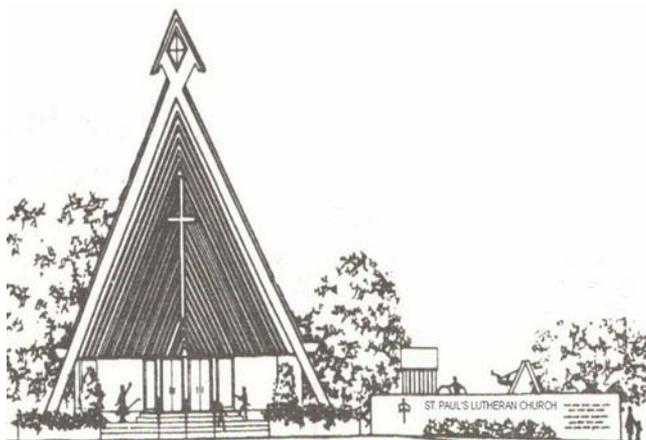


# ST. PAUL'S EPISTLE

DECEMBER 2012 ~ JANUARY 2013



*St. Paul's Lutheran Church*

Office Phone: 703/573-0295      Pastor's Direct Line: 703/573-6008

Sunday services are held at 8:00 and 11:00 a.m.

Worship in Mandarin is held at 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School and adult classes are held at 9:30 a.m.

**Pastor** — The Rev. Mark Shaltanis

**Assistant/Chinese Pastor** — The Rev. Xinhong (Chris) Yang

**Pastoral Assistant** — The Rev. Wayne Lehrer

**Director of Music** — Laurel Benson Brown

**Preschool Director** — LuAnn Carrig

**Director of Youth** — Stacy Blake

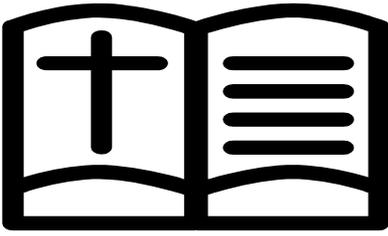
**Director of Education and Family Life** — Melissa Hecht

**Secretary** — Susan Irwin

**Business Manager** — Bill Gratz

**Newsletter Editors** — Marcia Baumgartner,  
Linda Orvedahl, Theresa Shaltanis, Kim Williams

Church is located at the intersection of  
Route 7 (Leesburg Pike) and Idylwood Road.



## Pastor's Corner

### Joy to the World!

My preparations for Wednesday's Hymn Class and our Advent midweek services came together this week by way of the beloved hymn *Joy to the World*. Our hymn class has been examining seasonal hymns from the lovely *Hymns for All Saints* recordings from Concordia Publishing House. *Joy to the World* is not only a wonderful song to sing, but it has an interesting history too. The great Isaac Watts, before he was known as great, sounded off about the Psalm versions sung in his day being harsh and uncouth. Challenged to write something better, he did. In fact he wrote more than 600 hymns, many of which we still sing today. Included in his *Psalms of David* collection (1719) was his paraphrase of Psalm 98, a hymn which he called *Joy to the World*.

Watts decided that his Psalm versions would include an emphasis on New Testament fulfillment. Accordingly, he placed his version of Psalm 98 in a section called "The Messiah's Coming and Kingdom." The Psalm speaks of the Lord coming to "judge the world with righteousness." God does indeed judge his people on the basis of their life performance. But God also brings salvation, and this is the prevailing message of the Psalm. The first three verses each include references such as "the Lord has made known his salvation" (verse 2). This salvation has been revealed "in the sight of the nations." It has been brought by our "king," before whom we are to make "a joyful noise."

Jesus is the visible king who came to bring salvation. His very name means "savior." As such, God's salvation in Christ is the central message of the church's Christmas celebration

Continued from page 3

each year. Psalm 98 is an important part of that. But the Psalm's additional features also fit well with this year's particular Advent emphasis at St. Paul's. The Psalm (and hymn) urges not only all humanity but also the whole earth to sing joyful praises. The sea, the rivers, the hills, the whole world are to rejoice in God's salvation. That is because the whole world is being saved. The earth, which was once cursed just as humanity was (Genesis 3), is now being renewed through the Gospel ("He comes to make His blessings flow, far as the curse is found") and will someday be re-created as the "new heaven and new earth" (Isaiah 65, Revelation 21), when Christ comes again.

This hymn not only expresses our joy through a catchy melody (by Handel, using phrases from his Messiah) and with quaint, old-English language ("the Lord is come" – the now nearly extinct unaccusative intransitive verb according to Mignon Fogarty, "the Grammar Girl" – who knew?), but it also focuses us on the goodness of God's creation, which reflects his glory too, and will be with us forever. Joy to the world indeed!

A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all.

– Pastor Mark Shaltanis

## **Christmas Worship Schedule**

*Christmas Eve Worship, Saturday,  
December 24*

*Candlelight Service for Families: 5:00 p.m.*

*Music of the Season: 7:30 p.m.*

*Candlelight Service with Holy Communion: 8:00 p.m.*

*Christmas Day Worship, Sunday,  
December 25*

*Celebration of Christ's Birth (in English and Mandarin  
Chinese) with Holy Communion: 10:00 a.m.*

# **Church Officers and Board Members, 2013**

## **President**

*Lynn Jacquez*

## **Vice President**

*Steve Berg*

## **Treasurer**

*Jim Easterly*

## **Financial Secretary**

*Mary Johnshoy*

*Al Attermeyer*

## **Board of Elders**

*Janice Sebring*

*Norman Armstrong Jr.*

*Dave O'Neill*

*Walter Smith*

*Sean Harrell*

*Mary Ann Wollerton*

## **Board of Education**

*Bev Mackey*

*Jerrold Goldblatt*

*Sara Starck*

## **Board of Evangelism**

*Judy Koucky*

*Mark Behrens*

## **Board of Fellowship**

*Priscilla Altmann*

*Stephanie Aspinwall*

*Theresa Shaltanis*

*Alane O'Neill*

## **Board of Finance**

*Gordon Thompson*

*Sophia Amusah*

*Michael Harkins*

## **Board of Property Management**

*Chris Damato*

*Bob Juenger*

*Norm Williams*

*Eric Brinkmann*

*Brian Fick*

## **Board of Stewardship**

*Mike Johnshoy*

*Dan Casto*

*Chris Frenze*

*Wayne Lehrer*

## **Board of Youth**

*Jennifer Zambone*

*Amanda Schneider*

## **Chinese Deacons**

*Yongxian Ma*

*Huazhong Lu*

*Hudson Du*

*Dong (Eric) Wang*

## The Bread of Life

Are you curious what happens after you place your food donations in the plastic bin in the narthex? How do your donations actually get to a person in need? And what is the food pantry?

When the bin gets full, a volunteer from St. Paul's drives the donations about four miles to the Falls Church Food Pantry located in Knox Presbyterian Church off Route 50. This food pantry is part of the Falls Church Community Service



Council (FCS). The FCS is a coalition of churches, including St. Paul's, and human service organizations in the greater Falls Church area. The overall purpose of the FCS is to provide short-term and emergency assistance to disadvantaged people living in the Falls Church community.

When an individual or family needs food, a program leader at Knox receives a call. All assistance is previously arranged and vetted by church leaders, Fairfax County, Falls Church City, or other social workers. FCS recently won an award for streamlining the process so they can respond to basic needs less than 24 hours after receiving a referral. Next, a



volunteer gathers a week's worth of food and drives it to the person's residence. Since people who use this service usually are sick, have disabilities, or are elderly

and without transportation, FCS found it is more efficient to deliver the food.

The actual food pantry is small, and the sides are lined with shelving. There are two refrigerators on one side and a wooden work table in the middle. A few weeks before Thanksgiving, some of the shelves are bare or spotty with canned food. But that will change. During the annual Thanksgiving food drive, the Boy Scouts bring in a few tons of much needed canned food and the church bursts at the seams! Despite this momentary plenty, the need persists all year.



Organization is the key to efficient distribution of food. Volunteers sort the food cans and place them on shelves that are labeled by vegetable or fruit such as “peas” or “pears,” with oldest use by dates placed at the front of each shelf. This helps the volunteer locate food quickly. Fresh food is also provided. However, FCS prefers to buy it as needed since vegetables and fruit are perishable.

FCS seeks to use these limited resources wisely. For instance, instead of providing turkeys for Thanksgiving, which need a lot of storage space and may take several days to thaw if frozen, volunteers hand out supermarket gift cards. These gift cards are useful since they have a long shelf life and are convenient to transport. Also, people can buy the type of main dish they want. Some may prefer red meat, or they may want only vegetables if they are vegetarian.

Since the organization is more than a food pantry, FCS provides emergency funds to assist people in times of hardship. For example, after the derecho in June, calls for assis-

*Continued on page 8*

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tance skyrocketed. As you know, many people lost electricity, their food spoiled, and in some cases their homes flooded. This caused hardship as some families were faced with the difficult choice of whether to pay for housing repairs, buy medicine, or eat. In times of financial adversity, FCS may pay providers directly for rent, medicine, utilities, and other special needs on behalf of the people in need.

FCS also furnishes clothing assistance through a voucher program and delivers donated furniture. (FCS would love to have volunteers with strong backs to help deliver the furniture.) And recently a pilot program began giving some assistance to homeless and transient people by offering bags containing toiletry items, food, and bus tokens.

Unfortunately, FCS lost out on a \$20,000 Fairfax County grant this year – not because of what it does but how the grant was written. This means that it is currently operating on a very tight budget and needs our help!

\*\*\*

Thank you to Linda Rice-Johnston from Knox Presbyterian for a tour of the food pantry.

St. Paul's doesn't have a set delivery day but relies on volunteers to take items over to Knox. If you would like to take a turn, please call the church office at 703/573-0295. The food pantry is open for deliveries Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The Knox Presbyterian phone number is 703/237-2562.

For a list of items currently in short supply at the Falls Church Community Food Pantry, visit <http://www.fcsweicare.org/donate.html>. If you'd like to contribute a monetary donation, please send it to FCS Office, Knox Presbyterian Church, 7416 Arlington Blvd., Falls Church, VA 22042.

Falls Church Community Service Council, Inc., is a member of the United Way, and you can designate your donations to UW #8908 or CFC #56071.

### **Directions from St. Paul's to Knox Presbyterian Church**

From the church, turn left on Idylwood Road. Turn right on Route 7. Turn right on W. Annandale Road. Turn right on Rte. 50 (Arlington Blvd.). Turn right on Allen Street. Turn left into parking lot behind Knox Presbyterian Church. The address is 7416 Arlington Blvd., Falls Church, VA 22042.



**PRAYERS**  
*of the*  
**CHURCH**

*Lara Schwoebel*

*Carol Juenger*

*Joe Mills*

*Dee Sitnik*

*Maureen Forcier*

*Ed & Gladys Hane*

*Peter Frenze*

*Hal Skean*

*Jack Hartman*

*Millie Sullivan*

## Holiday Shopping?

Why not visit the Seminary Gift Shop? It has a new look, and new merchandise is arriving every week. Right now it is stocked with crèches, Christmas ornaments, and other holiday items made by craftspeople from around the world.



Give the gifts that help others. Purchases of craft items help Christians in developing countries, and profits from the gift shop support a Lutheran seminary student.

February–March 2013  
Newsletter Deadline:  
January 20

Send submissions to  
*[m.baumgartner@cox.net](mailto:m.baumgartner@cox.net)*  
*[stringer.orvedahl@verizon.net](mailto:stringer.orvedahl@verizon.net)*  
*[kimberwilliams@aim.com](mailto:kimberwilliams@aim.com)*

**December Birthdays**

- 2 Kerrie Shrewsbury
- 3 Peter Frenze  
Nicolai Taranov
- 5 Andrew Lorenz
- 7 Brenden Harrell
- 9 Christopher Huling
- 11 Bo Hann
- 17 Timofey Taranov
- 18 Dale Amdahl  
David Yashar
- 19 Tim Hecht
- 24 Alane O'Neill
- 25 Rachael  
Seidenschnur
- 26 Maureen Forcier
- 29 Brit Schwoebel
- 30 Robert Juenger  
Shaw-hwa Yang
- 31 Brian Fick  
Ed Hane

- 13 Paula Kelso  
Barb Perlowski
- 14 Cayla Freedlander
- 16 Paul Du  
Gladys Hane
- 19 Viviane Thompson
- 21 Al Kroening Jr.
- 24 Betty Hickey
- 25 Jerrold Goldblatt  
Kathleen Wang
- 26 Dan Casto  
Maj-Britt Frenze  
Susan Hecht  
Katrina Kelso
- 28 Paige Huling
- 29 Aldo Becci
- 31 Russell McCants  
Norm Williams

**January Birthdays**

- 1 Hua Zhong Lu
- 7 Melissa Hecht  
Carol Juenger
- 8 Tor Eide
- 12 Geraine Armstrong  
Juliane Buuck



## **Preschool News**

**December 2012–January 2013**

As many of you know, I am a member of Columbia Baptist Church here in Falls Church. In October, I had the opportunity to hear a missionary from India speak. I would like to share some of the statistics that were communicated:

- India has a population of 1.25 billion.
- 43% of the population lives below the poverty line.
- 800,000 people die every year from preventable diseases.
- 45% of the population is younger than 14 years old.
- 100 million children labor in jobs earning less than \$1 per day.
- 18 million children live in the streets.
- 59 million children have never seen the inside of a school.
- Most staggering of all, 15 million children are living in bondage.

I am not sure about you, but for days I had a very hard time wrapping my mind around these numbers. I think it was even more difficult to try and process this information because this year 38% of the children attending our Pre-school are Asian Indian children.

In 2009, Columbia Baptist Church began funding the Pearly Gates Child Development Center in Vijayawada, India. The children's center is located in one of a hundred slums in this city of 10 million. More than 100 children (with an even ratio of girls and boys) are enrolled in the center, with the requirement that parents keep their children in school until the age of 14. Activities at the center include help with their schoolwork and creative individual and group activities such as Bible stories, games, songs, and an evening meal (with a multivitamin). The center operates each evening, Monday through Saturday. In 2011, an additional program for expecting and nursing mothers was established at the center. Each morning, 25 mothers come for breakfast, Bible study, and job training (including sewing, plate making, and pickle making). This summer, Columbia was able to purchase another child development center in another slum area of Vijayawada to help meet the pressing needs of so many children in poverty.

One morning, I shared these statistics with the teachers, and it was suggested that the Preschool support Columbia's ministry in some way. My wheels began to turn, and together with Pastor and the Preschool Committee, we have decided that the Preschool's Giving Tree this year will be "Children Helping Children," a love offering collected to support these children's centers in Vijayawada. And as God would have it, many of the families in our Preschool come from this same region in India.

This time of year, there is always a joy to see at the Preschool. Children and teachers are talking about the things that they are thankful for and are anxiously awaiting the Christmas season. It is our pleasure as teachers to share the Christmas story with the children and their families. Through music, the children have a wonderful opportunity to share the Christmas story at our annual Christmas Program scheduled for Tuesday, December 18, at 10:30 a.m. If you are not busy, I urge you to come and start your Christmas season and celebration off right! In January, the children will anxiously await snowy days as they explore the season of winter and learn about the animals that live in the cold. Over the next couple of months in chapel, we will hear the wonderful stories leading up to Jesus' birth, the story of his birth, the story of Jesus getting lost in the temple, and the story of how Jesus called the 12 disciples.

In closing, please remember those who are struggling. Please pray for the people of India who are gripped by the desperate nature of hunger and poverty and pray for those in ministry who are working with them. And last, but certainly not least, forget about the "give me's" that we all go to God with in our prayer time, and simply thank him for all that he has given us. *"Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise. Give thanks to him and bless his name."* – Psalm 100:4

God's Instrument,  
LuAnn Carrig  
Director, St. Paul's Preschool

## Christmas Traditions from Germany and Scandinavia

Most people know that our Christmas tree originated in Germany, but what other traditions did our Lutheran forebears give us? The Christmas stocking tradition probably originated in Germany or Scandinavia. Children hung a stocking or left a shoe by the fireplace for St. Nicholas on St. Nicholas Day, December 6. St. Nicholas rewarded or punished children depending on their behavior.



The Christmas tree is associated with Martin Luther, who is said to have decorated an evergreen in his home with lighted candles. However, Christmas trees did not become common in Germany until the 18th century. Christmas trees were set up on Christmas Eve and taken down on the 12th day of Christmas, Epiphany.



Candlelight at Christmastime is a strong part of the Scandinavian traditions. December is a dark time in Scandinavia, and candlelight brings warmth and festivity to the long nights. The Yule log, so often associated with Great Britain, also has

its origins in Scandinavia, where it served a practical purpose during the long, cold December nights.

The Advent wreath became a German Christmas custom in the 16th century, but lighted wreaths were used in the Scandinavian countries even earlier. The evergreen branches reminded people of life in the dead of winter, while the circle reminded them of the cycle of the seasons.



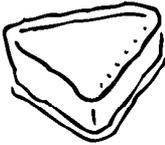
The Advent calendar began to be used by German Lutherans in the early 19th century. These calendars took many forms. At first, the days leading to Christmas might simply have been marked in chalk. Later a custom of lighting a new candle each day or hanging a small picture developed. The first printed calendar was produced in Hamburg at the beginning of the 20th century. Over the years, these calendars have become more elaborate, with doors that open and surprises inside.

The Scandinavian countries have introduced a modern version of the Advent calendar, called the *Julekalender* or *Julkalender*. This calendar takes the form of a television or radio show that starts on December 1 and ends on Christmas Eve. Will this custom someday be introduced in America? Time will tell.

# A Gift for Someone Special

## You will need:

- ▲ a pie/wedge-shaped plastic container with lid
- ▲ an empty thread spool
- ▲ green felt
- ▲ brown felt
- ▲ craft glue
- ▲ scissors
- ▲ variety of trims — beads, glitter, sequins, etc.
- ▲ nuts or candy

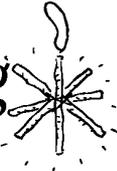


## How to make:

1. Cut green felt to fit lid of container.
2. Glue in place.
3. Cut brown felt to cover spool.
4. Glue it on to spool.
5. Decorate "tree" with trim.
6. Glue "trunk" in place.
7. Let dry.
8. Fill with nuts or candy for a special gift.



# Make Shining Stars



Hang some shining stars on your Christmas tree!

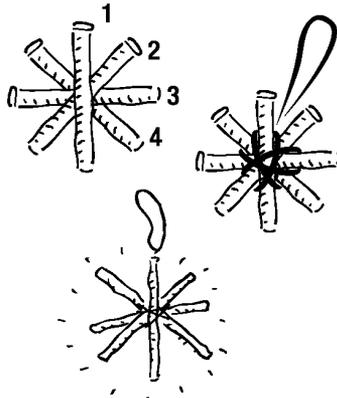
## You will need:

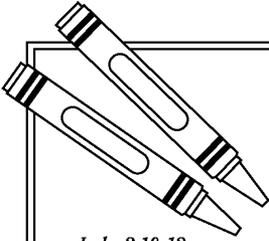
- ★ 2 plastic drinking straws for each star
- ★ glitter
- ★ string or yarn
- ★ scissors
- ★ white glue



## How to make:

- ★ Cut each straw in half.
- ★ Cut a piece of yarn 18" long.
- ★ Lay the 4 straw pieces in a star shape.
- ★ Wrap the yarn around the center of the straws.
- ★ Tie securely, leaving some yarn to use as a hanger.
- ★ Spread glue on the star and sprinkle with glitter.
- ★ Shake off excess glitter.





# Just for KIDS

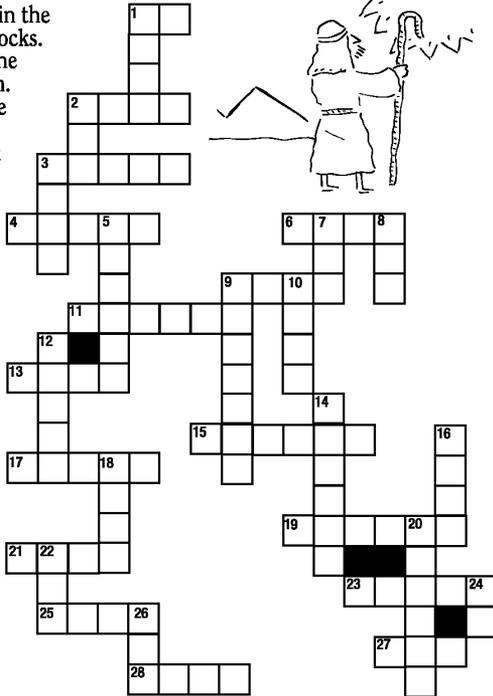
Luke 2:10-12

## The Angel Appeared

There were shepherds in the fields watching their flocks. Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared to them. Find the words that the angel spoke. First fit the words from the list into the squares. Next, write the words on the correct lines.



- |      |         |
|------|---------|
| Do   | This    |
| be   | sign    |
| has  | find    |
| all  | baby    |
| for  | lying   |
| not  | bring   |
| you  | great   |
| joy  | Today   |
| town | David   |
| that | afraid  |
| good | people  |
| news | Savior  |
| will | Christ  |
| been | cloths  |
| born | manger  |
| Lord | wrapped |



“ \_\_\_\_\_ . I \_\_\_\_\_ of  
 24 26 1A 5 3A 8 13 18  
 the \_\_\_\_\_ .  
 4 27 16 9A 1A 2D 7 15 12  
 in the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ a \_\_\_\_\_  
 28 23 20 22 1D 3D  
 to \_\_\_\_\_ ; he is \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ .”  
 8 19 10

Answer: “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.”