

## St. Paul's Lutheran Family

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*Bits & Pieces*

Dear Friends,

♪ Christmas is a-comin', and the...♪. I'm guessing there are lots of ways you, not necessarily in song, could continue this line. Of course the lyric continues, "and the Goose is gettin' fat," but these days I'm unaware of many people caring much about whether the goose is getting fat or not. People don't care about the goose, they care about different kinds of Christmas preparations these days. Each family probably has its own drill. My guess is that those drills consist, at least in part, of readying for trips or troops, of decorating, cleaning and just the general hullabaloo that grips us at this time of the year. And my question? Well, is that what we mean when we carol, ♪ Christmas is a-comin', and the...♪? Is that what we really mean?

I certainly understand how we get to that point but my hope is to experience the promise of hope. This year our lectionary cycle will look to the Gospel of Matthew to provide the bulk of our gospel readings. Matthew is one of only two accounts of the Christmas event and his narrative is quite brief. In fact Matthew's account focuses mainly on Joseph and the sense of threat that surrounded the entire birth. And yet, and yet from it we are given hope.

In order to experience that hope, or to at least become aware of its presence, we need to stop. We need to breathe, we need to listen, we need to look. Much too often all of the preparations in which we are involved serve mainly to distract us from what should be our true focus. During this season we celebrate the gift of the Christ-child. Not presents. Not guests. Not decorations. All of these may be a part of the season; I'm fine with all of them. But if they get in the way of experiencing Immanuel, God with us, then we have gone astray. The distraction is not the fault of the guests, or the lights or even the merchandisers. We have the option to look where we need to look. If the Lord of all creation has chosen to come to us, to be born in a manger so that the least of us might find him accessible, what do you think? Might we pause and look upon him who so loves us?

Volume 29, Issue 12  
December 2013

### **ADVENT POTLUCK SOUP SUPPERS AND COMMUNION SERVICES**

Yes! *The Christ Child is coming, the Christ Child is coming...*and as you prepare for this special season, we invite you and your family and friends to join us in sharing gifts of companionship, conversation and wonderful food. St. Paul's annual Advent Potluck Soup Suppers and Communion Worship Services will be held Thursday evenings December 5, 12, and 19. 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, crackers, salads or desserts...all are welcome!

For the first time in a number of years, children and young people associated with the Sunday School will take some leadership roles in an Advent service. At the 10:30 service on December 22 members of this group will lead the liturgy, read the lessons and participate in other ways in leading the service. Look for additional information in upcoming Sunday bulletins and perhaps elsewhere in this newsletter.

Don't overlook the opportunity to take a break during all of the pre-Christmas "hullabaloo". Advent mid-week pot-lucks and services begin December 5<sup>th</sup> and run until December 19<sup>th</sup>. Please note that these are Thursdays. We gather to share some of this season with one another and use some of the evening to prepare ourselves, rather than our homes, to receive the gift of the Christ-child.

The Lord's richest blessings be with you this season,



## WELCA NEWS

Hi Ladies:

WELCA's movie night is Monday, December 9th at 6:00 p.m. We hope you will join us to see this heartwarming comedy with Renee Zellweger and Harry Connick, Jr. Feature run time is approximately 97 minutes. A short meeting will follow the movie.

Please bring a sample of your favorite Christmas cookies to share with the hot chocolate/cider which will be provided by WELCA.

Renee Woslum/Gloria Randle, Co-Presidents

### ***COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S NOTES***

Christmas Greetings to everyone.

Yes, Christmas is almost upon us and the celebration of Christ's birth is eminent. It is also a time to reflect and count our blessings. A few of the blessings we have received this past year are in the form of your council members, present and past. Some of the things that have been accomplished by these dedicated individuals have been the beautification of our church property. If you missed it this fall, the colors of the foliage were spectacular! If you took time to travel around the local area and check other church properties, you would have seen that no one else matched the picturesque beauty of God's creation.

Another thing that we are blessed with is our newly asphalt shingled roof (the entire church!) which blends in perfectly with the architecture and ground of the church property.

Thanks to all of you for your continued contributions that have ensured that all of this could be done without having to borrow from a financial institution and then having to repay the loan with interest. We need to remember, though, that we cannot rest on our laurels for there are still some things that need to be addressed in the very near future.

I want to take this opportunity to thank Jay Olshen for his work on the parking lot lights. Jay informed me he had to run all new wiring to the lights in order to bypass the electrical shorts in the system. This is only a temporary fix as Jay stated that come spring it

# 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 Jan Enders
18	Bill Slabaugh Steve Williams
19	Joan Schultz
21	Rick Adams Bob Chambers
23	Karrie Alexander
24	Rosette Moltz
26	Alice Bloyd Steven Overlock
27	Grace Lofaro Clark Russell
30	Christopher Moltz

will be necessary to do a full rewiring of the system and that will require some manpower from our congregation to keep expenses down. Thank you, again, Jay, for your work ensuring that we have night lighting in the parking lot.

Once again I want to remind everyone that the council meetings are open to all members of the congregation. Please do attend if you are interested in what is going on within our church family.

And last, but not least, don't be afraid to wish someone a very Merry Christmas, regardless of their background. We are all God's children and Christ was born for all of us.

Happy Thanksgiving and a very Merry Christmas to all.

God Bless You All  
Bill

**HEALTH NEWS CORNER**

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Please remember we need donations of coats (new or gently used) and socks for all ages from 6-15. The homeless advocate from the school district will distribute these items to those in need.

Also, Food for Thought is needing donations of the non-refrigerated milk (regular or chocolate milk) in the individual cartons.

Thanks for all you do.

Betty Razor

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**PER YOUR REQUEST-MARK FROST PRINT**

For those of you who inquired about how to see and/or purchase a copy of "Memories of St. Paul's" - the custom print created by Mark Frost - here is Mark's website: [www.markfrostartist.com](http://www.markfrostartist.com).

Mark is a former member of St. Paul's, now living in Minnesota. His artistic talents include primitive art, country folk art, and American rural prints. His newest creation, "Memories of St. Paul's," was presented to Nellie Revelle at her retirement celebration.

Mark and JoAnn are planning a trip to Nevada in the spring. We eagerly look forward to their homecoming.

**Financial Secretary's Report**  
(October 1 through October 31, 2013)

The approved Budget for the month (4 Sundays) is \$16,136.  
Income received for the month was \$15,579.  
Actual Expenses for the month were \$15,362.  
YTD Budget (17 weeks) is \$68,577  
YTD Income received \$68,990  
YTD Actual Expenses were \$77,999  
YTD Income exceeded budgeted Expenses by .06%.  
YTD Expenses exceeded Income by 13.1%  
**Note: Expenses are high due to cost of new roof.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Wayne Kinder, Co-Financial Secretary

**Youth Group Activities**

By Traci Trenoweth

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 adopting a family for Christmas. Our group loves shopping, which means we will be shopping until we drop for a wonderful family in need. The youth will also be helping Advocates to End Domestic Violence with the share Your Christmas Food Drive. Please keep a watch out for some visitors around Christmas time, you never know if Santa and some of his amazing helpers will stop by.

Our group will be cooking up a storm on December 22n for the coffee hour after the Sunday School Christmas Program. Please join us for a warm and delicious lunch. The youth group will be leading a few games during lunch 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 the kids in our church family!

The Youth Group meetings are from 5:00 p.m. - 6:45 p.m. Please call me if you know of any youth that would like to join us. Our group is for youth from 7th grad through high school. We also have a young adult group for those that have graduated high school.

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



To everyone at St. Paul's Lutheran Family-especially Sarah Jevne, who put together a beautiful basket for the raffle at your Craft Faire.

Thank you, thank you, I was so happy to have won the basket. Lots of goodies, snowman cookie jar, Christmas glasses and pillow and all sort of other items that I am thoroughly enjoying.

Karen Ferreira  
Your "Catholic" member

## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

This year the children in our Sunday School will be presenting their Christmas program as a service on Sunday, December 22, 2013, the 10:30 service. They will be doing the service from the beginning, reading the lessons, presenting the Christmas story as the sermon and singing several songs they are working on. We are all excited about doing this and very proud that we can accomplish this with our great teachers, helpers and, of course, superior students. So we hope to see all of you there!

After the service, there will be refreshments in Friendship Hall. Please mark your calendars for this special event.

Renee Woslum  
Sunday School Superintendent

### 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.

## Readers for Dec/Jan

Dec. 1	Judy Lowther
Dec 8	Renee Woslum
Dec 15	Linda Wilson
Dec 22	Judy Lowther
Dec 29	Don Kovista

### CONGRATULATIONS

Markus Adams receives his Bachelors degree in Chemistry from the University of Nevada at Las Vegas on Tuesday, December 17th. Markus is the son of Karin Randle and grandson of Dale and Gloria Randle.

## Greeters for Dec/Jan

Dec. 1	Greta O'Kelley	Dec 22	Shelly Stevens
Dec 8	Dee Coughlin	Dec. 29	Peggy Truttman
Dec 15	Betty Thoreson	Jan. 5	Dorit Sandmeier

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### L.E.E. GROUP

The L.E.E. Group will hold their annual Christmas potluck luncheon on 12/5/13 at 11:30 a.m. All are welcome to join us. Hams will be provided and you are asked to sign up to bring a dish of your choice. Eileen Bianchi will get us all in the holiday spirit by leading us in singing Christmas carols.

Hosts will be Judy & Dick Lowther, Renee & Clay Woslum, Linda Wilson and Peggy Truttman. Hope to see you there.

## Communion Assistants

Dec 1	10:30 a.m.	Dick Lowther
Dec 8	8:00 a.m.	Roger Moellendorf
Dec 15	10:30 a.m.	Linda Wilson
Dec 22	8:00 a.m.	Gloria Randle
Dec 24	5:30 p.m.	Bill Massie
	8:00 p.m.	Jay Olshen
Dec 25	9:00 a.m.	Joan Schultz
Dec 29	8:00 a.m.	Joan Schultz
		(Gloria Randle)
	10:30 a.m.	Rene Woslum

