

St. Paul Lutheran Church & School

300 W. Pecan Blvd.  
McAllen, TX 78501-2397

*April 2010 Newsletter*



Address Service Requested

# St. Paul Lutheran

Church and School—LCMS  
300 West Pecan Boulevard

McAllen, Texas 78501

**April 2010**

The testimony comes from “Claudius” a roman soldier who was both punisher and witness of the Lord.

“After the crucifixion I helped lower His body and lay it on the ground. I waited as these women—He motioned to several near the front. I waited as they prepared the body, and then I saw that it was placed in the tomb.

“I thought my day was over. It took four men to close the grave’s opening with a huge stone. When we turned to leave, word came that Pilot and the Temple leaders were nervous that someone would steal the body. We were told to seal the tomb and stand guard all night.”

“There were several of us, so we built a fire and took turns. I was the first to sleep. When they woke me for my turn, it was an hour before dawn. The night was black – as black as any night I can remember. The moon was small, and the stars were hidden by the clouds.”

“I stood on one side. Another soldier stood on the other. He laughed about how easy it was to ground a tomb. Not often does a soldier get guard duty in a cemetery. Maybe we dozed off, because at first I thought I was dreaming. The guard began to shake – violently. It shook so hard I fell to the ground. Rocks fell from the walls behind us. Sparks flew from the fire. The soldiers asleep on the ground jumped up. I know they were standing because when the light hit them; I could see their faces like it was broad daylight.”

“What light?” someone asked.

“You tell me!” Claudius demanded. “Where did that light come from?”

The rock rolled back and light roared out. A burst of fire with no heat. A gust of wind blew from the tomb, put out the fire, knocked us back, and the next thing I knew, the tomb was empty. I looked at the soldiers. They were stunned. About that time these two women appeared.”

“That’s when we saw the angel!” Mary blurted. “He was sitting on the rock! He told us that Jesus was not here. He told us that...”

“He told us that Jesus is no longer dead!” He words rang in the room like the peal of a bell. No one dared speak. Finally one did. A clean shaven younger man said softly, but firmly, “Just like He said He would.”

“You mean, He said He would do this?” Claudius asked.

“More than once. But we didn’t understand. We didn’t believe. Until today.”

The resurrection of the Lord is the most firmly attested event in Biblical history. The record may begin with the unspoken testimony of Claudius sighted above, which is fictional, faithful and idealized. The record continues with the proclamation of the disciples, “He has risen.” Such testimony is affirmed, factual and seemingly endless in the scripture. More than 500 people over a period of forty days testify to the resurrection of Christ. It was enough for them to believe. Our faith is build on solid testimony. That fait brings us assurance for our earthly days of the companionship.....

*Continued on page 5....*

## April

### Birthdays

1 Andrew Keefe	16 Patricia Walker	29 Sondra Long
2 Omar Torres	17 Amanda Corso	Brett Myska
3 Leonel Garza	Karie Eanes	30 Donna Holcomb
4 Dick Smith	Madison McCre	Adrias Jones
5 Ed St. Clair	18 Brandon Perez	Donna Phillips
6 Bridgett Wagner	Kim Smith	Inez Redlin
7 Tom Brown	Shawn Swanberg	
8 Danny Hempel	19 Dorothy Richetta	
9 David Kramer	Joseph Valladarez	
10 Victor Bradley	Garrett Wagner	
11 Ayana Davis	20 Doris Slierman	2 Bill and Bonnie Kollmann
12 Alejandro Tamez	21 Karen Karle	4 Joshua and Katherine Sheeran
13 Kendra Mahr	22 Waldine Guth	5 Ken and Virginia Myska
14 Matthew Richter	Merlin Rekward	6 Jim and Sondra Plowman
15 Bill Wegener	23 Joel Bessert	8 Jim and Yvonne Nordmeyer
16 Michael Fowler	Lisa McCreery	8 Jeff and Ginny Richter
17 Tim Wedel	Dale Meyer	13 Mike and Bonnie Ozuna
18 Jim White	Sonia Palacios	14 Martin and Nancy Rios
19 Tim Shewmaker	Luella Smith	15 Walt and Phyllis Weise
20 Kyle Cyphers	Krystal Washburn	18 Jaime and Melanie Rosalez
21 David Kaltenbach	24 Daniela Salazar	20 Jay and Cris Keefer
22 Laura Mizener	John Rekward	Bob and Roxanne Thorpe
23 Alonzo Vazquez	Shirley Saeger	24 Daniel and Romie Vigil
24 Frances Cazares	Barbara Wixson	25 Mike and Allie Hiles
25 Ashley Dube	25 Drew Mahr	26 David and Karie Eanes
26 Peggy Obst	Eleanor Norbie	
27 Cassandra Palacios	Mariam Torres	
28 Robert Helbing	26 Natasha Hawke	
29 Sunidhi Jain	Violet Offutt	
30 Regina Bell	27 Jerry Dregger	
	28 Dale Haerther	
	29 Jackie Perez	
	Lawrence Skloss	
	Ann Hempel	

## April

### Anniversaries

ST PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL				
FISCAL YEAR FINANCIALS				
	Feb'10	2009-10		
	Campus Total	July-Feb Actual	July-Feb Budget	
<b>REVENUES</b>				
Ordinary Income	46,212	387,469	457,251	
Other Donation Income	6,759	59,867	44,754	
Fee Income	96,389	1,015,103	1,052,275	
Other Income	18,577	179,784	140,140	
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$167,938</b>	<b>\$1,642,223</b>	<b>\$1,694,420</b>	
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
<b>Salaries</b>				
Salaries-Pastors/Ministers	12,415	135,824	153,304	
Salaries-Other	81,732	703,054	762,100	
Benefits	17,313	125,189	124,695	
Equip & Furnishing	5,580	37,437	30,933	
Children's Ministry	364	8,760	14,667	
Utilities	1,611	61,467	86,117	
Supplies/Activities	6,431	57,280	74,719	
Property Expenses	18,516	84,245	75,413	
Ad-Conference-Travel-Etc	1,665	30,985	23,926	
Meals-Discount-Benevolence	9,528	102,454	88,381	
District-Synod Support	2,117	30,233	30,231	
Outreach, Youth, & School	310	13,962	13,147	
Other Expenses	1,350	17,609	31,087	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$158,932</b>	<b>\$1,408,500</b>	<b>\$1,508,718</b>	
<b>NET TOTAL</b>	<b>\$9,006</b>	<b>\$233,723</b>	<b>\$185,702</b>	

#### St Paul feels Safer

A big thank you to Sarah & Kendra, in the main office, and Mary Markham, in her new childcare office for keeping the new hallway doors locked during the day and "buzzing" through folks who belong in the building. We also appreciate church, school, & childcare folks taking the time to check-in so that we can keep a better eye on who is in the building. Thanks for helping in this way while school is in-session.

Jim Schmidt

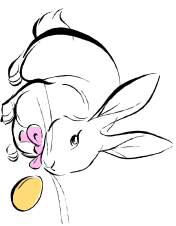
## Child Care

“Alleluia, Jesus is Risen”

Chapel Schedule:	
April 7	“Good-Bye for Now” Luke 24:50-53
April 14	“Lions and Bears” 1 Samuel 17: 34-37
April 21	“David and Goliath” 1 Samuel 17
April 28	“David and Jonathan” 1 Samuel 18

Letters This Month:	U, V and W
Colors:	Rainbow Colors
Numbers:	9 and 10
Food:	Easter Eggs
Shape:	Diamond/Oval
Opposites:	Dry/Wet
Animals:	Ducks/Rabbits
Nursery Rhyme:	Rain, Rain Go Away
Science:	Rain
Community Helper:	Veterinarians
Special Events:	April Easter / Alleluia Celebration Tuesday 6th / Earth Day

Luke 24:5b 6a Why are you looking among the dead for someone who is alive? He isn't here! He is risen from the dead!



Serving you in Christ,  
Mary Markham  
Child Care Director

## Easter Eggs!

Christ brings light to the worldly rituals of Easter. Every Easter Sunday that I can remember while I was growing up included finding Easter eggs at church. I can still remember waiting eagerly during the beginning of Sunday School, holding my empty basket, just ready to be filled with more eggs than any of my peers. Then the adults would set us free upon the huge yard littered with plastic, pastel, candy-filled eggs. Have you ever wondered where this tradition of finding eggs comes from? Well, wonder no more.

“During the second century, Easter was originally a pagan festival. The ancient Saxons celebrated this holiday for their goddess of offspring and springtime, Easter. When the Christians noticed many tribes were worshipping Easter, they attempted to change their faith to Christianity. Slowly but surely, the Christians spread their faith but allowed the tribes to celebrate pagan feasts, Easter occurred at the same time as Christ's resurrection. Over time, Easter was converted to a Christian celebration and named Easter. The Easter Bunny has been an Easter symbol since pagan festivals. It's goddess Easter was worshiped by Anglo-Saxons via her earthly symbol, the rabbit. The rabbit also means fertilization and growth (springtime). The egg is a symbol of rebirth in most cultures. In the early days, eggs were wrapped in gold leaf or colored by boiling them with petals and certain flowers.”

This may cause concern to some that the tradition of the egg and bunny both have origins in pagan culture. However, this should not be a barrier for the tradition. Christians have a very successful history of taking pagan traditions and putting a Christian message upon them. To bring further comfort, look at the tradition of the egg and how it symbolizes a new birth. What a wonderful tradition for Christians! We are all made new in Christ; the old is gone the new has come. So when we look at Easter eggs or receive emails about how things like this are pagan and should be kept at a distance, let's embrace them with Christ and His love. Let's let the eggs be a reminder of our new birth, and let's find those other traditions in our culture that can be used as a tool to tell people about the life changing sacrifice of Jesus.



Vicar  
Cris Escher



## St. Paul Lutheran School

Just a reminder, the 2010 Spring Auction takes place on Saturday, April 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM in the Activity Center (Gym). The theme for this year's event is: PASSPORT AROUND THE WORLD. This theme is certainly appropriate for one the more international schools in the LCMS school system. The food will consist of a variety of multi-cultural dishes—some even prepared by our parents who will represent that country at the auction.

The School Board, the students, the faculty, and the staff are requesting donations to be auctioned off during this event. If you have something special you would like to place in the auction or if you can find businesses that would donate items or gift certificates, please feel free to bring them to Dr. Lang's office. The deadline for submitting donations, which will be printed in the auction brochure, is Friday, April 9<sup>th</sup>. We will be collecting items up until Wednesday, April 21<sup>st</sup>. Just remember that donations submitted after the April 9<sup>th</sup> deadline will not be printed in the brochure.

Since the beginning of the Lent Season, SPLS students have been participating in the Wednesday morning Lenten Services—which started on February 17<sup>th</sup> with Ash Wednesday. Having a chance to worship with the members of our congregation during this very special Holy season helps bring the children and the congregation closer. After the Lenten Season concludes, SPLS will go back to their regular Chapel worship times on 8:30 AM every Wednesday. If you would like to continue worshipping with our students and staff after Lent, feel free to do so. Everyone is always welcome.

Easter Break will start on Friday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> and continue through Monday, April 5<sup>th</sup>. School will resume on Tuesday, April 6<sup>th</sup> with our traditional Alleluia Service starting at 8:30 in the Activity Center. Upon completion of the service, students will march around the church parking lots with banners proclaiming the resurrection of our Savior, Jesus Christ. If you would like to join in this special worship service, please feel free to do so.

Through the Love of Our Lord, Jesus Christ,  
Dr. Kathryn M. Lang, Principal



## Music and Worship

It may seem like the music season ends after Holy Week, but there is still plenty of music to be made to proclaim the Gospel at St. Paul. Here are some of the things you have to look forward to:

### **April 4th – May 23rd: The Easter Season**

Lent is a 40 day (plus Sundays) season of repentance and contemplation. Easter, however, is a 50 day season of rejoicing in the resurrection of our Lord. The music and worship for these fifty days will be especially festive as we celebrate our risen savior.

### **April 25th, 8AM: “Gospel” Sunday**

At the 8AM service on Sunday, April 25th, we'll be singing your favorite old 'gospel' hymns as well as diverse songs from around the world. Choir and instruments will be joining us for a fun Sunday of praise.

### **May 16th and 23rd: Ascension and Pentecost Sunday**

Ascension and Pentecost are two of the biggest festivals of the Christian year. On Ascension Sunday we will be remembering the day when our Lord ascended into heaven to sit at the right hand of God. On Pentecost we remember the day that the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples and thousands heard the Gospel and were baptized.

I also wish to thank all who have helped with the music and worship throughout the holy season of Lent and the celebration on Easter Sunday. Each member of the praise band, song-leaders, choir, cantors, instrumentalists, acolytes, ushers, altar guild, and all others played an important role. Thank you for taking part in proclaiming the Gospel at St. Paul.

In Christ,  
Tim Shewmaker  
Director of Parish Music



**Thank You** to all the LYF and Jr. Confirmation members who participated in this year's **Dinner Theater**. Without your help it would not have been possible. Also, thank you to all the parents and volunteers who gave up their Friday and Saturday to help make it a success. Your servant attitude and giving spirit shines through as an example to our youth!

**Thank You** to everyone who helped to make the **Lock-In** a success! Everyone who gave their time and energy, making the rice bags, spending the whole night with us, and those of you who donated food for the youth that night; we couldn't have done it without you. The night was a huge success, and our youth are excited to do another lock-in soon!!

**Time to get UP** Easter is coming up and our youth are preparing for Easter Breakfast. Immediately following the Sunrise Service, we will be serving Breakfast Tacos, fresh fruit, and even some pastries. The food will be served until 8am. The extra food will be left out for fellowship time. We hope you can join us for an exceptional South Texas Easter Breakfast.

### Calendar of Events-

April		
3 <sup>rd</sup>	10am	Easter Breakfast Set Up
4 <sup>th</sup>	6:45am	Easter Sunrise Breakfast
17 <sup>th</sup>	5pm	Soup Kitchen
May		
1 <sup>st</sup>		Confirmation Dinner
2 <sup>nd</sup>		Confirmation
9 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am	Mother's Day Recognition
15 <sup>th</sup>	9am	Graduate Recognition Set Up
16 <sup>th</sup>		Graduate Recognition

**On a Mission** The LYF, Social Committee, and FCA groups from Cathey and Morris middle schools, have teamed together to begin a mission at St. Paul. On April 17<sup>th</sup>. We are hosting our first Soup Kitchen. We are seeking volunteers and requesting donations. If you would like to volunteer, we also need hall monitors from 4:45pm-7:15pm, additionally, we need volunteers to pack bags with food for families, serve the meals, clean up, and assist in taking boxes to the recipient's car. We are in need of further assistance with donations of canned vegetables, spaghetti noodles, spaghetti sauce, and snack items, such as oranges, individually packed healthy snacks. We are also seeking monetary donations of \$5, which covers the cost of 5 New Testament Bibles that will be placed in the bags of food. If you have any questions, would like to make a donation, or would like to sign up as a volunteer, please see Matthew Drefs, Alie Hiles, or Ed St. Clair.



**Care Packages for Pastor Otten** If you would like to write or send Pastor Otten a care package, for him or the troops, please use the following mailing address. Some suggested items at this time: Beef Jerky, Jolly Ranchers, Werthers Toffee, iTunes gift card, Amazon gift card, Starbucks Columbian coffee singles, and stationary. Re-member that the mailing address must appear exactly like this:  
 Christopher Otten  
 376 AEW/HC  
 APO, AE 09353

**Flower Chart:** If you would like to dedicate flowers in remembrance or in celebration of a special day such as birthdays and anniversaries, baptismal birthdays etc., please sign up on the flower chart located outside the office on the bulletin board. The cost of the arrangements are \$40.00 and you may take the arrangement home with you after the 10:45am worship service.

**Lenten Dinners:** Lenten Dinners will be served on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 pm. Please bring your family for Dinner, and then stay to enjoy the Worship Service immediately following at 7:00pm.

**Stamporee:** The goal of the Lutheran World Relief Stamporee is to support LWR's Project Comfort, which provides funding for the shipping of goods to those in need around the world. All LWML societies are encouraged to collect and save cancelled postage stamps and send them to the district stamp chairman.

*Here are a few pointers about saving stamps:*

- Buy and use **commemorative stamps**, since they are worth more than common stamps.
- Save all cancelled stamps.
- Place stamps on envelope in the upper right hand corner, allowing **1/4 inch** from *each* edge.
- Stamps need not be trimmed or removed from envelopes.
- If trimming from envelopes, leave at least 1/4 inch around stamp. Sorting into categories or weighing is not necessary. **Do not soak off!**

Then place stamps in the tin box labeled Stamps, located in the Fellowship Hall on the glass cabinet.

Thank You for your continued support!



Continued from the front page:  
 of Christ; for the day beyond the end of days of endless life and a resurrection of our own. We hope and pray that the resurrected Lord will come to you in a new way this Easter tide. Joins us in worship and song as we greet one another triumphantly saying, "He is risen!" "He is risen indeed!"

Pastor Wesolik

The story of Claudius is excerpted from a news letter presented by Dr. James Dobson.