



## ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

December 2011

### From the Pastor's Desk:

#### **A Christmas Creed**

I believe in Jesus Christ and in the beauty of the gospel begun in Bethlehem.

I believe in the one whose spirit glorified a little town; and whose spirit still brings music to persons all over the world, in towns both large and small.

I believe in the one for whom the crowded inn could find no room, and I confess that my heart still sometimes wants to exclude Christ from my life today.

I believe in the one who the rulers of the earth ignored and the proud could never understand; whose life was among common people, whose welcome came from persons of hungry hearts.

I believe in the one who proclaimed the love of God to be invincible:

I believe in the one whose cradle was a mother's arms, whose modest home in Nazareth had love for its only wealth, who looked at persons and made them see what God's love saw in them, who by love brought sinners back to purity, and lifted human weakness up to meet the strength of God.

I confess my ever-lasting need of God: The need of forgiveness for our selfishness and greed, the need of new life for empty souls, the need of love for hearts grown cold.

I believe in God who gives us the best of himself. I believe in Jesus, the son of the living God, born in Bethlehem this night, for me and for the world.

Walter Russell Bowie

# DECEMBER CALENDAR

<b>December 1</b>	6:00 p.m.	Put up Chrismon Tree
<b>December 4</b>	8:00 a.m.	Church Council
<b>December 4</b>	11:00 a.m.	Anniversary Slide Show Presentation
<b>December 4</b>		Deadline for Angel Tree gifts
<b>December 4</b>	6:00 p.m.	Children's Christmas Program Practice
<b>December 4</b>	6:30 p.m.	Joint WELCA Meeting in basement
<b>December 5</b>	7:00 p.m.	Choir Practice
<b>December 7</b>	7:00 p.m.	Choir Practice
<b>December 11</b>	8:30 a.m.	LMM
<b>December 11</b>	11:00 am.	Christmas Cantata during worship
<b>December 11</b>	12:00 p.m.	Golden Ager Christmas Dinner
<b>December 11</b>	6:00 p.m.	Children's Christmas Program
<b>December 14</b>	7:00 p.m.	Choir Practice
<b>December 16</b>	5:00 p.m.	LCY Christmas Caroling
<b>December 17</b>	10:00 a.m.	LCY Christmas Caroling
<b>December 24</b>	7:30 p.m.	Christmas Eve Service
<b>December 24</b>	11:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Service
<b>December 25</b>	10:00 a.m.	Worship (no Sunday School)
<b>December 26</b>	9:00 a.m.	January Newsletter Deadline



**OUR CHRISTMAS CANTATA** will be December 11th during the worship hour. The choir has been working hard on this beautiful selection of music so plan to be present as we glory in the birth of Christ our Lord and Savior.

## Children's Christmas Program



The Children's Christmas Program will be Sunday, December 11th at 6:00 p.m. We look forward to a simple program this year with many children's participation. We ask that everyone join us to witness the true meaning of Christmas. Please bring a finger food to share and join us in the basement for light refreshments following the program.

## Angel Tree



Thanks to all who took a name from the Angel Tree. Please place unwrapped gifts in a large bag and secure the assigned application number on the bag by Sunday, December 4th. Contact Carolyn Richardson if you have any questions.

## THE GOLDEN AGER'S CHRISTMAS DINNER PREPARED BY OUR WELCA

will be December 11th following the worship service. All Golden Agers and their guest are invited to stay for this delicious meal. We look forward to seeing you there.

## MEMORIALS TO THE BUILDING FUND

For those who would prefer to give a memorial to the building fund instead of a poinsettia for Christmas a donation in any amount may be given. Make checks payable to St. Paul Lutheran Church Building Fund and give the information and money to Carolyn Richardson **no later than Sunday, December 11, 2011**. The information will be published in the bulletin at Christmas.

IN HONOR OF: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

IN MEMORY OF: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

BY: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

AMOUNT GIVEN: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ ENVELOPE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

The family of Ronnie Koon would like to extend our sincere thanks to each of you for your prayers, cards, phone calls, visits, food, and flowers during our most recent time of sorrow. The support from our church family has been a great source of strength during this difficult time, as was the spiritual guidance from Pastor and Lynn Nichols.

We especially want to thank Bereavement Group 3 for the delicious meal which was served before Ronnie's funeral service. Truly that special time of fellowship was a blessing. At times such as these, the company of family and friends is very comforting and we are profoundly grateful to everyone. God's blessing and peace to each of you.

Sincerely,  
Randall, Lisa, & Katie Koon

The deadline for the January Newsletter is Monday, December 26th at 9:00 a.m.

On Christmas Day, there will be no Sunday School and Worship will be held at 10:00 a.m.

# Chattin'

with



This year in the Thanksgiving Eve service Pastor Nichols raised a question that got me thinking. What if the only things you had today were the things you remembered to thank God for yesterday? For me, one important part is taking time to smell the roses and give not just myself credit but God credit for all the progress that has happened. Instead I find myself worrying about all the changes that will be coming up in life as I look for jobs now and start thinking about living on my own. The anxiety and emotional struggles that go along with that transition have made it really hard sometimes to be thankful or to even realize just how better things have been the past few months than they have been for years.

It fact, it's been a daily grind. There have been lots of times where putting a smile on my face for Thomas has been really hard work and a forced smile at that. It has been hard to put one foot in front of the other and show up to do journalism work but I have kept going. In a big way it is progress because my body is not shutting down anymore, so I can keep it going. Even so, the bulk of the time since I've been back from Mayo in September I've been just going through the motions with the choir and with the children's music. I know I love those children and I love guitar and music. I know I love the church and being a part of it all. I know how I was raised and how important it always has been for me, so I keep coming and keep doing it whether I feel the joy and experience the close feelings with God or not. I know he is faithful and that these emotional issues are way smaller than God is. Though sometimes my perspective really gets out of whack and it becomes hard to keep that in mind.

So, I keep going and doing. At times the depression breaks and the happiness returns and that is encouraging. The day I was at Mayo for a follow up visit in October, they assured me that this is part of the healing process. One thing that came out of my time at Mayo is that I'm really not supposed to talk about all the symptoms, emotional or otherwise, very much. That change has been a real struggle. In fact, many of you used to get email updates detailing those very things, but that change has been a positive one and one that will lead to greater wholeness long term.

I debated even writing this Chattin' with Kevin about the emotional ups and downs at all. But other people maybe are wrestling with something similar for different reasons as the holidays draw near and I thought that if some way this could help, then it would be worth it. Talking about it in an article like this is okay, but if I focus on it or if it becomes a main conversation I have with folks over the course, then that makes it harder to heal. So, if you



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ask and I tell you that things are okay or good enough or getting there and I don't elaborate much, please don't feel as if I am shutting you off. I'm just trying to keep doing the things they taught me to do at Mayo to keep any medical disruptions as small as they possibly can be.

I hope that medical advice makes sense from a practical standpoint, but the reason I brought this whole thing up at all is spiritual. This fall I've continued to do all those church activities not necessarily because of how it makes me feel or what I get out of it or am I doing them for God first and foremost. At least that's my hope and prayer:

- To still remain faithful in God's promises.
- To remain thankful and hopeful.
- To continue learning and growing and knowing that the Lord is big enough to use the hard parts in our lives to bring in great goodness.

That gift of devotedness that comes from years of habits of coming to church and doing things for God is helping carry me through a time in life that I really didn't see coming and is hard to understand, quite frankly. I have heard from other folks over the years with similar stories and thinking of them has helped me to keep going and keep doing and help me grow. Thank you for whatever role you've played over the years to help nurture those tendencies and that spiritual growth as we walk in Christ together. That impact is one important gift God gives us through his church and certainly something to be thankful for today as we remember his promises this Advent season.

**250TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**

**THE ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE WILL SHOW A SLIDESHOW PRESENTATION** on Sunday, December 4th during the morning worship service to conclude the 250th Anniversary Celebration of our church. We hope you will plan to be present to view the slideshow.

## December Birthdays

December 1	Brian Kingsmore
December 2	Donnie Huyck Gladys Shealy
December 3	Brad Kingsmore
December 4	Holly Richardson
December 6	Dale Hazel
December 7	Brian Lathrop
December 8	Carter Herndon
December 11	Tyler Ulch Robert Lathrop
December 15	Phyllis Jackson Suzanne Shealy
December 17	Joey Brooks
December 18	Shannon Smith
December 19	Luke Dowd
December 20	Kim Stiver
December 21	Jesse Pearson Sarah Hentz Danny Wicker Brooks Gallman
December 22	Merrill Richardson Gina Roberts
December 26	Susan Koon
December 27	Judy Boland
December 31	Nica Dowd Lisa Koon



## December Helpers

<b><u>Councilperson:</u></b>	Paul Werts
<b><u>Ushers:</u></b>	Bobby Long James Richardson Carol Wicker John Wheeler
<b><u>Counting Committee:</u></b>	Danny Ricard Dana Werts
<b><u>Acolyte:</u></b>	Whitney Roberts
<b><u>Crucifer:</u></b>	CJ Caston
<b><u>Torchbearers:</u></b>	Austin Wheeler Zach Hentz
<b><u>Bannerbearer:</u></b>	Tanner Werts
<b><u>Greeter:</u></b>	Paul Werts
<b><u>Communion Bread:</u></b>	Debbie Werts
<b><u>Altar Guild:</u></b>	
7:30 p.m.	Chris Caston
11:00 p.m.	Debbie Werts
<b><u>Flowers for the Altar:</u></b>	
December 4	Koon Family
December 11	Mary Ellisor
December 18	Sara Price
December 24 & 25	Koon Family

## Caroling to Golden Agers

The LCY will be caroling to our Golden Agers on Friday and Saturday, December 16th and 17th.

**Friday, December 16th:** We will leave the church at 5:00 p.m. Eat prior or bring a bag supper.

Wilford and Alberta Moates	David and Doris Richardson
Emily Epting	Derrill and Martha Jo Wicker
Christine Walling	Billy and Lurleen Seybt
Evelyn Ricard	J.P. and Christine Dowd
Claude Shealy	Jerry and Carolyn Richardson
Roy and Clara Nell Bannister	Merrill and Rita Richardson
Lorene Stuck	

**Saturday, December 17th:** We will leave the church at 10:00 a.m. Bring money for lunch.

Harold Wicker	Dorothy Cochell
Carold Wicker	Clarence and Gladys Hazel
Doris Graham	Herman and Juanita Nalley
Winifred Davenport	John and Mamie Ella Shealy
Walter and Jean Koon	Lindy and Mary Pat Richardson
Paul and Vera Shealy	Woodrow and Claire Huffstetler
Louise Lindler	Cornelia Werts
Kathryn Bundrick	Betty Livingston
Estelle Dominick	Narvis Werts
Milford and Jolene Wicker	Pauline Singley
J.P. Wicker	Cornelia Long
Ruth Chapman	

Remembrances will be prepared and delivered separately for Ernest and Reba Werts, Doris S. Richardson, Wallace Werts, Betty Baker and Caroline Butler. Please feel free to call Nikki Hughes at 465-0055 if there is a problem. Pastor Nichols will also have his cell phone (924-4851) the days of caroling.

**St. Paul Lutheran Congregational Council Minutes  
Sunday, October 2, 2011**

Devotions: Andrew Boozer

Devotions for November: Carolyn Richardson

Absent: Chris Roberts, Rick Caston, Barbara Dowd, and Alison White

Minutes were read and approved for the month of October.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Dana Werts presented the treasurer's report.

**Committee Reports:**

Cemetery Committee: John Wheeler gave a report of the cemetery committee.

Social Ministry Committee: The committee is sponsoring a blood drive on Tuesday, October 4 from 2:00 – 8:00 p.m. Congregational pictures will be taken for the pictorial directory on October 6 – 8.

Property Committee: They will repair and replace the gables and shutters with vinyl on the parsonage. A motion was made and passed to take money from property reserve to fix the exterior concerns about the parsonage.

Homecoming Committee: They reported the menu. Anniversary Committee will serve the cake.

**Old Business:**

- Dana Werts brought two file cabinets for the secretary's office.

**New Business:**

- A concern was brought up about ushers and greeters being at the back of the church by 10:45 a.m.
- A concern was brought up about a television for downstairs to be used to show videos at different events.
- Andrew Boozer mentioned submitting the planning form for synodical support for next year.
- The November meeting will be October 30th.
- A motion was made and passed to participate with area churches in sponsoring a Lutheridge Day Camp from July 8 – 13 at Mount Tabor.
- Developing a visioning team was discussed.

Respectfully submitted,  
Janna Richardson  
Church Council Secretary



# **Eighteenth Annual Heartland Conference Lay School of Religion**

Sponsored by the Heartland Conference Lutheran Churches

## *The Word of the Lord*

- (A) Last Supper/Lord's Supper (Rev. Dr. Sigel)
- (B) Those Who Have Ears to Hear: Preaching as Ministry of the  
Whole Congregation (Rev. Dr. Shauna K. Hannan)
- (C) Comparative Religions (Dr. Mike Beggs)
- (D) Social Security Update (Jim Caulder)
- (E) Youth Bible Study (Mrs. Stephanie Stoudemayer)

Please plan to take advantage of these learning opportunities and enjoy  
fellowship and food with your friends.

Tuesday Evenings in January—January 3, 10, 17, 24  
7 – 9 p.m.

Grace Lutheran Church, Prosperity, SC

Registration forms may be obtained from your pastor

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

**Registration forms can be found in Megan Shealy's (Secretary) box.**

## What is God up to through the South Carolina Synod?

By working together, and pooling the resources provided by our congregations — and through God's grace — the South Carolina Synod's Ministry Teams and Synod Staff are grateful to be able to...

### Provide Assistance to the People of our Companion Synods:

- Nurture friendship through visits and provide assistance when needed to our companion synods in Tanzania, Japan, and Colombia.
  - Wired \$19,000 needed for a pipe line so that in the midst of a severe drought, people in the SW Diocese in Tanzania could have water.
  - Wired \$83,000 to our companion synod in Japan (JELC) to help them during the devastation caused by the Pacific earthquake and tsunami.
  - Wired \$5,000 to Colombia, South America so that children could have a better school

### Provide Assistance to the People of South Carolina:

Help prepare 38 men and women who are called to be pastors and other rostered leaders by having a ministry team that gathers at the Synod office to be sure these candidates for ministry are following the path in seminary and are engaged in experiences that will enable them to become successful leaders.

Work together and pool our resources so that, with God's help, we can support five mission congregations.

Work with congregations that need to be revitalized.

- Assist pastors and congregational leaders when they need assistance.
  - Provide supply pastors as needed;
  - Work with congregations searching for a new pastor;
  - Provide assistance to local congregations when they need assistance with budget planning, stewardship, and evangelism.
  - Assist pastors and lay leaders with videos, books, or curriculum from the Synod's Resource Center to enhance their Christian Education programs.
- Provide positive experiences for youth and young adults:
  - Provide youth ministry events for youth and adults with the goal of helping young people understand God's love and purpose for their lives.

- Provide leadership development through the Synod Lutheran Church Youth organization for young leaders and a Spirit-led community for fulfilling God's mission.
- Provide and help to support 11 campus ministry sites to welcome our young adults when they go to college.
- Send support checks each month to the following:
  - Lutheran Homes of SC
  - Lutheran Family Services in the Carolinas
  - Lutheridge+Lutherock Ministries, Inc.
  - Newberry College
  - SC Lutheran Conference and Retreat Centers
  - Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary

**Provide Assistance to the People of the USA and the World:**

- Send funds to the ELCA each month and help to make it possible for people to receive assistance wherever there may be hunger and disasters and, with God's help, to become Christ's disciples through our missionaries.

By working together and sharing our resources through the budget adopted by voting members at Synod Assembly, we touch and bless lives everyday with God's help. Find out more at [www.sclutheran.org](http://www.sclutheran.org).

God's work. Our hands.



St. Paul Lutheran Church  
2496 S.C. Hwy 773  
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Return Service Requested

**Pastor Brent Nichols**  
Church Phone 276-2570  
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December 2011 [stpaulpomaria@bellsouth.net](mailto:stpaulpomaria@bellsouth.net)  
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