



Address Service Requested

St. Paul Lutheran

Church, School and Childcare
The Pastor's Ponderings....

I have a confession: I haven't watched the Super Bowl since Michael Jackson was the half-time show. I am a nerd, officially and without dispute. Furthermore, the only reason I watched the Super Bowl that year (was it 1993?) was because I was driving home through Kansas City, on the way back to Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, and I stopped in unexpectedly to see my Mom's bachelor brother, Barney.

Uncle Barney opened the door and non-chalantly invited me in. I wondered whether he knew who I was, and how much he had to drink, since he answered the door in his shorts (the under-kind). He was, in fact, fully aware. He asked me about my Mom, and he told me about his last phone call with my sister, Sue. I sat there, on the same old sofa that I'd known as a child in Grandma's house, and watched the game, in the haze of his Pall Mall cigarettes, listening to my uncle call the plays and cursing Michael Jackson at halftime. My uncle was quite a character! Since he wasn't about to take me out for dinner (Uncle Barney had a peculiar liquid diet), we spent the evening in front of the tv...together, an uncle and his nephew. He's gone now. I'm glad for that Super Bowl!

So when Marianne turned on the television to watch her beloved Pittsburgh Steelers, I remembered. I was transported. I could almost smell the RJ Reynolds tobacco and remember that evening, as though it were yesterday. I watched the "Cheeseheads" shred some "Steel." But most of all, I observed with heightened intensity. I noticed the ceremony, the traditions, the commercials, the fans decked out in certain colors and clothing, the singing of fight songs and, finally, the pouring of the Gatorade over the coach's shoulders and the procession of the Vince Lombardi trophy atop the High Altar of vacant worship...uh...mmmmmm...I meant to say... the procession of the Vince Lombardi trophy atop the football stage, while fans cheered ecstatically and confetti shot into the air. Rituals. Elaborate ceremony. Great expense! The fans and football players know all the traditions and customs.

These next two months, at church, we're going to go through some similar customs. These practices and traditions are ancient. They are familiar. They are significant. Just as the Romans had their coliseums and gladiators, we Americans have our football stadiums and super athletes, even as our nation crumbles beneath the weight of our politicized, polarized issues and our popular, expensive entertainment culture. Unlike football, however, Christians have rituals, traditions, and customs of observing Lent, Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter. These are life changing and eternally significant events because they point to God's Word.

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March Birthdays ²⁴

- 1 Daniel Hernandez
- 2 Jaremy Chapa
- 3 Sharon Serviere
- 4 Joseph Tyler
- 5 Howard Best
- 6 Monica Carralles
- 7 Juan Pastor, III
- 8 Tonya Colbenson
- 9 Robert Heftha
- 6 Gregory Komeri
- 5 Larry Meier
- 4 Eldo Meyer
- 7 Paul Puck
- 7 Jennifer Seale
- 7 Adrian Cavazos
- 8 Everett Vangunes
- 9 Inami Geary
- 8 Jeff Schroeder
- 9 Mike Hempel
- 11 Olga Beckman
- 11 Harvey Eggers
- 12 Sharon Rogers
- 12 Marge Dreger
- 12 Emily Loya
- 13 Esther Gardner
- 14 Ruthie Hagerbauer
- 14 Rosalinda Rabihoiy
- 15 Tara De Luna
- 15 Tara Grey
- 16 Bea Ransdell
- 16 Gustavo Gamez
- 16 Ronald Hayes
- 17 Kathleen Hurley
- 17 Brent Kirchner
- 17 Mark Vestweber
- 18 Herlinda Gamez
- 18 Bonnie Ozuna
- 19 Tristin Carrales
- 19 Christian Winston
- 21 Joy Geary
- 22 Mary Helen Flowers
- 22 Jacob Garza
- 23 Kali Hitt
- 23 Russell Licciardello
- 23 Christian Perry
- 23 Joe Serviere

Arturo Ballesteros

Jacob Gaslin

Mathew Gonzalez

Edward King

George Bjelland

David Shea

Garrett St. Clair

Steff George

Jacob Sollner

Joyce Radke

Madison Ramirez

Edina Gonzalez

Gloria Hernandez

Ayla Rangel

Scott Shank

Marsha Swingdorg

Glendy Alvarez

Renee Pugh

Joe Taylor

Walt Weise

Rosanna Fluegel

Linda Gamez

Cheryl Meier

Emil Spielman

Kathy Steffy

Amanda Corso

Karie Eanes

Madison McCre

Brandon Perez

Kim Smith

Shawn Swanberg

Joseph Valladerez

Garrett Wagner

Karen Karle

Waldine Guth

Merlin Rekward

Joel Bessert

Lisa McCreery

Luella Smith

Krystal Washburn

Daniela Salazar

John Rekward

Shirley Saeger

Drew Mahr

Eleanor Norbire

Violet Offitt

Jerry Dreger

Gretchen Weesner

Dale Haerther

Jackie Perez

Ann Hempel

Sondra Long

Brett Myska

Donna Holcomb

Annie Jones

Donna Phillips

Inez Redlin

April Birthdays

- 1 Andrew Keefe
- 2 Dick Smith
- 1 Ed St. Clair
- 3 Bridgett Wagner
- 3 Tom Brown
- 4 Danny Hempel
- 4 David Kramer
- 5 Ethan Bradley
- 6 Kendra Mahr
- 8 Matt Richter
- 9 Bill Wegener
- 9 Tim Wedel
- 10 Jim White
- 11 Kyle Cyphers
- 11 David Kaltenbach
- 12 Laura Mizener
- 12 Tim Shewmaker
- 12 Alonzo Vazquez
- 12 Frances Cazares
- 12 Ashley Dube
- 13 Peggy Obst
- 13 Cassandra Palacios
- 14 Robert Helbing
- 16 Ray Carlsson



ST PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

FISCAL YEAR FINANCIALS

		Jan'10	2010-11	
		Campus	July10- Jan11	July10- Jan11
		Total	Actual	Budget
REVENUES				
Ordinary Income	50,115	301,974	411,427	
Other Donation Income	4,547	126,809	34,827	
Fee Income	185,622	898,808	783,861	
Other Income	1,956	94,528	116,877	
Total Revenues	\$242,239	\$1,422,119	\$1,346,992	
EXPENSES				
Salaries	17,140	119,050	148,620	
Salaries-Pastors/Ministers	79,032	605,501	642,294	
Benefits	18,133	121,754	113,379	
Equip & Furnishing	31,013	50,135	28,051	
Children's Ministry	510	7,860	12,692	
Utilities	6,547	55,347	61,361	
Supplies/Activities	11,469	62,461	57,155	
Property Expenses	3,072	47,327	72,685	
Ad-Conference-Travel-Etc	3,939	29,898	29,862	
Meals-Discount-Benevolence	12,203	91,131	73,503	
District-Synod Support	0	12,701	28,114	
Outreach, Youth, & School	2,034	14,089	5,871	
Other Expenses	4,371	12,362	19,986	
Total Expenses	\$189,463	\$1,229,615	\$1,293,573	
NET TOTAL	\$52,775	\$192,504	\$53,420	

CHILDCARE “A Little Child Shall Lead Them”

Chapel Schedule:

March 2	“A Big Fish Story”	Jonah 1-3
March 9	“Lions, Lions”	Daniel 6
March 16	“Who is this Child?”	Luke 2:41-52
March 23	“Follow Me!”	Mark 1:16-20
March 30	“The Greatest Gift”	John 4:3-30

Letter This Month:

R, S, and T

Colors:

Light Green/Gold/White

Numbers:

7 and 8

Food

Green Eggs & Ham, Green Milk

Shape:

Diamond /Shamrock

Opposites:

Sugar and Salt

Animals:

Lion and Lamb

Nursery Rhyme:

Five Little Shamrocks

Science:

Wind

Community Helper:

Dentist

Special Events:

March St. Patrick's Day
Ash Wednesday

God has Blessed us with more children. We are up to 114 children plus 22 after-school children.

Isaiah 11:6 The wolf also shall swell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them.

Serving you in Christ,

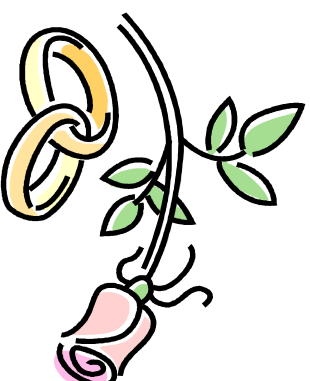
Mary Markham
Child Care Director
Karen Pool
Child Care Assistant

March Anniversaries

- 1 Larry and Lolliie Griffin
 - 2 Melvin & Shirley Keszler
 - 6 Fred and Carol Lechtenberg
 - 8 Gary and Marcelene Compton
 - 10 Phillip and Shirley Rivard
 - 11 Roy and Esther Frommer
 - 12 Steve and Sarah Scott
 - 15 Steve and Monica Carralles
 - 16 Paul and Joyce Obst
 - 16 Paul & Darlene Pritchett
 - 19 Howard and Ginny Kappler
 - 21 John & Marlene Hemmer
 - 24 Robert and Maricela Dube
 - 25 Rian and Wendy Zimmerman
 - 27 Stephen and Olga Beckman
 - Elwood & Waldine Guth
- ### April Anniversaries
- 30 Marko and Edina Gonzalez
 - 31 Jerry and Nancy Schlicker
 - 2 William & Bonnie Kollmann
 - 4 Joshua & Katherine Sheeran
 - 5 Ken & Virginia Myska
 - 6 Jim & Yvonne Nordmeyer
 - 8 Jim & Sondra Plowman
 - 8 Jeff & Ginny Richter
 - 13 Michael & Bonnie Ozuna
 - Joe & Salli Serviere
 - 14 Martin & Nancy Rios
 - 15 Walt & Phyllis Weise
 - 18 Jaime & Melanie Rosalez
 - 20 Jay & Cris Keefer
 - Robert & Roxanne Thorpe
 - 25 Mike & Alie Hiles

LWML

Help LWML get ready for the Annual Rummage Sale Fundraiser being held on April 2, 2011. All are invited to donate your used treasures no longer needed for the cause of supporting mission work. Anyone able and willing to assist in setting up and helping during the sale, mark your calendar for the last week of March 30—April 2nd. Thank you for supporting this ministry.



From the Vicar:

Hello everybody, my name is Adam Burke. I have been serving as Vicar at St. Paul for the past seven months. I am thoroughly enjoying my time here in the RGV and have learned much. I couldn't have asked for a better winter. The weather down here is truly enviable. I thank God the he has blessed me with this vicarage location. In the event that I haven't been able to speak with you in person, I'd like to tell you a little bit about myself. I was born and raised in Phoenix, Arizona. I attended the Lutheran school attached to my home church, Christ Church Lutheran. My mother was a school teacher there as well. I attended high school at Valley Lutheran in Phoenix. I graduated class valedictorian which enabled me to obtain scholarships to attend Concordia University in Irvine, California. At CUU I studied Theological Studies. I enjoyed my time and teachers at Concordia. I graduated *Summa Cum Laude* in May of 2007. In July 7, 2007 I married my high school sweetheart, Kayla, and two weeks later we moved to Saint Louis so I could attend Concordia Seminary. I studied at the Seminary for two years and was then invited to spend a year of study at Westfield House, the British Lutheran Seminary in Cambridge, England. I took the opportunity, delaying my vicarage for a year, and in September 2009 Kayla and I moved out there. We enjoyed a great year living in community with other seminarians and international students, sitting in on lectures at Cambridge University, and traveling Europe in our free time. In April of 2010 I received news that I would be your vicar here at St. Paul. I had never been anywhere close to this part of the country. When we returned to the U.S. from our travels in Europe we moved here two weeks later. This year I have learned much about the pastoral ministry. I have been able to see first hand the responsibilities of a parish pastor and have been given "hands on" opportunities to serve. After years of the studying theology in the academic setting, this year has been a refreshing yet challenging time to apply my training in practical applications. Pastor Otten and I share in responsibilities such as leading worship, preaching, teaching confirmation, 7th and 8th grade religion class, and periodical new members classes. I appreciate the congregations willingness to forgive the foibles that come with honing my skills. I am happy to announce the success of one of the projects I was tasked with organizing, St. Paul's first ever "Winterfest". Although at this time we do not have exact numbers, it is estimated that more the 400 people attended the event. We have received rave review concerning the band- The Sauerkrauts- and the food. A special thanks to all who made the event possible. It would be great to make this an annual event.

God's richest blessings are yours in Christ.

The SOCIAL MINISTRY is alive and well at St. Paul Lutheran Church and School, exhibited by encouraging fellow believers in service to our Lord as well as in fellowship with one another.

*In December, the Angel Tree benefited over 100 children in the valley. Thank you, everyone who participated and helped us assist the Salvation Army in this project.

*Encore (55+ group) continues to reach out to seniors in our congregation as well as provide a service ministry at the Rio Grand Food Bank. Every Wednesday 1-3 PM you too can become part of this caring group sharing a little work while having fun. Fellowship at social gatherings encourages friendships. Monthly fellowship, hosted by Toni Ruiz, and bus trips to the King's Ranch and a cruise to Port of Brownsville set up by Ken Schroeder and Gloria Hartung) offer opportunities for outings to those who are lonely or just want to experience something new. We invite dining together after the Sunday School hour to get acquainted with fellow believers, and enjoy good food. Watch the bulletin for location!

*Adopt-A-Teacher, an asset to our school teachers and directed by Marcella Garcia, assists the teachers with greatly needed supplies all during the school year.

*February Blood Drive: This year we asked everyone to be a hero and give blood. The center in McAllen is clean, offers snacks and a t-shirt upon leaving, and gives the donor the opportunity to give blood at their convenience rather than after services on a Sunday. Life-giving blood is a gift only you can give. Thank you for your participation!

The mission of Encore is to provide community and service opportunities for our dear friends and members of St. Paul Lutheran Church. By all means, join in when possible!

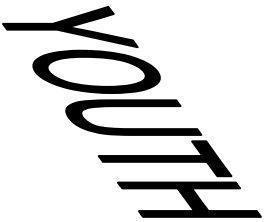
Lock-In The LYF will be holding their 2nd Annual Lock-In for any High School Youth. We are already working hard to plan games, bible studies, even food!! The fun starts when school lets out and continues all night, with no sleep, until 10am! If you are interested in attending or for more information, please contact Matthew Drefs at (605)770-1638.

CAT Ice Skating How many of you CAT Youth can rollerblade? Have you ever tried Ice Skating? If not, here is your chance to take a stab at it. On March 27th, all Jr. Youth, grades 6th-8th, are invited to bring their ice skates and join our day of fun, as we learn how to ice skate. If you are interested in attending or for more information, please contact Matthew Drefs at (605)770-1638.

Time to get UP Easter is coming up and our youth are preparing for Easter Breakfast. Immediately following the Sunrise Service, we will be serving Breakfast Taquitos, fresh fruit, and even some pastries. The food will be served until 8am, at which time the extra food will be left out for fellowship time. We hope you can join us for an exceptional South Texas Easter Breakfast.

Calendar of Events-

March 5th	Dessert Matinee and Dinner Theater 5 th Cast Party
10 th	Dinner Theater Appreciation Dinner
25 th	LYF Lock-In
27 th	CAT Ice Skating
30 th	LYF serve Lent Dinner
April 16th	Soup Kitchen
23 rd	Easter Breakfast Set Up
24 th	Easter Sunrise Breakfast
30 th	Beach Clean Up
May 2nd	Confirmation & Reception
8 th	Mother's Day Recognition
15 th	Graduate Recognition



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I pray that you'll join in. IF REAL MEN can love football, REAL MEN can also love God and worship. REAL MEN love their wives, read the Bible, and lead their family spiritually. Come to Wednesday Chapel services, 9 AM or 7 PM, and hear the voices of those who witnessed Jesus' last days. Attend worship on the weekend, and use your voice and your body to fully engage in the rituals and customs – whether raising your hands in prayer or singing at the 10:45 service, or standing and sitting at the other services, sharing the peace of the Lord, making the sign of the cross, as well as reading and listening to Scripture. Perhaps...just perhaps...you'll smell the blood outpoured, you'll feel dirt on your knees, or you'll hear the sound of a man being scourged. Jesus experienced all that for YOU. I hope you'll come to worship this Lent and Easter season to be transported...not to some Super Bowl scene, but to the scene of our Savior, who loved you and gave himself for you. -Pastor Otten

“Securing Each Child’s Future – Making Disciples”

St. Paul Lutheran School opened in August with an enrollment of 153 students and a commitment to the theme of our National Lutheran Schools Week as shown above. We are engaged in daily instruction in the Christian faith, growing as disciples of Jesus Christ and rejoicing in the earthly and heavenly future God provides through faith. We thank God for the opportunity to reach out to students from so many backgrounds and nationalities and to be able to provide a quality Christian education as led by our fine staff!

During this school year, we have been blessed with a special gift from the Randall-Smith Educational Fund of \$75,000 to boost our technology and science capabilities. The school has purchased a 22 laptop mobile computer lab, a 24 station NEO word processor lab for younger children, a weather station, equipment and furniture for the science lab we will be dedicating in August, and has given staff bonuses at Christmas to those who lead our children each day. The gift also allowed purchase of a new science series for the entire school, along with supporting materials.

The parents of the school have assisted in the Fall Festival and Winterfest events, inviting members of our church, school and community to visit our campuses for fun and fellowship and an opportunity to learn about St. Paul. Funds raised have been dedicated to future school expenses. The parents also sponsored author Thomas Couser to speak on “parenting Without Guilt”, hosted Tangled Blue, a music duo who shared a February concert, and have done much volunteer work.

Parents and students have been involved in our fall Open House, parent and student surveys, class field trips and parties, Christmas programs, and will soon help with Walk-a-thon, spring trips, and our Learning Fair. In May, we will graduate 9 eighth graders who plan to attend various area high schools.

Our students will continue with spring trips and events, Stanford Achievement Tests, the Concordia University, Austin Track and Field Day and Academic Competition (which is also combined with a middle school trip on Texas history and San Antonio tour), the PSIA Academic Challenge meet in Harlingen, and our eighth graders will take their first-ever trip to Washington DC, Gettysburg, Pa, Harper’s Ferry W. Va. and Baltimore Md. in May.

The school Board of St. Paul is led by Chairman Claude Copeland, Secretary Sheri Rabinal, Paula Skloss, Marcella Garcia, Gayle Cyphers and Chris Bradley.

Our 2010-11 staff is: JOY CAMPOVERDE, SHIRLEY KARLE, SYLVIA LEAL, TILL LUCAS, KRISTIN MATASOVSKY, KATHY STEFFY, CARRIE BECKER, CAROLYN SHAVER, KATIE DREFS, JESSE PENA, LUPE MEDLEY, TERI DEHARO, SARAH SCOTT, AND LISA WEDEL. ANN HEMPEL AND HER STAFF PROVIDE MEAL SERVICES, AND JIM SCHMIDT IS THE BUSINESS MANAGER. PASTOR OTTEN AND VICAR BURKE ASSIST IN RELIGION CLASSES AND PROVIDE SCHOOL LEADERSHIP. KIM MEHIS SERVES AS LIBRARIAN. CINDI RODRIGUEZ IS OUR DIRECTOR OF RECRUITMENT.

WE ARE ENROLLING NOW FOR 2011-12 SCHOOL YEAR. SEE THE SCHOOL OFFICE OR THE WEBSITE FOR DETAILS! SHARE THE NEWS ABOUT ST. PAUL LUTHERAN SCHOOL WITH YOUR FRIENDS AND LET THEM BE A PART OF DAILY CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FOR THEIR CHILDREN AS WELL!

JEFFREY POOL - PRINCIPAL

