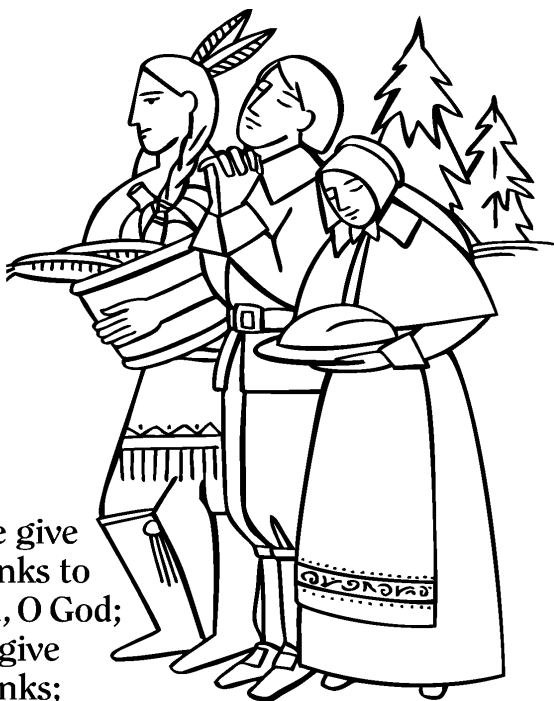




The Epistle

The Monthly Parish Visitor of:
St. Paul Lutheran Church, Tampa, Florida

November 2011
Volume 56
Number 11



“We give
thanks to
you, O God;
we give
thanks;
your name is near.
People tell of your wondrous deeds.”

Psalm 75:1, NRSV

**God’s mission for St. Paul Lutheran
Church is to witness God’s love and our
faith in the Resurrected Christ.**

November Birthdays

11/9 Yasmin Tolzman
11/10 Christina Oliva
11/12 Sandi Snow
11/15 Adrian Snow
11/17 Jeanne Pursell
11/18 Tina Fritz
11/18 Elaine Schweinsberg
11/20 Jim Roberts
11/22 Kerry Snow
11/25 Becky McKenzie



November Anniversaries

11/17 Christie & Jim Roberts

FELLOWSHIP

Thank everyone for their help with refreshments in the month of October. I know it is very hard to keep up with the economy and being so small. So all your hard work and baking is much appreciated by all.

On November 6, 2011 we will have a pot luck luncheon with the entrée being provided by the church. Please think on what salads or desserts you would like to bring. It will be an important meeting for us to decide what gifts we can give back to God

We had a great lunch bunch on October 23 at the Colonade. It was fun for all. Lunch bunch will take a break for November and December and get back together in January.

11/6	Commitment Lunch	11/11	Julie & June
11/20	Eve & Patty	11/27	Pam & Lisa

We would love to add you to our rotation for refreshments. Please let me know if you can volunteer in December.

Respectfully Submitted, Patricia Smith, Fellowship

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The year of 2011 is quickly winding down, we are finishing up with our Stewardship program and the planning has already started for the holiday season which is coming up quick. I hope everyone has been enjoying the worship service this past month, Pastor Ray, Natalie and Dennis have been working well together and the worship service has taken on a new "feel" if you will. There has been a lot thrown our way with all the changes in music and the addition of incorporating the piano more in the service. I also think the choir has been sounding wonderful singing next to the piano. I cannot read music, play an instrument and I definitely cannot sing, (ask Patty), but **MY** worship experience during this past month has been just wonderful. Pastor seems to be energized by the music, I see smiles on many faces during the service and believe it or not, I have even got my hymnal out and have sung some songs and that is scary.

I know that the change, especially a lot of changes at once, may be difficult for some of our members to adjust to, but I ask that you give this current worship direction a chance. We may need to slow down on some of the changes and we have to make sure we keep some of our traditions also, but change can be a good thing sometimes. Change can sometimes give a struggling congregation new life and new energy to get past some rough spots in the road.

I hope to see everyone on commitment Sunday on November 6th; we will have a wonderful service, good food and some good fellowship. I guess we should also make pledges, I guess the budget committee does need something to work with for formulating a 2012 budget. .

Wayne Tolzman
Council President

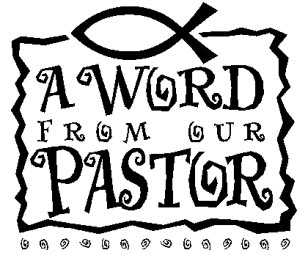
Worship Schedule

Nov 6	AM	Ann Delach
	AC	Audrey Mckenzie
	CR	Braxton Mckenzie
Nov 13	AM	Mary O'Dea
	AC	Brandon Buzek
	CR	Cameron Mckenzie
Nov 20	AM	Kevin Oliva
	AC	Delaney Cullinan
	CR	Brandon Buzek
Nov 27	AM	Natalie Benham
	AC	Kaleigh Williams
	CR	Ryan Williams
Altar Guild		Ann Delach & Mary O'Dea
Offering Counters		Kevin Oliva & Lewis Balsizer
Ushers Nov 6 & 13		Becky McKenzie, Braxton McKenzie, Lewis Balsizer and Bob Williams
	Nov 20 & 27	Wayne Tolzman, Jim Clark, Bob Delach and Pete Williams
Greeters	Nov 6	Bob Delach & Jim Clark
	Nov 13	June Kiepke & Pat Smith
	Nov 20	Patty Tolzman & Wayne Tolzman
	Nov 27	Lisa Buzek & Braily Buzek

**Please make arrangements for a substitute
if you are unable to serve as listed.**

Greetings,

Grace and peace to you and all your loved ones. This month gives us opportunities to give thanks to God and all those who have touched our lives.



I will be starting a new Bible study in December. The Bible studies will be two weeks long. They will cover a lectionary biblical pericope. That means they will cover an assigned reading for worship. In fact, it will be a Bible reading that I will be preaching for my sermon. The schedule will also be available on the St Paul Lutheran Church face book page.

The Bible verses and dates will be announced in our newsletters and worship bulletins. You can also contact me anytime for the bible verses.

This Bible study will be held by email. I ask that you sign up and notify me at the email address we will be using for the Bible study (nptstudy@hotmail.com) I will send out questions and such starting Monday. For those unable to participate in the electronic bible study, I will also have a personal session at St Paul Lutheran Church on Wednesdays from 10:30- 12 noon during the weeks the Bible studies are scheduled. . In fact, you are welcome to participate in both.

I will be using various bible study techniques throughout the year. My hope is you will find our trip together meaningful. I hope you will join us.

Due to the holidays we will have one bible study our first month in December instead of two.. The email Bible study will be from **Dec 5 to Dec 15**. The bible verses we will cover in our first Bible study will be; **John 1: 6-8, 19-28**. Bible study at St Paul Lutheran Church will be **Wednesday Dec 7 and 14**.

Thanks and looking forward to this new part of our journey together

Blessings,
Pr-ray .



It's coming up! Our **St. Paul Yard Sale** is Friday and Saturday, November 11 & 12 !! What a great opportunity for us to clean out and help others *recycle and reuse* our unwanted stuff! Have you brought your items for the sale? The garage will be open on Sundays to store your yard sale donations. Or, bring your things during the set-up evenings.

Set-Up is Wednesday, Nov. 9 and Thursday Nov. 10 from 6 – 8 p.m. in the Snyder Building. **We need your help to set up** and you might just find a bargain you can't resist! You can buy it half-price and take it home that evening! Pizza will be served for all hard workers on set-up nights!

We have two shifts for the Sale. Come either 7:00 – 10:00 a.m. or 10:00 – 1:00 p.m. Or...come for just an hour or two to help out, cashier, bag, or price and straighten. Sign up to help on Saturday selling or cooking hot dogs and hamburgers for our hungry customers. The weather should be pleasant and it's a fun day to be outside. St. Paul workers eat lunch FREE on Saturday!

Invite your neighbors and friends to join us both days for our **Yard Sale** and set up a table near the parking lot. The space fee is only \$5 and they can pay when they arrive. No reservations needed. Help publicize by spreading the word about our great sale! Take a handful of the yard sale flyers to pass out or hang up wherever you can! Together we can make a good impression on the neighborhood and all the yard sale shoppers.



Worship Committee

We continued to be blessed to have Dennis Douglas as our interim Organist and Choir Director. I hope you all have been enjoying the services and the changes brought.

We jumped in with both feet to learn Setting One from the ELW with the choir leading the way. It was a big change but I think people have caught on and I think the liturgy is beautiful. We ended October with Reformation Service and Confirmation. Pr and Dennis worked together to make this a special service for all and I hope you felt the same.

Moving forward we will have Pr. Keen substituting on All Saints Sunday and Pr Rita Gardner-Tweed substituting on the second Sunday in November. All Saints Sunday is a white Sunday and we would normally change the setting to Now the Feast and Celebration but with all of the changes occurring lately we thought we would just stay with Setting One. Don't worry, if you love NTFAC it will still be around.

November 27th is the first Sunday in advent and is the beginning of the church year. We are going to change to With One Voice, Setting 5 for Advent. This is the fun liturgy that sounds so pretty on the piano. I hope you enjoy.

As for Advent, Mid Week Services begin at Faith on November 30th and rotate back to St. Paul Dec 7th, Faith 14th and finishing at St Paul 21st. Potluck dinner begins at 6:15 and services follow at 7. Christmas Eve services will be at 7:30 at Faith and 11 pm at St. Paul.

The ladies will be decorating the church Saturday, December 3rd beginning at 9 am. Please come and help if you would like to take part in the transformation.

I hope you continue to like the changes and find worship beautiful and meaningful. I hope to see you in church and welcome all comments both likes and dislikes.

Natalie Benham, Worship Chair

NOVEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
<p>Sunday School 10AM</p> <p>Eucharist Service 11am</p>	<p>St Paul Quilters Meet Mondays 10 am</p>	1	2 Choir Rehearsal
6 Commitment Sunday and Lunch	7	8 Council Meeting 7 pm	9 Choir Rehearsal
13 2PM PEACE EVENT	14	15 OSHNA Meeting 6:30 PM	16 Choir Rehearsal
20	21 Phoebe Circle 1:30pm In the lounge	22	23 Choir Rehearsal
	28	29	30 Advent Service Faith Dinner 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal
Peace Church Meets Sundays 2 pm	<p><i>Together We Can</i> meets at 6:30pm</p> <p><i>New Bite of Serenity</i> every weekday 11-1</p>		<i>Sunset Solutions</i> meets at 5:30pm

2011

	Thu	Fri	Sat
sal 7pm	3	4 Non Member Wed- ding 6pm	5 Non Member Wed- ding 10 am
sal 7pm	10 Bible Study at Faith 10:30am Lee PTA Meeting 6:30pm	11 YARD SALE PEACE EVENT	12 YARD SALE PEACE EVENT
sal 7pm	17 Bible Study at Faith 10:30am Rebecca Circle 7pm	18	19
sal 7pm	 <p><i>Thanksgiving</i></p>	25	26
ce at 6pm sal			
t m	A New Way Thurs at 8pm		Woman's Stand meets at 7pm



I want to start out by quoting parts of an article I found on the ELCA website about Stewardship and “Our understanding of time”, by Keith A. Mundy.

In the Book of Ecclesiastes, Chapter 3 offers familiar words about time. In verses 11-14, the contradiction between God’s view of time and a human view of time becomes clear. God was present in the beginning and

will be present at the end. Nothing can be added to it. Nothing can be taken away from it. As God’s people we live with the daily responsibilities and tasks to be accomplished. We often put in a finite dimension and feel the pressure of time in the form of a deadline. Is this really what God intended? How are we stewards of time?

As a person gets older, the days seem to pass more quickly. Sometimes we forget the significance God places in each increment of time.

What is the value of a year?

Ask someone who has been diagnosed with a terminal disease.

What is the value of a month?

Ask the mother whose baby arrived prematurely.

What is the value of one minute?

Ask someone who just missed their plane.

What is the value of a second or millisecond?

Ask an Olympic athlete who came in second place.

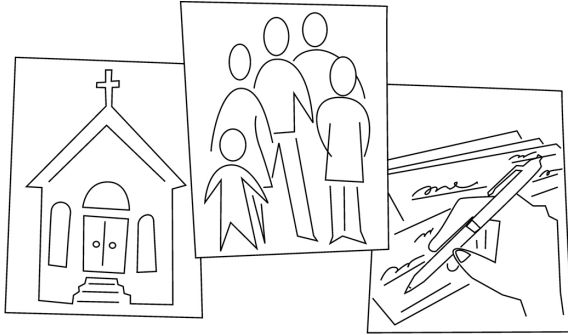
It is now “time” for this year’s stewardship program to conclude with you, the members of St Paul Lutheran Church, being asked to make a commitment for the upcoming year of 2012. We first want to thank each and every member for their current commitment and are hopeful for your next year’s commitment in such hard economic times. You will be asked to write down an amount that you can make a commitment of on November 6th. This will allow the budget committee to start to work on the 2012 budget. Without your timely commitments to St Paul Lutheran it becomes difficult for the budget committee to bring the member-

ship an accurate 2012 budget to be voted on at the Annual meeting that is scheduled for January 29th, 2012.

St Paul Lutheran's commitment Sunday will be on November 6th and will conclude with the fellowship meal after Sunday services in the Snyder building. The meal and beverages will be provided, but with all of the wonderful bakers we have at St Paul Lutheran, the addition of salads and desserts would be just wonderful and I am sure very tasty. A stewardship video will be playing during the meal to show us some of the wonderful stewardship stories of the ELCA.

Thank you and look forward to seeing you on Commitment Sunday, November 6th.

Stewardship committee



Commitment Sunday

Simply Giving

A simple and convenient way to give

This fall, consider signing up for electronic giving. **St. Paul** relies on the financial support of the congregation and electronic giving offers an easy way to give on a recurring basis. Please contact the church office for details.

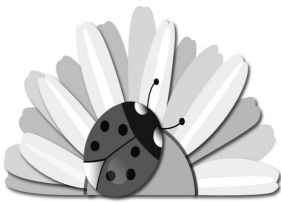
Thank you!

IT'S FOOTBALL SEASON!



And our team is *Hillsborough High School!* The last game of this season regular is November 11th against Chamberlain. Go, BIG RED!

Check your calendar, and come out to help park cars or sell hot dogs. We need food sellers, money takers, parkers and "flashlight wavers" to bring cars into our parking lot. All workers enjoy a grilled hot dog supper on the house. We start about **6 p.m.** and end about **8 p.m.** Only a couple hours of your time, and you can help represent our church in the community.



CIRCLES

PHOEBE CIRCLE October 17th
1:30 pm Lounge
Leader: Alice Spafford
Hostess: Marty Wegner

REBECCA CIRCLE
November 17th 7:30 PM
Leader: Natalie Benham
Hostess: Carol Moberg



HAPPY THANKSGIVING

Heavenly Father, on Thanksgiving Day
We bow our hearts to You and pray.
We give You thanks for all You've done
Especially for the gift of Jesus, Your Son.
For beauty in nature, Your glory we see
For joy and health, friends and family,
For daily provision, Your mercy and care
These are the blessings You graciously share.
So today we offer this response of praise
With a promise to follow You all of our days.

--Mary Fairchild

Please be Praying for...

Watch dear Lord, with those who wake, watch over, or weep. Tend the sick, rest the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous. In your love give us all this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Members: Lillian Arnold, Dave & Rose Demko, Margaret Elliott, Lou Falter, Yvonne Feagin, Annie & Russell Goldsmith, Carol Llosa, Isabelle Morrell, Norma Morrell, Blanche Philamalee, Jeanne Pursell, Alice Spafford, Dot Servis and Kathy Stroupe and our friends and family...

Janice Armstrong	<i>friend of</i>	Alice Spafford
DeeAnn Bennett	<i>sister of</i>	Donna Prisley
Kenneth Campbell	<i>brother of</i>	Pete Campbell
Justin Hall	<i>grandson of</i>	Jeanne Purcell
Glenn Hommert	<i>cousin of</i>	Lou Falter
Bill Joyner	<i>friend of</i>	Pete Campbell
Belle Mitchell	<i>niece of</i>	Dave & Kathy Stroupe
Linda Oliver	<i>friend of</i>	Pat Smith
Michele Pippin	<i>friend of</i>	Lou Falter
Mon a Rounds	<i>friend of</i>	Kathy Stroupe
Elaine Schweinsberg	<i>friend of</i>	St. Paul
Betty Sherrill	<i>friend of</i>	Lou Falter
Patricia Stitt	<i>daughter of</i>	Alice Spafford
Tori Stitt	<i>granddaughter of</i>	Alice Spafford
Mel & Elizabeth Stroupe	<i>mother of</i>	Parents of Dave Stroupe
Derek Tews	<i>son of</i>	Charlotte Tews
Joyce Tetlow	<i>friend of</i>	St. Paul
Michael Tibbs	<i>friend of</i>	Mary O'Dea
Gloria Tillis	<i>mother of</i>	Ron Tillis
Diane Tolzman	<i>mother of</i>	Wayne Tolzman
Lacey Zulewski	<i>friend of</i>	Natalie Benham

Please help keep our list up to date. Call the office with any changes that need to be made.

IMPORTANT CHURCH INFORMATION

The deadline for the December Epistle is
November 20, 2010.

St. Paul Lutheran Church (ELCA)

A member of New Parish of Tampa with Faith Lutheran Church

The church is located just west of I-275 at the Hillsborough
Avenue exit and three blocks south on Central Avenue.

Worship services with Holy Communion are held at 11am
each Sunday.

You may reach the church office at (813) 239-3113,
or by email stpaulslutherantpa@verizon.net.

Office hours are available Tuesday & Wednesday
from 10am-1pm. Or by Appointment.

Find us on the web at www.stpaultampa.org



**St. Paul Lutheran Church
5103 N. Central Avenue
Tampa, Florida 33603-4331**

**RETURN
SERVICE
REQUESTED**