

ST. PAUL'S EPISTLE

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Rev. Robert E. Schmidt, Pastor

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Once again we begin a new year. But what has changed? The sun rose and set one more time and, suddenly, it is all new? The New Year is just a mark in time,

something akin to drawing a line in a flowing river with your finger. Now your checks will read 2012 instead of 2011 - or, if you are like me, the first three months will have 2011 crossed out and 2012 crammed into that little space that is left, because I forget to make the change for a while.

We have a new year, a new opportunity to start over again. But we have that same opportunity every day. We can make a big deal out of the "new" year or ignore its newness. What we cannot do is avoid the necessity of living in it, and the challenge and opportunity it gives us to repent, and then to live before God and man as the children of God.

In Holy Baptism and in our Confession we realize that we are imperfect and need God and others. We need others to make us whole. We then respond by doing good to help others- like buying presents for the Gift a Way Tree, giving macaroni and cheese, supporting one another, etc.

As the new year unfolds we will try to make a difference as a group and as individuals. That is the reason for organizations like Lutheran World Relief and Lutheran World Hunger. Locally we help, visit and support each other the best we can to ensure our ministry continues. Our young people, under the leadership of Anna Thompson and Laura Sutton, "lived the moment" to share the faith and excitement of our youth about Christmas. This year's Sunday School Christmas program was one of the best I've seen because they let the youth be who they were, even though at times it did seem like organized chaos, they trusted the Holy Spirit. It touched our

hearts and reminded us to use who we are to share God's message. In the end it was perfect. When we trust in God and live each day to the fullest we can go forward to live the year as imperfect people redeemed by God to witness His grace in its perfection.

Happy New Year! Let's face it together, in Christ's name and standing on His Word!

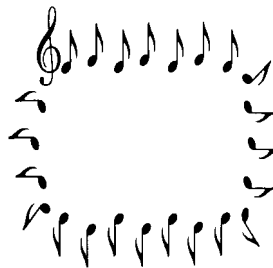
Pastor Robert Schmidt

Dear St. Paul's: thank you for being a member of the Young Musicians Partnership this past year. Grace and peace,

Sue Olstad, Lutheran Music Program

Dear St. Paul's: Thanks for the gift cards and the opportunity to do your stained glass windows. Also, for including us in the events on the Window Dedication Sunday.

Bob & Mary Jo Day



January Worship Services

Jan 1	9:30am Worship	Service of Word
Jan 8	Holy Communion	ELW 4
Jan 15	Worship	Service of Word
Jan 22	Holy Communion	ELW 4
Jan 29	Worship	Service of Word

ALTAR MINISTRY

If you would be interested in participating in preparations for our worship services, please see the Altar Ministry page. Several additional teams are needed for the coming year.

COMMUNITY CORNER



MAC & CHEESE

We are the Macaroni and Cheese Church as part of NEEDS "I Can" You can bring your Macaroni and Cheese anytime and leave them in the NEEDS box near the coat rack NOTE: We have been filling the containers every two weeks. NEEDS has told us that amount of mac & cheese is gone in a day. Thanks for your continued support!

CAMPUS MINISTRY

To the St. Paul's Family: thank you for your most generous support check. We are sending our students off next week after finals and we are providing them with a great send off. You help make this happen. Thanks and Christmas blessings!

+Pastor Ralph Rohr, Trinity Laramie

+Intern Andrew Dietzel

+All the Students of Lutheran University Ministry

FEEDING AMERICA

Feeding America recently released its study which found that emergency food pantries are becoming a regular component of households' long term strategies to supplement monthly shortfalls in food. Your generosity is greatly appreciated, especially during the holiday season, as we work to provide nutritious food to 37 million American families.

Richard Geiger, VP Philanthropy Operations

CHILDFUND INTERNATIONAL

Friends: You bring hope through your support of Child Fund. Your compassion gives children hope for the future. Thank you for partnering with us.

Ann Lynam Goddard, Pres. & CEO

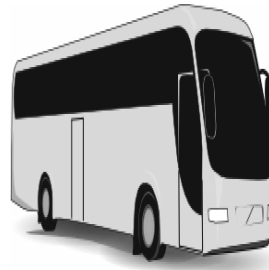
ADOPT A FAMILY CHRISTMAS PROJECT

Thanks to all those who donated gifts from our "Star Tree". The gifts were delivered to the families on Sunday, December 18.

YOUTH NEWS



2012 ELCA Youth Gathering
citizens with the saints
Ephesians 2:14-20



YOUTH GATHERING UPDATE

MILEAGE UPDATE: Thanks to all who have bought miles the youth are well on their way to the Youth Gathering. Check the map to see the location of the bus.

FUNDRAISING

"A Night in New Orleans": On Saturday, January 21st, at 6:00pm the Youth will prepare a Cajan dinner. The cost is \$10 a person. Kids 8 and under eat free. Please contact Bill Whittle or the church office for tickets.

DEDICATION DVDS

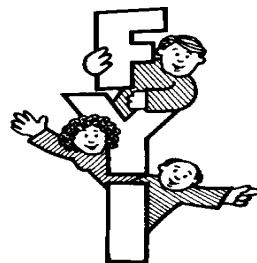
The youth are selling copies of the stain glass window dedication DVD for \$10 each. If you would like to purchase a DVD please contact Bill.

SR HIGH SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Sr High youth are meeting for Sunday school in the Fireside Room. All Sr High youth are invited to attend.

JESUS LITTLE SPROUTS

Fun for the entire family! Join Jesus Little Sprouts on Friday, January 6 at 6:00pm..



ANNUAL MEETING

Our Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 29th at 1:15pm. The meeting will be preceded by a congregational dinner at noon. The Fellowship Committee will serve the main entree and you are being asked to bring a side dish to serve

ten or more. We are planning to fix chicken breasts with Chipolte Sauce, loaded baked potatoes (chives, sour cream butter, bacon bits), baked sweet potatoes with cinnamon butter, dinner rolls, butter, coffee and punch. In order to have a variety of dishes, please bring the following according to your last name: The A-G names please bring salads. Those with names H-N please bring desserts. O-Z please bring vegetables or fruits. Circle this date and plant to attend. More details will follow in the weekly bulletins

CELEBRATING JERRY JONES!

Earlier this year we announced that Jerry Jones would be retiring after 17 years of service on the Property Committee, 15 of which he served as Chairman. What an amazing example of service (and a daunting amount of knowledge about St. Paul's that none of us can match)! We finally pinned him down and Jerry has decided that the official date of his well-deserved retirement will be Sunday, January 29, 2012. Since that Sunday will be the date of our Annual Congregational Meeting, we felt we needed to find a day that we can celebrate just Jerry. So, with his help, we picked a date (providing it does not interfere with a football game he wants to watch) and the Property Committee would like your help to honor Jerry for his years of dedication and service to St. Paul's. We are planning a Celebration Coffee Hour (with CAKE of course) on Sunday, January 22, 2012. It will be a casual affair with Jerry and his family. Please come and spend some time sharing memories and wishing Jerry well on this next step in his life journey. I'm sure Rita will be glad to see him slow down some! We look forward to sharing this time with Jerry and all of you! Thanks!

Your Congregation Council and Property Committee

THE BOOK OF FAITH

The study of Mark will continue during the Adult Forum on January 8. A donation of \$5 is suggested to help cover the cost of the learner books. This is a great opportunity to grow in the understanding of the Bible. What is God saying to us in our day and lives?

CALLING ALL RAGS!

Dear St. Paul's, During the process of polishing candles and cleaning in the sanctuary we find we have stretched our rag supply to a few, very thin, rags. In trying to "swipe" some from the kitchen cleaning supply cabinet I found it to be sorely lacking in rags also. My "rag bag" at home (from whence I have been pulling rags for cleaning the church) is pitifully low also. I am putting out a call for any extras you may have at home. If you have some cleaning rags to spare and can give them to Altar Ministry to assist us in our cleaning efforts it would be much

appreciated! We will re-supply the kitchen cleaning cabinet with some that we receive. This is an odd request to be noted in the Epistle but, a good way to "reach out for rags" that we need. If you have any, please bring them to the sacristy and leave them on the floor by the back door and I will get them picked up and distributed. Thanks So Much!

Molly Nelson

Altar Ministry/Property and Kitchen Committees

THREE WISE WOMEN

On January 7, come join women from St. Paul's for a time of fellowship and reflection on the Christmas season. We will be meeting at 11:00am at the Egg & I for a no-host brunch. A devotion and presentation of the "Three Wise Women" will be part of the morning program. Please sign up at the Welcome Center or notify a member of the Women's Ministry Team for reservations. Please bring a guest. We look forward to starting the new year with a time of good fellowship and reflection. Contact Regina Pacheco 637-84458 for more information.

CHURCH NURSERY

Because there are no children who are regularly coming to the nursery, no attendant will be scheduled. For any parents who need to use the nursery, please feel free to go down with your children. Please remember that an adult must be present if there are children in the nursery. Please call Karen Christensen at 634-1766 if you have any questions.