

## January 2012

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### The Good Word...Home

One Christmas I received a wood carving of the Holy Family: Joseph is leading the donkey upon which sits Mary with the infant Jesus. It is the traditional portrayal of the “flight into Egypt” (Matt.2:13ff), the Holy Family leaving their homeland, going into exile. The powers that be were threatened by Jesus’ Christmas coming; “and his own people received him not” (John 1:11), so they were on the move. In exile “you wander through the world waiting to say hello and for someone else in the world to say hello and to mean it when they say hello.”\*

Is Christ to be in exile in every time and place? For surely there are still many who scorn Him, this one who only wanted to share the Kingdom and be at home with us in the love of God. And surely it is true that “the Gospel’s destiny and proper home is the person...,” according to one of our beloved theologians, Joseph Sittler.\*\*

We may think of the Church as those who once “in the exile-world said hello to him”\* and meant it, and the Church is now us who receive the Word and let it dwell richly among us (see Col. 3:16).

Now as I look at the carving and the world outside my window, as I ponder His coming in this holy season, I pray we will welcome Him warmly and take Him to heart.

Lord, bless your Holy Word this Christmas tide,  
Wherever it is preached and heard—  
That it may find a home with many—  
To your eternal praise  
And their eternal peace,  
Through Jesus our brother and our savior. Amen.  
(a prayer of Ernest Campbell, adapted;  
from his *Locked in a Room with Open Doors*)

With love, Pastor W

\* “Hello in Exile” by John Harrell

\*\* *Grace Notes and Other Fragments*

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### Members of St Paul,

As a reminder, we ask you to please sign the friendship register that is located in the pews each Sunday when you attend. This is not to see who's attending or who is not, but for our records to establish the number of voting/active members so this number can be reported to the synod office when needed. These statistics are also used to determine if a quorum has been met when we have a congregation meeting and need to vote on church matters.

Thank you for your assistance and cooperation.

Your Church Council

Christian Education department is sponsoring the annual  
Mitten Tree

Bring in your donations of new hats, gloves/mittens, and scarves by January 8,  
and hang them on the wooden tree in the Narthex.

Thank you for giving to those in need.

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ST. PAUL CELEBRATES  
NEW MEMBERS, BAPTISMS, AND CONFIRMATIONS OF 2011

WHEN? Sunday, January 8, 2012 – following 11:00 a.m. worship  
WHAT? Potluck Dinner  
WHERE? The Fellowship Hall  
PURPOSE? Become better acquainted and rejoice in the gifts God has given us

The Evangelism Committee is sponsoring a Potluck Dinner to honor new members and regular visitors as well as those baptized and confirmed during 2011. Besides this opportunity to meet these we honor, it will be a wonderful time of fellowship for the entire congregation. January 8 is also Epiphany, so let us gather at this time to celebrate the light of Christ in our lives!

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Thrivent News

The St. Paul Church Thrivent Advocates for 2011 wish to send a sincere, **Thank You**; for all the donations of the Thrivent Choice dollars, volunteer hours and food donations for the two community meals.

We are looking forward to 2012 serving as Thrivent Advocates. Plans as of now for the coming year is an educational event *Identity Theft*, and two planned community meals (May & Sept.). Also each church congregation can have up to eight advocates, so we are hoping to fill those positions. If you or you know of anyone whom would like to join the Thrivent Advocates at St. Paul please contact a Thrivent member or an advocate.

Again Thanks for all you do as a Thrivent member and volunteer.

Hattie Golliday, Polly Stout, and Kay Yates

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Women Of Grace . . . .

- THANKS to who supported the INDOOR CHRISTMAS CAROLING on Sunday December 4. We went down memory lane with some shared remembrances of Christmases past, and enjoyed an afternoon of singing, fun, food and fellowship. Thank you to John and Donna Horan for their musical leadership and to Fred Rutz as our guitar accompanist.
- Are planning in partnership with Walt Morgan from Thrivent an IDENTITY THEFT program to be held in late January/February. Doing this program jointly with Emmanuel Lutheran Women. St. Paul Women Of Grace will host.  
Watch bulletin/newsletter for details to follow.

Kitty Miller

To the members of St. Paul Lutheran Church,

I want to express my sincere appreciation to each and everyone for your support, encouragement and prayers throughout the past year. 2011 was an emotional year for myself and my family from a personal perspective. 2011 was also a challenging year for our church. I want to thank the church council, officers, interim pastors, AIM, staff and all the volunteers for your hard work and dedication. Through your support and efforts we are moving forward and will continue to improve. I ask you to continue to support this great congregation and do "God's work" as we move into 2012 and start the process of calling a new senior pastor. Working together, I have confidence we will come out of this transition period a stronger congregation. May God bless all of you with a healthy and Happy New Year and may God bless our church.

Blessings to all,  
Randy Painter, Vice-President 2011

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### St. Paul Lutheran Church Weekly Worship Participation

<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
Nov. 27	189
Dec. 4	113
Dec. 11	143
Dec. 18	137

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The Strasburg Compassion Cupboard requests the following items during  
January 2012:

### **Evaporated Milk and Fruit**

Bring these items to church. A drop box will be in the Narthex.

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### **Volunteers Needed!**

St. Paul is in need of volunteers in the following areas:

- Counters/Tellers - *Help our financial reporting process! Contact Polly Stout; she will explain and train!!*
- Greeters and Ushers (both services)
- Acolyte and Crucifers (both services)
- Lay Readers
- Communion Assistants
- Committee Members
- Etc., etc.

Please contact the pastor, a council member, or the church office if you would be willing to volunteer in any area.

Your help is needed and appreciated!

Thank you.

To members of St. Paul,

Your church Council has called a special congregation meeting for Sunday, January 15 at 12:30p.m. (No meal provided.)

This meeting is to discuss and vote on the following two items:

- 2012 Spending Plan/Budget
- Relocation of the church offices from the Annex to the Church and renovation of the Annex to a residence.

These are the only two items that will be discussed and voted on. Informational forums will be held Wednesday, January 4 after the community meal, Sunday, January 8 at 9:45AM, and Sunday, January 15 at 9:45AM. We encourage you to attend one of these forums to become informed on the topics being voted on.

We ask that all voting members\* of St. Paul Lutheran Church attend this very important congregation meeting. It's your church, come be part of the process.

St. Paul Council

*\* A voting member is a confirmed member who has contributed and communed during the past two years (2010 and 2011).*

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### **Council Highlights**

At the December 19, 2011 meeting, the Council:

- Welcomed newly elected council members
- Approved 3 sets of minutes
- Reviewed and approved Treasurers' reports for church and childcare center
- Heard reports from 5 committees
- Discussed the proposed relocation of the church offices to the church building
- Heard a report on Local Relief procedures
- Reviewed/discussed the Ministry Site Profile as part of the Call Process
- Thanked outgoing Council members for their service to St. Paul
- Set the annual Council retreat for February 4, 2012
- Planned installation of Council member on January 8, 2012
- Approved a request from community member to hold Girl Scout meetings at St. Paul
- Discussed and authorized a temporary Spending Plan
- Scheduled a Special Called Congregational meeting (see article above)

*The Council normally meets the third Monday of each month at 7:00pm in the fellowship hall. Meetings are open to the congregation. Minutes of Council meetings and monthly Finance reports are posted in the Parish House hallway after they've been approved.*

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### **Keeping in Touch**

We completed our move to Fredericksburg October 31/November 1. After a trip to Cocoa Beach, Florida to preside at the wedding of my nephew we are beginning to settle in.

Our new address and phone number are as follows:

Norbert and Rev. Lyla Harold  
5821 Deep Creek Drive  
Fredericksburg, VA 22407  
(504) 898-1293

## Christian Education

The Christian Education Committee will meet Jan. 29 following late worship (12:30) to map out plans for the winter and spring quarter for educational opportunities.

There will be many ministries of Christian Education which will need volunteer help, as a great many of these ministries were led during the past years by our AIM/Minister of Congregational Life.

All are invited and encouraged to JOIN in the Christian Education leadership as many hands make light work. Your participation and help is needed. For questions concerns contact Kathy Shelton, Committee Chair, or Kitty Miller, Council Representative for Christian Education.

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### Who Does What at St. Paul?

#### GREETERS

The Greeters at St. Paul welcomes everyone who comes to church on Sundays. They stand in the narthex waiting to shake your hand or a small hug, and a warm smile.

The 8:30 Service Greeters should arrive by 8:00 a.m. The 11:00 Service Greeters should arrive by 10:30 a.m.

If you would like to be a greeter and have not signed up, please call: Sherand Smith (8:30 Service) 465-3006 or Barbara Smith (11:00 Service) 465-8765.

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### January Birthdays

2<sup>nd</sup> Joan Vance  
5<sup>th</sup> Trina Bailey  
6<sup>th</sup> Alissa Miller  
7<sup>th</sup> Daniel McMullan  
8<sup>th</sup> Rodney Racey  
Olivia French  
9<sup>th</sup> Suzanne Arthur  
10<sup>th</sup> Chris Dreibelbis  
11<sup>th</sup> Nelson Conner  
Lauren Himelright  
12<sup>th</sup> Roberta Ritenour  
13<sup>th</sup> Olivia Gochenour  
Erika Hottle  
14<sup>th</sup> Matthew Chimento  
Bill Foster  
Christopher Harman  
Vikki Shelor  
Janna Thompson

15<sup>th</sup> Lydia Brown  
Amy Stickley  
Gloria Stickley  
16<sup>th</sup> Carolyn Baker  
17<sup>th</sup> Bob Smith  
18<sup>th</sup> Janet Sine  
Barbara Stickley  
Bill Stover, Jr.  
Riley Wilson  
19<sup>th</sup> Nicholas Funk  
20<sup>th</sup> Ian Baker  
Amos Morris

21<sup>st</sup> Tina Clutter  
Rick Kibler  
23<sup>rd</sup> Logan Cooper  
Raegan Kibler  
Sam Shelton  
25<sup>th</sup> Chris Brown  
16<sup>th</sup> Jean Racey  
27<sup>th</sup> Ian Orndorff  
Jordan Orndorff  
30<sup>th</sup> Judy Conner  
Rodney Racey, II  
31<sup>st</sup> Gwen Abruzere

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*If we don't list your name and birth date, please contact the  
church office (465-3232).*  
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# Youth Happenings - January

- Breakfast Club, January 8th: The MS/HS youth will provide breakfast for the congregation on Sunday, January 8th at 9:45am in the Fellowship Hall. A free will offering will be collected! Special thanks to Scott Schlentner for coordinating this event for our youth. Come and join us for food and fellowship.
- JMU Men's Basketball Game: The MS/HS will be taking in a game at JMU sometime this month. Brian and Leslie Doman will be coordinating this fun event for our youth. Look for more details to come.
- Snow Tubing: All youth are invited to go snow tubing this month. A date has not been set. Melissa and Adam Galton are heading up this fun activity. Look for more information to follow.
- Winter Celebration I and II: Winter Celebration is our annual weekend retreat for youth in grades 9-12 and advisors. The deadline to register for this will be January 9th. The weekends available for this retreat are the weekend of Jan.20-22, 2012 and Jan. 27-29, 2012.
- If you are interested in attending please contact Ina Rae Crisman as soon as possible (ircrisman@yahoo.com; 465-3269)

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## Thank you!

Members of St. Paul Lutheran Church,

Thank you so very much for the wonderful reception, beautiful flowers and the gift of pottery. The chalice & paten is absolutely beautiful! And I will cherish it always and look forward to using it! Thank you again for making my last Sunday at St. Paul a memorable one!

Peace & blessings, Sonya

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*Dear fellow members,*

*Thank you for the basket of fruit and candy which was delivered to me last Saturday at my apartment.*

*May I wish each of you a very Merry Christmas as we celebrate the birth of Jesus.*

*In Christian love, Ray Kern*

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St. Paul Congregation,

I would like to take the time to thank the congregation of St. Paul for the wonderful care package you sent. Most importantly I would like to thank you for the thoughts and prayers that you put out for not just me but all my service brothers and sisters in arms that are also away from their families. I want to especially thank all the children and adults for their added personal touch they put on everything in the packages.

A special rock was in my package with a cross on the rock. I call it my "prayer rock". I have carried it in my pocket pretty much since receiving it and then one night one of my young troops was seriously injured after only being here 5 days, and I spent 2 days at his bedside until on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day he was to be sent home for a long road to recovery. While on the plane to go home I gave this young man that rock telling him that when things get tough to hold that rock and say a prayer. He needed that rock more than me at that point. So you not only helped me but also my young troop.

Thank you St. Paul

Master Sergeant Jody Miller

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*Thank you to our St. Paul family for the food, flowers, telephone calls, and cards for our 71<sup>st</sup> wedding anniversary on December 24<sup>th</sup>.*

*Ike & Sarha Emmart*

**Parish House Windows**

*The Property Committee received bids on replacement windows for the Parish House part of our church building. The project was designed to save on heating and cooling expenses.*

*The current windows are single pane, hard to open, over 50 years old and are inefficient. The new windows are vinyl, double hung (for easy cleaning), energy efficient and could save 20-30% in energy cost.*

*There are 47 windows. Each window will cost \$375, at the present time, installed.*

*This project will be funded by congregation members purchasing a window in memory of, or in honor of a loved one. A plaque made, and donated by Danny Wymer, will be placed on each window with your dedication and name.*

*If you have any questions, please call David Smith, Property Chairman (465-3006). If you would like to purchase a window, fill out the form below, and return it along with your check to the church office.*

*Cut along this line.*



**WINDOWS FOR ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
PARISH HOUSE  
June 2011**

**Windows: \$375.00 each.**

(If donating for multiple windows, use one form for each window.)

**Please write names as you want them to appear on the plaque.**

Limit: 4 lines, 35 spaces per line. Blank spaces between words and commas count as spaces.

*Example: "Given\_by\_John\_&\_Sue\_Smith" = 25 spaces*

**Given by** \_\_\_\_\_

**In memory/honor of** \_\_\_\_\_

(Circle one.)

