



THE WHOLE TRUTH

"Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." John 8:32

Volume 2, Number 1

Newsletter of St. Paul Lutheran Church

January 2011



Preparing for the 12 Days of Christmas

The **Twelve Days of Christmas** is probably the most misunderstood part of the church year among Christians. Contrary to much popular belief, these are not the twelve days *before* Christmas, but the twelve days from Christmas until the beginning of Epiphany (January 6th; the 12 days count from December 25th until January 5th).

Epiphany is traditionally celebrated as the time the three Wise Men or Magi arrived to present gifts to the young Jesus (Matt. 2:1-12). In some cultures, especially Hispanic and Latin American culture, January 6th is observed as Three Kings Day, or simply the Day of the Kings. Even though December 25th is celebrated as Christmas in these cultures, January 6th is often the day for giving gifts. In some places it is traditional to give Christmas gifts for each of the Twelve Days of Christmas.

The Twelfth Night is January 5th, the last day of the Christmas Season before Epiphany (January 6th), and often included feasting along with the removal of Christmas decorations. French and English celebrations of Twelfth Night included a King's Cake, remembering the visit of the Three Magi, and ale or wine (a King's Cake is part of the observance of Mardi Gras in French Catholic culture of the Southern USA). In some cultures, the King's Cake was part of the celebration of the day of Epiphany.

The popular song "The Twelve Days of Christmas" is a song of Christian instruction dating to the 16th century religious wars in England, with hidden references to the basic teachings of the Faith. It was a mnemonic device to teach the catechism to youngsters. The "true love" mentioned in the song is not an earthly suitor, but refers to God Himself. The "me" who receives the presents refers to every baptized person who is part of the Christian Faith. Each of the "days" represents some aspect of the Christian Faith that was important for children to learn.

**On the 1st day of Christmas my true love gave to me...
A Partridge in a Pear Tree**

~ continued on page 2 ~

February Deadline JANUARY 20th

Please submit article and photo's (subject line St. Paul Newsletter) to:
MaryLinage1776@gmail.com
Copy must be in Word format.
Picture in jpeg or pdf format.

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**On the 1st day of Christmas my true love gave to me...
A Partridge in a Pear Tree**

The partridge in a pear tree is Jesus the Christ, the Son of God, whose birthday we celebrate on December 25, the first day of Christmas. In the song, Christ is symbolically presented as a mother partridge that feigns injury to decoy predators from her helpless nestlings, recalling the expression of Christ's sadness over the fate of Jerusalem: "Jerusalem! Jerusalem! How often would I have sheltered you under my wings, as a hen does her chicks, but you would not . . ." (Luke 13:34)

**On the 2nd day of Christmas my true love gave to me...
Two Turtle Doves**

The Old and New Testaments, which together bear witness to God's self-revelation in history and the creation of a people to tell the Story of God to the world.

**On the 3rd day of Christmas my true love gave to me...
Three French Hens**

The Three Theological Virtues:
1) Faith, 2) Hope, and 3) Love (1 Corinthians 13:13)

**On the 4th day of Christmas my true love gave to me...
Four Calling Birds**

The Four Gospels:
1) Matthew, 2) Mark, 3) Luke, and 4) John, which proclaim the Good News of God's reconciliation of the world to Himself in Jesus Christ.

**On the 5th day of Christmas my true love gave to me...
Five Gold Rings**

The first Five Books of the Old Testament, known as the Pentateuch:
1) Genesis, 2) Exodus, 3) Leviticus, 4) Numbers, and 5) Deuteronomy, which gives the history of humanity's sinful failure and God's response of grace in the creation of a people to be a light to the world.

**On the 6th day of Christmas my true love gave to me...
Six Geese A-laying**

The six days of creation that confesses God as Creator and Sustainer of the world (Genesis 1).

**On the 7th day of Christmas my true love gave to me...
Seven Swans A-swimming**

The seven gifts of the Holy Spirit:
1) prophecy, 2) ministry, 3) teaching, 4) exhortation, 5) giving, 6) leading, and 7) compassion (Romans 12:6-8; cf. 1 Corinthians 12:8-11)

**On the 8th day of Christmas my true love gave to me...
Eight Maids A-milking**

The eight Beatitudes:
1) Blessed are the poor in spirit, 2) those who mourn, 3) the meek, 4) those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, 5) the merciful, 6) the pure in heart, 7) the peacemakers, 8) those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake. (Matthew 5:3-10)

**On the 9th day of Christmas my true love gave to me...
Nine Ladies Dancing**

The nine Fruit of the Holy Spirit:
1) love, 2) joy, 3) peace, 4) patience, 5) kindness, 6) generosity, 7) faithfulness, 8) gentleness, and 9) self-control. (Galatians 5:22)

**On the 10th day of Christmas my true love gave to me...
Ten Lords A-leaping**

The ten commandments:
1) You shall have no other gods before me; 2) Do not make an idol; 3) Do not take God's name in vain; 4) Remember the Sabbath Day; 5) Honor your father and mother; 6) Do not murder; 7) Do not commit adultery; 8) Do not steal; 9) Do not bear false witness; 10) Do not covet. (Exodus 20:1-17)

**On the 11th day of Christmas my true love gave to me...
Eleven Pipers Piping**

The eleven Faithful Apostles:
1) Simon Peter, 2) Andrew, 3) James, 4) John, 5) Philip, 6) Bartholomew, 7) Matthew, 8) Thomas, 9) James bar Alphaeus, 10) Simon the Zealot, 11) Judas bar James. (Luke 6:14-16). The list does not include the twelfth disciple, Judas Iscariot who betrayed Jesus to the religious leaders and the Romans.

**On the 12th day of Christmas my true love gave to me...
Twelve Drummers Drumming**

The twelve points of doctrine in the Apostle's Creed:
1) I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth. 2) I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord. 3) He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. 4) He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. 5) On the third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. 6) He will come again to judge the living and the dead. 7) I believe in the Holy Spirit, 8) the holy Christian Church, 9) the communion of saints, 10) the forgiveness of sins, 11) the resurrection of the body, 12) and life everlasting.



SPIRITUAL EDUCATION

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

During the Sermon (ages 3 years-grade 3)

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY at 10:45 AM

Kingdom Quest (3yrs-gr.3)

Ed. Wing, Rooms 1&2

Joy Harrison, Karin Klemm

Pre-Confirmation (grades 4-6)

Rec. Center

Jesus Company

Kari Bowman, Jeremy Cook

Jr. & Sr. High Youth

Ed. Wing, Room 3

GOSPEL Journey Maui

Nikki Nolte

Adult Class

Sanctuary

Revelation

Pastor Matt

WEEKDAY CLASSES

Thursday Morning

In the Dust of the Rabbi

Thursday, 10:00 AM - Ed. Wing

Pastor Matt

Men's Bible Breakfast

Out of Nothing

Saturday, 7:30 AM - Ed. Wing

Pastor Matt



Classes for All Ages

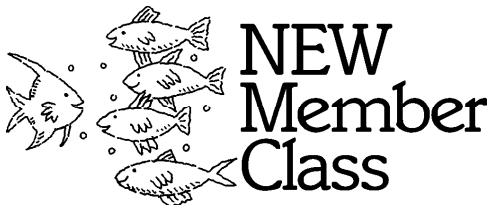
Beginning January 5th:

New Member Class

The Lutheran Difference

Wednesday, 7:00-8:30 PM - Ed. Wing

Pastor Matt



Want to become a member of St. Paul?

Want to learn a little bit more about what we believe and teach?

Want to get a better understanding of how our church works and what we offer?

Then come Join us!

Class starts Wednesday, January 5th from 7-8:30pm in the Ed Wing.

Pastor Matt will be leading a class for you.

This 9 week class will:

- Look at the basic doctrines of our faith
- Seek to help anyone and everyone more fully understand why we do what we do.
- Give some insight into the structure and workings unique to St. Paul Lutheran Church

The format will be a 1 1/2 hour study and discussion time in a relaxed and communal atmosphere. Even if you are not looking to join the church, come and join as we learn about what god has revealed to us as His church and enjoy fellowship with one another.

Children's Ministry

NEW Sunday School Program: Kingdom Quest

We have heard your concerns and found a program we think you will like. Here is what you can expect from the Kingdom Quest Program.

Jesus-centered. The content is very Jesus-centered and Bible based.

Learning with Fun. The lessons use active learning methods; it will probably feel like VBS at times.

Connecting with parents. Kids will bring home sheets called "God Talk at Home".

What is the difference between Children's Church and Kingdom Quest?

Children's Church (during the sermon) will creatively present the morning's Bible event.

Kingdom Quest helps engage the kids in story application and activities such as puppets, crafts, music, snack, and games to name a few.

For maximum impact, the children should attend both Children's Church and Kingdom Quest.

Pre-Confirmation Class (grades 4-6)

This class is a 3 year course designed to provide an energizing experience in Bible learning that will serve as a strong foundation for confirmation instruction.

With the help of this program, these young adults will relate to the stories in the Bible through:

Worship. Devotional and life-related activities

Friendship Builders. Games and recreation

Service Center. Family involvement activities

Witness Workshop. Arts and crafts with a witnessing focus

ALL children in grades 4-6 are required to participate in this class prior to their confirmation instruction in grades 7-8. Attendance will be taken.

Youth & Adult Bible Studies

Jr. & Sr. High Youth (Sunday morning)

GOSPEL Journey Maui (Jr. and Sr. High Youth) -

Relational, relevant and edgy, *GOSPEL Journey*[®] Maui spiritual reality series is all about real questions and real conversations. Seven young strangers with diverse spiritual worldviews and a Preacher/Wannabe-Surfer named Greg Stier hung out for an entire week in Maui. Together, they went surfing and snorkeling, rode a zipline, watched the sun rise over Haleakala, hiked Molokai, toured a leper colony, and had intense, spiritual conversations. Each day, Greg introduced a new question, triggering intense spiritual dialogue and a tidal wave of emotions. "Is there a higher power? What is the purpose of life? What happens when we die?" Ultimately it boiled down to this: **Can everyone be right?**

Adult Classes

Revelation. (Sunday morning) -

An in-depth study on the last book of the Bible - Revelation.

In the Dust of the Rabbi. (Thursday morning) -

An on-going video based study by Ray Vander Lann. It is a study in how Jesus and the disciples lived and looking at what we can learn from it and apply to our lives.

Out of Nothing. (Men's Bible Breakfast, Saturday morning) -

A study looking at the theories of evolution, the plausibility of random chance, man's spiritual and physical nature, and how God's creation and man's salvation are linked to the person of Jesus Christ.

The Lutheran Difference. (New Member Class, Wednesdays beginning in January) -

9 week class for those interested in joining and/or learning more about St. Paul, what we believe and why.

Kids Activities

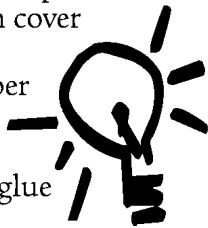


LIGHT SWITCH COVER

Everyone who believes in God and lives for him is a child of light. Make this cover for your bedroom light switch to remind you to be a light for God.

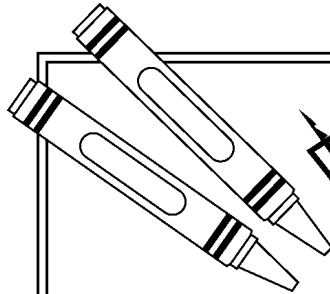
What you need:

- An adult to help
- Light switch cover
- Screwdriver
- Colored paper
- Markers
- Scissors
- Decoupage glue
- Paintbrush
- Craft knife



What you do:

1. Remove the screws from the cover.
2. On the paper, draw small images related to light and write out "Live as children of light" (Ephesians 5:8, NIV).
3. Cut out the drawings and verse. Make sure they'll fit on the cover.
4. Paint the cover with a coat of decoupage glue, and then immediately place the drawings and verse on the cover.
5. Paint over them with another coat of glue. Let it dry.
6. Turn the cover over and use a craft knife to cut out the opening for the light switch.
7. Using a screwdriver, place your new light switch cover on your wall.



PUZZLE

From darkness to light

In the Bible, God speaks often about light and darkness. He gives us much instruction about which path we should choose.

- | | |
|-----------|---------------|
| 1. Good | Righteousness |
| 2. Death | Children |
| 3. Go | Life |
| 4. Evil | Come |
| 5. Adults | Bad |

Match the opposites and then write the word in the right-hand column in the correct blanks to finish each verse.

"When your eyes are good, your whole body also is full of light. But when they are _____, your body also is full of darkness." Luke 11:34, NIV
(1)

"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of _____." John 8:12, NIV
(2)

"I have _____ into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness." John 12:46, NIV
(3)

"For what do _____ and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?" 2 Corinthians 6:14, NIV
(4)

"For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as _____ of light." Ephesians 5:8, NIV
(5)

Answers: 1. bad, 2. life, 3. come, 4. righteousness, 5. children



- JANUARY -

- Beginning January 5 – New Member Class, Wednesdays from 7-8:30pm
- January 8 – Christmas Decorations & Outdoor Lights Down (time TBA)
- January 18 - Board of Directors Meeting & Board of Elders Meeting
- January 30 - Youth Led Worship



January Anniversaries

If we missed any please call the Church office.

January Birthdays

- | | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| 6– Harry Glander | 11– Dane Taylor | 22– Shirley Kaub |
| 6– Eric Stephan | 14– Aiden Dougherty | 22– Paul Brown |
| 7– Ruth Hubbard | 17– Rob McRann | 26– Justine Ayers |
| 7– Connor Richert | 19– Blanca Hoffmeier | 27 Christian Cook |



Birthdays



If you have an immediate prayer need let our prayer chain pray for you.

- | | | |
|------------------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Day Contact - Dottie Glander | (818) 889-1413 | dghg@earthlink.net |
| Night Contact - Shirley Kaub | (805) 497-3755 | GKaub@aol.com |



Kimberly in El Salvador

Let me just start this by saying I love Christmas! Which is a really good thing because decorations start going up here at the end of October. But now when I say “Christmas is coming!” with an incredibly stupid grin on my face, it’s actually true. And while this month, more than any other, should be a time where I’m at home with my family, this fact becomes insignificant when I see all the things God is doing here.



Students and staff involved with Vida Estudiantil

Last week we had a big Christmas dinner for all the staff of Campus Crusade for Christ, including their families and supporters, as well as the students involved with Vida Estudiantil. The theme of the dinner was “La Luz in El Oscuridad,” or “The Light in the Darkness,” and we talked about what it looks like for each of us to be a light for Christ wherever we are. For part of it, each person was challenged to be a light that stood up against the darkness in the world and was then invited to light a candle. What a beautiful picture of how Christ shines through our lives and gives hope in a broken world. And this was made so much sweeter for me because I was able to see many of the students I love and work with everyday raising a candle, committing to be different, and committed to revealing Christ on Matias University.

It has been so incredible seeing the way God is building up students on Matias who are excited to be lights to the rest of the campus. One of the biggest ways I’ve seen this passion is within the student leaders. This past weekend, we had a retreat for the student leaders who will be in charge of different parts of the ministry (i.e. prayer, outreach, publicity, weekly meetings, service projects, etc.). This weekend allowed for us to explain their roles as leaders and hear their vision for Matias... and let me tell you, these students dream big. I am so excited to see the way that God uses these students to impact their campus. Please continue to keep these students in your prayers while we’re in the process of planning for the next year.



La Luz in El Oscuridad



Me and Jose...we’ll be working together with the prayer team!

As a final reminder, I’ll leave you with this promise: “For God who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness, made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ’” (2 Corinthians 4:6). I pray that you are living in the glory of His light this holiday season.

Feliz Navidad!

Kimberly Courtney



Where do
YOU fit in?

Now you are the body of Christ,
and **EACH ONE of YOU** is a part of it. **1 Cor. 12:27**

For more information or to volunteer please
contact the person listed below.

MANY Ministries, ONE Church

Elder	Mel Howry	818 991 7632	MelHowry@aol.com
Greeter	Paul Brown	805 371 9774	v65brown@aol.com
Welcome Center	Dottie Glander	818 889 1413	dghg@earthlink.net
Ushers	Paul Brown	805 371 9774	v65brown@aol.com
Worship Prep (Altar Guild)	Linda Howry	818 991 7632	LindaHowry@aol.com
Acolyte	Nikki Nolte	805 373 9240	mnnolte@gmail.com
Fellowship	Shirley Kaub	805 497 3755	GKaub@aol.com
Musicians	Pastor Matt	805 367 6390	PastorMatt@StPaulAgoura.com
Singers	Lisa Weaver	818 707 1372	LisaWeaversrd@yahoo.com
Video Tech	Jeremy Cook	805 300 3362	JeremyCook@email.com
Nursery	Karen Levine	805 370 0728	KarenLevine@verizon.net
Kingdom Quest (3y-Gr.3)	Nikki Nolte	805 373 9240	mnnolte@gmail.com
Pre-Confirmation (Gr.4-6)	Nikki Nolte	805 373 9240	mnnolte@gmail.com
Jr. High & High School	Nikki Nolte	805 373 9240	mnnolte@gmail.com
Adult Study	Pastor Matt	805 367 6390	PastorMatt@StPaulAgoura.com
Cleaning	Jeremy Cook	805 300 3362	JeremyCook@email.com
Thursday Bible Study Refreshments	Bob Hougardy	818 889 8039	RHoug@aol.com
Youth	Pat & Teddy Bader	818 865 9687	StPaul.Youth@hotmail.com
Meals for those in Need	Shirley Kaub	805 497 3755	GKaub@aol.com



Serving Saints

	Jan. 2	Jan. 9	Jan. 16	Jan. 23	Jan. 30
Elder	Mel Howry	Mel Howry	Mel Howry	Mel Howry	Mel Howry
Greeter	Karen Levine Bev Richardson Marjorie Brown	Marjorie Brown	Irma Wahl	Edith Bogeberg Irma Wahl	Youth
Welcome Center	Christine Montgomery Teresa Baumann Gene & Lily Strategos	Joy & Emily Harrison Pat & Teddy Bader Del & Mary Hoffmeier	Harry & Dottie Glander Cooks Ted & Ruth Hubbard Edith Bogeberg	Edith Bogeberg	Del & Mary Hoffmeier
Ushers	Linda Howry Christian Cook	Linda Howry Christian Cook	Linda Howry Ryan Harrison	Linda Howry Grumm	Linda Howry Youth
Altar Guild					
Acolyte					
Fellowship	Christine Montgomery	Gene & Lily Strategos	Delores Kritsch	Beverly Richardson	Shirley Kaub
Musicians	Dave Burns Lisa Weaver Susan Knauer Holly Bruehl CiCi Stephan Eric Stephan	special music	Dave Burns Jim Lobitz Lisa Weaver Holly Bruehl Shirrell Cook KTyler Cook	Dave Burns Andrew Grumm Nikki Nolte Jack Warren Shirrell Cook Jeremy Cook	Dave Burns
Singers					
Video Tech					
Nursery	Shirrell Cook				
Kingdom Quest 3y-Gr.3	#32 - Joy Harrison	#33 - Karin Klemm	# 34 - Joy Harrison	#35 - Karin Klemm	#36 - Joy Harrison
Pre-Conf. Gr. 4-6	Kari Bowman	Jeremy Cook	Kari Bowman	Jeremy Cook	Kari Bowman
Cleaning	Jan. 7-8 Weaver Grumm	Jan. 14-15 Ayers Bowman	Jan. 21-22 Harrison Nolte	Jan. 28-29 Nolte Ayers	Feb. 4-5 Bowman Weaver
Thur. Bible	Jan. 6 Janet Ayers Conny Thompson	Jan. 13 Rose Marie Lobitz	Jan. 20 Del & Mary Hoffmeier	Jan. 27 Karin Klemm	Feb. 3 TBD

Please let the office know if you switch weeks so it can be updated in the Good News.

January 2011

January 2011							February 2011						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31					

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						January 1, 2011
2 9:30am Worship 10:45am Bible Study/Sunday 4:30pm AA Family Meeting	3 OFFICE CLOSED	4 6:30pm Fitness Class	5 7:00pm New Member Class (Ed Wing)	6 10:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Fitness Class 7:00pm Music Rehearsal 	7 5:30pm Girl Scouts	8 Decorations/Lights Down 7:30am Men's Bible Breakfast 
9 9:30am Worship 10:45am Bible Study/Sunday 12:00pm Youth 4:30pm AA Family	10 OFFICE CLOSED	11 6:30pm Fitness Class	12 7:00pm New Member Class (Ed Wing)	13 10:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Fitness Class 7:00pm Music Rehearsal (TBD)	14	15 7:30am Men's Bible Breakfast
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