



St. Paul Lutheran Church ELCA

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JANUARY 2012

From the Pastor

A new year...and yet some things never change—like God's love for us...and mine for you, dear congregation! Happy New Year! I share with you a piece of writing that whose author I do not know, but which was sent to me by someone and I want to share it with you. Enjoy!

The God who breathed life into you,
Not once, but twice,
And breathes on you still,
Morning by morning,
Opening your ears to the whispers
Of Heaven's logic,
Has called you to be His own
And chosen you to belong to each other
In this hour, in this day, and in this city,
To walk together as a living text
Of His love for each of us and for our broken world,
To resist the undertow of self interest
In order to love and serve each other
In direct contradiction to every impulse
Of our fallen humanity,
And to display with one heart and one mind
The beauty and fullness of Christ
In the unfaltering love of God.
Go in peace.

In Christ, Pastor Judi



This past month we have prayed for the following: Sean Cassens, Harold Muntean, Lucille Wolfley, Jack Guerrero, Julie Renner, Pastor Milner, Deana Seeley, Orin Peterson, Orville Kuehl, Lori Dewey, and Wayne Otten. Please continue to keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

DECEMBER PASTORAL ACTS



Wedding

Steve Kaiser & Lory Ringler
December 16, 2011

Church Announcements

NEW MEMBERS? We will be receiving new members on Sunday January 22, during worship. If you or anyone you know is interested in becoming a member of St. Paul Lutheran, please contact Pastor Judi by January 10, to arrange for an orientation, and to fill out necessary paperwork. WELCOME!!!



New Members Are Joining

**Retired Old(er) Men Eating Out CLUB
ROMEO....Retired Old Men Eating Out....still interested?**



Meet
for
Breakfast

On the fourth Wednesday of each month, for many years, a group of retired men have gotten together at the Red Apple on Locust Street in Sterling to share breakfast and fellowship. A number of people are no longer with us and it is time to make a decision to either keep the group going, revive another one, or gracefully choose to end it. So this month on January 25th we will meet at 8:30, share breakfast, and make a decision about the rest of the year. If you are not retired, and can just join us and go to work late...come on over! If you need a ride, call Pastor Judi. Otherwise--- see you there you Romeos!!

(The **JULIET** group was an offshoot of ROME, mostly spouses and then a few extras☺! If you choose to continue to meet, please let the church office know!)



Coffee Fellowship

The 2012 Coffee Fellowship and Altar Flowers sign-up sheets are posted.



Altar Flowers



ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING – January 22 – following worship. Plan now to attend and be a part of the decision making here at St. Paul.

JANUARY FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

For the month of January please bring in pork and beans, tuna fish, spaghetti, hand soap, dish soap and paper products. Your cash donations are always welcomed. **A great need** this month is paper products (napkins, paper towels, toilet paper). Place items in the baskets located by the entrances.



BUDGET REPORT



St. Paul Budget

2011 Budget \$240,668

A full accounting of 2011 income and expenses will be available in the Annual Business Meeting Report.

LIBRARY NEWS

The new library books are: *Sisters of the Quilt*, by Cindy Woodsmall; *Leah's Choice*, by Marta Perry; *Into the Deep*, by Colleen Coble; *A Sister's Test*, by Wanda Brunstetter.



Thank you for all the donations. If you have any books to donate please contact me. ~ Jill Straw



PADS Homeless Shelter is now open. Thanks to our December volunteers: Janie Billings, Harold Julifs, Ruben Garcia, Ed Hurley, Don Haag, Shonnie Gonzales, and JoAnn Garcia. There were 13 guests that evening and all went well.

The sign-up sheet for January is on the bulletin board by the Sunday school office in the social hall for all who are interested in helping. Please pick your time to work, and/or if you would like to furnish any food. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me. Thank you and God Bless You! ~ JoAnn Garcia (815 626-3208 or 815 441-0122.)

A special thank you to Marilyn, Megan and Stephen Geiger, Audrey Cox, JoAnn Garcia, Cheryl Gorman, Janie Billings, and Lee & Nancy Eilers for helping to “hang the greens”, and to Gerad Von Holten, Megan Geiger, and Jeni Metzler for decorating our Christmas tree. Also thanks to Dick Walker for getting all our decorations ready and for putting up the Christmas tree.





Your 2012 Offering Envelopes are available on the Library table in the Social Hall for you to pick up. If you have a family member, or live near someone, that doesn't get to church, please consider taking their envelopes to them. Your 2011 Contribution Statements will be available from the church office by request beginning January 10. They will not be mailed out again this year.



CIRCLE NEWS

BIBLE STUDY: - To Follow and to Serve: The Gospel of Mark
The 2011–2012 Bible study, “Take heart; get up, [Jesus] is calling you,” challenges us – it’s an invitation to discipleship in the 21st century. The study emphasizes what it means to follow Jesus Christ today. We are called to a living faith, a deeper and more courageous understanding of what it means to follow the one we first meet in Mark’s Gospel at his baptism at the River Jordan.



Theme: You Must Consider This

Bible Study: Session 5 – *Confessing Christ*

Theme verse: Mark 9:24

“Who do you say that I am? Jesus asks Peter and it is a question Jesus poses to us today.”

Focus on Health: Reconsidering C-sections: Studies show that more and more U.S. infants are arriving via Caesarean section, which has increased fivefold in the past 40 years and is now the most common surgery performed on American women. C-sections are surgeries that you – and your loved ones – should consider carefully before committing to them.

Shepherdess Circle will meet Wednesday, January 4, at 9:30 a.m. at the church. Hostess: Pastor Judi; Leader: Pastor Judi

Friendship Circle will meet Wednesday, January 4, at 1:30 p.m. at the church. Leader: Pastor Judi

Community Announcements



Consider donating to the PADS Homeless Center. All the following items are on their need list, gift cards to any of the local stores are also welcomed. This allows the director and board members to purchase items that are

needed. The list includes: shampoo, conditioner, body wash, toothpaste, toothbrushes, underwear(store pkg.- S-M-L men and women), socks, sweatpants, sweatshirts, gloves, hats, scarves, napkins, paper towels, toilet paper, aluminum foil and plastic storage containers with lids (cool whip, butter, etc.) Please place these items in the box marked PADS donations in the east entryway.

Have you checked out the Wellness Booth sponsored by CGH Medical Center's Health Foundation and our Stewardship Committee? It is located near the sliding doors in the Social Hall. Each month focuses on a different topic.



January topic: Lasting Weight Loss
January 12, 2012 – 6:00 p.m.
Ryberg Auditorium
Speakers – Bryan Fredrick & Sherry DeWalt

Readings for January 2012

Sunday, January 1, 2012

First Sunday of Christmas

In the psalm all the natural world praises God, including all humanity, male and female, young and old. The voices of Simeon and 84-year-old Anna join the chorus today, recognizing what God is doing in Jesus. Simeon's song is often sung after communion, for we have seen God's salvation in the assembled community and have held Jesus in our hands in the bread. Then, like the prophet Anna, we speak of Jesus to all who look for the healing of the world.

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

Psalm 148

Galatians 4:4-7

Luke 2:22-40



Sunday, January 8, 2012

Baptism of Our Lord

Our re-creation in baptism is an image of the Genesis creation, where the Spirit/wind moved over the waters. Both Mark's gospel and the story in Acts make clear that it is the Spirit's movement that distinguishes Jesus' baptism from John's. The Spirit has come upon us as upon Jesus and the Ephesians, calling us God's beloved children and setting us on Jesus' mission to re-create the world in the image of God's vision of justice and peace.

Genesis 1:1-5

Psalm 29

Acts 19:1-7

Mark 1:4-11



Sunday, January 15, 2012**Second Sunday after Epiphany**

All the baptized have a calling in God's world. God calls not just the clergy but also the youngest child, like Samuel. The story of the calling of Nathanael plays with the idea of place. Nathanael initially dismisses Jesus because he comes from Nazareth. But where we come from isn't important; it's where – or rather whom – we come to. Jesus refers to the story of the vision of Jacob, who called the place of his vision "the house of God, and ...the gate of heaven" (Gen. 28-17). Jesus says he himself is the place where Nathanael will meet God.

1 Samuel 3:1-20

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

John 1:43-51

**Sunday, January 22, 2012****Third Sunday after Epiphany**

Stories of the call to discipleship continue as the Time after Epiphany plays out the implications of our baptismal calling to show Christ to the world. Jesus begins proclaiming the good news and calling people to repentance right after John the Baptist is arrested for preaching in a similar way. Knowing that John was later executed, we see at the very outset the cost of discipleship. Still, the two sets of fisherman brothers leave everything they have known and worked for all their lives to follow Jesus and fish for people.

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

Psalm 62:5-12

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Mark 1:14-20

**Sunday, January 29, 2012****Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**

In Deuteronomy God promises to raise up a prophet like Moses, who will speak for God; in Psalm 111 God shows the people the power of God's works. For the church these are ways of pointing to the unique authority people sensed in Jesus' actions and words. We encounter that authority in God's word, around which we gather, the word that trumps any lesser spirit that would claim power over us, freeing us to follow Jesus.

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Psalm 111

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Mark 1:21-28



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES
FOR OUR CHURCH MEMBERS

If you don't see your name on this list or there is a correction to be made, please let Sue know in the church office.

- | | | |
|----|----------------------------|---|
| 2 | Peggy Koster | <u>Happy 42nd Anniversary</u> |
| | Megan Geiger | January 3, 1970 |
| 3 | Andrew Spaulding | Judy & Bob Bartel |
| 4 | Allan Beyer | <u>Happy 41st Anniversary</u> |
| 10 | Sarah Page | January 23, 1971 |
| 12 | Madison Vandersee | Kent & Harriet Bushman |
| 16 | Les Dombroski | <u>Happy 52nd Anniversary</u> |
| | Ted Cassens | January 24, 1960 |
| | Tonya Garcia | Ron & Karol Gerken |
| 17 | Ron Gerken | <u>Happy 44th Anniversary</u> |
| 18 | Mary Betz | January 26, 1968 |
| | Rebecca Waite | Mike & Debbie O'Brien |
| 19 | Donna Palmer | |
| 20 | Gladys Fordham – 91 | |
| | Berta Beyer | |
| 21 | Bill Mayes | |
| 22 | Cathy Cox | |
| | Jacob Straw | |
| 25 | Evan Lobdell | |
| 26 | Fred Cox | |
| | Chad Arians | |
| 28 | Scott Seeley | |
| | Trey Seeley | |
| 31 | Karol Gerken | |



Please remember our Members & Friends on the Home Visitation List:

Marian Bollman

123 Liberty – A#10, Dixon, IL
61021

Janice Hulteen

509 Heinze Drive
Rock Falls, IL 61071

Jean Koster

327 S. Garfield St. Apt. 101
Monticello, WI 53570

Orville Kuehl

Good Neighbor Care
2705 Avenue E, Apt. 203
Sterling, IL 61081

Richard Landheer

303 Towne St., Morrison, IL
61270

Louise McDearmon

Alma Schettler
Sterling Pavilion
105 E. 23rd Street
Sterling, IL 61081

Bette Oesterreich

Good Neighbor Care
2705 Avenue E, Apt. 105
Sterling, IL 61081

Jane Ommen

Coventry Living Center
612 W. St. Mary's Road
Sterling, IL 61081

Marion Long – Apt. 114

Wayne Otten – Apt. 122

Marion Parsons – Apt. 115

Gladys Stern – Apt. 206

Norma Wiegand – Apt. 226

Heritage Woods
2205 Oak Grove Avenue
Sterling, IL 61081



Home Visitation

Part of the ministry we share includes providing a worship space that gives glory to God. Especially in this, one of our highest festival occasions, we decorate with particular detail. Thanks to the following people for the donation of poinsettias, a symbol of the season: (If you ordered a poinsettia, please free to take it with you this Sunday after worship.)

- Michele Mench** given in thanksgiving for God's blessings!
- Harold & Sandy Julifs** in honor of our church family at St. Paul
- Janie Billings** in honor of mom & dad
- Scot, Berta & Jacob Beyer** in honor of Lucille Beyer
- Jill Straw** in honor of Daniel and Jacob Straw
- Pastor Judi & Terry Huseth** in honor of Beverly Huseth
- Gary & Marcia Fields** in memory of Lois Cassens
- Sandy & Harold Julifs** in memory of Kathryn Julifs, Claus & Hannah Julifs, Roy & Irma Walters, Dean Julifs
- Ron & Karol Gerken** in memory of Lisa Gerken Lee
- Connie Ricklefs** in memory of David Ricklefs, Hazel & Ralph Peugh
- Orin & Muriel Peterson** in memory and honor of their parents
- Dianne & Lloyd Miller** in memory of Johnnie Stern and Carolyn Miller
- Andy, Marilyn, Stephen & Megan Geiger** in memory of Henry & Rosalia Faber, Ross & Verna Rod
- Anna Ivarson** in memory of Eileen Zarn
- Lee & Nancy Eilers** in memory of Henry & Ethel Eilers
- Louise McDearmon** in memory of Warren & Gary McDearmon
- Merle Lucas** in memory of her son, Gary Bushman
- Louis & Lois Ukena** in memory of Grace Baer, Ommo & Anna and Fred & Herman Ukena
- Sandy Fritz** in memory of her son, Noel Fritz
- Dick, Audrey & Cathy Cox** in memory of Harold, Hazel and Bob Cox
- JoAnn Garcia** in memory of Pearl Staples
- Nancy Beck** in memory of Dave Beck, George & Sylvia Day
- Robert & Lila Gomsrud** in memory of their son, Ted and our parents.
- Linda Utley, Melissa & Keith Lewis** in memory of Don Utley
- Austin & Brianna Nunn** in memory of Wilma Nelson
- Rolf & Mary Lou Helm** in memory of their granddaughter, Kristin Helm

Gerda Ukena, and daughters, Margret, Linda and Helen in memory of Herman Ukena

Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren in memory of Grandpa Ukena

Diane Yoeckel in memory of Craig Yoeckel

Velma A. Kindle in memory of LeRoy & Sandra June Kindle

Jill Straw in memory of Vora Straw

Don Stern, Judy & Bob Bartel and family, Donna & Dave

Kendall and family in memory of Ruth Stern and Mabel Rohde

Viola Koster in memory of her parents, Henry & Grace Ottens

Miriam Chubb in memory of Ken (Nick) Chubb, and Rev. Carl & Minnie Wiederanders

Pastor Judi & Terry Huseh in memory of our parents, John & Percy Wilson, Herbert Huseh

Ethel Warner in memory of Kenneth Warner



Poinsettias