



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

352 West Wood Street
Decatur, IL 62522

(217) 423-6955

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www.stpaulsdecatur.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Build the Home. Change the World.

Newsletters are published every other month. They are available to be picked up in the fellowship area.

Angel Tree

Angel Tree is a ministry that provides Christmas gifts for children whose parents, who for various reasons, cannot provide for them at Christmas. The congregation of St. Paul's has blessed over 250 children and their families with gifts on Christmas Day in previous years. Angels for the tree are provided by Northeast Community Fund, St. Paul's Early Learning Center, New Life Pregnancy Center, Baby Talk, children who have a parent in the prison system, and foster children through Lutheran Child and Family Services. If you would like to participate in this ministry, angels will be available on a Christmas Tree in the fellowship area from Nov. 27 to Dec. 11 at St. Paul's on Wood St. and at SPL Mound Rd. There will be papers on the Angel Tree table. Please make sure you **sign with your name and phone number** by the Angel number you have picked. Return all gifts to the Angel Tree table **by December 11.**

During this special time of year, let us be God's hands and feet sharing the love and spirit of Christmas and help bring joy to children in need.

Thank you for your generosity.

Please contact the church office at 423-6955, if you have questions.



the
St. Paul's
Press

December, 2011- January, 2012

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Winter F-3

By Gloria Greene

After this I looked, and there before me was a door standing open in heaven. And the voice I had first heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, "come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this." At once I was in the Spirit, and there before me was a throne in heaven with someone on it . . . And the devil, who deceived them. Was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They were tormented day and night for ever and ever. Revelation 4:1-2, 20:10.

We find ourselves today confronted with a broad spectrum of beliefs about Heaven and Hell. Will it be fluffy clouds and harps? Or will it be sulfur and fire? And to make matters still more interesting, other religions and philosophies have contributed their own ideas into the mix until it is hard to separate reality from speculation. "Heaven & Hell: Painting the Right Biblical Picture", will be one of the adult classes offered during our winter F-3 session. In this class we will get an accurate Biblical perspective on Heaven & Hell. This class will be led by Vicar Matt.



Our winter session of F-3 will be 6 weeks long beginning on Wednesday, January 4, 2012. This session will be an abbreviated version of F-3 due to the transitions that will be happening in the coming months. The other adult classes we will offer are as follows: 1 Corinthians led by Pastor Rob Mrosko and Basics 1 & 2 led by Pastor Wray Offermann.

This session 6th graders will be going through an Early Communion class and 7th & 8th graders will be finishing up Confirmation. We recommend that a parent attend each of these classes with their youth. There is a class for 9th – 12th graders that will be topical. Remember that we have classes for all ages from 3 years through 5th grade. Nursery is always available for infant through 3 yrs. All of the classes begin at 6:30 pm. Don't forget there is a dinner offered before classes, from 5:30 pm – 6:15 pm.

You can register on-line at www.stpaulsdecatur.org or you can fill out a registration sheet and turn it in to the church office starting December 5th. If you have any questions, please contact Gloria Greene Director of Community Life at 423-6955 or email her at Gloria@stpaulsdecatur.org.

Opportunities Abound!

Ushers Needed

Ephesians 4:16 reminds us we all need to do our part as we grow up in love. Currently we need ushers for all services at Wood St. and SPL North.

Become a working part of the body. Call or e-mail Laura at 423-6955 or laura@stpaulsdecatur.org.

Musicians Needed

If you can read music, and play the guitar, bass, keyboard or drums, and would like to serve in this dynamic ministry, contact Laura Mueller at 423-6955 or laura@stpaulsdecatur.org

Volunteer Central

Visit Volunteer Central on our website by going to www.stpaulsdecatur.org. Place your cursor over the menu button "Getting Connected" then select "Volunteer Central."

There you'll find a list of all our current needs and also be able to see all of the areas in which you can serve.

Red Cross Blood Drive

**Dec 20 & Feb 21
12 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.**

For your convenience, you may reserve a time to donate by calling the church office at 423-6955.

Our Ministry By the Numbers

For September and October, 2011:

Date	Attend	Current	Building
9/4	811.00	\$29,560.27	\$24,036.00
9/11	814.00	\$30,091.00	\$14,810.00
9/18	811.00	\$24,949.99	\$17,013.00
9/25	751.00	\$22,638.00	\$24,949.99
10/2	704.00	\$30,724.80	\$23,545.00
10/9	686.00	\$28,464.92	\$9,250.00
10/16	825.00	\$25,759.25	\$7,960.00
10/23	743.00	\$26,316.60	\$6,755.00
10/30	753.00	\$28,392.79	\$22,712.00

Full financial statements are available in the black magazine rack on the wall by Jan Allen's desk.

Special Birthdays For Special People

Dec 4	Bollhorst, Wanda
Dec 4	Storck, Raymond
Dec 21	Heinkel, Erwin
Dec 27	Curtis, Ellen
Dec 29	Minton, Frances
Dec 30	Caylor, Mary
Dec 30	Horn, Lois
Jan 1	Howe, Ida
Jan 3	Avis, Joan
Jan 3	Bollhorst, Earl
Jan 10	Koshinski, Lorraine
Jan 13	Aukamp, Lloyd
Jan 18	Norman, Charles
Jan 20	Mendenall, Gloria
Jan 23	Horton, Meta
Jan 29	Lawrence, Mary

If you would like to send a card or note to any of the above feel free to call the church office at 423-6955 to get their current address or use our new on-line pictorial church directory.

Members Residing in Nursing Homes

Aspen Ridge
Marjorie Reinhold

Eastview Terrace, Sullivan
Billie Rasor

DMH Extended Care
Tom Karlowski

Decatur Manor Healthcare
Janice Hall
Sharon Marques

Fairhaven Christian Home
Marge Buckles
Sophie Dunnigan
Dorothy Robertson
Edna Wernsing
Lucille Heinkel
Katherine Staff

Heartland of Decatur
Mary Augustine

Imboden Creek Living Center
Eunice Carroll
Frances Schanefelt

Imboden Creek Gardens
Rita Wall

Liberty Village, Clinton
Jim & Ruth Bollhorst

Lincoln Manor
Meta Horton
Ruth Klingler

McKinley Court
Marie Hendrian
Marilyn Lane
"Red" Winger

Eagle Ridge Apartments
June Cordts
Eunice Kerwood

Oxford House Apartments
Luella Lange
Betty Kelly
Ella Pratt

Heritage Manor
Arline Malchow

Hickory Point Christain Village
Harry Young

Decatur Rehab Health Care
David Baker

Mothers of Faith Christmas Brunch

December 7th from 9:30 am-11:30 am
At St. Paul's Lutheran Church on Wood St.

Ladies, you are invited to an enjoyable morning of brunch, music, and Christmas tips for this busy holiday season!!

9:30 – Fellowship
10:00 – Children Singing
10:15 – Christmas Tips
10:45 – Christmas Carols

Childcare is provided for children 5 years old and younger.

Statement of Purpose for Mothers of Faith: Because we believe God planned Christian nurturing to depend upon the family (Deut. 6:7), and we saw the need for young mothers to learn from older mothers (Titus 2:3-4), and support one another in the task of parenting, MOMMY's was formed in 1987.



New Life Pregnancy Center

Lives being changed One heart at a time

by Maryel Nelson

New Life Pregnancy Center is a Christ-centered ministry, committed to upholding the sanctity of human life by proclaiming the Gospel and demonstrating the love of Christ to those facing unexpected pregnancies. Let's take a walk into the Center and have a glimpse at what the activity looks like on any given day.

Each day at New Life begins with prayer. So many times there is a request; for example a mom needs a baby bed. The staff and volunteers go to prayer; they wait on the Lord, and He provides. They have learned that when you count on God to supply your every need, He shows up in a big way.

Those called to minister at New Life know that God has a plan and a purpose for not only their own lives, but for the lives of those they serve. Each client visit is about much more than a pregnancy test. Every meeting is a divine appointment; an opportunity to demonstrate the love of Christ, and to be an extension of His grace and mercy - touching lives in tangible ways.

Many young women, like Ali, come to New Life Pregnancy Center determined that if they are pregnant they will have an abortion. Ali was going to school and had just started a full time job in a factory. She was very sick from her pregnancy and working in the heat of the factory made it difficult for her to work a full shift.

Ali agreed to return to New Life for a medical appointment where she was able to meet her unborn baby for the very first time through an ultrasound...and she fell in love. At the end of her appointment, Ali wrote on an exit interview, "The Lord was in this place speaking through each staff member... everyone was very helpful!" New Life Pregnancy Center gives God all the glory for this precious child that will now have the opportunity to experience life and all of its possibilities. Approximately 96% of women that come to New Life for help choose life for their unborn baby.



New Life mom Ceresa and baby Jelani

However, there are many women that struggle with the memory of a past abortion. New Life embraces these women with a program called P.A.C.E. (Post-Abortion Counseling and Education), offering them the opportunity to receive God's love and forgiveness as they move beyond the decisions of their past that often impacts their today. Those that participate in this very confidential Bible Study consistently experience God's grace in ways that bring healing to their wounded hearts.

Each year close to three thousand junior and senior high school students hear the God honoring message of abstinence until marriage through New Life's Sex Esteem program. At the conclusion of a recent five day presentation, one young lady wrote on her post-questionnaire, "I'm going to stop having sex with my boyfriend and save it till marriage. Before this week I didn't know I could."

New Life's B.E.S.T. (Blessings, Encouragement, Support, and Training) program is reaching hundreds of parents as they attend Bible discussions, parenting, and life skills classes. Parents earn "Care Cash" (New Life money) which they use to "purchase" items such as cribs, diapers, formula, and baby clothes. As moms and dads shop in the Blessing Boutique, they experience love and encouragement from New Life volunteers.

New Life recently opened the New Life Thrift Shoppe at 1700 E. Pershing Road, Suite A, Decatur. Some of the young mothers have an opportunity for employment at the Thrift Shoppe. As is true in most areas of their ministry, they always welcome volunteers that have a heart for serving others. New Life Pregnancy Center is located at 1698 E. Pershing Road in Decatur. Their phone number is 872-5556. As a volunteer you are blessed to see God's hand.

As we at St. Paul's partner together with the ministry of New Life Pregnancy Center, lives are being changed - one heart at a time.

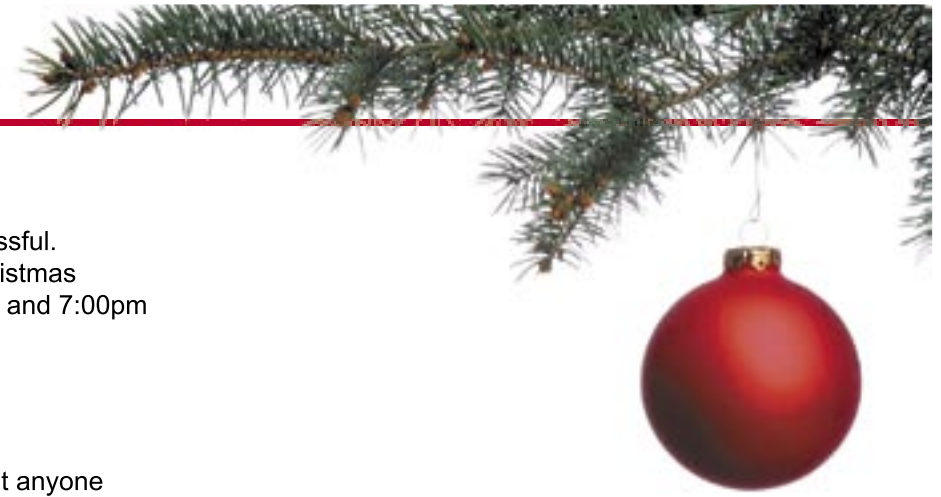
Christmas Program

December 15 at 6:30pm at the St. Paul's Early Learning Center

On Thursday, December 15 at 6:30pm, the St. Paul's Early Learning Center will be celebrating the birth of our Savior. The children will be in costume as we sing songs to remember Jesus' birth. The program will be followed by a "Happy Birthday, Jesus" party. Please join us as we celebrate God's greatest gift to us, Jesus.



Simple Christmas



Getting ready for Christmas can be fun or very stressful. Join us for our Advent services and prepare for Christmas with a joyful spirit. Advent Services are at 12:15pm and 7:00pm

- Nov 30 - Christmas Preparations
- Dec 7 - Christmas Lights
- Dec 14 - Christmas Gifts

In *A Charlie Brown Christmas* Linus asked, "Doesn't anyone know what Christmas is all about?" It seems like the simple message of Christmas gets lost in all the other events and activities. Come Christmas Eve and celebrate a Simple Christmas.

- Christmas Eve, December 24th
 - 5:00pm - Children and Family featuring children's drama
 - 7:00pm - Contemporary
 - 9:00pm - Traditional
 - 11:00pm - Traditional

- Christmas Day, December 25th
 - 10:00am at Wood St. only.

Youth Ministry Events

Sr. High Springhill Winter Retreat (www.springhillcamps.com)

- Jan. 6-8, 2012 (Registration deadline is Nov. 30 - need forms and deposit of \$75)
- For all youth and their friends in grades 9-12
- Cost: \$150 (limited scholarships available)

Sunday Night Youth Nights -

All youth in grades 7-12 are invited to join us for our Sunday Youth Night events. There is a structured Game time, God time and then Hang time and Chow time. Here are the dates for December and January:

- Dec. 4 from 6-8pm at Mound Rd.
- Dec. 18 from 1-3pm - Servant Event at Mound Rd.
- Jan. 22 from 1-3pm - Servant Event - Location TBD

For more information on any of these events, please contact Eric Brei at 412-2806 or ericb@stpaulsdecatur.org or check out the youth page on the church website or you can SPL Youth page on facebook by going to <http://www.facebook.com/groups/SPLyouth/>.





Introducing SHiNe

St. Paul's Children's Ministry

by Sarah Koch

Introducing **SHiNe** St. Paul's Children's Ministry
"So that you may become blameless and pure, "children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation." Then you will SHiNe among them like stars in the sky." Phil. 2:15
"In the same way, let your light SHiNe before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven." Matthew 5:16

What is SHiNe?

SHiNe is St. Paul's ministry to children. We strive to help children know Jesus, love Jesus, and follow Jesus.

Who is SHiNe for?

SHiNe is for children ages birth through sixth grade.

Where and When is SHiNe?

A key part of helping children know, love, and follow Jesus is to teach them about Jesus. "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6

SHiNe provides two regular opportunities during the week for children to learn and grow in an exciting way.

Sunday Mornings during the education hour

For children ages birth to 3 years old, St. Paul's has a staffed nursery headed by Cindy Storey. The nursery is a safe, friendly place for children to play and learn about God. Starting in January, Cindy will begin a curriculum called "Play-N-Worship" with the children during the education hour.

Three year olds to sixth grade meet in the gym on Wood St. at 9:20am and in the Sunday school classroom on Mound. Rd at 9:00am. We use a curriculum from Group Publishing called Living Inside Out (LIO). LIO is a large-group/small-group format curriculum. Children start in a large group where they sing, pray, and learn the story for the week in a fun, creative way. After large group children break up into small groups based on their age and discuss the story, apply it to their lives, and work on a memory verse using "Bible Memory Makers". Each month has a new, fun, themed module that uses one key verse and different key points each week. December's module is "Snow Days, Jesus' Life" and January will be "Level Up, Good vs. Evil".

Saturday nights during the 6:00pm service children leave during the message time and do the LIO lesson.

Wednesday nights St. Paul's has F-3 ~ Faith. Family. Formation. at 6:30pm.

Children three years old to second grade meet in the gym for large group prayer and praise time and then head to stations for activities including a lesson and a craft or game. Third to fifth graders will be doing a class with Kris Delong this winter session.

Sixth graders will begin an Early Communion class. Watch for more information about a special family time during the spring session of F3.

SHiNe also has other opportunities for children to get to know each other and form positive relationships. On December 10th we will have a "Drop N' Shop/Little Drummer Boy Movie Event."

SHiNe encourages children to serve others as part of following Jesus. In November we packed shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. We also collect offering during Sunday school. Offerings for the fall went to our Compassion International child, Jackson. In December offerings will go to the Angel Tree.

How can you be a part of it?

Just come. Bring your child. Watch him or her grow in knowledge and love for their Savior.

Get involved. There are a lot of opportunities to help reach children. From Sunday school teachers to F3 helpers there is always a need for more volunteers. Contact me for more information or watch for informational classes this winter.

Space?

Wait until you see the SHiNe space in the new building. It is going to be very child friendly, secure, and awesome! It's starting to take shape upstairs in the back of the current worship space. If you're interested in giving gifts, time, or talents to help with the new SHiNe space contact the church office.

Check out the SHiNe bulletin boards for more information or follow us on Facebook.

"The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you." Numbers 6:25

Ministry of First Impressions

We are looking for some smiling faces and cheerful voices to join our team! As a part of our team you would volunteer for four hours twice a month to staff the receptionist desk in the fellowship area. Your duties would include answering the phones, greeting our guests and members, and miscellaneous office duties. For more information please contact Jan Allen at 423-6955 or jan@stpaulsdecatur.org .

Stay Informed

St. Paul's has many ways to stay informed. Visit the website at www.stpaulsdecatur.org. We also have facebook pages. St. Paul's Lutheran Church (Decatur, IL) gives information on events happening in the church. To join go to your Facebook account then in the search box type in St. Paul's Lutheran Church then click on the "Like" button. St. Paul's Childrens Ministry is also a group you can follow on Facebook.

Also remember to check out www.lsadecatur.net or follow the Lutheran School Association on facebook.

What's for Dessert?

Flaming Cherries Jubilee...

Flaming Bananas Foster...

Flaming Love!

ALL Couples, get your calendar out and save the date:

Saturday, April 28, 2012

Dynamic speaker and author, Tim Shoemaker and his wife, Cheryl, will provide plenty of kindling and maybe the right spark to ignite or renew the fire in your marriage as they speak about God's plan for marriage. You don't want to miss this!



Drop and Shop - "Little Drummer Boy"

The children of St. Paul's Lutheran Church are invited to a special screening of the newest Veggie Tales Christmas movie called "The Little Drummer Boy" while mom and dad work on Christmas things.

When: December 10th from 1-3pm

Where: SPL Wood St. Rooms A & B

Wear: Your favorite Christmas Jammies!

What: Movie, craft, and a snack.

Who: Children preschool - 2nd grade

Please RSVP so we can plan accordingly to sarah@stpaulsdecatur.org.

