



JANUARY, 2012



Christmas Memory

FROM THE VICAR

Not every year, but some years, after the Late Service on Christmas Eve, my family would walk out of the church to find an orange-tinted sky. Before entering the church, usually a little before 10 pm, I remember looking up and wondering if it would happen again this year. Would the clouds roll in and bring a white Christmas with them?

Before church, the sky always seemed to be clear and dark. I remember seeing a few stars, although it was difficult to make them out through all the street lights. But then, as if on cue, the clouds would come while we worshipped. To this day, I wonder if they blew in or if they just formed there over our town. Or maybe they were there all along but I just didn't notice them until after Christmas Eve church was over.

When we piled into the car after church—Grandma Ruth in between my brother and me in the back, with my parents in the front—we hardly had to speak to each other... we all knew what we were thinking, and we didn't want to be the ones to spoil it. We knew that the clouds made for a possible white Christmas! My mom had explained it once; it was the same when she was little. In our town if the clouds came in and if it was cold enough, and if those clouds were so low that it looked like you could reach up and touch them, then you knew snow was on its way! You knew that when you woke up the next morning, there would not only be gifts inside under the tree, but also a gift outside: a pure white blanket that covered everything, sparkling with beauty.

That's what we looked forward to when we saw those orange clouds, made orange by the glow of the thousands of street lights across the city. The clouds were harbingers of things to come. They indicated the pure white snow of another picturesque Christmas.

As I reflect on those clouds on Christmas Eve and waking up to snow on Christmas morning, they remind me of what Jesus came to do. Each Advent we witness the signs of His coming—the testimony of John the Baptist, the annunciation to His mother, our Advent devotions, and the singing of familiar carols that prepare us for His birth—all of them orange clouds so to speak. When we see these things taking place, we anticipate what's about to occur. We sit silently, waiting patiently for Him to come, not wanting to ruin it by our words, but quietly expecting that Jesus will come once again. And when He comes, we trust that He will bring with Him an extra special gift! When He comes, He will make us white as snow.

Though our sins are as scarlet, Jesus comes once again this Christmas to wrap us in the pure white blanket of His salvation. Because of Jesus, all our Christmases are white!

Special Events:	Date
New Year's Day	1
Young Adults Outing 'Rembrandt of Jesus' Detroit Art Institute	7
Installation of Board Officers	8
Sanctity of Life Sunday & Baby Bottle Boomerang	15
New Member Class	15

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SCHOOL NOTES

-Sue Trepanier, Secretary

January 12	St. John, Waltz	Away
January 17	Northville Christian	Home
January 19	St. Michael, Wayne	Home

Go Vikings!!

Thank you to Mr. Eric Pittman and Vicar Kirk Hulvey for coaching and to Mr. Nelson Mills for assisting.

Coming back to school after Christmas Break is an awesome time. Another new year has begun, and we're another year wiser. The children are constantly changing – growing up. Their confidence is building within themselves.

Confidence –it can be a tough seed to plant. But once the seed has established itself, look out! Changes will happen.

Praise God that we have our Lutheran schools where changes happen every day by the power of the Spirit. What better place other than in the Christian home can children of all ages be fed God's Word, be helped to grow in confidence, and experience changes in heart and actions.

When you know who you are, then you know *whose* you are!

Sports

If you haven't been to one of our Boy's Basketball games yet - we still have lots of games you can attend:

January 5	St. Matthew, Westland	Home
January 9	Concordia, Redford	Away
January 10	Northville Christian	Away

Calendar

January 3	Classes Resume after Christmas Break
January 16	No School - Martin Luther King Day
January 20	End of Second Quarter
January 23	7:00 p.m. - PTL Meeting

Market Day This program is a way to help the school with fundraising and help you do your grocery shopping! Brochures are located at the church and school. Order & pickup dates are listed. Thank you for supporting the school in this way!

'**Apples for Students' Program** sponsored by Hollywood Market. **New Change** instead of collecting receipts as in the past, we will be able to earn our profits by using the Hollywood Savings Card. Profits are automatically calculated and are sent to St. Paul Lutheran School. You may pick up a card at the school or church office. Questions, call Kristine Dowhan, 248-722-4899.

**The faculty and staff of
St. Paul Lutheran School
join me in wishing you a
Joyous and Blessed New Year!**



Congratulations to Jeanne Valdes For Woman of the Year!

At the Advent by Candlelight program on December 2, the Woman of the Year was announced. Many blessings and congratulations to Jeanne Valdes who was named this years Woman of the Year.

Jeanne was born October, 1960 to her parents George (deceased) and Evelyn Hoemke. She has been a lifetime Lutheran, attended Trinity Lutheran in Berkley and became a member of St. Paul in 1985. She married her husband, Tony Valdes and together they have three children, Emily, Julie and Tony, Jr.

Jeanne has been very active at St. Paul. She is a long time employee at the school, as our Lunchroom

Coordinator, ordering food, scheduling menu's, and preparing lunches daily in our kitchen facilities for the children of St. Paul.

Jeanne has been involved in the youth programs of our church and school, mission trips and recently her and her husband and family are leading us in the recycling program for Arts, Beats and Eats in Royal Oak.

Jeanne is an outstanding individual to her family, community and church. We love you Jeanne, thanks for all you do.

A special luncheon will be held for Jeanne and other area Women of the Year winners in March. Date and time to be determined. If you would like to purchase tickets for this luncheon and to celebrate with Jeanne, contact Colleen Olsen, 248-288-0769.

Ministry News

Adult Volleyball— We will resume playing volleyball on January 8th. Hope to see you there. Anyone 18 years and up is welcome to join us. We meet in the school gym from 7pm-9pm on Sunday evenings. Bring your friends. Call Courtney Wahl, 360-904-3584 for questions.

Martin Luther's Seal Clings

These clings are placed in the driver's side windshield so that you can park in the church lot during off hours of worship. This is to let the valet company know you are a part of the church. You may obtain these decals from the church office. Donations will be used for our support of Pastor Alan Ludwig's work in Siberia.

Playgroup for Toddlers/Preschoolers

This is a wonderful opportunity for the little ones to play together, and a nice way to meet other families with small children. We will meet on Wednesdays at 2pm and Thursdays at 9am in the Nursery at church. Questions, please contact Anne Sagan at 248.546.5228 or email her at annesagan@yahoo.com

Baptism Class

On January 8, a Baptism class will be held for the parents of the child(ren) being baptized for that month. This class is for parents and sponsors and will be taught by Pastor Schultz & Vicar Kirk in the meeting room at 9:30 am.

The Installation of New Officers and Board Members will be held at the 8:15 a.m. service on Sunday, January 8, 2012.

Pastor/Vicar's New Member Class

(school gym) A new member class will begin again on Sunday, January 15 at 9:30 a.m. If you are interested in becoming a member or to learn about our church, you are welcome to come to this class. Please contact the church office, 248-541-0613, if you would like to come to this class. Childcare is available.

Stewardship Ministry

A popular Christmas carol, "Good King Wenceslas," is based on the life of Wenceslas I, Duke of Bohemia. As the king and his young page brave a wintry night to take food to a peasant, the page grows cold and faint. Wenceslas tells him, "Mark my footsteps, my good page, tread thou in them boldly. Thou wilt find the winter's rage freeze thy blood less coldly." Heat radiated from the king's footprints and strengthened the page in his journey. Likewise, we too are strengthened as we walk boldly in our Master Jesus' footsteps to follow our commitments to give time, talent and treasure to do His work.

Mission for January

Lutheran Hour Ministries will receive the special envelope offering for January. LHM's outreach includes the Lutheran Hour radio program, daily devotions, help topics and booklets, evangelism training and other support for local churches. It is active in the United States and more than 30 other countries. The Lutheran Hour radio program can be heard on more than 900 stations in North America. St. Paul listeners can find it on WDFN (1130 AM) at 6:30 a.m. Sundays or WRDT (560 AM) at noon Sundays.

Young Adult Outing at the DIA On Saturday, January 7, the Young Adults Group will be visiting the *Rembrandt and the Face of Jesus* exhibit at the Detroit Institute of Arts. You are invited to meet the group at the DIA at 1:45 pm in order to attend the 2 pm exhibit. For those interested, dinner will occur following the exhibit around 5:30 pm. If you have questions, contact Ashley, Blake, or Vicar Kirk. This is also a great opportunity to invite friends who are not a part of St. Paul (yet)!

YOUTH MINISTRIES

Sr. High Youth Bible Class

Mr. Rich Mahler will be leading Senior High Youth Bible Class for the next several weeks. All Senior Youth are invited and encouraged to attend. Classes are held in Miss Winston's classroom (5th and 6th grade room) in the school.

Youth Activities

Laser Tag

All Junior and Senior High Youth are invited to play laser tag on Sunday, January 15, 2012. We will be going to Laser Quest on John R. in Madison Heights. Special rates and activities will be available on that day. Please contact Valerie Winston by January 8, 2012 if you are interested or planning on attending.

"What sort of New Year's Resolution should a Christian make?"

Question: "What sort of New Year's Resolution should a Christian make?"

Answer: The practice of making New Year's resolutions goes back over 3,000 years to the ancient Babylonians. There is just something about the start of a new year that gives us the feeling of a fresh start and a new beginning. In reality, there is no difference between December 31 and January 1. Nothing mystical occurs at midnight on December 31. The Bible does not speak for or against the concept of New Year's resolutions. However, if a Christian determines to make a New Year's resolution, what kind of resolution should he or she make?

Common New Year's resolutions are commitments to quit smoking, to stop drinking, to manage money more wisely, and to spend more time with family. By far, the most common New Year's resolution is to lose weight, in conjunction with exercising more and eating more healthily. These are all good goals to set. However, 1 Timothy 4:8 instructs us to keep exercise in perspective: "For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come." The vast majority of New Year's resolutions, even among Christians, are in relation to physical things. This should not be.

Many Christians make New Year's resolutions to pray more, to read the Bible every day, and to attend church more regularly. These are fantastic goals. However, these New Year's resolutions fail just as often as the non-spiritual resolutions, because there is no power in a New Year's resolution. Resolving to start or stop doing a certain activity has no value unless you have

the proper motivation for stopping or starting that activity. For example, why do you want to read the Bible every day? Is it to honor God and grow spiritually, or is it because you have just heard that it is a good thing to do? Why do you want to lose weight? Is it to honor God with your body, or is it for vanity, to honor yourself?

Philippians 4:13 tells us, "I can do everything through Him who gives me strength." John 15:5 declares, "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." If God is the center of your New Year's resolution, it has chance for success, depending on your commitment to it. If it is God's will for something to be fulfilled, He will enable you to fulfill it. If a resolution is not God honoring and/or is not in agreement in God's Word, we will not receive God's help in fulfilling the resolution.

So, what sort of New Year's resolution should a Christian make? Here are some suggestions: (1) pray to the Lord for wisdom (James 1:5) in regards to what resolutions, if any, He would have you make; (2) pray for wisdom as to how to fulfill the goals God gives you; (3) rely on God's strength to help you; (4) find an accountability partner who will help you and encourage you; (5) don't become discouraged with occasional failures; instead, allow them to motivate you further; (6) don't become proud or vain, but give God the glory. Psalm 37:5-6 says, "Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him and he will do this: He will make your righteousness shine like the dawn, the justice of your cause like the noonday sun."

excerpt from GotQuestions.org

Member Matters

Baptisms	Date
Aaron Rogalski	12/04/2011
Jaime Halonen (adult)	12/11/2011
Daryl Nykiel	12/18/2011
George Rosenzweig (re-affirmation)	12/18/2011

Weddings	Date
Jeffers Lehman to Megan Broderick	11/19/2011

Funerals	Date
Heimo Raski	11/21/2011

Members Received	12/11/2011
Confirmation:	
Chris & Kimberly Damico	
Jaime Halonen	
Rick & Amy Kilbourn	
Meghan Lehman	
Kathleen Malczynski	
Anthony & Meghan Rogalski	
Amie Szerdi	

Profession of Faith:
Dan Steeh
Alice Jackson
Dan & Teri Whitbeck

Transfer In:
Tom & Beth Lange
Jeffers Lehman
Cindy Marrow
Courtney Wahl
Karl Schrieber
Beth Withers

Members Removed:
Transfer Out:
Dr. & Mrs. Michael Knudsen
Mr. & Mrs. Dan Postiff, Ashley

Attendance (5 weeks)
(11/20-12/18)
Weekly Average 455

Finance (5 weeks)
(11/20-12/18)
Weekly Average \$14,508

Prayer's

Family and Friends

Barb Biels	John Michelin	Brad Swegles
Eula Boggess	Bill Miller	Vanessa Ultzen
Amy Champ	Vimla Newton	Jean Watterson
Barbara Fecteau	Jim & Joan Noffert	John Wallace
Nathan Fecteau	Shirley Paschall	Daniel Weber
Richard Firchau	Karl Payk	Judy Weller
Susan Golinske	Matt & Kerri Penchuck	Leslie Wharton
Josette Grant	Elizabeth Phillips	Sharon Zerla
Grant Haley	Bob Pickett	
Cheryl Hall	Paul Poszwa	<i>To Add/remove a prayer go to</i>
Trevor Harris	Celeste Prudhomme	<i>prodway@stpaulroyaloak.org</i>
Diane Hawker	Karen Raime	
David Herkowitz	Gloria Rice	<i>You may donate to the church</i>
Dawn Lis-Homer	Mike Ridge	<i>through memorial/honorarium</i>
Reginald Hosey	Linda Scalzi	<i>cards located on the shelf in the</i>
Russ Hulvey	Lloyd Schultz	<i>lobby. This is a two part card,</i>
Patrice Kolbe	Caleb Sears	<i>one to go with the gift donated</i>
Arden Licht	Ebony Sharpley	<i>to the church and the other to</i>
Sharon Lechleitner	Robert Stephens	<i>be mailed to let the family</i>
Holly McKitrick	Bob Straub	<i>know of your donation to our</i>
	Mike Tom	<i>church. Contact the church</i>
		<i>office if you have any questions.</i>

Gift's to Our Lord... Memorials & Gift Donations

St. Paul Lutheran Church—

In memory of **Heimo Raski:**
Mary Ann Braun, Edith Raski,
Ruth Kaarletla, Carol Dooley,
Dorothy Harrington,
M/M Charles Ockerman

In memory of **John Schroff:**
M/M Chester Limbaugh,

In memory of **John Lacey:**
Alan & Floyd Lacey

Garden Club—

In memory of **John Schroff:**
M/M Dick Hanes, M/M Bill
Hanes, Norma Hanes

Debt Reduction—

In memory of **John Schroff:**
Clara Lichtenberg, M/M Richard
Baker

Pay-A-Bill—

In memory of **Mabel Brown:**
Joan Feldmann

Women's Guild—

In memory of **Herbert Huff:**
Dorothy Huff

Trustee Fund—


In memory of **John Schroff:**
M/M Art Lentner

School Tuition Assistance—

In memory of **Heimo Raski:**
Doug Kendrick, M/M Rudy
Uhlar, M/M Robert Zechmeister
M/M Norman Curtis, Heimo
Raski Trust Fund

Prayer's

Military

Earle Arnold	Sam Eskew	Julius Gerald
Joshua Armon	Tirzah Eskew	Rockey Sparks
Eric Banker	Jeff Follett	Aaron Zeile
Kris Berceli	Pam Harrington	
Paul Bowdich	Ryan Hart	
Gene Bunton	Thomas Herzberg	
Kevin Burch	John Hunter	
Robert Clark	Brandon Newton	
Ben Eberly	Kristine Pate	
	Jeremy Rudd	
	Scott Rutledge	
	Heidi Gerald	

*Therefore I tell you,
Whatever you ask in prayer
Believe that you have received it,
and it will be yours. Mark 11:24*

"The Masthead" & "The Viking"

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