



## ***Are You a Real Work of God?***

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# To Be a Tween

## Top Ten Ways to Recognize a Tween

By Sheila Rudat

1. Defined as ages 8-12, although many parents would argue this is a marketing ploy and a more accurate age description is 10-12.
2. Presently number 20 million, expected to reach 23 million by 2020.
3. Two of them currently live in the White House (President Obama's daughters).
4. Percentage of children using alcohol doubles between fourth and sixth grade.
5. Nickelodeon and Disney Channel are TV favorites. Disney recently launched Disney XD, a new cable channel focused on themes of particular interest to boys such as adventure, gaming, and sports.
6. Nearly 2/3 of them do not have a cellphone.
7. Various forms of entertainment – from music to going to movies to electronics – rate highest on their list of what's cool.
8. As part of the Millennial Generation (also termed Generation Y), they are family-oriented, comfortable with the use of technology, and appreciate diversity.
9. Raised largely in a post-9/11 society, they are accustomed to increased concern about safety and protection.
10. One in three tweens say their parents allow them to watch R-rated movies. Of those whose parents do not allow them to, nearly 1 in 4 state they have seen an R-rated movie anyway.

K! Magazine July/August 2009

# Are You a Real Work of God?

## Teens Created for Good Works

By Sheila Rudat

*"Let no one look down upon you because you are young."  
1 Timothy 4:12a*

With this statement the Apostle Paul encouraged Timothy to use the gifts he had been given to serve God and build His kingdom. Paul's encouragement helped Timothy become a well-known figure in Biblical history despite his youth. When you're a preteen it can be difficult to remember just how much power and influence you already really have. It often feels like you are constantly trying to please someone in authority.

As a preteen you are more than equipped to serve in God's Kingdom. You are the kind of person that loves to help and you're willing to do just about anything! Combine that with an endless supply of energy and you can become an amazing worker. Imagine what it would look like if just a handful of incredible preteen workers, like you, were serving in God's Kingdom. Now imagine your whole generation!

That's where SuperStart comes into play. SuperStart is a two-day event presented by *Christ In Youth* that is specifically for pre-teens.

Discover avenues for worship that connect with you and your friends, relevant teaching, drama, and lots of fun! This weekend will be filled with Biblical teaching, worship, enthusiasm, small group opportunities, and off-site recreation.

Get ready to laugh, learn, and rock out with SuperStart! as we join forces with the wildly popular rock band *The Lads* to debut the new hit song "Good Works." It's the no miss concert of the year! Singer, song writer and worship leader Yancy will be worship leader.



The teaching at SuperStart! during the 2009-10 tour will center around Ephesians 2:10. Our goal is to help preteens, just like you, realize they were created for good works. As we define what that means, you'll be challenged to begin working in God's Kingdom as well as present your own ideas of how you can start now!

Mark your calendars for March 5 and 6th. The event is in Normal, IL. The cost of the weekend is \$25 and includes all activities as well as an ice cream party Friday night.

*"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."  
Ephesians 2:10*

For more information on the concert contact Sheila at [sheila@stpaulsdecatur.org](mailto:sheila@stpaulsdecatur.org) or call 423-6955.

# ***Lutheran Marriage Encounter***

**Feb. 19-21 in Peoria, IL**

Put the fun and caring back into your relationship! Learn to understand the wants and needs of your spouse.

Registrations is now on a space available basis.

For more information call Dan and Charlotte Ricks at (309) 682-7273 or visit [www.godlovesmarriage.org](http://www.godlovesmarriage.org).



## ***Stay Informed. Stay Involved.***

During this busy time of year it's important to stay informed of all that's happening here at St. Paul's.

Be sure to visit our web site often for the latest information. Just go to [www.stpaulsdecatur.org](http://www.stpaulsdecatur.org).

## ***Welcome James E. Buescher***



We are excited to welcome James Buescher into the world and into our Lutheran family.

He was born to Vicar Jonathan and Sarah Buescher on Jan. 12, 2010 at 7lbs 9oz and 21 1/2 inches long.

James was also baptized on January 31, 2010

## ***Youth Ministry Events***

### **Youth Ministry Volunteers Meeting- Sunday, February 7th**

All adults who are currently or who are interested in working with St. Paul's Youth Ministry are asked to attend this important meeting. The meeting will take place on Sunday, February 7th at 12:15pm in Room A/B at St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

Lunch will be provided as well as nursery care for little ones.

### **Spring Hill Camp Jr. High Winter Retreat - Friday-Sunday, Feb. 19-21**

Youth in grades 7-9, there are still spots available for the upcoming Winter Retreat to Spring Hill camp in Michigan. The total cost will be \$100 and scholarship money is available. There will be early release from school on Feb. 19th, and parents will need to write a note. Please go online to our church website and print off the two forms that are listed under the title "2010 Jr. High Winter Retreat" on the jr. high page.

### **Confirmation Parents' Meeting- Sunday, February 28th**

After collecting feedback from a survey and as we look ahead to Fall 2010, we want Confirmation parents' (with youth entering 7th-9th grades in Fall 2010) to attend a meeting to discuss possible modifications to the Confirmation process. Those families involved should have received a letter with more details. This meeting will be on Sunday, February 28th at St. Paul's in Room A/B at 12:15pm, in a forum style with questions for discussion by groups at different tables. Please plan to attend; there will be nursery care provided.

**For more information on any of these events, please contact Eric Brei at 412-2806 or [ericb@stpaulsdecatur.org](mailto:ericb@stpaulsdecatur.org).**



## Trying to Reach Someone for Christ?

"The Secrets of Jonathan Sperry" is an inspiring film that lovingly speaks the truth in love about our need to share Christ with others. Gavin MacLeod stars as Jonathan Sperry, an ordinary man who finds ways to touch others and help them come to know the Lord.

Already more than 1,200 people have given their lives to the Lord after watching this movie. Why not see it with someone you know needs the Lord in their life?

**"The Secrets of Jonathan Sperry" starts Friday, February 26 at the AVON Theater.**

Advanced discounted tickets are available in the fellowship area for \$6.00. Our youth group will receive \$1.00 for every ticket sold! To learn more about the movie visit [www.LivingChristianMagazine.com](http://www.LivingChristianMagazine.com).



## Change for Life Collection

In part through the work of New Life Pregnancy Center, the number of abortions in Macon County went from 260 in 1998 down to 150 in 2007. We have an opportunity to support their incredible work.

Please take a baby bottle found in the lobby area, fill it with your change, and return it to St. Paul's on or before March 14. All funds help support the fight for life by the New Life Pregnancy Center.



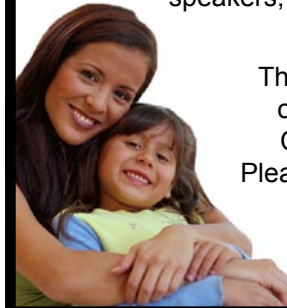
## M.O.M.M.Y.s

*Mothers of Mostly Marvelous Youngsters*

M.O.M.M.Y.s is a free event providing mothers with children of any age an opportunity to support one another in the task of parenting through prayer, speakers, watching Biblically based parenting videos and discussion.

The group meets the 1st and 3rd Wed. of each month from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. Childcare is available for a small fee. Please don't let the cost keep you away.

Visit [www.stpaulsdecatour.org](http://www.stpaulsdecatour.org) for more details.



## Men's Basketball Open Gym

St. Paul's would like to invite men young (16 years old) & old (can still get up & down the court) to come and join us as we lace up the sneakers and play some basketball. We meet weekly on Sunday afternoons from 2-4pm and also on Thursday evenings at 9:15pm at the LSA.

If you would like more information about dates and times, please contact Mike Koch (Sundays) at [kochie85@yahoo.com](mailto:kochie85@yahoo.com) or Blake Reynolds (Thursdays) at [breyolds@millikin.edu](mailto:breyolds@millikin.edu)

## Youth Praise Band Forming!

St. Paul's Youth Ministry is starting a Youth Worship once a month beginning in March and we're looking for youth in grades 7-12 who are skilled musically, both instrumentally and vocally, plus youth who are interested in learning about the audio and video technical side of worship as well.

If you are interested, please contact Eric Brei at 412-2806 or [ericb@stpaulsdecatour.org](mailto:ericb@stpaulsdecatour.org).



# Valentines Day Dance

**Saturday, February 13th**

Men's and Women's Ministry Teams are joining together to host a Valentines Day dance to help benefit the New Life Pregnancy Center. The dance will be held at the Scovill Golf Club Banquet Facility. Appetizers, dessert and beverages will be provided.

Cost is \$30.00 a couple, only 100 tickets available. You can purchase tickets before or after church in the Fellowship Area.



## LSA News

LSA High is now offering Psychology 110 at LSA this spring in conjunction with Richland Community College. This class is being offered as dual credit and will be taught by a RCC professor. We will offer AP English in the fall of 2010 to juniors and seniors, taught by Mrs. Jennifer Thomas. The high school continues to improve and offer a quality option for high school families.

As in the past, LSA High has been honored to have students as Illinois State Scholars. This year they are Katherine Baker and Whitney Barnes. DAC/AMERN IP SCHOLAR/ATHLETES for the month of December were Rachel McCormick and Dylan Foster.

Enrollment begins for all K-12 students in February. Families not currently at LSA are invited to consider LSA, set a time to meet with Mr. Karsten and hear about the new student scholarship 50% discount for first year of enrollment.

The February registration rate is \$50.00 (per student K-12). It will go up to \$100.00 in March, \$150.00 in April and so on to \$350.00 in August. Early registration offers both a savings and will ensure a student desk, as space is limited in many classes.

### 2010 LSA Dinner Auction

The annual dinner auction will be April 24, 2010 at the Decatur Conference Center. Doors open and Silent Auction begins at 5:00 p.m. Upgrade Dinner auctioned at 6:15 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

The Annual LSA Auction is the schools largest fundraiser. It can also be a positive social event to support LSA. The more funds raised at the auction, the better it is for tuition and congregational assessment rates.

You can help in several ways:

1. Purchase tickets to attend.
2. If you can't attend, you can make a donation.
3. Donate an item or service that can be sold at the auction.
4. Advertise in the auction catalog.

Promote your business while supporting the LSA. Contact the school office at 233-2001.

Tickets will be \$40.00 each from January 15th—March 15th and you will be able to pick your own table. Tickets will be \$45.00 each from March 15h—April 15th and tables will be assigned. We sent a mailing out to congregational members on our school mailing list. Let us know if you need one sent to you.

"They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold."

Psalm 19:10



# Women In Action

Faithful Friends and Sisters in Christ

by Sarah Buescher



*“Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. Then they can train the younger women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God.”*

Titus 2:3-5

One of the greatest opportunities we have as children of God is to come to Him in prayer: not just for ourselves, but for the needs of others as well. It is such an honor to be trusted by people when they tell you the desires of their heart and share with you the burden on their shoulders and ask you to pray for them. Not only is it beneficial for us to pray with one another, but it also gives us the opportunity to offer encouragement and support for each other. We are also given the chance to offer guidance and wisdom on certain areas of our lives. We can share the wonderful things God has done in our lives and how He helped us through various trials and how we cannot help but give Him thanks and praise.

With this in mind, I would like to bring back two ministries that will grant the women of St Paul’s a chance to get to know one another a little more personally and that will allow us to pray more specifically for the needs of each other, as well as give advice when needed and show support in everyday struggles. Faithful Friends and Sisters in Christ are two ministries that many women were a part of a few years ago, and we would like to renew them so that more women will have the opportunity to be blessed by them.

To become a Faithful Friend all you have to do is be willing to pray for another woman for a year, and send her a card or letter of encouragement once a month. Meanwhile, another anonymous woman will be praying for you and sending you encouragement. This ministry will put into action the power of prayer, and it is perfect for anyone. You can be a stay at home mom, or working: young or old, it does not matter because we all can pray for one another.

To be a Sister in Christ you just need to decide if you would like to mentor another woman or have the chance to listen to the advice of an older woman and be mentored yourself. You will at least get together to talk once a month and pray together.

There are forms located in the fellowship area and all you have to do is fill them out and place them on my desk, and March 1st I will send you a name and the information of your Sister in Christ or your Faithful Friend. For more information please contact Sarah at [sarah@stpaulsdecatur.org](mailto:sarah@stpaulsdecatur.org), or 423-6955.

“I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers.”

Ephesians 1:16

We would like to thank everyone for their prayers and cards, after my father’s passing. All of the prayers and wishes were so much appreciated. The saying is true – friends help multiply our happiness and divide our sorrows. Thanks so much to everyone. A special thanks goes to Pastor Rob who braved the cold for us again.

Barry & Joy Sanders

## “So Long Insecurity” Women’s Event

Saturday, April 24th - Registration begins at 8:00 a.m.

Beth Moore Simulcast, Saturday April 24 at St Paul’s Lutheran Church. So Long Insecurity is the title of her talk. Cost is \$20 a person and includes light breakfast and lunch.

For more information contact Sarah at [sarah@stpaulsdecatur.org](mailto:sarah@stpaulsdecatur.org), or 423-6955.



# Opportunities Abound!

## Doorkeepers Needed

Help open or lock our Wood Street facility on Sunday mornings. Openers arrive between 7am and 7:15am to unlock exterior and interior doors for Worship. Closers lock down the facility after 10:30 worship on Sundays. Please consider donating a little more of your time on Sundays to serve the Lord's house in this manner. Contact Mickey Johnson at the church office 423-6955.

## M.O.M.M.Y.S Ministry Position

Little Lambs Child Care at St. Paul's Lutheran Church is looking for a caring individual to assist the 3 and 4 year old children with crafts while their moms attend the M.O.M.M.Y.S meeting. This position is needed the first and third Wednesday of the month from 9:00-Noon, starting in September and ending in May. For more information, contact Lynelle at 201-0084.

## Our Ministry By the Numbers

For December, 2009:

Date	Attendance	Giving
12/ 2	225	
12/6	827	\$37,461.22
12/9	195	
12/13	786	\$24,500.55
12/16	233	
12/20	870	\$71,206.64
12/24	1276	
12/25	118	
12/27	544	\$43,640.26
12/31	54	\$7,514.00

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

## Ushers Needed

Ephesians 4:16 reminds us we all need to do our part as we grow up into Him. Currently we need ushers for all services at Wood St. and the Rock at Shilling.

Become a working part of the body. Call or e-mail Laura at 423-6955 or [laura@stpaulsdecatour.org](mailto:laura@stpaulsdecatour.org).

## Volunteer Central

Visit Volunteer Central on our website by going to [www.stpaulsdecatour.org](http://www.stpaulsdecatour.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

There is a blood Drive at the Red Cross Chapter 2674 N. Main on  
February 16 - 2 p.m to 6:00 p.m.  
February 18 - 12 p.m to 6:00 p.m.

## Special Birthdays For Special People

Feb. 4 Mary Augustine  
Feb. 5 Eyvon Kurek  
Feb. 8 Norma Hatch  
Feb. 18 Edith Rauschek  
Feb. 25 Erma Williams  
Feb. 26 Harry Logan

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

**Decatur Rehabilitation Center**  
Betty Brackett

**Lincoln Manor**  
Meta Horton  
LaVoyce Johnson  
Ruth Klingler

**McKinley Court**  
Lorraine Egebrecht  
Marie Hendrian  
Charles Schnepfer

**Aspen Ridge**  
Marjorie Reinhold

**Fair Havens Christian Home**  
Marge Buckles  
Mary Greene  
Jean Neuendorf  
Betty Walters  
Edna Wernsing  
Betty Young

**Heritage Manor**  
Anna Connors  
Glenn Harris

**Heartland Health Care**  
Marilyn Johnson

**Eagle Ridge**  
June Cordts  
Sophie Dunnigan

**Imboden Creek Living Center**  
Hazel Colclasure  
Vera Grabb  
Martha Shull

**Imboden Creek Gardens**  
Eunice Carroll  
Frances Schanfelt

**Oxford House Apartments**  
Ella Pratt

**Decatur Manor Healthcare**  
Janice Hall  
Sharon Marques

**Liberty Village, Clinton**  
Jim & Ruth Bolhorst

**The Glennwood, Mt. Zion**  
Don Johnson, Sr.

**Eastview Terrace, Sullivan, IL**  
Billie Rasar



**St. Paul's Lutheran Church**

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[www.stpaulsdecatur.org](http://www.stpaulsdecatur.org)

*Build the Home. Change the World.*

# ***Free Family Bowling Event***

**Sunday, Feb 21st 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
at Spare Time Lanes**

**Build the Home. Change the World.**

That may be hard work, but who says  
we can't have fun at the same time!

Grab the family and enjoy an afternoon laughing,  
playing, eating, and just being with each other.  
Your bowling and shoe rental is FREE!

Spare Time Lanes will have meal specials  
available so mom won't even have to cook!

This event is sponsored by the  
Step by Step Committee.

