



# Messenger

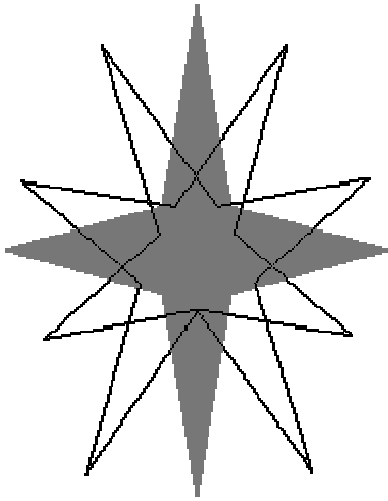
God's work. Our hands.

Newsletter of Saint Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, La Grange TX

A Member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Volume 46 Issue 11  
December 2014

## *Good Gifts Fair*



**Saturday & Sunday, Dec. 13-14, 2014**  
**St. Paul Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall**

10 a.m. – 4 p.m.; 6 p.m. – 7 p.m. - Saturday

10 a.m. – 2 p.m. - Sunday

Vendors include Handcrafted Gifts, Baked Goods, Equal Exchange Coffee, Chocolates, Global Barnyard, SERVV merchandise, Handmade wooden Crosses, and much more...

*Shop for Christmas - A Special Gift for Someone Special*

What makes this so Special? ALL proceeds benefit local and world charities!!

## *Christmas Worship*

*Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship*

With LYO Leaders, December 24, 5 p.m.

*Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship*

December 24, 9 p.m.

*Christmas Day Worship*

December 25, 9 a.m.



### **OUR MISSION STATEMENT:**

**SAINT PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH,  
IN THE NAME OF CHRIST, CARES, SHARES, AND PROVIDES CHRISTIAN GROWTH  
OPPORTUNITY TO OUR COMMUNITY.**

*"Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing."*

1 Thessalonians 5:11

What do you give thanks for this day? For several years now, there has been a practice on some social networking sites to give thanks for something new each day during the month of November. It is an easy exercise at first: family, children, freedom, health, home, job, a new pastor ;) Then as we get further in the month, it gets a little more difficult. It is only then that we begin to see things around us that maybe we didn't notice before: safe travels, a phone call from a friend, someone who brings you a cup of coffee, etc. If you've never taken a month to give thanks each day for something, it might be a good time to do that. See how you begin to see everyday happenings in a new way! Someone suggested recently that maybe we should give thanks to God first. When we give thanks for all the things that come up, we are giving thanks to God, the provider of all things!

Now, November is just about over, but December is just beginning. If not now, when? As we begin this Advent season, a time of preparation, not of the birth of the Christ child, but of the second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, what better way to get prepared than to see our lives and the way that God has blessed us in new and exciting ways. As for me, first on my list is to give thanks to God for each of you, for your welcoming spirit as you have invited me into your homes and into your lives.

Thanks be to God!

*Pastor Candy*

P.S. Please join me for a new Advent Bible Study from the Book of Faith series, "Church in Waiting: Studies for Advent, Year B".

Study group will meet in the Friendship Room at **10:30 a.m.** beginning **November 30!**

## CWU TOY DRIVE

Church Women United Annual 2014 Toy Drive is accepting toys until December 7. Toys will be bagged Tuesday, December 9, St. Paul Lutheran Church, 8:30 a.m. Any one wishing to help bag toys is welcome.

Each year area churches collect toys for **infants through age 14**. Churches participating are First Baptist Church, Second Baptist Church, Sacred Heart Catholic Church, St. James Episcopal Church, Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church, St. John Lutheran Church (Rutersville), St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, First United Methodist Church, and First Presbyterian Church.

Collection boxes are in the Narthex and Fellowship Hall. New toys are appreciated. Please include batteries in toys that need them. Monetary donations can be sent in check form to Church Women United, C/O P. O. Box 56, La Grange, TX 78945.

Mannie Fritsch-Schmid and Kay Marburger are the St. Paul CWU representatives.

During this time of year, we publish a list of our senior membership who are homebound or residing in nursing centers. Please consider visiting, calling or sending a greeting card during the holidays (or anytime during the year.) This may be a ministry your family would enjoy doing together. Contact the church office, 968-5657 or mel@stpaulg.com for addresses and/or phone numbers of the homebound.

### At home (or with family):

Atlan & Verlene Citzler, Monroe Dunk, Gladys Elolf, Florine Falke, Ore Nell Frerichs, Delois Herdler, Estella Lueders, Sylvia Mertz, Mary Ann Miller, Verlene Noak, Orine Norsworthy, Dan & Pauline Schwertner, Elfrieda Schweinle, and Lucille Voelkel

### Care Inn Nursing Center, 457 N. Main, La Grange, TX 78945:

Red Miller, Johnnie Roberson, Ora Lee Roscher, Edgar Tiedt, and Belmont Dunk

### Monument Hill Nursing Center, 120 State Loop 92, La Grange,

#### TX:

Franklin Brandt, Lorine Sunderhuse, Almora Striedel, Shirley Thames, Aleya Voss

### Jefferson Place, 911 S Jefferson, La Grange, TX 78945:

Ruth Ashley, Faye Ehler, Paula Mae Ehlert, Mary Francis Piland

### The Villas, 205 E Ave A, Schulenburg, TX 78956:

Elgean & Shirley Ehler (#114)

### Parview Manor, 206 N Smith St., Weimar, TX 78962:

Oscar "Cookie" Cook, Birdy Schielack

### Bastrop Nursing Center 137 Old Austin Hwy, Bastrop, TX 78602:

Mary Blume (Room D48)

### St. Joseph Manor 2333 Manor Dr, Bryan, TX 77802:

Una May Haney

## President's Corner

Once again we come to the end of the church year. On November 30, Advent begins anew. This past year has been a great year at St. Paul in many ways. We celebrated the retirement of Pastor Sid and welcomed Pastor Candis as our new Pastor. WOW and LYO continue to provide spiritual growth opportunities for our own children as well as others in our community. There are many other examples of the vibrant spiritual community here and we have much to celebrate at St. Paul.

We all owe a huge "Thank you" to all of those who do give so generously of their time and talents. Our ministries require not only your financial support, but also your participation to create a vibrant faith community. You are truly a blessing and are what makes the worship opportunities at St. Paul reach as many as we do.

In the parable in Matthew 25:14-30 we are reminded that the gifts we have received are not ours alone. God gave them to us for the purpose of serving Him and serving other people. St. Paul's has many opportunities to volunteer your time to help our ministries. If you are not already involved in one of our ministries, please consider yourself invited to engage in one of our many opportunities to share your faith with others. I bet you will get more out of it than you put into it. It will strengthen your faith more than you can imagine.

Because of your generosity in giving to the Renovation fund we have done much to prepare God's house to serve our faith community at St. Paul well into the future. We have come far, but have more to go. The operating budget, on the other hand, has a troubling trend over the same time period. For a decade we have been reducing our operational spending projections based on the prior year's giving. I hope we can reverse this trend. Just think of what we could accomplish here at St. Paul if we were like the first two servants in the parable in Matthew.

While stewardship is between you and God, this is a great time of year for each of us as individuals and collectively as a family to ask ourselves if we are really giving our time and talents as generously as He would want us to. True stewardship is a spiritual act, to be considered from the perspective of how can I return to God the blessings He has first given me. Whatever decision you and your family reach, you should do it out of pleasure and thanks to God.

We hope to see you at worship soon. May God bless you and your family as we grow together as the body of Christ through worship, service, learning and more.

Laus Deo (praise be to God)  
*Dudley Piland*

### POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

Those wishing to place poinsettia in memory or in honor of loved ones may do so by completing this form and leaving it in the Church Office along with a \$14 check made payable to St. Paul.

The deadline to order is Monday, December 15.

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ email address \_\_\_\_\_  
(In memory / in honor of \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



# December Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 2 Dawn Porter, Susan Roden
- 3 Amanda Hunger, Kyla Pietsch, Tootsie Tiedt
- 4 Colby Jochen, Tracye Jones, Jen Kindsvatter
- 7 Faye Ehler, Melissa Oehlke, Clay Wolff
- 8 Emma Fitzpatrick, Marjorie Hackemack, Bill Schneider
- 9 Kay Dippel, Kayla Elles, Renee Hajek, Hunter Sabo, Kaycee Roesler, Joy Skelton
- 10 Florine Falke, Lance Stancik, Ty Toddy
- 11 Donnie Dippel, Holly Howard
- 12 Holly Fritsch
- 13 James Boyd, Scott Byler, Wilbert Gross, Marsha Pietsch
- 14 Gladys Eloff, David Jochen, Karen Mayer
- 15 Meredith Berger, Rebecca Herbrich
- 16 Paula Mae Ehlert, B. J. Moerbe
- 17 Agnes Hannes
- 19 Gloria Baumbach, Brandon Byler, Heather Drosche
- 21 Danna Radcliff, Elfrieda Schweinle
- 22 Byntlee Bishop, Kathie Nitsche
- 23 Ruth Ashley, Lisa Grimes, Zion Hernandez
- 24 Destiny Psencik, Raelynn Richter
- 25 David Ehler, Elgean Ehler, David Schneider
- 26 Cody Karisch, Matt Miller, Florence Otto
- 27 Trey Cunningham, Lucille Warnken
- 29 Paul Mikula, Justin Wright
- 30 Odis Pfeiffer, Johnnie Roberson, Austin Spann
- 31 Toni Keilers



Jim & Carolyn Buchanek	Dec 5	27 yrs
Charles & Wendy Friemel	Dec 8	4 yrs
Tom & Diana Glynn	Dec 10	37 yrs
Tim & Susan Knesek	Dec 14	29 yrs
Mike & Paulette Sturrock	Dec 22	41 yrs
A. C. & Annazell von Minden	Dec 23	60 yrs
Henry & Gladys Weber	Dec 27	55 yrs
James & Sharon Elias	Dec 31	37 yrs
Scott & Kathy Toensing	Dec 31	28 yrs

## youth events

### 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade **Confirmation**

#### Schedule

**Regular Classes, Sundays 5:30-7 p.m.**  
December - 7, 14

#### **Mark your Calendar!**

Eighth Grade Affirmation of Baptism is  
Sunday, May 3, 2015.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

### **Join Us!**

Children & Youth gather  
each Sunday at 10:15 a.m.  
We start in the fellowship hall  
for some quick snacks, then head  
upstairs for opening.

\* On November 22, we welcomed into our baptized membership Carter Wayne Weyand, son of Deric and Katy Sturrock Weyand. Carter's sponsors are Sara Koehl and Eric Weyand.

**IN PRAYER WE REMEMBER** the family of James Hruska who was called to his eternal home November 14, 2014.

"Rest eternal grant James, O Lord;  
and let light perpetual shine upon him."

# LYO

Lutheran Youth Organization

## What's up?

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Throughout November we have done numerous activities. We had 2 Agape/Wolfpack's and 1 LYO Wednesday.

We have been selling our tamales and helped sort and distributed them on November 25th.

We have been able to complete several projects including the work around the church playground and office and for several members through the Rent-A-Youth Fundraiser. We played volleyball against SHOCK after an afternoon of working.

Here is what's coming up for us in December:

Dec. 3- Agape @ Fitzpatrick's and Wolfpack @ Elles'

Dec. 7- LYO Progressive Dinner

Dec. 10- LYO Wednesday @ St Paul (shop for gifts for area children in need)

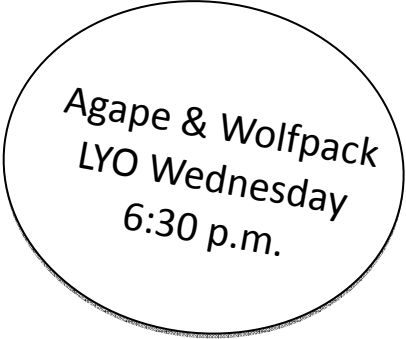
Dec. 11- LYO set up Good Gifts Fair tables

Dec. 13- St. Paul Good Gifts Fair

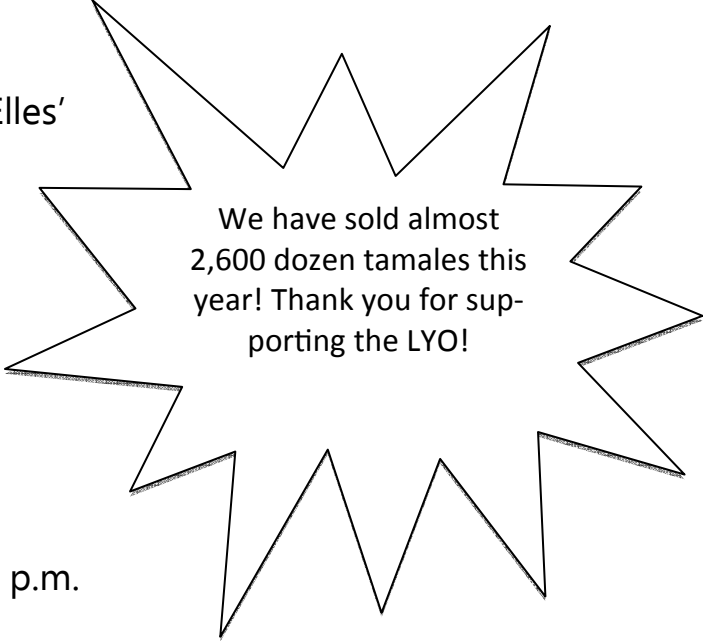
Dec. 14- Good Gifts Fair

Dec. 21- LYO Meeting @ 6:30 p.m.


Dec. 24- LYO Christmas Eve Service Practice @ 3 p.m.  
Christmas Eve Service @ 5 p.m.



Agape & Wolfpack  
LYO Wednesday  
6:30 p.m.



We have sold almost  
2,600 dozen tamales this  
year! Thank you for sup-  
porting the LYO!



LYO is the high school ministry of St. Paul,  
for youth in 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade.

# December 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<i>1</i> 8:00 a.m. Quilters  6:30 p.m. Friends in Faith	<i>2</i> 9:00 a.m. Second Chance 10:30 a.m. Jefferson Place Bible Study 2:00 p.m. Afternoon Circle Christmas Party	<i>3</i> 8:00 a.m. Cut-Ups 8:30 a.m. Community Bible Study 9:00 a.m. Second Chance 6:30 p.m. Agape/Wolfpack	<i>4</i> 9:00 a.m. Second Chance	<i>5</i> 9:00 a.m. Second Chance	<i>6</i> 9:00 a.m. Second Chance 7:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. Election in Fellowship Hall 5:00 p.m. Worship
<i>7</i> 9:00 a.m. Praise Worship 4:00 p.m. LYO Progressive Dinner 5:30 p.m. Confirmation Class	<i>8</i> 8:00 a.m. Second Chance Clean-Up  6:00 p.m. CWU Toy Packing Set-Up	<i>9</i> 8:00 a.m. CWU Toy Packing 10:30 a.m. Jefferson Place Bible Study 2:30 -4:00 p.m. Nursing Home Communion	<i>10</i> 8:30 a.m. Community Bible Study  6:30 p.m. LYO Wednesday	<i>11</i> 9:30 a.m. Stephen Ministry Supervision	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i> 10:00 a.m. -4:00 p.m. Good Gifts Fair 5:00 p.m. Worship 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. Good Gifts Fair
<i>14</i> 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Good Gifts Fair 3:30 p.m. Care Inn Worship 4:00 p.m. Fishers of Men Caroling 4:15 p.m. Mon Hill Worship 5:30 p.m. Confirmation Class	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i> 10:30 a.m. Jefferson Place Bible Study 2:00 p.m. Ladies Aid 6:00 p.m. Council Mtg.	<i>17</i> 8:30 a.m. Community Bible Study	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i>  5:00 p.m. Worship
<i>21</i> 9:00 a.m. Praise Worship  6:30 p.m. LYO Mtg.	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i> 10:30 a.m. Jefferson Place Bible Study	<i>24</i> <i>OFFICE CLOSED</i>  5:00 p.m. LYO Christmas Eve Worship 9:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship	<i>25</i> <i>OFFICE CLOSED</i>  9:00 a.m. Christmas Worship	<i>26</i> <i>OFFICE CLOSED</i>	<i>27</i>  5:00 p.m. Worship
<i>28</i> 9:00 a.m. Worship	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i> 10:30 a.m. Jefferson Place Bible Study	<i>31</i>			

# Saint Paul Organizations & Groups

<b>Dec 6 &amp; 7</b>	<b>5:00 p.m.</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>
Greeters		Anita Barnett
Ushers	John & Kay Marburger	David Jochen Family Shawn & Ann Raborn
Lectors	Annazell von Minden	Ann Raborn
Acolytes	Emma Fitzpatrick	Halle Davis
Altar Guild	A C & Annazell von Minden	Janet Coronado
Flowers		
<b>Dec 13 &amp; 14</b>	<b>Good Gifts Fair</b>	<b>Good Gifts Fair</b>
Greeters		Psencik Family, Sherry
Ushers	James & Kathy Brewer	LYO Members - Porter, Karstedt, Elles, Colon
Lectors		Praise Band
Acolytes	Sydney Fritsch	Marley Grimes
Altar Guild	Myrtle Friemel, Hertha Kruse	Tanya Psencik
Flowers		
<b>Dec 20 &amp; 21</b>		
Greeters		Sheila Bage
Ushers	Carolyn Buchanek Rhonda Koether	Michael Mach Family Tim & Susan Kneseck
Lectors		Aimee Elles
Acolytes	Dawson Loehr	Colby Jochen
Altar Guild	Kathy Brewer	Kathy Brewer
Flowers		
<b>Dec 24</b>	<b>5:00 p.m.</b>	<b>9:00 p.m.</b>
Greeters		Ginger Friemel Lisa Moellenberndt
Ushers	LYO	Toensing Family
Lectors	LYO	Toensing
Acolytes	Gracie Porter	Lindsey Schneider
Altar Guild	Lisa Moellenberndt	Lisa Moellenberndt
Flowers		Christmas Flowers
<b>Dec 25</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	
Greeters	Bonnie Sladek	
Ushers	Wayne Anders Family	
Lectors		
Acolytes	Hayden Mach	
Altar Guild	Lisa Moellenberndt	
Flowers		
<b>Dec 27 &amp; 28</b>	<b>5:00 p.m.</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>
Greeters		
Ushers	James & Sharon Elias	Troy Stevens Family Frank & Sandra Teykl
Lectors		
Acolytes	Abigail Roscher	Maddie Stevens
Altar Guild	Janice Homeyer	Velrie Prause
Flowers		Christmas Flowers

*If your group has a special event planned, let us know by the 20th of the month for inclusion in the newsletter. Any of these organizations and groups would be pleased to have you become a part of their ministry and activities.*

**Afternoon Circle** meets the first Tues., **Dec. 2**, at 2:00 p.m. in the Friendship Room due to the Election in the Fellowship Hall.

**Fishers of Men** meet **Sun., Dec. 14, 4 p.m.** at the church to sing Christmas carols to the homebound. Bring your spouses! We will gather at Teykl's home afterward, bring a snack to share!

**Friends In Faith** meet Mon., **Dec. 1, 6:30 p.m.** at the home of Faith Frerichs. Please bring fruit, etc. to make the Fruit Baskets for the shut-ins and bring a snack to share the Christmas spirit!

**Ladies Aid** meets the third Tues., **Dec. 16, 2:00 p.m.** in the Friendship Room.

**Lutheran World Relief Quilting:** No Tacky Tuesday in December – We will not meet on the third Tuesday in December. We will tack quilts again January 20, 2015!!

**Hand-Quilting!! The Monday Morning Quilters** will only meet **Mon., Dec. 1** - make plans to join us Monday mornings in 2015! Please join us in the quilting room next to the Nursery on Monday mornings at 8 a.m. We invite any quilter to join us at anytime. All quilting proceeds go to Lutheran World Relief!

**The Cut-Ups** will meet the first Wednesday, **Dec. 3** beginning at 8 a.m. We iron fabric, cut fabric and assemble squares into kits for sewing quilt tops!! We need your help!!

**The Altar Guild** meets quarterly. They meet again Tuesday, **Feb. 10, 2015, 4 p.m.** in the Friendship Room.

**Second Chance Volunteer Schedule:**  
December 2 – 8

Thank you to the LYO for the great job they did washing my windows and letting in God's light! They also pounded the nails on my deck back where they belong.  
**Great TEAMWORK!!**  
*JoAnn Ayres*

## Saint Paul 2014 Congregation Council

Dudley Piland, President  
Paul Mikula, Vice-President  
Diane Macaulay, Secretary  
Sandra Teykl, Treasurer  
Howard Bohot, Property  
David Ehler, Misson/Peru Outreach  
Duke Hengst, Mutual Ministry/Staff Support  
Dawn Porter, Outreach/Social Ministry  
Jackie Skelton, Parish Education/Youth  
David Stancik, Stewardship

**Parish Office Hours**  
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Monday-Thursday (closed for lunch noon-1:00 p.m.)

Friday 8:00 a.m. to noon

Office Phone: 979-968-5657

Pastor Cell Phone: 979-966-2459

Office Fax: 979-968-6950

Fellowship Hall Phone: 979-968-9603

[www.stpaullg.com](http://www.stpaullg.com)

[stpaul@cvctx.com](mailto:stpaul@cvctx.com)

## Saint Paul Lutheran Church Leaders

**The Rev. Candis O'Meara, Senior Pastor**  
[pastorcandis@gmail.com](mailto:pastorcandis@gmail.com)  
(979)966-2459

**Melinda Zajicek, Office Administrator**  
[stpaul@cvctx.com](mailto:stpaul@cvctx.com)

**Sherise Davis, Organist**

**Bonnye Karger, Organist**

**Jean McHenry, Organist**

**Kathy Toensing, Adult Choir/Praise Band Choir**

**Laurie Stork, Handbell Choirs**

**Carolyn Bennetsen, Agnes Hannes, Lummus Hannes,  
Ruth Hensel, & Mannie Fritsch-Schmid,  
Stephen Ministers**

*Sharing & Caring the Love of Christ*

**Messenger** *Monthly Newsletter of Saint Paul Church*  
December 2014

**Saint Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
*Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*  
P O Box 567/427 S Washington Street  
La Grange, Texas 78945

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*Pray for Peace!*

**CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED**  
Time Dated Material - Please do not delay