



ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

January 2010

From the Pastor's Desk:

“What a privilege we have been given by God to be able to spend our lives giving His love away.”

-Don Lessin



JANUARY CALENDAR

January 3	8:00 a.m.	Church Council
January 6	7:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
January 7	7:00 p.m.	Spiritual Formation
January 10	8:30 a.m.	LMM
January 10	5:00 p.m.	Catechism
January 13	6:30 p.m.	Anniversary Committee
January 13	7:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
January 14	7:00 p.m.	Spiritual Formation
January 20	7:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
January 21	7:00 p.m.	Spiritual Formation
January 24	5:00 p.m.	Catechism
January 27	7:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
January 28	7:00 p.m.	Spiritual Formation

SPOTLIGHT ON A MEMBER

There is no "Spotlight on a member" this month. No forms were submitted. If you received a form, please send it back to Charlotte Werts as soon as possible so we can continue this newsletter feature. Thank you!



The Deadline for the February Newsletter is Monday, January 25th at 9:00 a.m.

YEARBOOK INFO NEEDED:

Please submit all necessary documentation for the 2010 yearbook as soon as possible, but no later than Monday, January 18th. Information can be submitted by paper copy, but we would prefer receiving an electronic copy so we can make any necessary changes to the font, format, etc. Please send it to: **stpaulpomaria@bellsouth.net**

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 thank you is extended to Kevin Boozer and Toby Smith for creating the website.

Evangelism Thought of the Month:

It's that time of year - New Year's Resolutions. Have you made yours? Will 2010 be a year of renewed dedication to our Lord by worshipping him through regular church attendance? What better resolution could there possibly be?

Please keep in your prayers....

St. Paul's Seminarian, Chris Stump, will be in Honduras on a mission trip this the week of January 10th. The team of 15 is running a Medical clinic in a north western rural impoverished village. The team is also assisting in constructing a church building for the village. You are encouraged to pray this week for Chris, the team he's with, the families they leave behind, and the villagers that they are serving with.










Hospitalized:

- Rick Caston
- Clarence Hazel
- Phyllis Jackson
- Brandi Pearson
- Judy Wicker
- Mattie Mae Wicker

2010 Flower Calendar

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



	Flowers for the altar in	
	January:	
	Jan. 3	Judy Sebesta
	Jan. 10	Gladys Shealy
	Jan. 17	Jean Koon
	Jan. 24	Donna Werts
	Jan. 31	Betty Livingston



St. Paul Lutheran Church Congregational Council Minutes
Sunday, October 25, 2009

13 Members present plus Pastor Nichols

Absent: Danny Ricard, Dale Epting, Toby Smith

Devotions: John Wheeler

Devotions in December: Lori Ricard

Minutes from October 4 were read and approved.

Paul Werts presented the Treasurer's report.

John Wheeler presented the Cemetery report.

Committee Reports:

Homecoming:

George Moore had planned to come on Homecoming, but called the Monday before with an eye infection stemming from his surgery and had to cancel. Pastor Nichols agreed to preach.

Evangelism:

An announcement to be put in the newsletter and bulletin regarding the church website was read and approved. Church members may opt out of having their pictures included in group shots posted on the website.

Chrismon:

The Chrismon tree will be put up on Thursday, December 3.

Social Ministry:

Carolyn read a letter from Helping Hands Food Pantry requesting monetary donations.

- A motion was made and passed to put the information from the letter in the newsletter and bulletin and collect a love offering to go to Helping Hands Food Pantry on the fourth Sunday in November.

Old Business:

- A motion was made and passed to give \$300 out of contingency fund to go to our Seminarian student, Chris Stump, to go towards his mission trip to Honduras.

New Business:

John Boozer presented the 2010 Budget Proposal.

- A motion was made and passed to change item SC Mission Support to Lutheran Theological Seminary Support.
- A motion was made and passed to change Pastor's mileage amount from \$4,500 to \$5,000.
- A motion was made and passed to change Supply Pastor from \$500 to \$650 based on 2010 Compensation Guidelines.
- A motion was made and passed to approve the 2010 budget proposal.

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

Called Meeting
Sunday, November 15, 2009

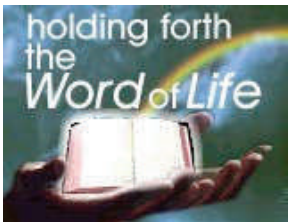
- A motion was made and passed to allow organist Andrew Connelly to offer piano lessons at the church.

Called Meeting
Sunday, November 29, 2009

- A motion was made and passed to allow a Newberry College music student to present special music and discuss a fundraiser for music in Newberry County elementary schools on Sunday, December 6, 2009.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Ricard
Church Council Secretary



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.

January Birthdays

4	Cordell Coltrane Paul Shealy
5	Cheryl Kinard Pauline Singley
6	David Nichols
7	Jerry Richardson
8	Courtney Hentz Dale Epting
10	Lynn Nichols Jimmy Richardson
11	Hunter Roberts
12	Carold Wicker Harold Wicker
13	Doris S. Richardson
14	Christine Walling
17	Kayla Caston
18	Brian Caston Jenny Kay E. Eaves
19	David B. Richardson
20	Tricia Ulch Brandon Jackson
21	Barbara Dowd Claire Huffstetler
23	Christopher Richardson
24	Andrew Boozer Vicki Eaves Taylor Moon
25	Lori Ricard
26	Steffanie Shinn Vicki Redden Kay Chandler
27	Amber Caston Rachel Smith
29	Jenny Fellers Derrill Taylor Katie Koon
30	Kristin Miller
31	Robin Chandler


Happy Birthday!

January Helpers

Councilperson: Steffanie Shinn

Ushers: Lowell Dowd
Henry Brooks
Pam Shealy
Wayne Shealy

Counting Committee: Steffanie Shinn
Wayne Boozer

Acolyte: Tanner Werts

Crucifer: Jonathon Shinn

Torchbearers: Hannah Brooks
Abby Stiver

Bannerbearer: Rion Werts

Greeter: Lori Ricard

Communion Bread: Debbie Werts

Altar Guild: Judy Sebesta

Chattin'

with *Kevin*



When do you decorate your Christmas tree? The day after Thanksgiving? A week or so before Christmas? We put our two Christmas trees, one with traditional ornaments and one with only Snoopy ornaments, up sometime in mid-December. Usually we take our trees down three or four days after Christmas. This year I asked Mom to leave one of our trees up until January 6th, the day of Epiphany.

Epiphany means the insight, the “Ah, ha!” moment when an idea comes to mind or when something is understood. The day of Epiphany and the season of Epiphany both are a celebration of Christ being revealed to us. Through the Holy Spirit, we receive an “Ah, ha! moment,” when we hear the news of Jesus and we believe. We read of Jesus in the temple, of Jesus’ baptism, and of the Transfiguration. At each event more is revealed about Jesus’ purpose here on earth and in the heavens above. Jesus, the child conversing in the temple; Jesus, the obedient Son of God being baptized to fulfill the scriptures and all righteousness; and Jesus, the transfigured one along with Moses and Elijah—a glimpse of the glory of Jesus reign in heaven and of the glory of God.

What does all that have to do with a Christmas tree? By leaving the tree up all twelve days of Christmas, the tree helps us remember that Christmas is not just a day but it is a church season. So often this idea is pushed aside because the shopping is done, the gifts have been given, and the carols have been sung. This need not be the case, as I learned this morning when I read a book of the stories behind Christmas traditions.

Centuries before the Christmas tree as we know it, people would cut down an evergreen tree and hang it upside down in their houses. The tree could be seen as a triangle with the three corners representing the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We don’t do that now, of course, but think of the Christmas tree a child would draw. Most likely the tree is triangle-shaped. The triangle-shaped Christmas trees on t-shirts, coffee mugs, and Christmas cards can remind us of the Holy Trinity.

These trees, symbols of the Christmas season, help link our thoughts and hearts to the season of Epiphany, a season where we learn more about Jesus as he grows into adulthood, begins his earthly ministry, and is transfigured near the end of his ministry. I never looked at a Christmas tree as a link to those parts of the Gospels until today when I read more about its history.

I had that “Ah, ha!” epiphany moment because I’d learned something new and I just had to share it with you. We are called to do the same when we share the good news of Christ among ourselves and among those who do not know Him. Perhaps next year when we see Christmas trees in malls, stores, and houses, we will use the symbol as a chance to help someone else have an “Ah, ha! moment” when they hear of how God sent Jesus as our savior. Until then, let us rejoice and celebrate all twelve days of this Christmas season whether our trees have been given to the grinding of the greens or whether they remain up in our houses until January 6th.

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

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Church Phone 276-2570
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