

St. Paul Lutheran Church & School

300 W. Pecan Blvd.  
McAllen, TX 78501-2397

*May—July 2011 Newsletter*



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# St. Paul Lutheran

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

On an annual basis, I am put on notice. The Air Force schedules a Physical Training and Fitness Exam for me. When I report for duty, I have to submit my dental records, have blood drawn, “weigh in”, and prove that I qualify for continued military service in the Texas Air National Guard. I do push-ups, sit-ups, and run 1.5 miles, while being monitored and timed and evaluated. When I got back from deployment, it was no problem.

Time has passed. The fajitas and frijoles have been fantastic. You can't get those in Central Asia! A few breakfast tacos have disappeared into my tummy. Occasionally, even a delicious steak or a veal chop will make it into my mouth. I admit this in the passive voice...as though somehow the veal chop forced its way into my mouth, or the breakfast tacos flagged me down as I was driving down 10<sup>th</sup> Street. The fact is, I carry all of the responsibility for my weight gain and lack of exercise in recent months. It's back to the gym, and a return to a healthy diet for this pastor! I will miss my refried beans!

Just like people, churches can gain weight and lose their vitality. In fact, it seems to be cyclical. I pray and work to put St. Paul on an upward trend in health and vitality. There are some wonderful ministries that are growing, established mission strategies that are gaining momentum, and some new initiatives on the horizon. Please join me on **May 22nd**, after the 10:45 Worship Service and the Music Appreciation festivities have ended, for lunch and our **Voter's Assembly**. It is our church's annual check up! I look forward to telling you about the good things that happened in 2010/2011 and about the health and vitality of our Lord's work at St. Paul, McAllen.

Have a wonderful summer! God bless + Pastor Otten



# May Birthdays

- 1 John Albert
- 2 Chad Covey
- 3 Holden Hood
- 4 Tannuja Koneri
- 5 E.J. Kleinworth
- 6 John Krause
- 7 Michael Beck
- 8 Kalyn Stephens
- 9 Sathiyaraj George
- 10 Bruce Covey
- 11 Augusta Freiboth
- 12 Katie Kaerther
- 13 Salome Ramos
- 14 Mary Ana Rios
- 15 Stephan Beckman
- 16 Karol Stevens-Erickson
- 17 Ana Valladarez
- 18 Marlene Falkiewicz
- 19 C.K. Koelle
- 20 Diane Rietmeyer
- 21 Angela Garza
- 22 Ashwin George
- 23 Frank Oerther
- 24 Ehan Kirchner
- 25 David Karle
- 26 Jim Nordmeyer
- 27 Denise Uchoa
- 28 Donald Wernecke
- 29 Isaias Miranda
- 30 Yonda Urban
- 31 Laura Chapa
- 32 Sam Garcia
- 33 Alex Ruiz
- 34 Joyce Schellhas
- 35 Lupe Mendez
- 36 Nathan Dube
- 37 Russell Morley
- 38 Kelly Bell
- 39 Ryan Wedel
- 40 Cris Ausborn
- 41 Ruth Eggers
- 42 Robert McCrea
- 43 Emmie Mehis
- 44 Millie Launer
- 45 Ruth Pfeifer
- 46 Amber Michalk
- 47 Eric Ruiz

# June Birthdays

- 1 Steve Scott
- 2 Phillip DeLassus
- 3 Vicki Patterson
- 4 Andy Perry
- 5 Ken Adamson
- 6 Marcella Garcia
- 7 Gortlyn Hagerbauer
- 8 Cathy Medley
- 9 Yvonne Morvig
- 10 Don Bates
- 11 Jackie Manchua
- 12 Lindsey Coy
- 13 Kay Bartelt
- 14 Rod-ney Rynearson
- 15 Linda Anderson
- 16 Nelvin Krueger
- 17 Irene Oie
- 18 Jonathan Perez
- 19 Sondra Plovman
- 20 Mia Licciardello
- 21 Lin Miller
- 22 Rhoda Kalweit
- 23 Christian Houseman
- 24 Lee Albert
- 25 Dolores Bebensee
- 26 Michael Obst
- 27 Kimberly Snyder
- 28 Lupe Mendez
- 29 Jonathan Sollner
- 30 Wilford Lucas
- 31 Antonio Uchoa
- 32 Fred Lechtenberg
- 33 Samantha Hinojosa
- 34 Richard Madero
- 35 Kalien Evans
- 36 Crysania Zimmermann
- 37 Lorraine Bessert
- 38 Jeff Brechler
- 39 Jeff Pool
- 40 Italia Rogalski
- 41 Alma Doffing
- 42 Brandon Larson
- 43 Donna Reinert
- 44 Olga Martinez
- 45 Randy Winston
- 46 Pat Best

# July Birthdays

- 1 Darlene Lind
- 2 Nancy Pezold
- 3 Donna Secoy
- 4 Carrie Becker
- 5 Bob Bither
- 6 Vickie Hargett
- 7 Kayla Menchaca
- 8 June Reikward
- 9 Brian Rios
- 10 Isaiah Cavazos
- 11 Wendy Zimmerman
- 12 Ruth Hoehl
- 13 Joshua Lefler
- 14 David Mizener
- 15 Elaine Bjelaland
- 16 Luke Hitt
- 17 Ervin Meyer
- 18 Gina Sollner
- 19 Ben Palacios
- 20 Ernestine Heide
- 21 Dimitri Hinojosa
- 22 Gail Cyphers
- 23 Virginia Myska
- 24 Heather Gutierrez
- 25 Fran Peine
- 26 Jim Corso
- 27 Keszler
- 28 Estevan Cabrera
- 29 Anna Birdsong
- 30 Caitlin Oerther
- 31 Aaron Cavazos
- 32 Crystal Dube
- 33 Alexis Vlasik
- 34 Kathryn Cazares
- 35 Lois Hayes
- 36 Monique Merrifield
- 37 Cynthia Mills
- 38 Elijah Miranda
- 39 Tracy Winston
- 40 Faith Copeland
- 41 Alice Oerther
- 42 Ximena Rodriguez
- 43 Kayla Wedel

## ST PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL FISCAL YEAR FINANCIALS

	March 2011	2010 to 2011	
	Campus Total	July - Mar Actual	July - Mar Budget
<b>REVENUES</b>			
Ordinary Income	57,641	405,030	512,132
Other Donation Income	46,779	177,366	52,492
Fee Income	82,559	1,069,427	965,558
Other Income	14,669	148,936	173,704
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$201,648</b>	<b>\$1,800,759</b>	<b>\$1,703,886</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
<b>Salaries</b>			
Salaries-Pastors/Ministers	16,486	152,270	187,718
Salaries-Other	80,909	769,073	815,957
Benefits	15,486	153,163	144,851
Equip & Furnishing	7,393	77,779	35,380
Children's Ministry	706	9,415	16,175
Utilities	15,294	71,836	78,892
Supplies/Activities	6,840	84,209	71,594
Property Expenses	18,643	78,656	93,794
Ad-Conference-Travel-Etc	6,573	39,099	36,423
Meals-Discount-Benevolence	6,474	105,611	88,888
District-Synod Support	2,117	19,052	32,347
Outreach, Youth, & School	1,316	15,654	8,262
Other Expenses	830	14,848	24,267
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$179,066</b>	<b>\$1,590,664</b>	<b>\$1,634,550</b>
<b>NET TOTAL</b>	<b>\$22,582</b>	<b>\$210,095</b>	<b>\$69,336</b>

15-Apr-11

## CHILDCARE "Spring is in the Air"

### Chapel Schedule:

May 5	"Just Believe"	Mark 5:21-24
May 12	"Get Up & Walk"	Mark 2:1-12
May 19	"I Love You, Jesus"	John 12:1-8
May 26	"When God made the World"	Gen. 1
March 30	"The Greatest Gift"	John 4:3-30
June 2	"Life In the Garden"	Gen. 4
June 9	"Abraham's Call"	Gen. 12-17
June 16	"The Birth of Isaac"	Gen. 18-21
June 23	"Jacob Tricks Esau"	Gen. 27
June 30	"Jacob's Ladder"	Gen. 28:10-22
July 7	"Jacob's Return"	Gen. 31-33
July 14	"Joseph is Sold"	Gen. 37
July 21	"Joseph becomes a Ruler"	Gen. 39-41
July 28	"Joseph Forgives his Brothers"	Gen. 42-47
Letter for May:	X, Y, and Z	
Colors:	Yellow and Blue	
Numbers:	9 and 10	
Food:	Butterfly Sandwich	
Shape:	Circle/Oval	
Opposites:	Over and Under	
Insects:	Butterflies and Bees	
Nursery Rhyme:	Ency Weency Spider	
Science:	Flowers	
Community Helper:	Optometrist	

In June and July we will be doing different themes each week and having a special snack on Friday's to go along with the theme week. The theme's will include: Insect week, Teddy Bear week, Clown week, Down by the Sea week, Dinosaur week, Red, White & Blue week, Western week, Hawaiian week and Mexican week.

God has Blessed us with three more children. We are up to 117 children plus an average of 26 to 30 after-school children. We also have two new teachers.

God is good! Let us rejoice at this season!

Serving you in Christ,

Mary Markham  
Child Care Director

Karen Pool  
Child Care Assistant

- 10 Earl Carroll
- Jeremy Hutchins
- Jhovani Houseman
- 13 Thomas Anderson
- Teddy Henkel
- Michael Riedl
- 14 Gilbert Hoehl
- 15 Taylor Godinez
- June Corso
- Tera Elias
- Hudson Hood
- Akhiro Nakajima
- Ashley Wilson
- 16 Elizabeth Chapa
- Donald Junek
- 17 James Folsom
- Darrell Hagen
- Jack Paige
- Jared Stephens
- 18 David Eames
- Phillip Rivard
- Leon Thomas
- Laura Wagner
- 19 Red Kluck
- Albert Medley
- Marlys Stille
- 20 R.C. Robie
- Catherine Sandoval
- Judy Woodman
- 21 Wava Bettes
- Matt Drefs
- Ingrid Duff
- 22 Joshua Serviere
- Johnny Valladarez
- Paul Obst
- 23 Rick Hempel
- Mariane Vestweber
- 24 Nelda Hearn
- Thomas Keefer
- Ulyssis Palacios
- Marilyn Rhyme
- Brad Vangnes
- 27 Kylie Hood
- Joyce Obst
- Dennis Pflueghaar
- Donna Schuenke
- 28 Grace Paige
- Ricardo Garcia
- 29 Saper Hargett



### May Anniversaries 6

Eldo & Erma Meyer

- 9 Leonard & Barbara Dube
- 11 Jerry & Marlys Stille
- Joe & Kathleen Ramirez
- 18 Gerald & Cindy Harvey
- 23 Sathiyaraj & Renuka George
- 24 Arturo & Maria Ballesteros
- 25 Delbert & Patricia Coy
- 30 David & Sandra Menhaca
- Fred & Karen Karle
- 31 Tim & Rebecca Shewmaker
- Earl & Nancy Polvi

### June Anniversaries

- 4 Marvin & Yvonne Morvig
- Masahiro & Emiko Nakajima
- Tom & Vicky Patterson
- Frosty & Colleen White
- 7 Dennis & Kris Pflueghaar
- 9 Christopher & Marianne Otten
- Wayne & Mariane Vestweber
- 10 David & Shirley Karle
- Wilford & Till Lucas
- 11 George & Marie Weston
- 15 Red & Shirley Kluck
- 17 Guadalupe & Guadalupe Mendez

- 20 Thomas & Bonnie Gaslin
- 24 Ronald & Lois Hayes
- 26 Donald & Bee Mullins
- Matt & Patricia Serviere
- 26 Les & Donna Reinert
- 30 Dietz & Shirley Saeger
- Jeff & Karen Shea

### July Anniversaries

- 4 Brent & Blythe Kirchner
- R.C. & Olivia Robie
- 15 Jim & Eleanor White
- 21 Larry & Janette Perkins
- 24 Scott & Kim Shank
- 31 Bill & Jo Zorr



From the Vicar:

Hello again! It's me, your friendly neighborhood vicar! I pray that as we move into these Easter and Pentecost seasons that you find the time to meditate on the excellent provision of our Heavenly Father. At Easter we celebrate the all availing sacrifice of Jesus on the cross, atoning for our sins because we could not. Not only that but we celebrate with all creation the resurrection of our Lord, announcing his victory over death and sharing eternal life with us. And in Pentecost we stand in awe of the continued work of the Holy Spirit in preserving and extending the kingdom of God after Christ's ascension. It is the Holy Spirit that grants us faith to believe in Jesus as our only Lord and Savior and equips us to minister to our neighbors here and now.

This year for me has been an exciting time of growth and learning. I have learned so much about serving in Parish ministry and am thankful for all you, parishioners of St. Paul, for your enduring patience with me. I have especially enjoyed preaching and teaching Bible studies.

I am excited to lead the VBS in June. The theme this year is "Pandamania". VBS is a great outreach tool for our community. Each year hundreds of children from all over McAllen come to our doorsteps to eat, play, and most importantly, hear the Gospel (possibly for the first time). Please keep these children and the ministry in your prayers.

Speaking of children, my wife Kayla is 6 months pregnant as of April and we cannot wait to meet our little bundle of joy at the end of July. We are having a girl! As many of you know, becoming parents is life altering. We are eager to embrace it. Please pray for us and our baby especially as God knits her together in her mother's womb.

As we move through Easter and into Pentecost we are invited to ponder the incredible activity of the Holy Spirit in earliest Christian communities. When I reflect on how God took the most reluctant and unsuspecting of men and made them his apostles (which means "sent ones") to extend the Gospel across the world, I can't help but see that pattern in my own life. Fairly often I get asked "When did you decide to become a pastor?" I suspect that most people might expect an answer that I had wanted to be one from an early age or always knew it to be a good fit for me. But that is not the case. Honestly, it was only about two years before I went to seminary that I ever considered the Pastoral Ministry. It wasn't that I didn't have wonderful pastors growing up, I did, I just never made the connection that that was something I could do. I attended church every Sunday. I sat as close as I could to the pastor during the children's message. In junior high I was an acolyte nearly every Sunday. I watched and respected my pastors, but for some reason I never imagined myself doing what they did. In my little brain, being a pastor was tantamount to always being on one's best behavior; something I not very good at. So how did I get to where I am today? I'm going to have to defer you to the Holy Spirit for that answer. This is all I know.

continued on next page

Church Newsletter – Spring/Summer Edition

## School Report

**LUTHERAN SCHOOLS ARE SECURING EACH CHILD'S FUTURE FOR ETERNITY – MAKING DISCIPLES.** This was the theme for the 2010-11 school year. We have been involved in ministry to over 150 students and many families in our service to the Lord in fulfilling this challenge. New families have been added to the St. Paul family, and some have come to know Jesus for the first time!

This spring, we have had a very full schedule, with work on the Vision 20/20 campaign in full swing and excitement over potential new classrooms and facilities. The generous grants from the Randall-Smith Foundation have provided new science and computer equipment for all students and bonuses for the school staff members. The new science lab will be completed this summer and ready for fall use, and the mobile computer lab is already in use.

Our classes have been involved in Lenten services, the "Alleluia Tuesday" celebration, and many school activities. Over 40 participated in the Private School Interscholastic Academic challenges in Harlingen April 2, with 11 St. Paul students qualifying for the state competition in Ft. Worth in May. The middle school students went to Concordia University Texas for their annual Les Beyer Field Day, and won over 40 ribbons in academics and sports, and 2 students received \$500 scholarships as a result of their efforts. The school is completing the Scholastic Aptitude Tests in early April and will see results before summer. The spring musical will be presented May 5th at 7 pm, and is open to all. The eighth grade will graduate 6 students in May: Catalina Alvarez, Steffy Carrillo, Avery Rosalez, Camila Savinon, Joseph Schmidt, and Thomas Wright. These students and several parents and staff will make a graduation trip to Washington DC in early May. Athletic teams in soccer, softball and track have been competing this spring as well.

We are now in the process of re-enrolling for the next year and enrolling new students from our communities. 2011-2012 will be a very exciting year with building expansion, a growing student body, a great childcare program, and so many new opportunities for all students. We hope YOU will encourage someone to consider sending their child to St. Paul Lutheran to grow in a quality educational atmosphere and to grow as a DISCIPLE of JESUS! Please call the school at 956-682-2345 or e-mail [principal@stpaulmcallen.org](mailto:principal@stpaulmcallen.org) for information or see our website at [www.stpaulmcallen.org](http://www.stpaulmcallen.org).

God bless!

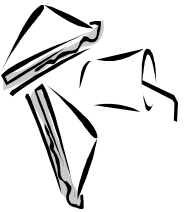
Jeffrey Pool – Principal

## Foodservices: Mrs. Ann Hempel

Lent Thank the Lord there was always enough food for the six meals, as more than 800 people were served during the Lenten season. Thank you to every person that helped with the Lenten meals.

Lent VI “Chili Three Ways” was served by the School Board. A Special Thanks to Sheri Rabanal prepared her scrumptious chili. I, as Foodservice Director, give her **5 STARS**.

Lunch Program Hot lunches are prepared daily for our child care children and the students in our day school. We strive to make them nutritious as well as ‘kid friendly’, but we find that adults enjoy them too. Parents, congregational members and friends are always welcome and encouraged to come have lunch here with us. (Please let us know your intentions ahead of time.) Our next “special lunch day” will be on Thursday, May 19 when we will be having **Salad Bar Day**. We will be serving a deluxe sandwich bar, salad bar and the famous ice cream sundae bar. If you have never had lunch with us on that day, you are missing a treat. Come join us!!



continued from previous page:

The summers before and after my 8th grade year I had the opportunity to go on a mission trip to Japan with my family. The travel, excitement of new culture, and foreignness was everything I craved. I came back from those trips saying that somehow I wanted to be a missionary--whatever that means. So that was the tag line for me throughout high school and the early years of college. I wanted to be an international missionary. But how does one do that? I did some asking around in college and came to this conclusion: to be a missionary you must be either a pastor or teacher. Without flinching I dismissed one of the options. Seminary was more school. Too much work. A teacher I would be. But that never sat comfortably with me. I kept asking the question to whoever would give me the time, “how does one become a missionary?”

One day I was in chapel at the university and this missionary who served in Botswana was giving a talk. Finally someone to give me a straight answer! I spoke to him after chapel and told him that I wanted to be a missionary, explained how I was not interested in seminary, and asked his advice. Sometimes it's the little things that get through the most stubborn of brains. All he said to me was “You know, the seminary is a place to become a sharper tool for God's service.” Simple. Factual. Utilitarian. I had heard the arguments for seminary before. But God used this man and those simple words to get my attention. They stuck in my brain. Why was I resisting seminary? The four extra years of school? Moving to the Midwest? In the following weeks I felt like all my reasons for not wanting to be a pastor were being wrestled to the ground. In my conversations with God I started saying “God, if you want me to do this seminary thing, you need to change my attitude.” And he did. In more practical means. I realized that my degree in Theological Studies was virtually worthless unless I had a teaching certificate or went on to seminary. The seminary seem to provide the most options. And so I went.

Even in seminary I was not convinced I wanted to be a parish pastor. I still didn't think it was for me. But after what I went through in resisting seminary, I learned enough to not tell God what was right for me. And so again I prayed “God, I'm don't know what the parish ministry entails. Please warm my heart to whatever you will have me do.” And he did. Through assisting at a church in St. Louis, listening to the real life stories of my professors, watching the pastors around me closely, and finally being on vicarage, God has warmed my heart to serve in his Church. Considering my poor track record of predicting my future, I can safely say I have no clue how God intends to use me in the future. But I trust that no matter what, it will be exactly what he intended me to do.

I pray God overcomes your expectations of life as he did mine. “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD.” “For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” His plans are better than we could ever imagine.

**Confirmation Reception** A reception for our new Confirmands will be held on May 1, 2011, immediately following the Confirmation Service in the Fellowship Hall. Please join us in welcoming these young adults as they continue their walk with Christ.

Miss Natalie Cazares  
Mr. Remi Hargett  
Mr. Jhovani Houseman  
Mr. Brett Myska  
Mr. Avery Rosalez

**Calling ALL Mothers** The LYF will be handing out flowers to all mothers on May the 8<sup>th</sup> following both services. They will also be presenting some special flowers to a few recipients during our 9am fellowship time. Please come and join us as we celebrate this special day. Happy Mother's Day!

**Congratulations** On May 15<sup>th</sup>, during the 10:45 service, we will be recognizing all graduating High School and College Seniors. Please come and congratulate them. Listed below is a list of all seniors who are graduating so you know who they are. Congratulations!

#### **High School**

Miss Ashley Dube	Mr. Fabian Moreno
Mr. Trey Dube	Miss Caitlin Oerther
Mr. Jacob Gaslin	Mr. Eric Ruiz
Mr. Saper Hargett	Mr. Matt Shea
	Mr. Cole Ziegler

#### **College**

If you know of anyone graduating from college (Bachelor's, Master's or Doctorate), please contact Matthew Drefs at 682-2345. We would like to include them on this special day and need some information on their graduation.

**Youth Night** There will be **NO** Youth Night on June 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> or July 6<sup>th</sup>. We will continue to have Youth Night throughout the summer and invite all high school age youth to attend and bring friends that are willing to listen as we talk about God and how He has saved us from our sins.

**Beach Retreat** On June 17-18 all incoming freshmen through outgoing seniors are invited to attend the "**After School**" Beach Retreat. We will go swimming, have a sand castle war, do Bible studies, and many other fun events. We pray that the newly confirmed youth will join the rest of our group in celebrating another good year of God's Blessings. If you are interested and would like more information, please see Matthew Drefs.

**Calling ALL Fathers** The LYF will be handing out chocolates to all fathers on June the 20<sup>th</sup> following both services. They will also be presenting some special chocolates to a few recipients during our 9am fellowship time. Please come and join us as we celebrate this special day. Happy Father's Day!

**Servant Event** This year 8 youth will be attending a servant event in Newport, Tennessee. These youth will be helping with some maintenance work as well as some spiritual care. To help us save money, we are going to drive to Tennessee. Please pray for our safety and spiritual growth as we work as a team to complete this task that God has given to us.

**Looking Ahead** On July 13<sup>th</sup>, please join us as we plan our events for the 2011-2012 school year. We will be meeting at 6pm and working hard to make this a fun and exciting year.

**Concan** Calling all high school youth! Do you enjoy camping? Do you enjoy the hill country scenery? Do you enjoy waking up in the morning and smelling the fresh country air? Then you need to register for this trip. We will be leaving on July 24<sup>th</sup> and returning July 27<sup>th</sup>. Some of the events will include: floating down the Frio River, Bible studies, hiking, and many other fun events. If you are interested and would like more information, please see Matthew Drefs.

#### **Calendar of Events-**

May	1 <sup>st</sup>	Confirmation & Reception
	8 <sup>th</sup>	Mother's Day Recognition
	15 <sup>th</sup>	Graduate Recognition
June	17 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup>	LYF Beach Retreat
	19 <sup>th</sup>	Father's Day
July	1 <sup>st</sup> -11 <sup>th</sup>	Servant Event- Newport, TN
	13 <sup>th</sup>	Youth Board Meeting- Yearly Events Planning
	24th - 27th	Concan Retreat