
Altar clean up: Sheila Bullock, Rhonda Ochoa, Tracy Richter

February 26, 2012

Council Ushers: Michael Schwettman, James Preece, Sharon Pick

Greeters: Marilyn Raschke, Dennis Richter
Asst. Ushers: Dylan Townsend, Kim Townsend
Reader: Marie Richter
Acolyte: Rosie Morgan

St. Paul Lutheran Church Youth Leader
Mr. Ben Walker

Position Summary:

St. Paul Lutheran's Youth Worker will be a dynamic Christian individual to develop a youth program within the St. Paul congregation. This individual needs to be enthusiastic about working with youth of diverse ages, will possess good communication skills, and have the ability to organize youth groups and plan fun and meaningful activities appropriate for each group. This person will also facilitate new and exciting ideas to help our youth groups flourish and grow in their faith relationship with God.

Qualifications:

- Enthusiasm and ability to work with youth of diverse ages.
- Effective communication skills with youth and parents.
- Ability to plan, coordinate, and organize events and activities for youth
- Ability to maintain an active line of communication with youth and young families
- Ability to effectively communicate Christian beliefs and ideals through youth activities and events.

Additional Skills:

- Computer skills including: Social networking, email, word processing, working with church youth budgets
- Experience working with youth groups
- CPR/First Aid certification is a plus

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Recruit youth and families who are not currently part of another church (this could be done through association with the CDC and St. Paul School).
- Attend church when youth activities are planned, for recruiting, and as needed to get acquainted with congregants.
- Organize youth programs and activities for both youth groups in our congregation.
- Coordinate and organize community service activities for youth groups.
- Attend national/regional youth gatherings as needed
- Promote and coordinate youth involvement with other churches
- Create monthly summary for council, which can also be published in the newsletter and on the web page

Our Youth Leader, Mr. Ben Walker, will have an annual review and will be work approx. 35 hours per month which will include youth activities, planning, and recruiting. The hours per week will be flexible as based on the events and activities planned for the month, but will not exceed the annual base hours set by the budget.

- The Youth Worker will have undergone a criminal history background check.

On the part of the congregation of St. Paul – it is expected that certainly the parents of the youth will participate in activities and functions of the youth as needed by the Youth Leader. Parents are encouraged to also be enthusiastic and will volunteer to help and **Not** wait to be asked. Further, it is not only parents, but any adult can volunteer and help.

Members of St. Paul are also expected to be supportive of our Youth Leader and make every effort to have their youth participate as is possible (understanding that not every event can be attended).

News & Views

St. Paul Lutheran Church

401 W. 7th Street

Taylor, TX 76574

