



ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

2496 S. C. HIGHWAY 773
POMARIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29126

December

From the Pastor's Desk:

“In the same manner in which we clean and prepare our homes in the anticipation of welcomed guests and family members this Christmas season, let us also prepare our hearts in anticipation of the Lord's coming. Christ, our most honoured and eagerly anticipated guest, desires to meet with us in a heart prepared for his arrival. So eager is he to meet with us that he offers to help us with our spiritual housecleaning, working with us; creating a resting place for Himself within our hearts. “

Katherine Walden

[I Lift My Eyes Ministries](#)



DECEMBER CALENDAR

November 29	5:00 p.m.	Catechism
November 29	5:00 p.m.	Children's Christmas Program Practice
November 30	6:30 p.m.	Decorate Chrismon Tree
December 1	7:00 p.m.	Spiritual Formation Group
December 2	7:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
December 6	8:00 a.m.	Church Council
December 6	5:00 p.m.	Children's Christmas Program Practice
December 8	7:00 p.m.	WELCA/LMM Christmas Social
December 8	7:00 p.m.	Spiritual Formation Group
December 9	7:30 pm.	Choir Practice
December 13	8:30 a.m.	LMM
December 13	12:00 p.m.	Golden Age Christmas Dinner
December 13	6:00 p.m.	Children's Christmas Program
December 15	7:00 p.m.	Spiritual Formation
December 16	7:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
December 18	4:30 p.m.	LCY Christmas Caroling
December 19	10:00 a.m.	LCY Christmas Caroling
December 20	11:00 a.m.	Choir's Presentation of Christmas Music
December 24	7:30 p.m.	Christmas Eve Service
December 24	11:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Service

- **The deadline for the Sunday, December 27th bulletin is 9:00 a.m. Tuesday, December 22nd.**
- **The deadline for the January newsletter is Monday, December 28th at 9:00. a.m.**



November 29th begins the holy season of **Advent**. The word, Advent, consists of two Latin words: Ad—venire: “to come to.” Advent’s message is that God in Christ is coming to the world. During the season of Advent we prepare both for the celebration of the birth of Christ but also remind ourselves to always be on watch for he is surely coming again.

We all know the wonderful story of the birth of Christ. The story of the shepherds in the field, the angels, the baby in a manger stir old and familiar memories. But while we are familiar with the old story, let us not forget the Lord who stands at the center of that story. During this holy season of Advent and Christmas, resolve to make the service of the church your first priority. Determine to be here and pray for that encounter with God which will give you new hope, new vision, and new birth. Try to remember that among all the darkness, uncertainty, and business of our world that “Unto you is born...a savior, who is Christ the Lord.”



The Children's Christmas Program will be held on Sunday, December 13th at 6:00 pm. Please mark your calendar so you can join in this special time!

WELCA

St. Paul's WELCA gave a gift to the Fellowship Building Fund in honor of Mrs. Kathryn Wicker on her 90th birthday (Oct. 1).

St. Paul's WELCA gave gifts to the Fellowship Building Fund in memory of the following women of St. Paul who died since November 2008:

Eva Mae Richardson
 Letha W. Brooks
 Ruth Livingston
 Dorothy Nell Wicker

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* * * * *	Flowers for the altar in	* * * * *
* * * * *	December:	* * * * *
* * * * *	Dec. 6 Lisa Richardson	* * * * *
* * * * *	Dec. 13 Mary Ellisor	* * * * *
* * * * *	Dec. 20 Brandy Bocelli	* * * * *
* * * * *	Dec. 24 & 27 Judy Wicker	* * * * *
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2010 Flower Calendar

The 2010 Altar Flower calendar is posted for volunteer sign-up.

St. Paul Website

Our church now has a website that gives information and updates on many facets of our church. Please go to www.stpaulpomaria.com to view the website. Some pages may also contain pictures of church events. If you do not wish to be included in any pictures, please notify Evangelism chair, Lori Ricard. A huge than you is extended to Kevin Boozer and Toby Smith for creating the website.

A sunshine basket is being prepared for Barbara Werts Gardner who is at Laurel Baye Health-care, Blackville, SC. A list is posted outside the Adult Sunday School Class identifying items she can use. Please sign for specific items so we can send a variety rather too many of each item. Please bring items to the Adult Sunday School Class by December 6, 2009.

LMM/WELCA Christmas Social following brief meetings

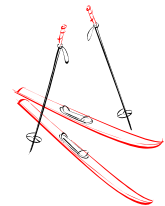
Tuesday, December 8 7:00 p.m. at the home of Jerry and Carolyn Richardson. WELCA members each bring one finger food-type dish to share.

Christmas CDs

If anyone is interested in purchasing the **Christmas CD** produced by our very own members last Christmas Season we still have a few for sale. The cost is only \$10 and all proceeds go to the Building Fund. What a great way to get into the Christmas Season! We also have a very few pieces of RADA left. If you are interested in either please see Becky Boland or call her at 924.4052.

LCY SKI TRIP FEBRUARY 11 –13, 2010

We will leave at 2:00 from St. Paul and night ski that evening. Then, ski all day on Friday and return Saturday morning. The 11th is an early release day from school and the kids are out on the 12th. The total cost of the trip is \$150.00 a person which includes ski lifts, ski rental, lodging and meals (except the first night). **A \$65.00 deposit is due November 25th.** Parents and friends are welcome. If you do not plan to ski, it is a discounted price.



December 13 – Golden Age Christmas Dinner following worship



Caroling to Golden Agers

The LCY will be caroling to our Golden Agers on Friday, December 18 and Saturday, December 19.

Friday, December 18 . We will leave the church @ 4:30 p.m. (Bring a bag supper)

Wilford and Alberta Moates	Mattie Mae Wicker
Harold Wicker	Milford and Jolene Wicker
Carold Wicker	J.P. Wicker
Doris Graham	John and Mamie Ella Shealy
Winifred Davenport	Lindy and Mary Pat Richardson
Walter and Jean Koon	Woodrow and Claire Huffstetler
Virginia Richardson	Cornelia Werts
Vera and Paul Shealy	A.J. and Betty Livingston
Louise Lindler	Narvis Werts
Doris S. Richardson	John Price
Kathryn Bundrick	Pauline Singley
Estelle Dominick	Cornelia Long

Saturday, December 19. We will leave the church @ 10:00 a.m. (Bring money for lunch)

Christine Walling	Jerry Richardson
Evelyn Ricard	Merrill and Rita Richardson
David and Doris E. Richardson	Ibbie Kinard
Roy and Clara Nell Bannister	Kathryn Wicker
Derrill and Martha Jo Wicker	Dot Cochell
Billy and Lurleen Seybt	Dudley and Mary Lou Griffin
Fred Wicker	Clarence and Gladys Hazel
J.P and Christine Dowd	Ruth Chapman

Remembrances will be prepared and delivered separately for Ernest Werts, Wallace Werts, Betty Baker and Carolina Butler. Please feel free to call Charlotte at 276-9290 if there is a problem. Pastor Nichols will also have his cell phone (924-4851) the day of caroling.

St. Paul Lutheran Church Congregational Council Minutes
Sunday, October 04, 2009

14 Members present plus Pastor Nichols

Absent: Randall Koon, Toby Smith

Devotions: Carolyn Richardson

Devotions next time: John Wheeler

Minutes from August 30 were read and approved.

Paul Werts presented the Treasurer's Report.

- A motion was made and passed to discontinue the advertisement in the Newberry Observer because of rise in price to \$28 per month.

Committee Reports:

Property:

Steeple was repaired. Lindy Richardson agreed to repair the hole in Adult Bible Class and choose red paint color and paint front door to sanctuary.

Homecoming:

George Moore is doing well after surgery and will be here to preach for Homecoming.

Sunday School:

The Sunday School kick-off was a success. The pool party was postponed due to rain and will be re-scheduled next year.

Social Ministry:

The Social Ministry committee met and has agreed to the following projects: clothing drive, Shoe boxes for Samaritan's Purse, food drive, help with Halloween Carnival, and Angel tree.

- A motion was made and passed for Thanksgiving offering to be given to World of Hunger.
- A motion was made and passed to give \$200 from Contingency Fund to Interfaith Community Services.

Cemetery Report:

CD was renewed.

Finance/Stewardship:

The Finance Committee will meet soon to write budget. Those committees requesting funds are to give to John Boozer in writing.

Evangelism:

Wayne Boozer presented our church website that Kevin created. Lori will bring to Council next time an announcement about the church website to print in newsletter and bulletin. Church members will be given the opportunity to request their pictures not be used on the church website.

Old Business:

- A question was raised concerning nothing being done about Scout Hut. Danny will talk to Louis to see if he is still interested in moving it. If not, Wayne Boozer will form a group to tear it down.
- Due to conflicts, Ike Pitts has backed out of serving as organist this school year. Andrew Connelly is currently serving as organist.

- Steffanie Shinn presented to council the quotes she received on having grass at church cut commercially. The least expensive quote was given by Mike Bowers at \$125 per cut for church, not including parsonage. A motion was made and passed to form a committee that will be in charge of grass cutting before yearbook is published. The committee will be responsible for getting members to sign up for grass cutting.

New Business

- A motion was made and passed to split the \$5,000 memorial between a new carport shed to replace old one and in remodeling the secretary's office.
- A motion was made and passed for LCY to have a spaghetti supper to raise funds to go to South Carolina Conference and Retreat Centers.
- Charlotte Werts resigned as Chair of Anniversary Committee. A motion was made and passed to ask Debbie Werts to serve as Chair.
- Fred and Judy Sebesta have requested to have their membership moved to Chapin Methodist.
- Next Council meeting will be Monday, October 26, at 7:30 PM.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned by reciting the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Ricard
Church Council Secretary

Dear Pastor Nichols, Church Council and Congregation members,

Thank you for your gift of \$300 toward the Honduras trip. The team is spending the next couple of months preparing for the trip both from a practical standpoint (gathering and organizing resources) as well as from a psychological standpoint (learning about the culture and what to expect when we arrive).

Your generosity will travel with our team which leaves for Honduras on January 7 and should be back stateside either January 17 or 18. I will let you know how things went when we get back.

In Peace,
Christopher Stump and Family

December Birthdays

December 1	Brian Kingsmore
December 2	Donnie Huyck Gladys Shealy
December 3	Brad Kingsmore
December 4	Holly Richardson
December 5	Mattie Mae Wicker
December 6	Dale Hazel
December 7	Brian Lathrop
December 11	Tyler Ulch
December 14	Ben Redden
December 15	Phyllis Jackson
December 17	Joey Brooks
December 18	Shannon Smith
December 19	Kim Stiver Luke Dowd
December 21	Jesse Pearson Sarah Hentz Danny Wicker
December 22	Phyllis Sanders
December 23	John Richardson Merrill Richardson Gina Roberts
December 23	Mary Lou Griffin
December 26	Susan Koon
December 27	Judy Boland
December 29	Ibbie Kinard
December 31	Nica Dowd Lisa Koon



December Helpers

<u>Councilperson:</u>	Danny Ricard
<u>Ushers:</u>	Alex Dowd John Coltrane Joey Brooks Jimmy Richardson
<u>Counting Committee:</u>	Danny Ricard Lori Ricard
<u>Acolyte:</u>	Drew Ricard
<u>Crucifer:</u>	Tanner Werts
<u>Greeter:</u>	Nica Dowd
<u>Communion Bread:</u>	
December 24 (7:30)	Rick Caston
December 24 (11:00)	Rick Caston
<u>Altar Guild:</u>	
December 24 (7:30)	Lynn Nichols
December 24 (11:00)	Debbie Werts



SPOTLIGHT ON A FAMILY



Chad & Becky Boland and family

Chad Boland has been a member here at St Paul since he was born. He has many fond memories growing up in such a close knit church. After he married Becky Kinard she soon became a member. Becky and Chad celebrated their 11 year wedding anniversary in July. The thing that Becky liked the most when she joined was how quickly the WELCA welcomed her to their meetings and socials.

Becky and Chad quickly added their four children to the St Paul church family. All of their children have many interests and hobbies. Keenan, 10, enjoys traveling soccer. Kaleb, 8, enjoys hunting and spending time with Granddaddy. Kendal, 7, enjoys cheerleading. Klara, 5, enjoys preschool and dance.

In 2001 Chad's mom, Judy, moved in with them. Judy still attends Sunday School and Church every Sunday with her family. One of her special memories are when she became a lifelong honorary member of WELCA.

Chad is in his 15th year of teaching. He currently teaches math at Dutch Fork High and is once again coaching basketball. Becky stays home with their children and Judy and also continues to sell Premier Jewelry. Although they are a busy family, Becky and Chad try to stay as involved as possible in the church. Some of their activities in the church include serving on church council, building committee, teaching Sunday school, bible school, WELCA, PALS, Social Ministry, and Education Committee.

The entire Boland family would like to see the St Paul family grow in numbers and commitment. They would also like to see a new building that can be used to serve the congregation and the community.

Chattin'

with *Kevin*



This Thanksgiving season, did you stop to give thanks for... someone lying and perhaps stealing from others? This year I did. Why?

You see, earlier this year I received an email poem containing such a powerful message that I wanted to believe it was true. The email alleged that a seven-year-old girl who was terminally ill with cancer wrote the poem, "Slow Dance." Lines listing ordinary life activities, hurried lifestyles, over-filled schedules, and stressed-out people were focused around the message,

*You better slow down, don't dance so fast,
time is short, the music won't last.*

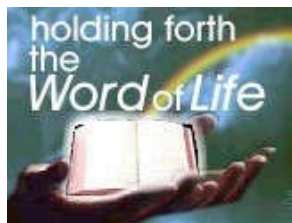
I have learned over the years that you cannot trust everything you receive over the internet, so the cynic in me checked around and learned that the email was a hoax. There was no girl dying of cancer for which the American Cancer Society would pay three cents per email that was forwarded in her honor. So, why am I thankful for this one piece of hoax email--hoax email that slows file servers, wastes time, fills inboxes to the limit, enables identity theft, and preys upon the kindnesses of readers?

After I shared that the email was a hoax, no matter how touching its message, Mrs. Kathy Link and I exchanged several emails. As we "chatted," she pointed out another way the poem was false. Mrs. Kathy mentioned that music never stops, rather it becomes more holy as angels and heavenly host sing, "Hosanna to the Lord." How I loved to read that insight! It is true that we face illness, depression, pain, heartache, and despair in this life. Music may be the worst thing or the last thing, we long for during those moments. Then again, music might be balm for the wounded spirit. No matter how we regard music, we constantly are given the possibility to experience the gift of music in this life and in the next.

Mrs. Kathy went on to point out that the God who created music, dance, and singing also gave us meditation and quiet. In the still and quiet place, music plays on. How can this be? Think about music. Music contains notes and rests. If not, the music would be mere noise instead of song. Our lives also contain silence and speech, motion and rest. When we block out the noise of our busy lives and pause to listen for God's still, small voice, our spirits can be restored. During those quiet moments with God, the Lord's almighty, majestic, and musical presence can fill our hearts with love, grace, and peace.

I am thankful that this fall an email led to a conversation that re-opened my eyes to God's gracious gift of music. Perhaps this column has had a similar effect upon you. I hope so, and I hope that during this holiday season we can join together and give thanks for the gift of music that God created to last now and forevermore.

Have something you'd like to chat about? Give me a call or email me at kevinboozer@stpaulpomaria.com or kevin.boozer@yahoo.com



16th Annual Heartland Conference School of Religion

Sponsored by the Heartland Conference Lutheran Churches

Word of the Lord:

(A) Scaling the Alps of Acts (Part 2) (Rev. Dr. Sigel)

(B) Last Things in Ecumenical Perspective
(Dr. Michael Root)

(C) South Carolina Synod Outreach Ministries
(Various Synodical Leaders)

Youth Bible Study
(Mrs. Stephanie Stoudemayer)

*Please plan to join your fellow friends for learning
mixed with fun, fellowship and food.*

Tuesday Evenings : Jan. 5, 12, 19, & 26
7—9 p.m.

Grace Lutheran Church, Prosperity, SC

Registration forms may be obtained from your pastor
or congregation president.

Fee: \$10.00 for 4 nights
Youth admitted FREE.

St. Paul Lutheran Church
2496 S.C. Hwy 773
Pomaria, SC 29126

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Pastor Brent Nichols
Church Phone 276-2570
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stpaulpomaria@bellsouth.net
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