

## The Vision

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The Vision is a monthly publication of:  
**St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church – Red Hill, PA**

The Vision

Volume 51 † Number 1

January 2012

### Sunday Schedule

- Early Communion Service ● 8:00 AM
- Sunday Church School ● 9:15 AM
- Contemporary Service ● 9:15 AM
- Traditional Service ● 10:30 AM

### Church Office Hours

Monday-Friday 8AM-1PM; 1:30-4:30 PM

### The Upper Perkiomen Child Care Center

- a ministry of St. Paul's  
Weekdays: Mon-Fri 6:30 AM - 6:00 PM  
infant, toddler, 3&4 yrs., Pre-K, 6-12 yrs.

### Not to be missed...

- Parish Register & Birthdays ~ 2
- Prayers & Retire/Nursing Homes ~ 3
- Health Advocates Ministry & United Way ~ 4
- Bible Quiz Advent/Thrivent ~ 5
- Lunch Bunch/Phone Extensions ~ 6
- Christian Symbols/ Dates/New Years ~ 7
- Confirmation/Stories ~ 8
- Chester/Gratitude/Ways To Help ~ 9
- Growing In Grace ~ 10
- UPCCC/Article ~ 11
- Upcoming Events/Music/Adopt an Inmate ~ 12
- ASP Dinner/Annual Report/Elevator ~ 13
- Puzzle /Victory House ~ 14
- Marriage Encounter /Women's Retreat ~ 14
- Calendar/Worship Assistants ~ 15-16

### ~STATEMENT OF MISSION~

St. Paul's, a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, is a gathering of God's people called to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ. To fulfill our mission we are committed to be a faith community that:

- invites and welcomes others to share in the ministry of this church;
- gathers in joyful thanksgiving to be nourished by God's gifts of Word and Sacrament;
- promotes daily discipleship of its members by following Christ's example
- provides a variety of opportunities for making Christ's love known through worship, education, fellowship, service and the stewardship of God's gifts;
- responds to Christ's call for justice and peace in our community and world.

**Partners in Mission in the Body of Christ**

**JANUARY  
BIRTHDAYS**



Ministers: The People of St. Paul's  
 Pastor: William A. Vanderslice 541-4130  
 Pastoral Intern: Vicar Ryan Ferwerda 679-5553  
 Council President: Mr. Robert Foreman 267 923-8895  
 Dir. Of Ed. & Family Min: Mrs. Bonnie Bonser 679-0221  
 Minister of Music:  
 Parish Assistant: Mrs. Karen Quinn 679-5553  
 Financial Secretary: Mrs. Nancy Nase 679-5553  
 Parish Sexton: Mr. Scott Moyer 679-5553  
 Child Care Coordinators: Teresa Kulp-Pre-School 679-0221  
 Sandy Young, School-Age 697-0221  
 Child Care Admin Asst. Mrs. Beth Nichols 679-0221

2 Paul Godshall  
 Suzanne Fox  
 Brittany Mroz  
 Alec Sabatini  
 Joseph Oswald  
 3 Verna Thomas  
 Sandra Reeder 20  
 Randy Kline 21  
 Cassidy Keyser  
 5 Deborah Gryshuk 22  
 David McMurtrie  
 Sarena Breyer  
 Timothy Jacobs 24  
 Margie Rodenberger 7  
 Brooke Oliver 25  
 Katie Sheeran  
 8 Todd Gilbert  
 Denise Klavon 26  
 Ty Frank  
 9 Jessie Wonsidler  
 James Lemon Sr 27  
 Michael Lafferty  
 Aaron Rogers  
 10 Jonathan Juzbasic 28  
 Brian Doremus  
 Landon Taylor  
 Kyle Himmelwright  
 Harrison Kauffman  
 Hunter Kauffman 29  
 12 William Mensch  
 Christopher Struble  
 13 Tony Gitney III  
 Liam Rea  
 14 Diane Palencar  
 Jake Krempasky 30  
 Heather Smith  
 15 Bradley Shup  
 16 Warren Stevens 31  
 17 Forrest Allebach  
 Herbert Wolf  
 Alice Davis  
 Pauline Nester  
 Chelsea Coleman  
 18 Thomas Sell  
 Jessica Phillips  
 19 Barry Troxel  
 Ryan Lafferty

Holly Gilbert  
 Louise Mest  
 Aidan Patterson  
 Mary Bonar  
 Alayna Rea  
 Donovan Hanney  
 Gavin Scott  
 Madelyn Smith  
 Thomas Roth  
 Lauren Gibbs  
 Bryce Wadsworth  
 Jerry Landis  
 Karen Hitchcock  
 Keeley Schafer  
 Robert Schwenk  
 Vincent Brown  
 Jeffrey Johnson  
 Kaity Watts  
 Donna Schwenk  
 Stephanie Smith  
 Steven Johnson  
 James Long III  
 Grace Leister  
 Francis Schwenk  
 Merle Weeks  
 Nancy Grim  
 Barbara Nace  
 Joy Fenstermacher  
 Jeannette Bower  
 Lisa Walter  
 Steven Martin  
 Lori Rothenberger  
 Robert Oliver

**Our Congregational Council**

Karen Cummins  
 Robert Foreman, *President*  
 Janet Hill, *Co-Secretary*  
 Charles Shagg, *Treasurer*  
 Linda Smith  
 Barry Troxel  
 Robert Walp

John Ferraro  
 Gary Hager  
 Donna Montich, *Co-Secretary*  
 John Sheeran  
 Henry Thomas, *Vice President*  
 William A. Vanderslice, *Pastor*

**Committees, Groups & Organizations**

Alcoholics Anonymous Wednesday @ 8 PM  
 Altar Guild Bonnie Thomas 679-5553  
 Appalachia Service Project Ron Rodenberger/Matt Stever  
 Cemetery Association Henry Thomas 679-2902  
 Cherub Choir Patricia Klinger 610-265-3869  
 Christian Education Patricia Klinger 610-265-3869  
 Finance Charles Shagg 679-2083  
 Evangelism  
 Kitchen Donna Stever 679-7521  
 Men's Fellowship Church Office 679-5553  
 Music Committee Mr. Reiner Mauer 679-6886  
 Narcotics Anonymous Sunday @ 8 PM  
 Newsletter – Vision Church Office 679-5553  
 Prison Ministry Bonnie Bonser 679-9126  
 Property Frank Grim 679-5553  
 Stewardship Committee Rbt. Foreman/Rbt. Walp  
 Girl Scouts Karen Britton 215-679-4943  
 Cub Scouts Tracy Lauenders 215-703-3162  
 Youth Team

*Did we miss your birthday? We apologize, and hope you will let us know so we can add it to our list.*

## *In Our Prayers*

### **~Hospitalized In The Last Month~**

Alma Leister – Genesis - Phoenixville

### **~At Home~**

Barry Angstadt Cousin of Shirley Kaiser

Paul Angstadt Cousin of Shirley Kaiser

Ronnie Angstadt Cousin of Shirley Kaiser

The Blanchek Family – Cousins of

Diane McMurtrie

Gloria Bobyak – Friend of Linda Shagg

John Bolton

David Brey – Brother of Edith Stevens

Richard Croisette – Claude's brother

Jean Cupach – Sister of Alice Oliver

Joe DiCarlo

Harry Diehl – Brother of Barbara Roeder

Michael Dziedzic- brother L Foreman

Cory Fenstermaker

Gregg Fetterman -- Cousins of

Diane McMurtrie

Lewis Fluck- father of Anne Gabel

Jeffrey Fox- son of D & L Fox

Michael Fox grandson of D & L Fox

Dick Frederick – Friend of Grim's

Don Fuoss- Donna Montich's father

Orphia Gardian-D Richard's mother

Evelyn Gerhard

the Goodwin family

Bill Gredicek – *nephew of Bonnie Thomas*

Steve Green- son of Barb Green

Frank Grim

Ray Grucello

Jeff Gruskaw -son in law of Lechner's

Arlene Hackman

Ward Haines- Bonnie Ferrero's dad

Lindee Harney- friend of K Creghan

Miles Hontz

Wm. Kelso- neighbor of Leister's

Shirley Keyser

Wyatt Kilheffner

Eleanor King-home

Carol Kratzer

Diane Landis

Jerry Landis

Kevin Langenbach -Father of Kip &  
Kristen

Frannie Lechner

Donald Lechner

R & G Leister- Alice Hager's parents

The Levine Family

Betty Lonergan- K Cummins' mother

Bob Mackon

Nick Mantell

Shirley Marconi- D Turofski's mother

Molly Mauro- J McMurtrie's cousin

David McMurtrie- deployed

Sharon McMurtrie-sister-in-law of Jeff

Steven Moyer,Jr.-USN son of

N McClain

Louise Mest

Calvin Miller

Donald Moll- friend of Loretta Baver

Delue Moyer

Sharon Moyer- wife of Scott Moyer

Bill Mullin- friend of Carol Elias

Pastor Bill Phillips- LCT Nursing

Elsie Rehak

Franklin Renninger

Tom Roth – Son of Fern Roth

Lee Rose- friend of the Grim's

Sandy Roth- home

Jim Russ – Uncle of Betsy Ferwerda

Tom Sands

Marianne Schatz

Christoph Schmidt

Mildred Seasholtz

Kelly Sell- Diane Schantz's daughter

Braden Sell- nephew of Jeremiah Sell  
& Heather Walter

Landon Shoemaker- grandson of

Cheryl & Larry Weiss

Laura Harriet Smith- A Zepp's sister

Arlene Smoll

Walter Stevens- cousin of Betty

Treffinger & Leroy & Rbt

Stevens

Kevin Steinman- nephew of Ida Benner

Regina Stifter- friend of Janet Hill

Sarah Sweinhart- sister of D Schaffer

Jeanette Terpoilli

Carl Thomas- brother of H Thomas

Shelby Thomas

Verna Thomas

Betty Treffinger

Barry Troxel

Bob Twisdale

Barbara Woehr – Grand View

Gene Woehr

Robert Wood

Nancy Yerger



## *Retirement & Nursing*

### *Frederick Mennonite Community*

Norman Benner

Ginny Dale

Charles Keck

Don & Frannie Lechner

Anna Mensch

### *Genesis, Phoenixville*

Alma Leister

### *Life Quest, Quakertown*

Grace Leister

### *Little Lehigh Manor*

George & Patricia Hoffman

### *Lutheran Community at Telford*

Betty Mensch

R. William Phillips

Evelyn Gerhard

### *Souderton Mennonite*

Alverda Smoll

### *Pennsburg Manor*

Dalton Boehm

Theresa Kautz

Marion Henry

### *Manor Care Home, Allentown*

Gladys Hetrick

Gene Woehr

### *~In Memory~*

We remember in our prayers Linda Shagg and the Shagg family on the death of Linda's Brother Alan Brandal on Sunday December 18<sup>th</sup>, and the family of Alverda Smoll who died on December 20, 2011.

*~Health Advocates Ministry~*

Here's an idea for a new year's resolution: have family dinners! U.S. researchers report that kids who actually sit down and eat with their families, at least 3 times a week, are less likely to be overweight. Their odds of being overweight lowered 12 percent. They were also 20 percent less likely to eat junk food, 35 percent less likely to have eating problems, and 24 percent more likely to eat vegetables and other healthy foods. However, some discount these findings because they were based only on observations. Amber Hammons, University of Ill. psychologist, states, "Families who sit down together could be healthier to begin with." Any way you look at it, family meals do matter.



*~To Ensure Hospital Visitation~*

To ensure pastoral visitations, please give permission to the hospital to include your name in the patient information directory and also to notify the church office.

*~Lutheran Charities United Way Donor Choice~*

If you would like to participate in giving to the fall United Way Campaign through Lutheran Charities please use the following information:

United Way Donor Choice-  
Lutheran Charities #00390  
That number will give a general donation. You can choose to specify a social ministry if you like:

Artman #00514  
Ken Crest #00839  
Lutheran Children & Family Services #04024  
Lutheran Settlement House #00390  
Mary J. Drexel Home #00617  
Paul's Run #02628  
Silver Springs-Martin Luther School #03544



*~Current Staff Email Addresses~*

**Pastor William A Vanderslice**  
stpaulpastorvanderslice@comcast.net

**Vicar Ryan Ferwerda**  
stpaulredhillvicar@comcast.net

**Director of Ed. & Family Ministry ~ Bonnie Bonser**  
Stpaulupccc-ed-dir@comcast.net

**Parish Assistant ~ Karen Quinn**  
stpaulredhill@comcast.net

**Minister of Music**  
stpaulredhillmusician@comcast.net

**Child Care Office ~ Beth Nichols**  
stpaulupccc@comcast.net

**UPCCC Child Care Coordinators**  
Teresa Kulp and Sandy Young  
stpaulupccc-coord@comcast.net

If you have an e-mail address and would like to receive information from the church via e-mail, please email us with your address so that we can add it to our e-mail list.

*~Resolutions~*

What if we took our lengthy lists of changes we want to make in the new year and narrowed them down — year down? Rather than making a half dozen or more commitments that we're unlikely to keep, how about zeroing in on a single word that captures the essence of what we want to achieve or become?

North Carolina pastor Mike Ashcraft encouraged church members to each find one word that described a characteristic or vision they wanted to achieve in the year ahead. The experiment turned into a movement, with ideas and testimonials available at myoneword.org.

What would your one-word resolution be?

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Carl F. Slonaker, Jr., F.D. Supervisor  
222 Washington Street, East Greenville PA 18041  
215-679-9589

~Bible Quiz~



In the book of Judges, a cycle is repeated many times: The Israelites do “what is evil in the sight of the Lord,” God hands them over to an enemy nation, they cry out to the Lord and he appoints a judge, or political/military leader, for them. Under the judge’s leadership, the Israelites

conquer their adversary and prosper — until they start doing “what is evil in the sight of the Lord” all over again. Who was not one of these judges?

- A. Deborah
- B. Ehud
- C. Esau
- D. Shamgar

ANSWER: C (ESAU)

~Advent Explained~

Advent — the first season of the liturgical year — includes the four Sundays and weeks prior to December 25. Advent dates from the fourth century, when it lasted 40 days and included fasting and solemnity, much like Lent.

Advent is from Adventus, Latin for “coming,” referring to Jesus’ birth in Bethlehem and also his second coming. The traditional colors of Advent are purple for penitence or blue for hope.

Observing Advent is a meaningful, adventurous way to prepare for Christmas. Buy or make an Advent wreath and use candles of your choice: four blue, four purple, or three blue or purple and one pink. If you have a fifth spot, add one white Christ candle. During meals or devotions, light only one candle the first week. Add another for each new week (the pink candle traditionally marks the third week), concluding with the white candle (if you have one) on Christmas. The increasing light reminds us we’re getting closer to celebrating Christ’s light coming into the world.

~Special Thanks~

Thank you to Barry Troxel and Larry Weiss for their assistance in accessing drain pipes buried in 12 inches of concrete for the main level rest room. After removing over 12 inches of concrete the plumber will be able to proceed with necessary drain repair. Apparently in 1957 it was a practice to submerge drain pipes in concrete.

~Thrivent Financial~

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Cell: 215-527-1380

Thrivent Financial as a fraternal company provided more than \$100 million last year to help congregations, communities and individuals in need.

St. Paul’s – Red Hill participates in the Thrivent Care in Community® matching funds program by supporting a local food pantry, soup kitchen, prison ministry, medical assistance and annual servant trip for home repairs in the Appalachia mountains.

A new program Thrivent Choice enables benefit members to designate Thrivent Choice dollars to St. Paul’s benevolent fund.

Pastor Vanderslice serves on the Upper Montgomery Chapter Board as Vice President and Coordinator of the Care in Community® program.



**~Church Phone Extensions~**

When calling the church or UPCCC, enter the extension for the person or classroom you wish to contact.

Callers without a touch tone phone will be transferred to the church office automatically.

**St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church**

- Church Office: Ext. 110
- Child Care Coordinator Ext. 122
- Education Director Ext. 125
- Financial Secretary Ext. 126
- Musician Ext. 124
- Sexton Ext. 127
- Pastor Ext. 111
- Vicar (Pastoral Intern) Ext. 112

**Upper Perkiomen Child Care Center**

- Little Explorere Ext. 118
- Kindergarten Ext. 113
- Pre K Ext. 119
- Pre-School Ext. 115
- Twoodles Ext. 120
- School Age/Fellowship Hall Ext. 116
- Nursery Ext. 117
- Church Library Ext. 123

**~The Lunch Bunch~**  
*A Fellowship Group for the Young at Heart*

HAPPY NEW YEAR! Come to Lunch Bunch on **Wednesday, January 11, 2012 at 11:30 am** in Church Fellowship Hall. We will celebrate the arrival of 2012 with our annual New Year's Party. No need to pack your lunch, just bring your mug. We will be entertained by Mr. David Luz presenting an "Old Time Tour of The Upper Perkiomen Valley." It promises to be very informative and interesting. Don't forget to bring your Redner Save-A-Tape Register Tapes that you have been saving. Thanks so much and we will see you on January 11.

**~Cemetery Flowers~**  
*Please assist with the care of the cemetery*  
*Within 30 days after any holiday or special occasion,*  
*please remove from the church cemetery floral*  
*decoration, flower plants, and faded artificial*  
*arrangements*



Jack Monaghan  
**Funeral Director**  
 612 Main Street  
 Red Hill, PA 18076  
 215-679-6400  
 jhanfuneralhome.com

**~Bulletin & Sanctuary Lamp Sponsorship~**  
*Do you want to remember someone? Celebrate*  
*something special with a loved one?*  
*Sponsor the Bulletin or Sanctuary Lamp for a given*  
*Sunday. A sign-up sheet is located in the elevator*  
*hallway on the bulletin board. \$20.00 donation*  
*required. We appreciate your support.*

~Christian Symbols~



“Ecce Agnus Dei”

Latin for “Behold, the Lamb of God,” this is the phrase John the Baptist used twice to point out Jesus to others (John 1:29, 36). It marks Jesus’ Epiphany (manifestation, revelation) as the Anointed One (Christ, Messiah).

~Paper Recycling~

Please help support UPCCC by bringing your paper to the recycle bin located in the lower child care parking lot. Newspapers, magazines, and junk mail are welcome. Please, no cardboard, that can’t be recycle here. Thanks.



1418 Main Street  
Hellertown, PA 18055  
Donna M. Falk, Supv.  
610.838.9191

email: [memorial@falkfuneralhomes.com](mailto:memorial@falkfuneralhomes.com)

163 Main Street  
Pennsburg, PA 18073  
Frank J. Falk, Supv  
215.679.5933

~Special Dates~

- New Year’s Day, January 1
- Epiphany, January 6
- Baptism of the Lord, January 8
- ASP Pork Dinner January 14
- Martin Luther King Jr.’s Birthday Observance, January 16,
- Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, January 18–25
- Parish Annual Meeting January 29



~New Year’s Blessing~

May God make your year a happy one!  
Not by shielding you from all sorrow and pain,  
But by strengthening you to bear it as it comes;  
Not by making your path easy,  
But by making you sturdy to travel any path;  
Not by taking hardships from you,  
But by taking fear from your heart;  
Not by granting you unbroken sunshine,  
But by keeping your face bright, even in the shadows;  
Not by making your life always pleasant,  
But by showing you when people and their causes need  
you most,  
and by making you anxious to be there to help.  
God’s love, peace, hope and joy to you for the year  
ahead.

—Author unknown



### ~ Confirmation Ministry ~

Confirmation ministry is underway and is an opportunity to grow in our relationship with Jesus Christ, affirm the Christian faith, and assume a larger role in the life of the Christian community through service to our neighbors. The Classes are listed below. Confirmation offers us an opportunity to pray for those who are experiencing this ministry and to help and encourage them in their studies.

- 01.08.2012 – Class | January 8 | 4:30 PM – note: 2nd Sunday in January
- 02.05.2012 – Class | February 5 | 4:30 PM
- 02.22.2012 - February 22 | 7:30 PM – *Ash Wednesday Service*
- 03.04.2012 – Class | March 4 | 4:30 PM
- 04.01.2012 – April 1 – no class meeting. Youth attend Wednesday. Lenten and Holy Week Services
- 04.05.2012 – April 5 | 7:30 PM - *Maundy Thursday service*
- 04.06.2012 – April 6 | 7:30 PM – *Good Friday Service*
- 04.08.2012 – April 8 – *Easter Sunday*
- 05.06.2012 – Class | May 6 | 4:30 PM
- 05.27.2012 – May 27 – *Pentecost Sunday | Confirmation*

### ~ Epiphany ~

The word epiphany means to show forth. Epiphanies, both large and small, tend to be private events — yet events with great significance for the public. Trying to share the details with another of an epiphany is fraught with complications. The words are never quite right, and even the most sympathetic listener cannot fully bridge the gap between description and what it was like being there. Most of us keep our personal experiences of the Holy to ourselves. Who would believe it? And who would really understand? The irony is that epiphanies are made for sharing, even as they are impossible to communicate fully.

—Father Thomas Rosica (zenit.org)



### ~ God Doesn't Give Up ~

Everyone seems to have at least one resolution that seems impossible to keep. And that can become very discouraging.

The prophet Jeremiah, who had his own reasons to feel down, wrote, “The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness” (Lamentations 3:22-23, NRSV).

God refuses to give up on us. When we lose hope, when we fail and fall short, his mercy never runs out. Tomorrow is full of promise and our Lord’s unceasing love.



### ~ What Not To Take Into The New Year~

- Self-help books — Trust in God first; don’t turn to him as a last resort. (See Proverbs 3:5-6.)
- Tape measure — Consider only God’s standards; don’t compare yourself to other people. (See Luke 18:9-14.)
- Rearview mirror — Don’t live in the past. You’ll miss out on what God is doing in your life now. (See Philippians 3:12-14.)
- Gavel — Instead of judging others, pray for them, help them and team with them. (See Luke 6:37-38.)
- Life vest — Don’t be overly cautious spiritually. Peter experienced Jesus in a real way because he dared to step out of the boat. (See Matthew 14:22-33.)

### ~Without Fail~

I was once young and now I am old, but not once have I been witness to God’s failure to supply my need when first I had given for the furtherance of his work. He has never failed in his promise, so I cannot fail in my service to him.

—William Carey

~Chester Squeaks – Er - Speaks~



Happy New Year! Here we are beginning the year 2012. Where does the time go? I have heard you humans say that the older you get, the quicker time passes. Well, I'm here to tell you that it seems to pass faster and faster for this little mouse too! Sometimes I envy my Southern cousins. They seem to take life at a slower pace. Speaking of life at a slower pace, I just want you to know that your pastor still moves too fast for me, but just not for as long. Maybe we have to get older to realize what's the rush.

Anyway, here we are back to January and starting out anew, all over again, in a brand new year. That can give you a feeling of expectancy either of faith or fear. Hopefully you are trusting in the Lord to take care of you and to meet all your needs as He has promised. Sure the world continues to look darker and more scary, but God has not changed and His Word has not changed. He has promised never to leave you. He is still your Shepherd in whom you can say "I shall not want." And when the world seems darker, then you, who are called to be light, shine brighter. No matter what this new year brings, it is where you place your trust, whether you choose to believe, and how you think that will make all the difference. As it says in Proverbs, as a man (person) thinks in his heart, so is he. Make sure you have a trusting heart, a merry heart that does good like a medicine. So take your medicine every day - the God pill, and praise the Lord for all He does for you!

I do want to take the time to say thank you to each and every one of you who provided for the needs on the Warm Heart Tree this year. God gave His best when He gave His Son and He is a God who gives His grace fresh and new every morning. We are to imitate Him so we should be givers also. And not just at Christmas but each and every day of our lives. That would make a great New Year's resolution. Isn't that what you humans do? And this is one

resolution that you should keep the entire new year and for the rest of your lives. Community places like Open Line need help all year around. So don't forget the peanut butter promise you have made as a congregation. And believe me, as much as my family loves peanut butter, we would never think of taking any for ourselves!

As we begin a new year remember, church is only church if UR in it. That means U R the chURch. It takes all of you doing a lot more than just sitting in the pews for one hour on a Sunday morning. I get to see those who come in during the week and help with whatever task that needs doing. Your time, talent, and resources are needed to keep your church a place where the community of believers can come together as the family of God. Ask what you can do and where you are needed. It's a great way to give.

Enjoy the January events such as the Lunch Bunch New Year's party and all the other goings on this month. Slow down and appreciate each day as a gift from God to you. Bless someone each day. And thank God for His goodness. My family and I wish you a blessed, healthy, and prosperous New Year! And remember, the walls have ears.

~Chester

~Waiting To Bloom~

A song called "The Rose" (written by Amanda McBroom and made popular by Bette Midler) encourages listeners to keep the faith, even when the source of our hope isn't visible.

In the depths of winter, we especially need the reminder that beneath mounds of snow lie seeds already being prepared to burst forth "with the sun's love" into springtime flowers.

When you're in the cold depths of despair, grief, illness or other struggles, remember the deeply buried seed. Beyond your view, God's love is already tending that seed, readying it to blossom into healing, new friendship, joy and life.

~ Ways to Help~

**Do you know of people on the prayer list who perhaps are not in need of prayer?** We love to offer prayers for all those in need, and it's wonderful that we can come together as a family of faith and do so. Our list has gotten long enough that we need to do some housekeeping. Please let us know if anyone you've placed on the list is well enough that they may not be as in need of prayer. Thank you.

**\*\*\*FLOWERS:** There are many openings for people to sponsor Altar and Chancel flowers. Please call Heather Walter at 215-541-4069 if you wish to sponsor flowers. Arrangements start at \$35.00

*~Growing in Grace~*

"When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, 'I am Almighty God; walk before Me and be blameless. And I will make a covenant between Me and you, and will multiply you exceedingly.'" Genesis 17:1,2

"And Abraham said, 'God will provide for Himself the lamb for the burnt offering.'" Genesis 22:8

Here we are at the beginning of a new year 2012. According to Hollywood, this may be the last year on the earth as we know it. However, my trust is not in Hollywood but in the God (Elohim) who created the heavens and the earth and all things. Besides, the Bible in Matthew 24:36 where Jesus is speaking of the end of the world, says, "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only." So much for Hollywood.

For many people the prospect of a new year fills them with either anticipation or worry and dread. But as Christians we should be increasing in the knowledge and understanding of our God and His Word. This should produce in us a growing faith and trust. We can believe and have total confidence in the One who has given us great and precious promises; the God who is not a man that He should lie. The One who is ever faithful. The One whose mercy is new every morning and the One whose grace is sufficient to meet all our needs.

This knowledge and understanding of God grows as we study the Word. Searching out teachings such as the meaning of the names of God also gives us more understanding into the character of God. As we pursue knowing more about our God, the Holy Spirit imparts to us by revelation how great our God is. And this is what we need - revelation of who God is. Revelation simply means an unveiling. When something is revealed to us, it goes from being hidden to brought out into the light where we see it clearly. God doesn't reveal Himself to us all at once. When we study the Old Testament we see God revealing Himself little by little to His people. Our awe of God is expanded as we realize who He is, what He has promised, and that He never changes.

Abraham grew in his understanding of God. God revealed Himself to Abraham by His names throughout Abraham's lifetime. Two of the names by which God called Himself were Almighty God and God will provide. The Hebrew El Shaddai, which is translated Almighty God in our English Bibles, introduces us to a God who is all bountiful in the fullness and fruitfulness He imparts to all who trust Him and wait patiently upon Him. Read the story of Abraham beginning in Genesis Chapter 12. God makes Abraham some awesome promises. But between

the time God makes these promises and the time God fulfills them, Abraham had to wait and learn that God could be trusted. What does knowing our God as El Shaddai teach us? The same thing it taught Abraham. That God is Almighty God who can be trusted to be bountiful to us, seeing we have all fullness - all that we need; and seeing that whatever we do is fruitful or prospers. But like Abraham, we need to trust and believe, waiting patiently for the Lord's timing.

The other name by which Abraham came to understand God was Jehovah-jireh, God will provide. If you have been reading the story of Abraham, you will know that Abraham waited 25 years for God's promise of a son. Now in Chapter 22 God is telling Abraham to sacrifice his son. Abraham's son Isaac asks his father where is the lamb for the sacrifice and Abraham responds, "God will provide for Himself the lamb for the burnt offering." Jehovah-jireh will provide. Abraham, though willing,, does not have to sacrifice his son Isaac. However, this is a future picture of our God who did sacrifice His Only Son for us! What do we learn by seeing God as our Jehovah-jireh? We know the Bible teaches God does not favor one person above another. So, if He provided for Abraham, He will provide for us. No matter what our need, no matter how great or small, our God provides for us!

Our world in 2012 may look less secure. The world may seem less prosperous, the economy more fragile. Others may be crying gloom and doom. But those of us who have El Shaddai, Almighty God, and Jehovah-jireh, God will provide, can trust and be assured that our God is for us! He will provide for us. He will deal bountifully with us. And He will see that all we do will be fruitful and prosper. That is all inclusive in His grace to us. Let's not live like the world in fear based on what the media tells us.

Let's remember who our God is and that we are believers, trusting in His grace to carry us through. Have a blessed year. Keep the faith. Jesus is coming soon! Grace ~ the power of the Holy Spirit to do in us what we can not do for and by ourselves.

*~Peanut Butter~*

Please remember we are the community's "peanut butter church" for the Open Line. Please keep those jars of peanut butter coming!

*Happy New Year*  *Happy New Year*  *Happy New Year*

*~Upper Perkiomen Child Care~  
A weekday early childhood educational  
ministry of St. Paul's*

**Nursery ~** This month is winter fun in the Nursery! We are doing different projects such as painting and coloring and playing with the color blue. We are also looking forward to seeing the snow!

**Little Explorers ~** We have been learning about winter and hibernation this month and we even made a tent so that we can pretend to hibernate, too! We are also working hard by learning to recognize our names and learning about water and ice. As a special treat, we are making marshmallow snowmen.

**Woodles ~** A new friend, Allannah Phillips, came to our room just before the new year and she is joining us in learning about winter, animal habitats, the colors black and white, and the letters in our names. We are also having fun playing outside and making birdseed snowflakes and no melt snow dough.

**Preschool ~** Our class welcomed Alexander Laubach last month and we are excited that he is here to join us in learning all about winter, animal habitats, the colors black and white, and the letter "O,A,B," and "Z." We have some special activities planned for this month such as going for a nature walk (we're hoping it snows), making peanut butter pinecone bird feeders and focusing on the new year and Martin Luther King's birthday.

**Pre-K ~** It's time for New Year's resolutions in the Pre-K room! It's also time for us to learn about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., animal resource people, the colors black and white, the number "6," and the letters "O,A,B" and "Z." Our themes for January are animal habitats, winter, health, and peacefulness and we will be having lots of fun working on our octagon collages.

**Kindergarten ~** It's winter time in our Kindergarten room and we are learning all about staying healthy during the cold months and also about animals and their habitats. We are thrilled to welcome back our friend, Nathan Neal, and to have our new friend, Olivia Smith, join us for our special project such as polar bear paints, penguin paintings, handprint koalas, and winter wonderland projects. It's also time for us to be our Kid Writing where each of us will have a collection of our own stories by the end of Kindergarten!

**School-Age ~** We have been very busy the past several months in the School-Age room! In November, we had our Thanksgiving Day dinner. It went very well and thanks to the parents for their donations. Last month, we had a lot of fun putting on our Christmas musical, "Dude, You Hear What I Hear?" We thank everyone who helped and who came out to watch our production. We also want to take a moment to welcome Gabriella Neal back to our room!



*~Home Away From Home~*

I spent five months as a college exchange student in Spain. The Sunday after I arrived, I walked to a nearby church, hoping worship would ease my homesickness. At first it didn't. The vast cathedral was a different denomination from my home church. No one welcomed me, and I couldn't comprehend all the Spanish.

As the priest began reading the gospel lesson, however, I recognized the account of Jesus' baptism. It struck me powerfully that, because our denominations shared the same lectionary (series of Scripture readings for worship), six hours later my pastor-father would be proclaiming this very passage at my home church. He would do so in a different language and to a different congregation, but it would be the same good news — indeed, the one gospel — proclaimed in my hearing.

I felt less homesick then, comforted that through Christ, the Scriptures and the church, I was connected with other Christians, even from far around the world.

—Heidi Mann

~Upcoming Events~

**Sunday Church School** | Ages 2 - grade 6 runs from 2nd Sun. of Sept. through the 4th Sun. of May on Sunday Mornings • 9:15 AM

**Jr. Youth Fellowship** - Grades 1 - 6  
Second Friday • 6:30 PM

**Sr. Youth Fellowship** - Grades 7 - 12  
Fourth Sunday • 4:30 PM

**Bible Study** Thursdays • 7:00 PM  
First & Third Thursday • 1:00 PM

**Cemetery Committee** • Third Monday • 7:00 PM

**Finance Committee** • Fourth Tuesday • 6:45 PM

**Congregational Council** • Fourth Tuesday • 7:30 PM

**Cub Scouts** meet Mondays • 6:30 PM

**Frontier Girls** (a new program) Fridays at 6:30 PM

**Daisy and Brownie Scouts**  
Meet Fridays • 6:30 PM (brownies every other week)

**Robotics Team** Tuesdays from 6:30 to 8:00 PM &  
Saturdays from 9:00 AM to 12:30 PM

**Table Talk** - Faith & Fellowship • 3rd Sunday • 4:30 PM

**Confirmation Ministry** | Grades 7, 8 & 9  
Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 Fellowship Hall

**Property Committee** • January 2<sup>nd</sup> • 7:30 PM

**Lunch Bunch** – January 11<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 AM

**Health Advocates** – Service at Pennsburg Manor January 18<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM

~ Support Groups~

**AA** – Meets every Wednesday at 8:00 PM

**NA** – Meets every Sunday at 8:00 PM

~Music Notes~

**Generations Choir** An inter-generational Choral Group  
Sunday Evening Rehearsal • 6:30 PM

**Handbell Choir** Sunday Evening Rehearsal • 7:30 PM

**Praise Team** Rehearsal on Mondays • 7:30 PM

~The Guide~

Picture a man stumbling along in a heavy fog, completely disoriented. Then, off in the distance, he sees the light of one small lamp. Its glow is sufficient neither to burn off the fog nor to illuminate the obstacles that might be on the ground between the man and that lamp. Still, it is a steadily burning lamp. Something within the man prompts him to believe that if he heads toward it, he will be going in the right direction. That “something” we can call “faith.”

While heading toward the lamp, he finds another lost man whose eyesight is so poor he can't see the lamp. The first man takes the second by the hand and helps him toward the lamp also. The act of reaching out to another we can call “love.” And the lamp that draws him? It's called “hope.”

—The Wired Word (August 7, 2011)

~ Adopt an Inmate~



Looking for a way to be salt and light in this world?

There is someone in prison who needs to see the love and grace of God in a very practical way.

If you have a heart for the lost and are willing to take the time to write a card or letter and to give \$30.00 of support per month, please contact Bonnie Bonser.

You can call, email or see Bonnie in person. Jesus is in business of changing lives, and we can help.

Go to [www.stpaulredhill.org/who-we-are/faith-in-action/prison-ministry](http://www.stpaulredhill.org/who-we-are/faith-in-action/prison-ministry) to view the powerful video *Taking One Small Step to Change Someone's Life*. One of the lay chaplains we relate to and support is featured in this video.

~ *Live Above The Weather* ~

Have you ever boarded an airplane in a snowstorm? The sky is gray with heavy clouds. Snow is coming down hard, with no sign of letting up. Plows clear the runway and unfamiliar machinery de-ices the wings. Passengers might consider it madness to fly in such weather.

But the pilot knows the storm is earthbound. Past the clouds is glorious sunshine. The plane can fly above the weather, if only it can get off the ground.

When troubles overtake us like a storm, we may wonder in the midst of the darkness if God still cares or if he is even there at all. But if we believe that God, like the sun, is unchanged in good weather and in bad, we can ride it out. For storms are earthbound, but we are not.

—Kari Myers

# BLESSINGS FROM GOD

~ *Preparing To Worship* ~

- As Joseph and Mary presented the newborn Jesus in the temple, we present ourselves to you, O God.
- [Epiphany] Lord Jesus, we lay before you the gift of our hearts. Bless them to your service.
- As God addressed Jesus at his baptism, he also calls us his beloved. What a blessing to live in God's love!
- God, help us recognize your voice and respond, "Your servant is listening" (1 Samuel 3:9, NRSV).
- Jesus, show us what we must leave behind to follow you; show us what talents and tools to use in sharing your good news with others.
- Sometimes we come to worship carrying heavy burdens and unclean spirits. Jesus, assure us that you are stronger than our worries and sins so we may worship you in peace.

~ *Parish Annual Report* ~

Annual Meeting -

The annual congregational meeting will be held after each of the three services on Sunday January 29.

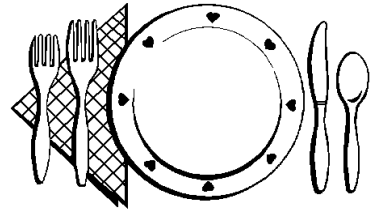
~ *ASP Dinner* ~



The ASP will be hosting its annual Pork Dinner in the Fellowship Hall on January 14 at 3:00 PM. Set-up for the dinner will be on January 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00PM.

The snow date for the dinner will be January 21<sup>st</sup> at 3:00 PM. Please come out and share food and fellowship

while helping the Apalacia Service Project team raise funds for its trip to conduct home repairs for those in need. Details and updates to follow in the weekly bulletin.



~ *Elevator Donations Still Welcome* ~

Last year was marked by a big event here at St. Paul's Red Hill. Our elevator was installed, and is up and running. This has provided help and mobility to many in our congregation who were previously unable to travel about the building due to mobility issues. We extend our sincere and heartfelt thanks to all who made this possible through their support in terms of time, talents and financial gifts.

As we start the new year, there is still much to be done in terms of our financial responsibility to this project. It is not too late to help. A donation to our elevator fund is a wonderful way to remember a loved one, say thank you to someone who has helped you, or simply support your faith community.

Please consider making a donation to the elevator fund. Donations may be mailed to the church office. We appreciate your help and continued support of this wonderful project.



# A caring disciple

In Acts 9, Peter tells of a woman who lived in Joppa. She performed good works and helped the poor. Solve the puzzle below to reveal this disciple's two names.

Instructions: Cross out the letters that spell each object and write the remaining letter on the blank.

___ adcltne			
___ rohmtae			
___ srgbape			
___ rbieda			
___ pentshred			
___ rdhaenlca			
___ fadoo			
Her name in Greek			
___ pdeesh			
___ dchilnero			
___ drove			
___ acehtr			
___ sarcos			
___ nusoaatim			

Answers: Tabitha, Dorcas

## ~Marriage Encounter Weekends~

When is the last time the two of you did something just for your relationship? Make 2012 the year you resolve to take time to spend a weekend learning how to make your marriage a more intimate, loving, Christian union. Lutheran Marriage Encounter **Weekends** run from Friday night at 8 PM to Sunday at 5 PM and are designed to enrich ALL MARRIAGES. There is a \$45 per couple registration fee. Two nights lodging, 5 meals for each of you, and all supplies are included. The 2012 Pennsylvania Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekends **are:** March 16-18 at Toftrees Resort and Conference Center, State College PA, Apr. 20-22 at Park Inn by Radisson-Sharon, West Middlesex, PA, September 14-16 at Olmsted Mansion and

Retreat Center, Ludlow, PA and October 19-21 at The Mountain Laurel Resort, White Haven, PA To sign up, simply go to the website: [www.GodLovesMarriage.org](http://www.GodLovesMarriage.org) and register using your credit card. Or for questions, or if you would like a brochure with a registration form mailed to you, contact Pennsylvania Directors of Lutheran Marriage Encounter, Fred & Julie Schamber, at 724-325-3166 or email: [fjschamber@comcast.net](mailto:fjschamber@comcast.net).

## ~ Women's Retreat with LTSP~

"A Great Cloud" is the the name for LTSP's annual **Rest, Refreshment and Renewal Women's Day 2012**. Our day will center on the celebration of the 300th birthday of Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, the patriarch of the Lutheran church in North America, and the great cloud of women witnesses from Katie Luther and Anna Muhlenberg to all women who will gather on **Saturday, March 17, 2012**. Those who register by January 1 get a discount – and remember your friends by giving them a gift of rest, refreshment and renewal! Brochures will be sent to those who have participated before and to congregations. Registration deadline is Monday, March 12<sup>th</sup>. Open to women of all faiths!

## ~Victory House~

On December 11<sup>th</sup>, Bob Foreman, Diane Benner and Miranda and Brenda Koder traveled to the Victory House to serve the residents there. The group prepared ham, mashed potatoes, and fresh salad. Donated homemade raisin bread was served as well. Football dominated to conversation with the impending Giants versus Cowboys game. The team also brought some donated Godiva chocolates to share which were graciously consumed a handful at a time. Thank you to all that have donated your time, talent, prayers or money to help those at the Victory House. Without your generosity, we could not do what we do.

The St. Paul's soup kitchen committee does not currently have any future planned visits to the Victory House. For the upcoming 2012 year, the soup kitchen committee has decided to explore some more localized options to help those in need. More information will be shared when it becomes finalized. Please contact Laura Foreman at 267-923-8895 or via email at [foreman3@hotmail.com](mailto:foreman3@hotmail.com) with any questions or concerns.

*"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." - Galatians 6:9 (NIV)*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Early Service 8AM Contemp. SCS 9:15AM Late Service 10:30AM Bells 7:30 NA 8PM	2 Weekday Child Care 6:30 AM-6 PM Cub Scouts 6:30 PM Property Com. 7PM Praise Team 7:30PM	3 Weekday Child Care 6:30 AM-6 PM Robotics 6:30PM	4 Weekday Child Care 6:30 AM-6 PM AA 8PM	5 Weekday Child Care 6:30 AM-6 PM Bible Study 1PM Bible Study 7 PM	6 Weekday Child Care 6:30 AM-6 PM Frontier Girls & Daisies 6:30 PM	7 Robotics 9AM
8 Early Service 8AM Contemp. SCS 9:15AM Late Service 10:30AM Confirmation 10:30AM Confirmation 4:30PM ASP Meeting 4:00PM Generations Ch. 6:30PM Bells 7:30 NA 8P	9 Weekday Child Care 6:30 AM-6 PM Cub Scouts 6:30 PM Praise Team 7:30PM	10 Weekday Child Care 6:30 AM-6 PM Robotics 6:30PM	11 Weekday Child Care 6:30 AM-6 PM Lunch Bunch 11:30AM AA 8PM	12 Weekday Child Care 6:30 AM-6 PM Bible Study 1PM	13 Weekday Child Care 6:30 AM-6 PM Frontier Girls, Brownies, Daisies 6:30PM Pork Dinner Set Up 6PM	14 Robotics 9AM ASP Pork Dinner 3PM
15 Early Service 8AM Contemp. SCS 9:15AM Late Service 10:30AM Table Talk 4:30PM Generations Ch. 6:30PM Bells 7:30 NA 8PM	16 Weekday Child Care 6:30 AM-6 PM Cub Scouts 6:30PM Cemetery 7PM Praise Team 7:30PM	17 Weekday Child Care 6:30 AM-6 PM Robotics 6:30PM	18 Weekday Child Care 6:30 AM-6 PM Men's Bible Study 7PM AA 8PM	19 Weekday Child Care 6:30 AM-6 PM Bible Study 1PM Bible Study 7PM	20 Weekday Child Care 6:30 AM-6 PM Frontier Girls, Daisies 6:30 PM	21 Robotics 9AM Snow Date for ASP Ham Dinner 3PM
22 Early Service 8AM Contemporary 9:15AM Sunday School 9:15AM Late Service 10:30AM Arrow Of Light 2PM Generations Ch. 6:30PM Bells 7:30 NA 8PM	23 Weekday Child Care 6:30 AM-6 PM Lutheran Chicks 12:30 Cub Scout Committee 7PM Praise Team 7:30PM	24 Weekday Child Care 6:30 AM-6 PM Robotics 6:30PM Finance 6:45PM Council 7:30PM	25 Weekday Child Care 6:30 AM-6 PM	26 Weekday Child Care 6:30 AM-6 PM Bible Study 1 PM	27 Weekday Child Care 6:30 AM-6 PM Frontier Girls, Brownies, Daisies 6:30PM	28 Robotics 9AM
29 Early Service 8AM Contemp. SCS 9:15AM Late Service 10:30AM Generations Ch. 6:30PM Bells 7:30 NA 8PM	30 Weekday Child Care 6:30 AM-6 PM Cub Pack 6:30PM Praise Team 7:30PM	31 Weekday Child Care 6:30 AM-6 PM Robotics 6:30PM				

	Altar Guild	Acolytes	Comm Assist	9:15 Ushers	10:30 Ushers	Readers	Counters
<b>1</b>	No Communion Today	10:30 AM- #	No Communion Today	9:15 AM Team G Rich & Traci Kressley	10:30 AM #1 Bruce Bayer Laveme Keyser	10:30 AM Joane Hersh	Monday 2- #1 Sandy Bergey Diane Leister Eleanor King
<b>8</b>	8 AM Barb Miller	10:30AM - #	8 AM Lewis Hill 10:30AM Robert Walp	9:15 AM Team H Sue Jarrett John Ferrero	10:30 AM #2 Nancy Yenger Pat Walter	10:30 AM Robert Walp	Mon 9 - #2 Fern Roth Dorie Brendlinger Linwood Genszler
<b>15</b>	8 AM Alan and Diane Richard	10:30 AM- #	8 AM Charles Shagg 10:30 AM Jan Woertz	9:15 AM Team A Ron & Diane Leister	10:30 AM #3 Alan Richard Donald Dulin Charlie Roth	10:30 AM Jan Woertz	Mon 16 - #3 Tom Sands Charlie Shagg
<b>22</b>	8AM Niccole Oswald	10:30 AM- #	8AM Stan Rose 10:30AM Vicar	7:30 PM Team B Craig & Lori Frank	10:30 AM #4 Jeff Bird Tyler Bird	10:30AM Vicar	Mon 23 - #4 Sandy Berger Alan Richard Diane Richard
<b>29</b>	8AM Sandy Landis	10:30 AM- #	8AM Sandy Bergey 10:30AM Robert Walp	9:15 AM Team C Bob & Mary Lou Webber	10:30 AM #5 Brian Stever Frank Gnim Chad Gnim	10:30 AM Robert Walp	Mon 30 - #5 Leroy Stevens Robert Stevens Betsy Treffinger