

## St. Paul's Lutheran Family

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### *Bits & Pieces*

Dear Friends,

I believe it has been a long time since any of you will have seen the following announcement. It used to be made on an annual basis and was part of something that came close to being a tradition. The announcement? St. Paul's would love to have families of the congregation bring a single ornament for our Christmas Tree. Probably doesn't seem like such a big thing. The main reason for this request has to do with an unfortunate accident that occurred last December when the tree fell over during Advent and we lost some of the decorations.

I stopped asking for ornaments in earlier years for several reasons. The first, and least excusable, has to do with memory. I simply forgot to make the announcement in the December newsletter for that year and often remembered only later in December when we started decorating the tree. Other factors may also have come into play; we already had a lot of them and we've been getting smaller trees the last couple of years because larger ones were simply not available. But, here's your chance.

If your family, especially new ones who have not yet given one or been unaware of this tradition, would like to donate a single ornament this year we would be pleased to accept and use it. What kind? Well, while there are a lot of congregations who focus on one aspect or another of the Christmas tradition when decorating the tree we have generally considered the tree at the church to be a family tree. We have had delicate glass bells and we have had a full color rendition of Big Bird. Small crèche's and angels large and small hover within the branches of the tree. So does the occasional decoration hand-made by a child. We invite you to help make this our tree, our family tree. While this tree may add some ornamentation to the sanctuary it also provides us an opportunity to share icons that make your Christmas our Christmas. The balls and bells and angels are carefully stored away with the other ornaments during the rest of the year and barring another unforeseen incident will be something you can anticipate

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seeing down the years. Will you? I hope so. Bringing them in before December 13 ensures that they become a part of this year's tree.

I am acutely aware that several families in the congregation have experienced great loss through death. Yet the Christmas promise beckons us to see beyond our current pain to a gift of life that surpasses even our imagination. May the light and life of the Christ child greet you this season and embrace you.

Peace,



## Youth News

The youth group is going to be very busy for the next month! We all love the holiday season and the youth are always willing to help those in need. We will be adopted a Family for Christmas. Our group loves shopping so they are all excited to shop till we all drop for a wonderful family in need. They will be helping Advocates to End Domestic Violence with the Share your Holiday Food Drive. Please keep a watch out for some little visitors around Christmas time you never know if some of Santa and some of his amazing helpers will stop by.

Our groups will be cooking up a storm on December 15<sup>th</sup> which will include spaghetti, salad, and garlic bread following the Sunday School Program. The youth group will be leading a few games during dinner to add a little extra fun! We always have fun working with the wonderful Sunday School Program. Please come out and join us, and help support our kids in our church family.

The Youth Group meets the First and Third Sundays of each month. Meetings are from 5:00pm-6:45pm. If you are interested or if you know a youth that would like to join please call Traci at 721-5495. The youth group is for youth in 7<sup>th</sup> grade through high school. We also have a young adult group for those who have graduated high school.

The Youth Group would like to wish our church family a wonderful and blessed Holiday Season!

# WELCA

By Linda Wilson, President

A big THANK YOU to all who participated in giving food donations to help the 3 adopted families for Thanksgiving. Along with the monetary donations from Thrivent and LEE we were able to provide each family with \$100 grocery gift certificate and a traditional thanksgiving dinner along with the donated food items. Peggy, the CC School District Special Project Coordinator was overwhelmed with the support we were able to give to these families. To date she has 295 local families in desperate need of assistance and the list is growing.

WELCA is again adopting 3 families for Christmas. If you are able to donate non perishable food items, gifts, or monetary donations, it would be greatly appreciated. When I receive the Santa list from the children through the CC School District's Special Project Coordinator I will post on the WELCA bulletin board. Food items may be placed on the table in Friendship Hall. If you are able to help with monetary donations please make your checks out to WELCA and in the notation part of your check please write "for Christmas Families." You may put them in the collection plate on Sundays or mail/give them to Peggy Truttman, WELCA Treasurer. More information will be in the weekly bulletins and on the WELCA bulletin board.

**Our next SHORT meeting scheduled for Saturday December 8th @11AM has been canceled.**

Safe travels for all who are traveling this holiday season. May the Lord watch over you and your family and friends. Christmas blessings to all!



## Staff Gifts

If you wish to contribute to the staff Christmas gifts, please send your check to: Ken Elverum, Council President. He will pass it on to each of our staff members before Christmas .

## Financial Secretary's Report

(Oct,1 through Oct 31, 2012)

- ◆ The approved Budget for the month (4 Sundays) is \$17,681
- ◆ Income received for the month was \$18,471
- ◆ Actual Expenses for the month were \$17,757
- ◆ YTD (year-to-date) Budget - which is 18 weeks is \$79,567
- ◆ YTD Income received was \$72,710
- ◆ YTD Actual Expenses were \$71,120
- ◆ YTD Income was short of meeting Budget by 8.6%
- ◆ YTD Income exceeded Expenses by 2.2%

Respectfully submitted,

*Wayne Kinder, Co-Financial Secretary*

*Please take a look at the Financial Secretary's chart posted on the wall near the church office.*

## Family and Community Outreach

### Advent Potluck Soup Suppers and Communion Services

**Thursday evenings, December 6, 13, and 20**

Yes! It's that time again. St. Paul's annual Advent Potluck Soup Suppers and Communion Worship Services will be held **Thursday** evenings, December 6, 13, and 20. Supper begins at 6:00 p.m. in Friendship Hall, followed by a Holden Evening communion service in the sanctuary at 7:00 p.m.

*Note:* the soup suppers are true potlucks, consisting of whatever folks bring to share. Soups, breads and crackers, salads, and desserts...all are welcome! Please invite your friends and family, and join us in sharing gifts of companionship, conversation, and wonderful food as we prepare for Christmas. *The Christ Child is coming, the Christ Child is coming, the Christ Child is coming....*

### Stewardship

*The Stewardship team salutes all of you who give so generously of your time and energy, your intellect and creativeness, your personal and financial resources, and your smiles and hugs in support of God's work. We are truly blessed to have you as part of St. Paul's Family.*

*For your consideration...*

**"Where the culture experiences deep division and despair, a church with 'a living, daring confidence in God's grace' can articulate a clear message of hope. We are called to be such a church."** ELCA Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson, *The Lutheran*, November 2012.

## Message from the Council President

I am writing this on the Sunday following Thanksgiving and the holiday season is definitely in full swing, or as those in the retail sales industry would like to call it, the “shopping season” is in full swing. It seems impossible to avoid the hype surrounding “Black Friday,” “Small Business Saturday,” “Cyber Monday,” et al. Before long every day between Thanksgiving and Christmas will have a special name attached to it each one designed to lighten the load in our wallets or increase the outstanding balance on our credit card accounts. Please do not misunderstand me. I enjoy giving gifts to my friends and loved ones as much as anyone, but the constant barrage by retailers to get me to spend in order to “save” money seems to miss the mark of what this season was originally intended which, I believe, is to give thanks for the blessings we have received and to celebrate the birth of our savior. If you are like me, you probably wish that that message would be as emphasized as is the message to spend.

With regard to Christmas itself, this year Kay and I are marking a first in our lives, something that I am sure others in the congregation have already experienced. For the first time, none of our children will be home for Christmas. Our son Peter is home from Afghanistan, but is stationed at Fort Benning, Georgia and does not have enough leave time to come home. Katie will be spending Christmas with her husband’s family in Indiana (she and Bryan came home last year). And Patrick is fully and completely settled in Dallas, Texas. He and his wife, Jennie, recently presented us with our fourth grandchild, Emma Kate, born in October. We have not seen her yet, so we have decided to travel to Texas for Christmas. So for the first time in our married lives, we will be spending Christmas away from home. It will definitely be a new experience, but we are excited to see looks on our grandchildren’s faces (who are ages six, four, two, and newborn) come Christmas morning.

As a result, I would like to take this opportunity now to wish all of you, on behalf of the church council, a wonderful holiday season. I hope that you and your family have been as blessed as Kay and I have been this past year. St Paul’s Lutheran Family has always been a huge part of our lives and I am eternally grateful for the friends we have in the congregation. Finally, if you wish to contribute to a Christmas gift for our wonderful staff, please send your check to me indicating to whom and how much you would like the gift directed, I will pass on your gift before we leave for Texas.

Yours in prayer, Ken Elverum

# B i r t h d a y s

## December

2 Marie Boone  
3 Madaline Yoho  
4 Gloria Marsh  
7 Audrey Azadi  
8 Jean Russell  
10 Cody Lopez  
12 Bill Anderson  
13 Linda Sivertsen  
15 Katherine Doll  
16 Mandy Chambers  
16 Jan Enders  
18 Bill Slabaugh  
18 Steve Williams  
19 Joan Schultz  
20 Nita Menveg  
21 Rick Adams  
21 Bob Chambers  
21 Carl Ewing  
23 Karrie Alexander  
23 Aubrey Alotta  
24 Rosette Moltz  
26 Alice Bloyd  
26 Steven Overlock  
27 Grace Lofaro  
27 Clark Russell  
30 Christopher Moltz

## Children’s Christmas program

The children’s Christmas program “Light A Candle” will be held at 4:00 p.m. on December 15th. You are invited to attend a dinner hosted by the youth group after the service.



Thanks to Lin Nary for all of her work in putting this newsletter together for us!

# Christmas Poinsettia Program 2012

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN FAMILY

1201 N. Saliman Road

Carson City, NV 89701



We invite you to participate by using this form together with your check for \$11.00 per plant made payable to: *St. Paul's/Poinsettias*. Please place this form in the Sunday offering plate, send it by mail or deliver it to the church office. All plants may be picked up anytime after the 9:00 a.m. Christmas Day Service. If you prefer, your plant, may be given to a convalescent home or someone on our church's visitation list.

## **YES, I WOULD LIKE TO DEDICATE A POINSETTIA PLANT (\$11.00 EACH)**

IN HONOR OF: \_\_\_\_\_

IN MEMORY OF \_\_\_\_\_

GIVEN BY: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF PLANTS \_\_\_\_\_ My check/cash in amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please deliver my plant to a convalescent home or person on the church's visitation list.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THE DEADLINE FOR ALL ORDERS IS 12/17/2012**

**THANK YOU.**