

for the

you are

The CornerStone News

*to be a presence of Christ to one another in our community and
world as we share God's unconditional love that accepts you as*

December 2011

St. Paul Lutheran Church
8th Street & St. Lawrence
Beloit, Wisconsin
608-365-7064

Website:

www.stpaulbeloit.org

Office Email:

secretary@stpaulbeloit.org



**Congratulations
to our
Confirmands!**

**Kelsie Packard
And
KC Crall
Affirmed their
Baptism on
Sunday, October
30th.**

**May God bless
them
as they live and
share the work
and faith their
Savior!**

Christmas Poinsettias

*Orders are being taken for poinsettias
to adorn our Sanctuary for Christmas!*

*Each plant is \$15.00, and can be ordered
with the order form below.*

*A list of memorial and honorary names for each plant
given will be listed in the bulletin
each week during Advent.*



Christmas Poinsettia Order Form

Let's fill our Sanctuary with Christmas Beauty!

Name _____

In Honor Of: _____

In Memory Of: _____

In Thankfulness For: _____

*Please include \$15.00 with your order and place in the Offering Plate
or leave with the Church Office by December 11. Thank You!*

St. Paul Lutheran Church Council Members

President
V. President & Property
Secretary & Parish Education
Treasurer
Worship & Music
Outreach
Church in Society

Jim Saudargas
Eric Schober
Bryan Carroll
Merlin Kenitzer
Joann Rosenow
Judelle Murphy
Lyn Cruse

Volunteer Position
Financial Secretary

Ray Murphy

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

In the turmoil and darkness of our world, we celebrate Advent. In the darkness and confusion, says Jesus, do not let all this trouble overwhelm you....and say there is no way I can be of any assistance. Jesus says, "look out" or better yet, "watch".....keep a good eye out on the work of God around you. And be watchful. See how good the love of God can be!

Isn't this a great time of the year? Everywhere you look, people are rushing around in a frenzy, full of the holiday spirit and excitement. They haven't had a chance yet for the bah humbugs to catch up with them. The love of God given to the world through the birth of Jesus makes all of this possible. Liturgically, during worship, each week we will try to heighten the anticipation and expectation of the Messiah's birth.....while all around us that same anticipation and expectation and excitement also continues to build. It's the one time of the year that closet Christians risk coming out to celebrate their faith, even if they don't publicly recognize or even realize why they're doing what they're doing. This is a season, a time for surprises.....a time when we don't really mind being surprised.....and a time when we think, and plan, and scheme with all our might to try to surprise those who are special in our lives.....in search of that perfect gift that will surprise and delight.....and be that extension of the love you have for that special person.

Advent reminds us that this is the Season of Surprises....we had better be on our toes...."watch" because our God is a surprising God....who has acted in surprising, unpredictable ways ever since the creation of Adam and Eve. Advent is a time to prepare for the miraculous birth of Jesus, the Christ, into our world -- but from year to year we can never really predict just when that event will occur for us in our own lives. if you think you have a sure handle on the day and hour of Christ's arrival....you can pretty much count on the fact that you will be wrong. Jesus tells us to "Watch" keep awake....keep alert...because you do not know when the time will come.

It seems to be a human trait to become numb to warning signals. It may be a pain that is ignored or an indifference to the laws of health. Why is it that

we....especially when we're young....ignore disturbing signs?

But what is it that we are supposed to be watching for? Isaiah 64:2-4 tells us that God is made known in our world. Have you seen God lately? Throughout this coming week, why not make a mental list of all the ways you see God working in your world?

Watch for quiet....where are the quiet place that draw you in...maybe it's sitting around the Christmas tree or it's going for a walk at dusk with no one else around....or in front of the fireplace gazing upon the roaring flames and the comforting warmth the heat provides to your soul. Watch for those quiet times when you can meditate and reflect upon God's wonder in your life.

Watch for forgiveness.....often during this season, we focus on material gifts, yet some of the greatest gifts are not material at all. Many people, maybe even you....need the gift of forgiveness more than anything else this Christmas. Open your eyes and watch for forgiveness. Think of someone you need to forgive...and make a step toward forgiving that person today. In the process, watch for God to appear.....and don't be surprised when he does.

And lastly, watch for community.....have you ever wished you could touch God? That God would appear in your living room and just let you ask every question you ever thought of? God is able to be present with us....to be flesh and blood, not only in the person of Jesus Christ....but also in the people of God around us. As you gather with others this season....at parties, and open houses, here at church, and with your own families in your homes.....invite God into your gathering, then watch....keep your eyes open to see what happens!

The season of Advent is a gift.....advent gives us time to prepare for Christmas. Jesus' birth is our season of celebration.....so watch, keep alert. Look out!

Peace,

Pastor Roger



St. Paul Owls

*The next meeting will be on
Thursday, December 8
at 12:00 Noon.*

*Please bring a dish to pass
and your own table service.*

*The December Program is
a fun Christmas Sing Along with
Beth Rodermel playing the piano.*

*Come and share your favorite
Christmas Songs with the OWLS!*



St. Paul Owls 2011 Giving

Soup Lunch	\$50.00
Crime Stoppers	\$50.00
Sparrow's Nest	\$50.00
Church In Society (Easter Egg Hunt)	\$25.00
Caritas: Feinstein	\$50.00
Caritas: Thanksgiving	\$40.00
16:49 Homeless Program	\$200.00

Soup at St. Paul

Menu

December 7

Corn Chowder

December 14

Turkey Noodle Soup

December 21

Christmas Dinner with Ham, Mashed Potatoes,
Vegetables, Desserts and Gift Shop

December 28

Chili



Soup Lunch numbers have increased steadily in
the last months.

According to recent statistics, poverty is at the
highest level since 1993.

One in every six Americans is living in poverty.
More and more families are struggling to put food
on the table.

Thank you to everyone who regularly supports
St. Paul Soup Lunch.

Donations of salads & desserts
are always appreciated!

Christmas Shopping At St. Paul!

Did you know that you could make a nice gift
basket with all of the good stuff available at St.
Paul?

Kitchen cutlery, nuts and good-
ies, t-
shirts and sweatshirts, crocheted
angels and cookbooks!



Soup Lunch Bunch Holiday Gift Shop

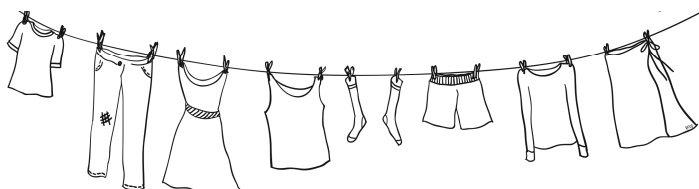
The Soup Lunch Bunch
would love to share
Holiday Gifts
with our Soup Lunch Guests.

Needed are donations of
hats, scarves, mittens, gloves,
toiletries, and throw blankets
to give at the Christmas Meal
on December 21st.

Thank you for your generosity towards our
neighbors and friends.

Lydia's Closet

It's a great time to clean out the closets before the Christmas gifts arrive! Donations of gently used men's, women's, and children's clothing are needed to keep Lydia's Closet full. Thank you for your continued support of this ministry!



News From The Station:

Fall is quickly turning to winter and we are preparing for the holidays ahead. We've already started singing our Christmas songs in preparation for the big program on Tuesday, December 20th. That will be our last day of school until January 2012. Rainbow Station is still saving soup labels and those of any related Campbell's products. We need the UPC code from each label. Also, if you recycle, save us some of your long paper towel rolls or toilet paper rolls. There is a "drop off" bin in the school area for these items.

There are so many things for us to be thankful for during the holiday season. We have wonderful support from our Church, families who support and care about our school, and GREAT kids!

Thanks to everyone and Merry Christmas!
Karen, Bonnie, & Ruthann



Nuts & Such

Sales of Nuts and Candies will be held during the Coffee Hour on Sunday, December 4, and Sunday, December 11.

This is the MAJOR FUNDRAISER for the Church Women. Proceeds from our sales pay towards the Church snow removal, Caritas, St. Paul Staff Christmas gifts, Rainbow Station Scholarships, LSS, Lutherdale Bible Camp, and Sparrow's Nest, to name a few.

We welcome and appreciate your support!
Thank You!

San Jose Angel Tree

The sale of Crocheted Angels will support the San Jose Congregation, with matching grant funds!

Each angel is \$1.00 each, and will be sold during Coffee Hour and after 2nd Service.

The angels are great for ornaments, package decoration, and to mail as gifts!



SAINT PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH ADULT DISCUSSION GROUP -- HOW LIFE SHAPES OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH GOD, CHURCH, AND EACH OTHER

WHERE: Downstairs, St. Paul Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall

WHEN: January 22, 2012, following the 10:30 service

WHO: All members, friends, and neighbors

FREE LUNCH, OSCAR-NOMINATED MOVIE, AND GREAT DISCUSSION

The next film in our study series is entitled **The Help**. Expected to be nominated for several Academy Awards, this new film was a huge box office success. The story is set in 1960s Jackson, Miss., where aspiring writer Eugenia Phelan crosses taboo racial lines by conversing with Aibileen Clark about her life as a housekeeper. Their ensuing friendship upsets the fragile dynamic between the haves and the have-nots. When other long-silent black servants begin opening up to Eugenia, the disapproving conservative Southern town soon gets swept up in the turbulence of changing times.



December Birthdays

- 1 Dave Knutson
- 3 Warren Lensert Sr.
- 5 Bob Flowers
- 6 Jim Saudargas
- 8 Karen Saudargas
- 10 Brody Davis
- 13 Helen Guetschow
- 16 Shawn Pettit
- 19 Holly Carroll
- 23 Dennis Katterhenry
- 28 Betty Katterhenry



Bible Studies for Women of the Church

Sarah Circle

Sarah Circle will meet at 9:00 am on Wednesday, December 7th.

Miriam Circle

Miriam Circle will be meeting at 1:00 pm Thursday, December 15th.

Ruth Circle

December meeting to be announced.



St. Paul Apparel Believer's Club Sunday School Fundraiser!

T-Shirts	\$11.00	All Sizes
Long Sleeve T-Shirts	\$14.00	Available!
Crew Neck Sweatshirts	\$16.00	See a Believer's Club Student for details!
Hooded Sweatshirts	\$21.00	

Mission Funds for Outreach in November will be given to Lutheran Social Services.



Men's Group

All men are invited to join us at 8:00 a.m. on December 15, at Family Restaurant on Prairie Avenue in Beloit for great food and fellowship.

WELCA Board Meeting Saturday, December 3



Christmas Cheer Boxes

Boxes will be packed on Saturday, December 17th.

Folks can give Cookies and other Christmas Goodies for the boxes, and can be dropped off in the Church Office by Friday, December 16th at 3:00.

A Delivery Person is needed for Sunday, December 18 to share the boxes with our St. Paul shut-ins.

Please see Virginia Knutson if you can help.

Upcoming Dates To Remember!

Who's that Baby?

An Original Work by Cassie Krueger



St. Paul Believer's Club

Christmas Program
Sunday, December 18, 10:30am



Holiday Worship Schedule

Sunday, December 18
Sunday School Christmas Program

During 10:30 Worship

Saturday, December 24
4:30 Worship
6:30 Worship
8:30 Worship

Sunday, December 25
9:30 Worship

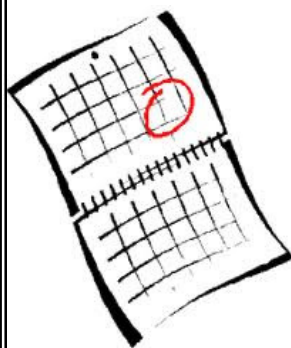
Sunday, January 1
9:30 Worship



Rainbow Station Nursery School

Christmas Program

Tuesday, December
20



Financial Giving Recording
will be completed on
Thursday, December 29.
Please turn in all receipts by then!

Annual Meeting Reports are due
by **Friday, January 6.**
Please submit reports or emails
before this date.

Thanks!



Confirmation Workshop Dates:

December 17	9:00—3:00
January 21	9:00—3:00
February 18	9:00—3:00
March 17	9:00—3:00
April 21	9:00—3:00
May 19	9:00—3:00

**The Church Office will be
closed on Monday, December
26th, and again
on Monday, January 2nd.**