

St. Paul's Epistle

An Inviting Community of Christ's Disciples

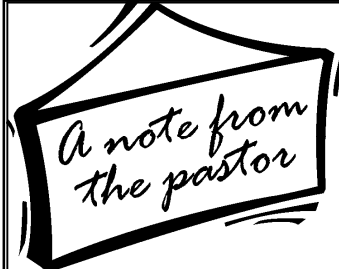
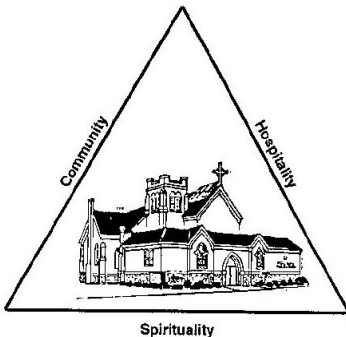
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November is the time of the year when our minds turn to giving thanks. The world wants to go from Halloween right to Christmas because they are driven by making money in the market place. But as Christians, we have a responsibility to stop and give thanks to God for all that we have been given. As part of giving thanks we spend time remembering all the blessings we have been given and as part of that we are often reminded of others in need. We also give thanks for family and friends but it is also a time that can cause sadness as we remember those who are no longer with us and worry for those who are absent.

So as the world rushes head first into Christmas, let's stop and give thanks for what we have and help those who need to experience the blessing of God. This year we are participating in Operation Christmas Child and I already know that you will overwhelm me with your response and for that I give thanks. But I am going to ask you to go one step further, as you prepare your box or boxes I want you to be in prayer about the child who will receive the box you prepare. Even though we have no idea where our boxes will end up, I hope you will trust God to get your gift to the right child at the right moment. Africa, Europe, Asia, the Americas: no matter where your box ends up I believe God can use your generosity for furthering the greatness of the Kingdom of Heaven.

This month is also stewardship month and you will be receiving information about supporting the ministry of Elida St Paul's Church. I want to encourage those of you who are working your way to being givers who tithe and applaud those of you who already do. I have seen real change not only in how you give your money but also in how you volunteer your time. After school program, Camp Wesley, Sunday School, Seniors day out, School kits, and all the areas you are being the body of Christ at work. New faces and faces that have been present from day one: it is wonderful to see God's love reflected in your hard work.

So as I celebrate Thanksgiving and remember all of God's blessings in my life, I give thanks to you, the Body of Christ, making ministry happen here at St Paul's.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Paul

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Thought for the Month:

Opportunity may knock once,
but temptation bangs on your
front door forever.

Children's Purse Operation Christmas Child

A small shoe box can have a big impact. What goes into the box is fun, but what comes out of it is eternal. Be a part of changing children's lives all over the world in Jesus' name through the power of a simple gift with Operation Christmas Child.

St. Paul's will be collecting shoe boxes until November 24, 2014



Pack a Gift and Pray
A shoe box filled with small toys, hygiene items, and school supplies tangibly demonstrates God's love to a child in need. Guides for how to pack a shoebox may be picked up in the church office or online at samaritanspurse.org. Remember to pray that God will touch the heart of every child who receives a shoebox gift, and that many children and families will come to faith in Jesus Christ.

Give
We ask for a donation of \$7.00 per box to cover international shipping and other costs, but not everyone can afford to send a gift. Your generosity beyond \$7.00 per shoebox gift will help us to reach even more children with the true meaning of Christmas and a tangible expression of God's amazing love.

Upcoming Events for St. Paul's

THANKSGIVING DAY
November 27, 2014
Office Closed



 **Come Thankful People!**

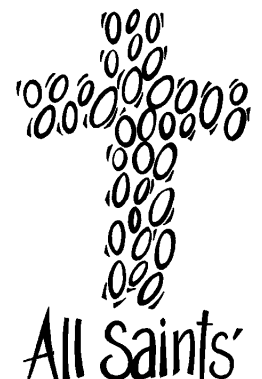
Seniors Day Out
Tuesday
November 18, 2014
Gene Craft will be performing Magic

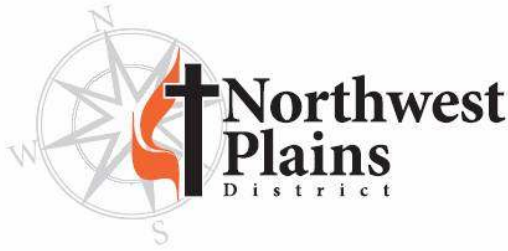
St. Paul's Epistle	
is published by St. Paul's United Methodist Church	
Subscription Rate: NONE	
Secretary:	Gail Fessler
Secretary:	Jone Lane
Organist:	Linda Holman
Pianist:	Lois Cook
Choir Director	Judy Chaffins
Custodian:	Dave Decker

All Saints Sunday
November 2, 2014

At this time in the church year we think about saints - people who are examples of God's love. We thank God for them and remember saints whose lives enrich our faith.

Bring a white candle in a holder to place on the altar in memory of loved ones who have passed.



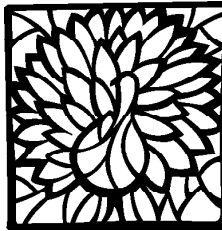


Charge Conference
 Sunday, November 9, 2014
 At Immanuel UMC, Elida
 2:30 PM PPR Meeting
 3:00 PM Conference

**Daylight Savings Time ends
 November 2, 2014**

**Remember to turn your
 clocks back one hour, and
 change the batteries in your
 smoke detectors.**

**Visit The United
 Methodist Website at:
www.umw.org**



**Newsletter
 deadline:
 the 16th
 of each month**

Upcoming Events for St. Paul's

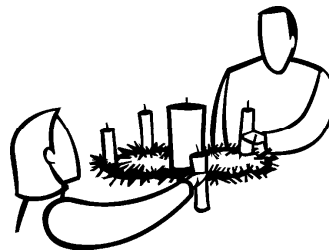
Christian Symbol:

CIRCLE

The circle is a symbol for God, as well as for eternity, due to its lack of a beginning or an end. It also reminds us of how the church year (not unlike the secular calendar) flows from season to season and moves smoothly from Christ the King Sunday (the culmination of the liturgical calendar) to the First Sunday of Advent (a new beginning). Indeed, the One who rules all is the same One whose first and final comings we anticipate anew during Advent.

November 30, 2014
 1st Sunday of Advent

ADVENT 1



**Anyone interested in
 doing the reading and
 lighting of the Advent
 candle, please notify
 Pastor Paul or the
 church office.**

Finance



Stewardship season and Commitment Sunday are upon us again. You can set your calendar to the events and activities of St. Paul's congregation and its Koinonia Group a fellow St. Paul's parishioner chuckled during a recent meeting.

Stewardship means 'the responsible oversight and protection of something considered worth caring for and preserving.' Matthew 6:21 says, "For where your treasure is, there will be your heart also." There is no doubt that the members of St. Paul's U.M.C. treasure and are passionately connected to their church institution. Need evidence? Ask Ron Steiner or Art Holman to recite some church history both from their personal and group experiences. But listen closely. Their recitations really describe people spiritually motivated to action. Combine such motivation with a healthy dose of commitment and you experience stewardship in action at St. Paul's!

What motivates you? I like this question better than 'what are your goals?' or 'what do you dream?' It speaks to a person's character with 'character' being defined as the value a person places upon him/herself. At times I answer this question by stating 'making sure my end of the ship isn't sinking.' While this may sound self-centered, I'm really describing traits of accountability, responsibility, doing the right thing, or making a difference.

Galatians 6:9 says, "Let us not become weary in doing good for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." As Christians and members of St. Paul's, aren't we committed to doing good and motivated to do the right things as effectively and responsibly as possible? While a bit of a rhetorical question, one only needs to consider stewardship in action at St. Paul's for the answer:

- The commitment of the Board of Trustees in caring for our buildings and grounds;
- The hard work and dedication of our musicians, choir, and music director in their music ministry;
- Our missions outreach whether through our Missions Committee or otherwise;
- Our Nurture Committee and service to our members;
- Activities implementing our Vision Statement through commitments to youth and senior citizens at St. Paul's and in our community;
- Christian Education programs and activities;
- Our Worship Committee and Sunday Fellowship Hour facilitators.

What motivates you? Stewardship season and Commitment Sunday ask you to provide a portion of the financial resources necessary for the 'oversight and protection' of that which we consider worthy of protection and preservation: St. Paul's United Methodist Church, Elida. Commitment Sunday is **November 23, 2014** and is your opportunity to act monetarily upon that which motivates you at St. Paul's. See you in church.



Missions

EASY is off and running!

Yes, folks, it's a beautiful time for the running of the EASY program! We have a full roster of racers (students)! While some of the 35 students registered haven't found the starting gate yet, each race day has seen around 25 participants. They are filling our tables with their energy and yearning for love and attention. We are only beginning to sort them out by names, faces, and personalities. Some are returnees, many are first-timers. Like any good horse trainer, we are finding out whom they can be next to, who needs quiet, who are leaders. We know they all need love.

So here is our problem: we need more adults to share time and love and talent! Our current, limited number of volunteers are a dedicated group but no one can be at EASY every day. When someone is gone, we are stretched thin. We need "parents" to sit and do homework. If you haven't looked at science since Pluto was a planet, we have volunteers available to fill in the gaps. Most of the time however, the kids need people to help them stay on track and be sure they put their answers in the right blanks. They need people to listen to their news of school. They need people to eat snacks with them.

We are also in need of volunteers to share skills for a couple weeks at a time in helping lead interest groups. If you can: play chess or card games, sew, knit, crochet, weave, do carpentry or craft projects, cook, scrapbook, wire a lamp, play music, color pictures, share a travel experience, demonstrate how to braid hair, work on engines, do home repairs, refinish furniture, have outdoor interests, garden, arrange flowers, make wreaths, make pinecone decorations, make greeting cards..... Whatever you enjoy, we can create an interest group.

Find out more about EASY by talking with me, Corinne Piper, Marla Scannell, or Jamie Wyant and become the face and hands of Jesus to our community youth.



Give Thanks Always

Full many a blessing wears the guise
of worry or of trouble;
Far-seeing is the soul, and wise,
who knows the mask is double.
But he who has the faith and strength
to thank his God for sorrow
Has found a joy without alloy
to gladden every morrow.

—Ella Wheeler Wilcox



Faith In Action

Worship Attendance:

September 28, 2014	107
October 5, 2014	88
October 12, 2014	82
October 19, 2014	93
October 26, 2014	78

Financial Giving

Weekly Need for
Unified Ministry Budget
\$3,466.00



Unified Ministry Giving:		Other:
September 28, 2014	\$2,900.83	\$4,461.00
October 5, 2014	\$6,692.00	\$1,164.90
October 12, 2014	\$2,353.00	\$732.52
October 19, 2014	\$2,558.50	\$597.50
October 26, 2014	\$2,724.52	\$580.69

Sunday School Attendance

September 28, 2014	30
October 5, 2014	23
October 12, 2014	16
October 19, 2014	27
October 26, 2014	21

Greeters

November 2, 2014	Rudy & Lavonne Segovia
November 9, 2014	Margie Best
November 16, 2014	Gary & Janet Grigg
November 23, 2014	OPEN
November 30, 2014	Denny & Carole Grapner

Flower Calendar

November 2, 2014	Dan Banks family
November 9, 2014	Ruth Hardy
November 16, 2014	Hurd family
November 23, 2014	Wayne Sherrick
November 30, 2014	Mike & Kim Crates

Communion Servers November 2

Station #1	Jamie & Jan Wyant
Station #2	Gary & Deb Hurd
Station #3	OPEN

Daily Bible Readings

Saturday 11/1

Psalm 55, 138, 139
Nehemiah 4:1-23
Revelation 7:4-17
Matthew 13:31-35

Sunday 11/2

Psalm 8, 24, 29, 84
Nehemiah 5:1-19
Acts 20:7-12, Luke 12:22-31

Monday 11/3

Psalm 56, 57, 64, 65
Nehemiah 6:1-19
Revelation 10:1-11
Matthew 13:36-43

Tuesday 11/4

Psalm 61, 62, 68
Nehemiah 12:27-47
Revelation 11:1-19
Matthew 13:44-52

Wednesday 11/5

Psalm 72, 119:73-96
Nehemiah 13:4-22
Revelation 12:1-12
Matthew 13:53-58

Thursday 11/6

Psalm 71, 74, Ezra 7
Revelation 14:1-13
Matthew 14:1-12

Friday 11/7

Psalm 69, 73, Ezra 8:21-36
Revelation 15:1-8
Matthew 14:13-21

Saturday 11/8

Psalm 23, 27, 75, 76, Ezra 9:1-15
Revelation 17:1-14
Matthew 14:22-36

Sunday 11/9

Psalm 34, 93, 96, Ezra 10:1-17
Acts 24:10-21, Luke 14:12-24

Monday 11/10

Psalm 77, 79, 80, Nehemiah 9:1-25
Revelation 18:1-8
Matthew 15:1-20

Tuesday 11/11

Psalm 78, Nehemiah 9:26-38
Revelation 18:9-20
Matthew 15:21-28

Wednesday 11/12

Psalm 81, 82, 119:97-120
Nehemiah 7:73-8:18
Revelation 18:21-24
Matthew 15:29-39

Thursday 11/13

Psalm 23, 27, 85, 86
Revelation 19:1-10
Matthew 16:1-12

Friday 11/14

Psalm 88, 91, 92
Revelation 19:11-16
Matthew 16:13-20

Saturday 11/15

Psalm 87, 90, 136
Revelation 20:1-6, Mark 16:21-28

Sunday 11/16

Psalm 19, 46, 66, 67
Acts 28:14b-23, Luke 16:1-13

Monday 11/17

Psalm 89
Revelation 20:7-15
Matthew 17:1-13

Tuesday 11/18

Psalm 94, 95, 97, 99
Revelation 21:1-8
Matthew 17:14-21

Wednesday 11/19

Psalm 101, 109, 119:121-144
Revelation 21:9-21
Matthew 17:22-27

Thursday 11/20

Psalm 105, Revelation 21:22-22:5
Matthew 18:1-9

Friday 11/21

Psalm 102, 107:1-32
Revelation 22:6-13
Matthew 18:10-20

Saturday 11/22

Psalm 33, 107:33-43, 108
Isaiah 65:17-25
Revelation 22:14-21
Matthew 18:21-35

Sunday 11/23

Psalm 118, 145
Isaiah 19:19-25
Romans 15:5-13, Luke 19:11-27

Monday 11/24

Psalm 106
1 Peter 1:1-12, Matthew 19:1-12

Tuesday 11/25

Psalm 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126
1 Peter 1:13-25
Matthew 19:13-22

Wednesday 11/26

Psalm 119:145-176, 128, 129, 130
Obadiah
1 Peter 2:1-10
Matthew 19:23-30

Thursday 11/27

Psalm 131, 132, 133, 134, 135
Zephaniah 3:1-13
1 Peter 2:11-25
Matthew 20:1-16

Friday 11/28

Psalm 140, 141, 142, 143
Isaiah 24:14-23
1 Peter 3:13-4:6
Matthew 20:17-28

Saturday 11/29

Psalm 104, 137, 144
Micah 7:11-20
1 Peter 4:7-19
Matthew 20:29-34

Sunday 11/30

Psalm 111, 112, 113, 146, 147
Amos 1:1-5, 13-2:8
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
Luke 21:5-19

Spotlight On Youth



Meet **Logan House**, son of Sara and a student at Ada Elementary School. Logan is in the 4th grade and his school activities include art, gym, computer and music classes. Logan likes to read in his spare time, so not surprising his favorite subject is Reading. He likes art and gym the most and music is his least favorite.

Logan attends St. Paul UMC with his grandmother, Linda Matlock, and his younger brother, Ian. He also has two sisters, Maddy and Caitlyn. Logan is also one of the acolytes on Sunday mornings.

Logan plays soccer, baseball, basketball and is a member of 4-H and Cub Scouts. His hobbies are watching TV, jumping rope, riding his bike and playing board games. He likes the color red, playing with Legos and visiting Chicago. He dislikes mac and cheese and school wrestling. In the future, Logan would like to become an archaeologist. Great goal, Logan!



Meet **Dalton Poling**, son of Heather McCluer and a student at Elida Elementary School, where he is in the 3rd grade. His favorite subject is Math. Like many other third graders, Dalton likes being with his friends at school, but he doesn't like homework.

Dalton has been attending St. Paul UMC this past year with his neighbors, Tim and Corinne Piper, and his older brother, Channing. Dalton is one of the acolytes on Sunday mornings.

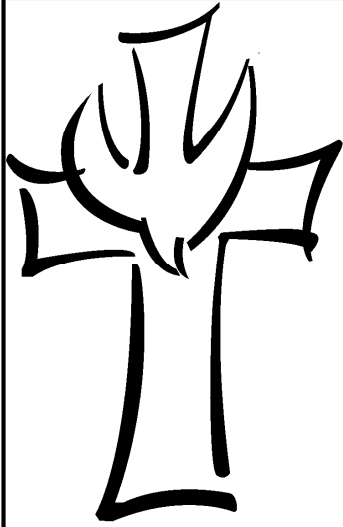
Dalton likes soccer, baseball, wrestling, football and basketball. His hobbies are finding things outdoors and playing video games. He enjoys playing with pets and is a member of Webolo I of Cub Scouts. Dalton likes to go swimming and playing in his spare time.

Great Wolf Lodge, cats, dogs, watermelon, muskmelon and Subway sandwiches are among Dalton's favorites. He dislikes poisonous things. I'm with you on that, Dalton!

Some day Dalton would like to become a firefighter or a policeman. Good luck, Dalton!



The Promise of Beatitude



In Matthew 5, Jesus speaks of beatitude. Joy. That gets our attention. We all want to feel better about life. If somebody promises a method for happiness, serenity or satisfaction, there's always a ready audience.

Religion is not immune to culture. Bootstraps religion assumes that happiness is the reward for performance. It is the outcome of virtue, cleverness, and industry.

In fact, the beatitudes are on a collision course with our sensibilities and our culture. Jesus declares that the persecuted, the meek, and the peacemakers are the ones who are truly blessed. So just who are these blessed ones? Jesus mentions the "poor in spirit" (Mt 5:3), the ones who, despite any appearances to the contrary, do not have what it takes, who are impoverished materially or spiritually. Only the poor in spirit who know their impoverishment, who cast themselves on God's mercy and provision, are blessed.

Truth is, there are no self-made persons in the kingdom. Any real accomplishment in our lives is the result of God's grace. To know that is to know beatitude.

"Blessed are those who mourn" says Matthew 5:4. Mourning may be experienced in different forms. It may be a deep sorrow over the loss of someone dear. It may be lament over the hurt of the world as it is. God's people see things not only as they are, but also as they should be. In the midst of our mourning, we are promised beatitude.

The meek and those who hunger and thirst for righteousness have much in common. To be meek in the biblical sense is to recognize one's complete dependence on God. Those who are meek hunger and thirst for right relationships, not only with God, but also with others in society. This longing for righteousness and justice in human relationships motivates them to work and pray to that end.

When Jesus pronounces blessing on the merciful, he is not rewarding good behavior. He describes the one who, having tasted God's mercy, shows it toward others.

The sixth beatitude about the pure in heart speaks about the seat of one's innermost life. The pure in heart are undivided in their devotion to God. This may seem an impossible dream, and it is for sinners this side of Eden. That's why, in the presence of Jesus as he speaks these words to us, we hunger and thirst for righteousness.

The peacemakers of Jesus' pronouncement are those who work for healing and wholeness in creation and in society. Peace – shalom in the Hebrew – carries this sense of well being. God's people are not called simply to possess the right political perspective or philosophy of human relationships. As Tom Long says, "Peacemakers work to halt wars among nations as well as seeking harmony in personal relationships."

People who labor for peace and justice are not going to find a long line of well-wishers. Yet Jesus says, "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake" (Mt 5:10). The movers and shakers who gain their power through exploitation will not take kindly to those who call for equity. The ninth and final beatitude makes a similar point.

It might be tempting to see the beatitudes as a description of how to be different; nine steps to being a counter-cultural Christian blessed by Jesus. No. Jesus sits in front of a rag-tag band of unworthy disciples and he pronounces them blessed. His words – his beatitudes – are performative acts. They effect what they signify. They bring into being that which they declare.

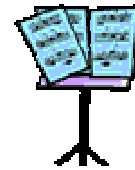
Jesus Christ, God's eternal Son, has the power to make what he says be true. In your poverty of spirit, your lament over injustice, and your working for peace, Jesus is your strong companion. On your journey, he walks alongside you, comforting, forgiving, strengthening, and most of all, blessing. Blessed are you.

– Daniel P. Thimell, excerpted with permission from *The Clergy Journal*, © Logos Productions.

Remember When...



November, 2004
 Reception to Welcome Mary Kaye Pease and Thank Todd Hanes for faithful service.
 L-R: Todd Hanes, Judy Chaffins, Mary Kaye Pease



November, 2006
 UM Student Day
 L-R: Andrew Piper, Tim White, Zack White, Jenessa Fletcher, Tyler Smith, Ashley Reiff, Megan Bible, Kim Bowsher, Jeff Perrin, Jon Cook



Consecration Sunday,
 November, 2009
 Steve Moser and Mindy Schultz
 Singing "Made Me Glad"



Connecting With ...

HOSPITALITY CART:

1st Sunday: Book Club

2nd Sunday: Volunteers Needed

3rd Sunday: "Crafty Creatures" small group

4th Sunday: Choir

5th Sunday: Sr. High Class

Thank you to these groups who help welcome our congregation and guests to our church through this service of Hospitality, before worship on Sunday mornings.

If you or your group are interested in helping out please contact Corinne Piper.



AUTUMN LEAVES AT PLAY

Autumn leaves, they swirl and spin and scamper on their way
They bring an air of laughter to the forest as they play
Across the field they hurry now to find some sheltered nook
Frolicking, meandering beside a sprightly brook

Strewn about by nature's whim, they gather, then are gone
Shivering in the cool night air, warming with the dawn
Their colors blend to weave a coat of lovely autumn hue
The master's touch upon the earth, as only he can do

Until at last the north winds blow to silence sounds of glee
And winter's holiday has come to every leafless tree
Now Mother Nature comforts with a blanket soft and white
The autumn leaves find rest at last, upon this starlit night.

Poem by Dillon Staas



The People of St. Paul's

"I wish to thank everyone at St. Paul's who prayed for me and sent cards and flowers while I was home recovering from my back surgery. The surgery was successful and the pain in my legs is gone. Praise God! Thank you to my church family for your concern and well wishes."

Tim Piper

Thank You!

Dear Friends,
Thank you so much for your gift of \$143.00 for 5th Sunday offering. You are making a difference by bringing care, nurture, and treatment for hurting children and their families. Our agency is grateful that you made the decision to invest in a bright future for some of Ohio's neediest children.

Sincerely,
Sean Reilly,
Executive Director of
UMCH



Remember in Prayer

Recovering from Surgery or in the Hospital

Homebound Members

Hazel Dunn
Jean Redd

Those in Need of Healing, Support, Strength & Encouragement

Joanna Hurd
Rodney Lee

In the Military & Missions

Dani Milke

Thank you to our church family and Pastor Paul, all the cards, phone calls, and the beautiful wind chimes to set on a table. God bless each of you. You were all so caring when Mom passed away.

Love,
Don and Mary Irvin

YOU will be enriched in every way *TO* be **GENEROUS** in every way, which ... will produce **thanksgiving** *TO* **God.**
.....
2 Corinthians 9:11, ESV



Prayer List Updates

Please Contact

Lavonne Segovia

Meetings

November 3, 2014
PPR...7:00 PM

November 4, 2014
Trustees...7:00 PM

November 5, 2014
Worship Team..6:00 PM

November 10, 2014
Finance7:00 PM

November 10, 2014
Ad Council...7:30 PM

No Missions

Sundays
Prayer...8:45AM
Sunday School...9:00 AM
Fellowship...9:30 AM
Worship...10:00 AM

Wednesdays
Chancel Choir..7:00 PM

November 2014

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

						1 Margie Best Cody Warris
2	3 Jacinda Perry Dalton Poling	4	5	6	7 Jone Lane Kris Wade	8
9 Jon Cook Josh Guess	10 Kylee Loose	11 Virginia Hollar Jenson Nagy	12 Logan House	13 Dillon Staas	14	15 John Holmes
16 James Fox	17	18 Dennis Bowsher	19 Gary Grigg	20 Rudy Segovia Marty White	21	22 Jason Lane Tony Lozano Samantha Whetstone
23 Tony Shoup	24	25	26	27 	28	29
30						



Justin & Marisa Kruse
November 4

Bruce & Tammy Segovia
November 16



Featured Recipes from St. Paul's Cookbook

Lazy Day Potato Soup

By Margie Best

Ingredients		Instructions
16 oz.	Cheese Whiz	Mix well, put into sprayed crockpot. Cover and cook on low 8 hours. Stir well and serve.
28 oz.	Frozen hashbrowns	
1 can	Cream of celery soup	
8 oz.	Ham (cooked & diced)	
2 can	Chicken broth	
to taste	Black pepper	



Cabbage and Beef Soup

By Linda Holman

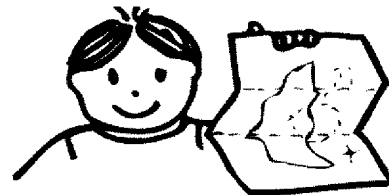
Ingredients		Instructions
1 lb.	Lean ground beef	Brown ground beef . Add the garlic powder, pepper, salt, celery, kidney beans, cabbage, tomatoes, water and bouillon cubes.
3/4 t.	Garlic powder	
1/4 t.	Pepper	Bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer, covered for 1 to 1 1/2 hours.
1 t.	Salt	
2 stalks	Celery (chopped)	
1- 16oz. can	Kidney Beans	
1/2 medium	Head Cabbage (chopped)	
1 (28 oz.) can	Tomatoes (chopped)	
	Water	
4 cubes	Beef bouillon	



KIDZ KORNER

God's Road Map

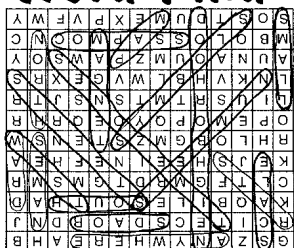
The Bible is like a road map showing us the way we should go. Fill in the blanks with the words you find in the WORD FIND. Some words may be used twice or may not be used at all.



1. Lines from one side of the map to the other are from east to _____.
2. You can _____ a map to show where you live.
3. A _____ has a direction needle.
4. The direction needle always points _____.
5. On a map a _____ usually means a capitol.
6. Lines running up and down are north and _____.
7. _____ are used on maps to show mountains, rivers, and cities.
8. There is a _____ on each map to show how much distance is a mile.
9. A local map shows _____ in a town.
10. The area right around your home might be called your _____.
11. If you are lost, a _____ will tell you which direction is north, south, east, and west.
12. A _____ can help you find your way in a new area.
13. On maps of countries, there are lines that show _____ where you would change your watch when traveling.
14. A map makes a very large area look _____.
15. With a compass and a map you can find your way to just about _____.

1. west 2. draw 3. compass 4. north 5. star 6. south 7. symbols 8. scale 9. streets 10. neighborhood 11. compass 12. map 13. time zones 14. small 15. anywhere

Word Find



Answers

G	S	Z	A	N	Y	W	H	E	R	E	A	H	B
R	C	I	T	E	C	S	D	A	O	R	D	N	J
K	A	Q	B	I	L	E	S	O	U	T	H	A	D
C	L	T	F	G	M	R	D	T	G	M	S	M	R
K	E	J	S	H	E	E	I	N	E	F	H	E	A
R	H	L	O	B	G	M	Z	S	T	E	N	S	W
O	P	E	M	O	P	Q	Y	O	E	Q	R	H	R
L	I	U	S	R	T	M	T	S	N	S	J	T	R
L	N	K	V	H	B	L	W	V	G	E	X	R	S
A	U	N	A	O	U	M	Z	P	A	W	S	O	Y
M	B	O	L	O	S	S	A	P	M	O	C	N	C
S	O	S	T	D	U	M	E	X	P	V	F	W	Y

- | | |
|--------------|------------|
| Anywhere | Roads |
| Compass | Scale |
| Draw | Small |
| Magnet | Star |
| Map | Streets |
| Names | South |
| Neighborhood | Symbols |
| North | Time Zones |
| Numbers | West |

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November 2014

**Living Our Faith****Gratitude's Gifts**

Gratitude gets us through the hard stuff. To reflect on your blessings is to rehearse God's accomplishments. To rehearse God's accomplishments is to discover his heart. To discover his heart is to discover not just good gifts but the Good Giver.

Gratitude always leaves us looking at God and away from dread. It does to anxiety what the morning sun does to valley mist. It burns it up.

—Max Lucado, *You'll Get Through This*

You Are Here

As I approached a brightly lit, vertical floor plan at a mall, I noticed a woman standing in front of it for quite a while. "Can I help you find something?" I offered. As people scurried around us, she replied, "No, thanks. I'm just pausing for a moment." Then, pointing to the arrow that announced, "You are here," she said, "I need to be reminded sometimes."

Don't we all! When life gets crazy, perhaps we need to stop, like the wise woman at the mall, and remind ourselves that we don't have to try to be everywhere at once. We're "here," and that's the only place we can be.

Better still, we can imagine a bright arrow pointing to where we are in life, proclaiming, "God is here!"