

# THE EPISTLE

The Newsletter of the People of St. Paul

December/  
January  
2010-11

## St. Paul Mission Statement

“As disciples in Christ’s Church, we gather to worship, to grow in faith, and to serve our community and our world.”

From the desk of Pastor Gable...

Advent already, can you believe it? It is hard to believe that December is here. Where has the time gone? Advent is the beginning of a new church year. With our combined December/January Epistle, we actually cover three seasons of the church year: Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany.

Advent presents an opportunity to revisit the idea that the church year is not a never-ending cycle, but a special time where God hallows and blesses time itself. Advent texts offer some of the most resounding declarations of the coming Christ. “Keep awake,” “Go and tell John what you hear and see” and “the desert shall rejoice and blossom.”

Our Christmas celebration needs to move away from sentiment and toward the incarnation. Christmas is not Christmas because there is a cute baby and mangy animals.

It is Christmas because there is a God-man celebration. Jesus Christ as both Son of Man and Son of God.

Epiphany has been called “Little Christmas” which is a continuation of the unfolding of the manifestation of the Son of God to the nations. A showing of the light. We move out into our community witnessing the light that shines in our midst.

This year we will have special worship services to celebrate our Advent and Christmas season.

Continued on next page....

On Sunday, December 19 we will have two special worship services.

8:00 a.m. – Advent Lessons and Carols “Savior of the Nations, Come”

10:45 a.m. – Children’s celebration “The Unfriendly Beasts”

Christmas Eve – Friday, December 24

6:30 p.m. – Family Service – Children’s story, Carols and the Holy Family

9:00 p.m. – Holy Communion and Candlelight service with Choirs

Christmas Day – Saturday, December 25

9:30 a.m. – Holy Communion Service

Christmas 1 – Sunday, December 26

9:30 a.m. – Christmas Lessons and Carols (Bring your bells to ring!)

Christmas 2 – Sunday, January 2

8:00 and 10:45 a.m. – Holy Communion Services

Baptism of our Lord/Epiphany 1 – Sunday, January 9

8:00 and 10:45 a.m. – Holy Communion Services

May you and yours have a blessed and holy Advent, Christmas and Epiphany. Jayne and I wish you God’s richest blessings.

God’s blessings to all,

Pastor Jim Gable

## Termites

My parents recently took a trip to Charleston and had the opportunity to visit some of the over 100 churches in this historic city. One church, in particular, looked intriguing and they began to make some small talk with a parishioner who was preparing for a church bazaar. They were welcomed into the church where they were humbled at the beauty of the enormous (and old) sanctuary complete with pillars, pews, and an amazing wood-crafted ceiling. The parishioner asked for prayer for the church...it seems as though the breathtaking ceiling has become infested with termites and the church is unable to pay the millions it would take to make things better. Worship can no longer take place in that space due to the safety issue. The bazaar is meant to raise money to help save their church building...they have great faith in prayer...all 100 members.

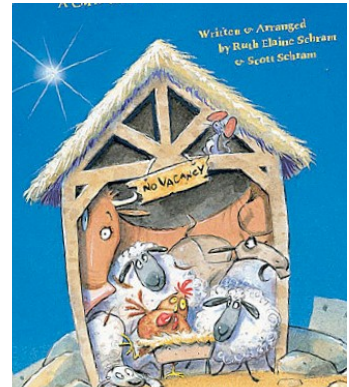
We all have termites...something eating away at us that is seemingly invisible to others that can tear at our very souls, making us weaker by the moment. But hope is not lost, we have Hope and it was born in a lowly manger, sent by God to save us all. Whatever it is that makes us weak, we find our strength in that little baby Jesus.

So as the holidays approach us and we prepare for that oh-so-special birthday may your celebrations be joyous, your tables be full, and your termites be exterminated.

Blessed Holidays!

Melodie Fair

## CHILDREN'S SUNDAY AT ST. PAUL'S THE UNFRIENDLY BEASTS (NO ROOM IN THE STABLE)



**SUNDAY DEC. 19TH 10:45 SERVICE IN THE NAVE COME JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICE** The day begins with an advent lessons and carols service at 8am. Then join us at 10:30am in the nave for "Songs of Celebration" to kick off our children's Sunday Service. The Contemporary Worship service will include songs from both young choirs, "Joyful Noise" and King's Kids, our final advent candle lighting, and the message will be presented by the children of St. Paul's Sunday School Classes entitled "The Unfriendly Beasts." Birthday cake for baby Jesus will be served to everyone in the narthex following the service.

## St. Paul Website News!

Starting January 1st, St Paul will have a NEW website and a new name stpaullitiz.net. Start out your new year by checking out the new site and online services!

## St. Paul Circle and Ruth Circle

Ruth Circle meetings are held the 1st Sunday each month at 9:30 a.m. in the church library.

St. Paul Circle at Luther Acres meetings are held the 1st Wednesday each month at 1:15 p.m.

Circle meetings will be held in the Music Room at Luther Acres until further notice due to construction. The Music Room is located to the right immediately after entering the Townhome main entrance. The time will remain the same at 1:15 p.m.

## Seasonal News

The holidays are fast approaching and the Personnel and Mutual Ministry teams are collecting cash donations from those in the congregation who wish to remember our pastor and staff with a cash gift at Christmas, as other churches do. If you wish to participate in this expression of the joy of the holidays, you may give your donation to Doug Hookway or Chris Lessig or mail to Doug Hookway at 26 Roundhouse Dr., Lititz, PA 17543, by Tuesday, December 14th. Call Doug with any questions at 627-1961.

**December 19, at 9:30 a.m. (following the Advent Lessons and Carols) we will be having the Congregation Meeting to approve the budget. Please plan on attending.**

## Website of Interest

Deb Herr found this new website very enjoyable and wanted to share it with all of you! It is a new website by the ELCA—check it out!

LivingLutheran.com

Let us know what you think!

## Youth Soup Sale



SUNDAY DECEMBER 5

following each service in the narthex

cost of gas to drive to church - \$2.70/  
gallon

1 quart of soup... \$5

support of St Paul's youth – PRICELESS!!

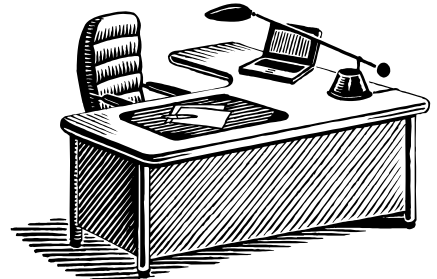
*From the Office at St Paul.....*

*As we head into the busy holiday season, I try and remind myself to stop and remember the reason for the season. I know, for myself, I can feel overwhelmed with the need to decorate, bake, cook, shop, wrap, etc., just like everyone else. But when that quiet time sets in, and all is said and done, what my children remember (in addition to that favorite gift!) is the time we all spent together, the favorite cookies we baked together, and the games we played.*

*I am always hopeful that we can all gather together—my two, married stepchildren & spouses, my mom and my two boys. It's difficult with everyone's busy schedules, but it is so very special to share that time together. Holidays, and every day, find me missing my beloved dad and now with my brother no longer with us, it will surely be different. But we have to remember to thank God for those we have around us, never knowing what next year will bring. Every day with family is a gift. Every conversation with a friend, every moment shared with those we love.*

*So, I'm going to decorate more simply, and shop less, but with loving, careful thought. And, of course, bake with my favorite helpers! I can already smell the cookies, see the smiles and hear the laughter. May you all be so richly blessed.*

*Susan*



## Stewardship for the 21st Century

Generations of Generosity by Michael Zacher

We make a difference every single day. The ways we drive in traffic and behave in the grocery store. Every time we smile at someone we make a difference. Each time we make an ethical business decision or donate our time, energy or money, we make a difference. We make a difference as we model loving kindness.

Many of these values were taught to me by my family as well as learning from others. I grew up in the late 40's and 50's in Duluth, Minn. and can remember a special table in the house where my mom grew up. The table was near the kitchen and was always set with a clean oil cloth cover and flowers. When I asked who used it, My grandma told me she would be feeding the hungry men that came to her home. Many were out of work and would come to ask for odd jobs or a meal. Grandma fed them, often not knowing if she would have enough for her and grandpa's own needs. She said that God always provided more than enough.

Growing up, my father worked long, hard hours for the railroad. He told us about a family he would see each week, with several children, living along the railway. Dad said they were poor and did not have enough to eat, so he would not eat his lunch and shared it with them. At Christmas my parents ate less and went out less so they could provide clothing for these children. My family never seemed to go without and Mom said that God would provide.

I remember asking my dad why he was so generous. He said, "Being generous is like breathing...I'll show you what I mean. Breath in—try it! Now, hold it! Hold it....Ok, let it out." Dad said being generous is like breathing—if you continue to only take things in (breath in)...and never give out or share (breath out) you won't live or survive.

Ego tells us to live out of scarcity. Ego makes us worry that there will not be enough. Ego is afraid that we will not be taken care of. Ego wants to hoard more than it really needs.

Gratitude reminds us that the resources around us are not ours to hold onto for very long in the best of circumstances. Gratitude reminds us that the real joy of life is **becoming a blessing to those around us**. Gratitude reminds us to invest ourselves and our resources in ways that **multiply the blessings** that we know are spiritually life changing.

## 2010 CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA ORDER FORM



To order a 3-4 bloom, 6 ½" poinsettia plant for Christmas, please complete the form below and return it with your payment to the church office. Place it in the offering plate, mail it to the church, or drop it off at the office. Make checks payable to "St. Paul Lutheran Church." **Deadline for orders is Monday, December 6. Cost is \$5.00 each.**

Given by \_\_\_\_\_ Phone:

In Memory of:

In Honor of:

To the Glory of God:

Number of Poinsettias Ordered: \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL PAID FOR POINSETTIAS:

### ORDER FORM FOR GREENS/GARLAND

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone:

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

To the Glory of God: \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL PAID FOR GREENS:

## Mission Life

Mission Life Meeting October 2010

.... and then there was one. This phrase from a mystery story reminded me of our October Mission Life meeting. I was the only one present. That was the same night as the Church Basement Ladies play at the Dutch Apple Theater .I hope to hear how the Church Basement Ladies compare to our WELCA group. I sat in with the Family Life Ministry Team. They were planning an Advent workshop on November 28<sup>th</sup>. This fit in perfectly with an ELCA program called Operation Thanks Giving. It involves making cards to send to missionaries to thank them for their service in sharing God's love around the globe. We will have a card making table at the Advent Workshop where members can make Christmas cards for family, friends and our missionaries. God does work in mysterious ways!



Peace!

Anne Millhouse

## Worship Life

The Worship Life Ministry Team and the Worship Scheduling and Contemporary Worship ad hoc committees want to thank the Saint Paul congregation for its response to our recent survey on worship scheduling. The results are in, and as promised we want to share them with you. We received 217 surveys, which we believe is a good representation of our congregation. Of the 217 respondents 171 (83%) are content with our current worship schedule, and 74% believe that we should have Contemporary Worship services twice a month as we are now doing. We are reading all the comments and will consider them and the complete survey results in our discussions of worship life. Look for reports of those discussions in future Epistles. The survey results can be seen on the kiosk. Thank you again for your help.  
In His Service,

Gayle Stauffer for the Worship Life Ministry Team

## Women of the ELCA

Ready for a Challenge?

A quilt-making challenge that is!! The Women of the ELCA churchwide has chosen this project to coincide with the Eighth Triennial Convention theme-- Renew, Respond, Rejoice! In December, specific details and a Quilt Challenge Entry Form will be posted on the Women of the ELCA kiosk in the narthex. Also, St. Paul Women of the ELCA will help with the shipping costs for this May 1, 2011 deadline.

### **Attention Prayer Shawl Makers!!**

At the Eighth Triennial Gathering for the Women of the ELCA in July of 2011 in Spokane, Washington, prayer shawls will be given to ministries in that host synod. If anyone from St. Paul is interested in contributing, check out the WELCA kiosk in the narthex for details. St. Paul Women of the ELCA will help with the shipping details and shipping costs of this project.

### **Mark your calendar— Blanket Making Dates for December and January**

Wed., December 1--9 a.m.-noon

Sat., January 8--9 a.m.-noon

Wed., January 26--9 a.m.-2 p.m.

### **Women of the ELCA Brunch**

Brickerville United Lutheran Church Women of the ELCA is hosting the LCO church women at a brunch on January 22, 2011, from 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon. The program which will be presented first is "Cup of Laughter" by Elaine Boltz. Please bring a non-perishable food item for the Lititz Community Food Bank. A free will offering will be accepted to cover expenses. A sign-up sheet will be on the WELCA bulletin board kiosk until Friday, January 14, 2011. If you need transportation please indicate on sheet.

## Stephen Ministry



### **Prayers for Stephen Ministry for 2010-2011**

Since this Epistle is for December and January, two prayers have been listed below. As a disciple of St. Paul Church, will you pray this prayer during that month when it is the most convenient time for you—once a day, once a week, etc.?

The December Stephen Ministry prayer is:

Lord of all hopefulness, stand with your Stephen Ministers here at St. Paul in their caring relationships, bringing your hope into the lives of your broken people. Help our Stephen Ministers to turn to you for strength and wisdom as they care in your name. We ask you to bless their caring relationships so that their care receivers can experience your healing love. We pray in the name of Christ who renews us. Amen.

The January Stephen Ministry prayer is:

Lord, we thank you today for 10 years of Stephen Ministry in our congregation. We see the work of your Holy Spirit each day in this ministry, and we praise you for it. Equip and empower us to continue to serve you through this ministry, as more people receive your boundless love and care through a caring relationship with a Stephen Minister. We know that this ministry is possible only through you, Lord, and we thank you for your presence. In the name of Jesus, the Rock of our salvation. Amen.

## WELCA Health Kit Update

WELCA thanks our Warwick area girl scout troops for donating and assembling 67 health kits that have been given to Lutheran World Relief. Your generosity is very much appreciated.

## St. Paul Member Update

### **Baptism:**

Zachary Joseph Peters, born July 4, 2010, son of Matthew David Peters and Adria Rebecca Geesey Peters was baptized on November 14, 2010.

### **Wedding:**

Kristin Lynn Himmelberger and Gary Lee Rynier, Jr. were married on November 13, 2010

### **Death:**

William E. White, entered the Church Triumphant on November 14, 2010.

## Stephen Ministry Night

Everyone is invited to come meet our Stephen Ministers on Wednesday, December 8 in the lounge, from 6:30 p.m. to 7:15 p.m.. Come and find out about the Stephen Ministry and what terrific things are happening with your Stephen Ministry team!

## Church Decorating

Please join us to decorate the church on **Friday, December 10**. We will begin at 5:30 p.m. with a pizza dinner and fellowship. Cost of pizza is \$3/adults & \$1/children. Families in Faith will provide drinks and dessert. Decorating the nave and narthex will begin at 6:00 p.m. (If you can't join us for dinner, please feel free to come to help decorate anytime between 6-8 p.m.) All ages are invited to come to help! Please RSVP on the sign-up sheet on the Family Life board of the kiosk to help us plan for dinner. Any questions, please contact Art or Barb Paynter at 627-7506.

## LCO Singles

There will be no December meeting, but we will meet on January 21 at St. Paul for a game night and everyone will bring a dish to share for dinner. Look for more info in the bulletins. Call Kathy Ross at 468-7582

## Strategic Pathways

***As disciples in Christ's Church, we gather to worship, to grow in faith, and to serve our community and our world.***

So how do the disciples of St. Paul live out our mission? Your Council members and other leaders of the church have given this a great deal of thought. They agreed upon five pathways or directions to take over the next three years. They are:

- Offer a variety of worship opportunities
- Continue our transformation from membership to discipleship
- Evaluate current programs and create future programs which are relevant to all ages
- Provide for new and better ways to communicate our work and mission of St. Paul

Strengthen our connections to God and each other

Each pathway has a leader and several people who have volunteered to be on each team to study and determine what can we do to make it happen. Each team is responsible for creating a plan and then take the action necessary to do it.

In this newsletter, we will talk about one of these pathways...**Continue our transformation from membership to discipleship.** Ministry is a partnership. The disciple understands his or her work is to include doing the ministry and that giving back is a part of a growing relationship with Jesus and living life in community. Stewarding our time, our gifts and the resources we have been given is how we can transform ourselves into disciples. And what can we do to make this happen? There is daily prayer, daily scripture reading, participating in all aspects of weekly worship, grow our giving, serving others in Jesus' name and sharing the faith story with all of our brothers and sisters.

Dave Althouse and his team are working hard on ways to help us transform ourselves from members to disciples at St. Paul. You will be hearing more from this team very soon. And they can always use more partners. So if you have been looking for a way to get involved, consider helping Dave and his small group help us become St. Paul Disciples.

## LutheranCamping.org

Sunday, January 23, 2011 from 12:30 p.m.—2 :00 p.m. Spend a Sunday at camp with a delicious, home-made chicken and waffles dinner. Bring your sleds (if there's snow) to work off the calories, as if camp food actually has calories! Free will offering accepted.

## Women of the ELCA Book Club

The next book club discussion sponsored by the St. Paul Women of the ELCA is on February 3, 2011, at 7:00 p.m. in the church lounge. The book, "A Thousand Sisters" by Lisa Shannon is the true story of how one woman can make a difference. The author had a good life. Then one day in 2005, an episode of Oprah changed all that. The show focused on women in the Congo, the worst place on earth to be a woman. Shannon felt called to do something.....and she did. Join the discussion with this newly formed group of St. Paul Women. Book purchase will be on your own. A sign up sheet will be in the narthex after the holidays.

## Endowment

### **Power of Giving: The Perfect Christmas Gift**

Gift giving is an ancient tradition. When the wise men from the east came to see baby Jesus, they opened their treasure chests, offering him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. We still practice gift giving today. In many ways a gift is simply an act of kindness or an expression of caring. Too often the choice of a gift is not exactly what the receiver wants or needs or in the case of some receivers, they feel they want or need nothing. If you are searching for the perfect gift for a special person please consider a gift to the St. Paul Endowment Fund. The interest from the gift will enhance the mission of our church for many years to come.. If you are interested in making such a gift, please send a check to the church making certain to mark it for "Endowment". A Christmas gift card can be requested so you may present it to your special gift receiver. Direct questions to Phyllis Frankhouser, 626-4200.



**Thursday, December 30th**

**2:30 PM to 7:00 PM**

**In Our Social Hall**

A sign up sheet will be located in the narthex from December 5 through December 26. Sign up for a time that suits your schedule. This is the final blood drive scheduled for our social hall for 2010. It is held as a convenience to our members and other donors in the Lititz area. ***We need more St. Paul members to join us in this important outreach to others!***

If you have any questions about your eligibility as a blood donor, call the blood bank at 544-0170. Be sure to report any medications you take or have taken recently (even aspirin or Tylenol), any recent illnesses, or any shots or needle sticks, including ear piercing, in the past year. ***Flu shots or the inhaled flu vaccine eliminate you for 7 days.***

**Other questions or concerns can be directed to St. Paul's blood drive**

**coordinator:**

**Don Campbell 626-8078**

**You can donate ...** if you are healthy, 17-65 years old, weigh at least 110 lbs. and have not donated in the past 56 days.

**The blood donation process** takes less than an hour, including registration. Confidential questions about your health history will be asked by trained staff. They will check your temperature, iron level, blood pressure and pulse.

**The actual donation takes only 7 to 10 minutes** during which approximately a pint of blood will be collected. **This pint of blood has the potential to save up to 3 lives** and is used locally by LGH to treat accident victims and those with other life-threatening situations.

**Refreshments** are then available before your blood pressure is rechecked and you can resume your normal activities.

**While medications and health issues eliminate some of our members,**

**MANY OF YOU ARE ELIGIBLE BLOOD DONORS!**

*Dec. and Jan. are Donor Appreciation*

*Months ... Free Gift From LGH To All Donors!*

**"Give The Gift Of Life"**

**On Dec. 30th**



# Sunday School...

## AUGSBURG

### *“The Inescapable God”*

Dec. 5 — “The Highway for God” Marsha Campbell

Dec. 12 — “I Am Your God” Tom Herrmann

Dec. 19 — “The Prince of Peace” Diana Hill

Dec. 26 — NO CLASS

Jan. 2 — “I Am Your Redeemer” Janice Hackman

Jan. 9 — “Turn to Me and Be Saved” Nancy Weiss

Jan 16 — “Reassurance for God’s People” Steve Shaub

Jan 23 - “The Servant’s Mission” George Nickel

Jan. 30 — “Healed by His Bruises” Dave Althouse

**Confirmation Class will meet on January 9th in the social hall from 5:30—8:30 p.m.**

**There will be no Sunday School on Dec. 26 & Jan. 2**

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

“Souper Bowl of Caring”

Sunday, January 30 in the social hall at Noon

Please join us and be ready for hot soup, rolls, drinks, and assorted desserts. Bring a hearty appetite!

Admission: Money donations and/or food for the food bank. Money donations will be sent to ELCA World Hunger.

Remember the Soup Sale on Sunday, Dec 5—benefits the youth weekend and service in the spring. Get a quart or two for the busy times during the holidays!

15

Ministers  
The People of St. Paul

Pastor  
Rev. James R. Gable, Jr. - [jgable@stpaulлитitz.org](mailto:jgable@stpaulлитitz.org)

Director of Traditional Church Music  
Ken Krause – [KMKrause@aol.com](mailto:KMKrause@aol.com)

Director of Contemporary Church Music  
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Barb Paynter                          Signe Fink  
Dan Rusnock                          Joe Doster  
Kathy Ross                              Jim Millhouse  
Wayne Gongaware                      Laura Kiskaddon

Treasurer  
Tom Trayer – [tomtrayer@dejazzd.com](mailto:tomtrayer@dejazzd.com)

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Nursery School  
Denise Bedger, Director 625-3641

Christian Child Care Center  
Gail Price, Director 627-0900

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church

200 West Orange Street

Lititz, PA 17543

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## **ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**[www.stpaullititz.org](http://www.stpaullititz.org)**

**(after January 1, 2011, website will be [www.stpaullititz.net](http://www.stpaullititz.net))**

**Phone: (717) 626-4709      Fax: (717) 627-0425**

**Dial-A-Service Phone 625-4400**

**Office Hours: Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.**

### **WORSHIP SERVICES & HOLY COMMUNION**

Sunday s at 8:00 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

#### **Contemporary Worship Services**

December— 2nd and 3rd Sundays, January, 2nd & 4th Sundays at 10:45 a.m.