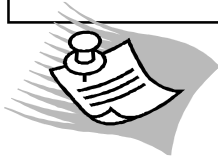


ECHOES

December 2011

Mission Statement

As brothers and sisters in Christ, we are called to *invite* people to know Christ, to *build* a community of faith, and to *serve* all in love to the glory of God!
Adopted Easter 1995



*Notes From
Pastor Dave*

Christmas Blues

Dear Friends,

Christmas is supposed to be like a Norman Rockwell painting... at least that's what all the ads and TV specials would have us believe. Sometimes it seems like everyone is having a wonderful Christmas season... everyone but you.

Maybe it's the first Christmas without a loved one. Maybe you and your spouse are fighting, and nothing seems right. Maybe one of the kids is struggling with their grades. Maybe you are in between jobs. Maybe one of your family members just landed in the hospital. Maybe you just got a bad report from the doctor. Maybe you just moved to a new town, and nothing is the same and you miss your friends and you don't fit in. Maybe you have legal issues looming on the horizon, and you don't know what the next few days or next few years might bring. Maybe your family just fell apart.

And now, every time you see a happy family out shopping, or when you hear one of those Christmas songs like, "I'll be home for Christmas," your heart breaks a little, and you think, "Why me? Why do I have to endure this? Why is every other person out there having fun and celebrating, and I have to go through this?"

People tell us that we are supposed to be happy -- after all, we are about to celebrate Jesus' birth. But sometimes life is just really hard.

Truth be told, there are probably more people facing a season like you are than people who have a perfect family and no concerns but parties and presents and trees and lights.

And truth be told, Christmas is not just about happy babies and sanitized shepherds and carols sung in four part harmony. It isn't about happiness. But it is about joy.

"Joy," you say, "how can it be about joy?"

Palm Valley Lutheran Church A Stephen Ministry Church

**2500 East Palm Valley Boulevard
Round Rock, Texas 78665
Phone: 512-255-3322 Fax: 512-388-2389
www.palmvalleylutheranchurch.org**

Rev. Dr. David P. Koppel, Senior Pastor
Rev. Joaquin Figueroa, Hispanic Ministry
Rev. David Tietz, Visitation Minister
Mollie DeVries, Executive Administrator
Anna Froehlich, Youth Director

You don't know what I am going through. There isn't any joy." What makes Christmas important is that a baby was born.... But that baby is God. God himself came to be with us, to walk through life with us. So what does that mean?

First, He has been through the things we've been through and are going through - betrayal, heartbreak, pain.. all of it. He knows what it's like, and he walks through our hard times with us. Second, He won't leave us. We don't have to face life alone. He stands by our side and keeps His hand on us. Third, He actually suffered and died. Talk about going through the hardest of times.... And He rose from the dead... He really is God, and that means that nothing will ever be able to keep Him from keeping His promises to us.

That's where the joy comes in. Maybe it's not happiness every minute - that's nonsense anyway. But what it amounts to is this: no matter what the circumstances, no matter what the problem, we can have a deep peace, a knowledge that God is with us, and that God is for us - but it is more than simply knowledge. It is a sense of health and wholeness, even if we are sick. It's a sense of being loved, even when other people have betrayed or abandoned us. It is a sense of wonder, that we are so important to God, even when others try to make us believe that we aren't. It is the gift of faith; it's being part of a family that is huge and eternal; it's knowing that whatever life throws at us, God has our back, and it is experiencing His love now, and realizing that we will have it forever. That's what makes Christmas Christmas.
(continued from page 1, "Christmas Blues")

I wish you a "merry" Christmas. I hope you have a happy Christmas. But most of all, I wish for you the joy of Christmas, the realization, the experience deep down, the and knowledge that God really is with you and for you, today and forever.

In His grip,

Pastor



Church Operating Budget:	
January – Oct 2011 Income	\$ 647,279 (103.5% <u>Projected</u> Income for 10 month)
January – Oct 2011 Expense	\$ 620,383 (99.5% <u>Projected</u> Expense for 10 month)
Net	\$ 26,896

The Thanksgiving holiday is a perfect time to contemplate the word “Gratitude”

and in doing that we realize that Gratitude is really the beginning of our Christian faith. Before we gain an understanding of Christ and what he has done for us, and before we sense the presence of the Holy Spirit, we can certainly become conscious of God’s blessings and give thanks for them. At that point in time, we might also begin to realize that God has a very strong hand on our lives and begin to realize how much we have been guided by him.

Then with only partial understanding we can develop gratitude and further our faith. Eventually though, we hopefully will reach a complete belief in Christ. That is when we learn the Gratitude of having been chosen to believe and become a child of God.

Hopefully we learn to be grateful for the gift of our life, of our health as well as the gifts of talents and abilities he has blessed us with. Gratitude, rather than duty or obligation, is what prompts our giving to God of our Time, our Talents, and our Treasure. Perhaps the ultimate Gratitude is reached when we find a way to serve our Lord by befriending our fellow man. Gratitude is the beginning of our Faith and Faith leads us to the ultimate Gratitude. So be blessed and be a blessing to those around you.

Consecration Sunday was October 2nd and as of this writing November 17th we have received 159 “estimate of giving” cards for a total of \$469,730. Our membership is made up of 450 households so you can see that 159 households is about one third of our membership. When you submit an estimate of giving card, it is a great assistance to us in planning our ministry budget for the year ahead, 2012. We have great opportunities ahead of us here at Palm Valley to spread the “good news” of Christ. But certainly there is a cost factor relative to accomplishing our goals. We do hope you will want to participate in this “golden opportunity” to help spread the news and be involved also.

Please make note of the schedule for the church office during the holidays! Church office will be closed on Friday, December 23, Monday 26th, Friday 30th and the 2nd of January. for the holidays. So if you are hand delivering your year-end contribution, please be sure you are here before 5:00 p.m. on the 29th for us to receive it. That way you will receive 2011 contribution credit.

On the other hand if you are mailing your year-end contributions be certain they are post marked by midnight on the 31st of December or it will go into 2012 contributions.

All Committee night will be January 3rd which is a Tuesday rather than on Monday. Childcare will be provided on the night of the 3rd.

Contribution Statements will be mailed to you on January 6th or 7th and it is critical that you open and verify whether your records agree with the statement. If there are errors, PLEASE call me or email me immediately so that we can make corrections. In order to prepare for the annual report, we will need to close the books by the 15th. We will not be able to change reported errors after that date. Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated.

Our annual meeting will be held on January 29th and please remember that in order to be eligible to vote, you must have the 3 C’s of record.....that is, you must have been confirmed and you must have taken communion and contributed. That means that you must have signed in on the attendance card that you attended and communed. The same applies to contributions. It must be a contribution of record with a check or if cash, it must be in an envelope with your name on it. So please remember these constitutional requirements to qualify as a voting member. You still have time to make sure you qualify to vote for the January 2012 meeting. Have a wonderful Thanksgiving with your family.

En Agape

Mollie

Mollie DeVries, CCA

Church Council Report

Summary of action taken at the regular meeting of the Palm Valley Lutheran Church Council on Wednesday, November 16, 2011:

Council moved to establish a task force with representation from the Preschool and the Christian Education and Property committees (as well as and any other interested committees) to explore the request made by the Christian Education committee to paint the hallways, classrooms, bathrooms and Parish Hall.

Council considered making changes to the Council candidate selection process to allow for self-nominations to occur prior to the Annual Congregational Meeting. Council voted to leave the process unchanged.

Respectfully submitted,
Manny Castro
Council Secretary

Next Council Meeting
Wednesday, December 21 at 7:00 p.m.

Next All Committee Night
Tuesday, January 3, 7:00.
Childcare is provided.

WOMEN

News and Events

of Palm Valley Lutheran Church

Tuesday, weekly 1:00 p.m. Afternoon Quilters
Wed., Dec. 14 12:00 p.m. Prayer Group
Thurs., Dec. 15 6:00 p.m. Adult's Night Out
Mon., Dec. 19 5:45 p.m. Sing-Along @ TCC

Christmas Party at Trinity Home

Celebrate the birth of Christ with our friends at Trinity Care Center on Sunday, December 4 at 2:30 p.m. The ladies of Palm Valley are asked to bring refreshments, such as Swedish Toast, Angel food cake or cookies. Mr. Charles DeLisle and singers will present the program. If you have any questions please contact Grace Telander.

Community Outreach Project

Happy, smiling, and inviting volunteers are needed for our next Community Outreach Project at the Wal-Mart on 4700 East Palm Valley Blvd. (79 & 122 intersection). Please join us on Sunday, December 11 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the north entrance of the store where we will be giving away Palm Valley grocery bags along with information about our Christmas church services. Don't forget to wear your Palm Valley T-shirt! For more information, please contact Lisa Napolitano.

Stephen Ministry

Love One Another As I Have Loved You . . .

In John 15:12, Jesus says, "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

" Loving and caring for one another is not just the pastor's job--it's something Jesus calls us all to do! Stephen Ministry is a ministry in which people with special gifts for caring ministry can put those gifts to use in an organized way, bringing Jesus' love and care to those who most need it.

Christ Caring for People through People

That's the motto of Stephen Ministry. The Stephen Minister's role is to bring God's love into the lives of people who are going through a difficult time or experiencing a crisis. What do Stephen Ministers do? They listen to you, care for you, support and encourage you, and pray with and for you. And in the midst of this confidential, one-to-one, caring relationship, God's healing love comes pouring through. If you or someone you know is facing a crisis--large or small-- the caring presence of a Stephen Minister might help.

What Do Stephen Ministers Do?

Stephen Ministers are members of PVLC who have gone through 50 hours of training to provide confidential one-to-one Christian care to people who are facing a crisis or simply going through a difficult time. Your Stephen Minister will meet with you once a week for around an hour to listen to you, care for you, pray with and for you, and provide emotional and spiritual encouragement. Men are matched with male Stephen Ministers; women are matched with female Stephen Ministers.

If you--or someone you know--are going through a difficult time, contact one of our Stephen Leaders. Our Stephen Ministers are ready to provide you with focused, confidential, one-to-one Christian care and to help you experience the healing power of Christ's love in your life.



“Running To Help Children”

By Pastor Figueroa

As it was planned, I ran the San Antonio Half marathon. November the 13th. To say it was easy, it would be an understatement. Even though I have been running for more than ten years, I am always uneasy the days before the race, because races are unpredictable.

In addition of that, my mind likes to play tricks. How much should I sleep the night before the race? How well should I hydrate myself the days and hours before the race and who measures and defines what does it mean “how well? How much should I eat the night before the race? What should I eat before the race? How about the weather? Did I train enough? Should I have run more intervals? And I am 72 years old, so, am I doing the right thing at this age? What about if... With these thoughts bubbling in my mind I drove at 4.30 AM toward the ATT Center where I parked my car and took a shuttle bus to go to the starting line in San Antonio downtown.

The starting line area was full of people making long lines to do their business before the race; and at 7.30 AM the national anthem was announced, meaning that the race was about to start. With or without enough preparation, the time of truth had come. I have heard the national anthem hundred of times, but this time it was different, this time was personal. And as I listened to the beautiful and emotional voice breaking the solemn silence I was thinking how I came to this country as a stranger more than 32 years ago and how, now I am a citizen of the most powerful country of the planet and how, now, only by the grace of God, I belong to Palm Valley Lutheran Church extended family. I felt so good being there, among 30.000 people who were ready to sing a new song of life. God is Good.

After the two first miles I realized with surprise that I was running at 9 minutes per mile pace and I felt good because I was running faster than I thought; but at the same time concerned, because I wondered whether or not I would be able to keep this pace through the finish lane, specially because I had not trained to run so fast. So, I slowed down after I realized that I had been running faster than I used to, led only by my emotions instead of following my running plan. I recognized also that most of the people running around me were for the most part, younger than me who used to run fast. But it was so difficult to think rationally in the midst of too much excitement. Everything was more and less okay until mile 9 when my back and neck begun to hurt.

By mile 11 I had to slow down more because pain became uglier. That was the time I reminded myself why I was running for. During my training, I knew that it was not going to be easy and that, painful moments could happen, but I was resolved to keep running because suffering is the path to redemption. How are you going to appreciate light if you have not lived in darkness? And for Christians, how are we going to appreciate forgiveness if we have not recognized that we are sinners?

When I was waiting for the race to start I knew what it was going to happen, but I stayed and kept going because I wanted to do something special and perhaps extravagant to call your attention about those poor Salvadoran children that, because they are so poor, they were born with a “prescription for failure.” But through education provided by your generous contributions, we are helping them to break the chain of poverty and violence, so they may become a “prescription for success” becoming a decent and productive citizen. With those thoughts in mind I was able to overcome pain and get through the finish line.

I think that Christian life is like running a marathon. To run a marathon it requires, among other things, first, a vision, a dream; then a plan or strategy to follow, commitment to be attached to, and practice perseverance and discipline. Our Christian dream and vision is to get salvation of our soul as Matthew 16:26 says “For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Then we need a plan or strategy. Our Christian strategy is to follow God’s proposed plan and this is what God told Joshua and tells us “Don’t for a minute let this Book of The Revelation be out of mind. Ponder and meditate on it, day and night, making sure you practice everything written in it. Then you will get where you are going; then you’ll succeed.” Joshua 1: 8.

We need also a strong commitment to God, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might” Deuteronomy 6:5. We need to persevere as said in Matthew 24:13 “But the one who endures to the end will be saved”. And we will need also discipline, “In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one” Ephesians 6:16.

Therefore, dear brothers and sisters, as Hebrews 12:1 says “since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us”.

In other words, with enthusiasm, let us keep making a difference in some people’s lives especially in these Salvadoran poor children. What a beautiful race and what a wonderful PV congregation. I could keep writing but I know I have to stop. So, if you have not done it yet, you can still help poor Salvadoran kids to go to school by writing a check to PV writing in the memo section: “El Salvador children.” Many Thanks.

Thank You

To Our Friends at Palm Valley Lutheran Church, thank you so much for the thoughts and prayers you sent our way.

Grant and Vivian Gee

I want to say a big thank you to Pastor Tietz for coming to my home and serving communion which is a great help to me. May God bless him and all of our church family. Thank you very much to all the members that thought of me with the beautiful birthday card for my 90th birthday that was on October 25. God bless all of you.

Ervin Kaatz, Sr.

We want to thank everyone for their prayers and cards at the loss of Bernie's brother Ed. Our church family was handpicked by our God and we are ever so grateful to everyone at PVLC for their support during this difficult time.

Bernie and Jill Lampi

We would like to extend a huge thank you to everyone that donated items to the gift baskets for the Fall Fair. We received many wonderful comments about this year's baskets. We appreciate your contributions that helped to make this year's Fall Fair a wonderful event for everyone that attended.

Joy Kovar Sally Cotton

Altar Flowers for 2012

Sign-up Charts Are Posted

Sign-up charts for altar flower sponsors for 2012 are posted on the bulletin board in the narthex. There is a chart for both the Traditional Service and the Rejoice Service. As these dates usually fill up quickly, please limit your initial sponsorships to two in order to give everyone an opportunity to participate.

Sponsorship forms will then be sent each month to all participants with regard to any dedication or memorial requests you may wish to have published in the Sunday bulletin. Remember, the flowers are yours to keep and the **purchase amount of \$50.00** is not considered a contribution. The flowers are delivered directly by a local florist and you may pick them up after either the 9:00 a.m. or 11:15 a.m. service. Thank you for helping to beautify our Church!

SeniorFest

What's a Seniorfest? This is the annual gathering of Lutherans 55 or older who have a desire to continue learning and to enjoy mingling with other Lutherans in central Texas. This year's event will be held at Palm Valley Lutheran Church, Round Rock, 9:15 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

The theme is "How To Be a Christian In the Public Square," as we explore how a Christian can serve both God and country without finding ourselves in a conflict of serving two masters. How can we be responsible citizens while being faithful to God? -- a timely topic in this election year. An exciting speaker with national credentials, retired Army Chaplain Rodger Venzke, will lead two presentations on this topic.

Choose to join two other great workshops, including:

Balancing Faith and Justice: Bee Moorhead,

IMPACT Texas Executive Director

Bible Study: Hugh Beck

David in the Old and New Testaments: Dennis Schurter

History of Swedish Immigrants in TX churches:

Elroy Haverlah

The Healthy Aging Brain: Geanie Firnhaber

Maturing as Good Stewards: Larry Ohls, Lutheran Foundation of TX

Options at the Time of Death: Rodger Ericson

Travel With Us to Ethiopia: Rita Carlson and Dorothy Chesley

Understanding the Culture of our Grandchildren:

Jon Brandenburg, UT

A catered lunch will be served in the Parish Hall. Brochures with detailed information and registration forms are available in the narthex or church office. Cost for the day is \$25 before January 27, or \$30 at the door. Register soon to reserve the workshops of your choice.

Social Ministry

Texas Baptist Children's Home Christmas Ministry

Christmas is just around the corner...a time to share with those who are less fortunate. Palm Valley members, as in the past, will have the opportunity to adopt children at the Round Rock Baptist Children's Home for Christmas giving. This has become a tradition within our church.

At our request, the Children's Home will assign two cottages to our church, a boys' cottage and a girls' cottage, with children of different ages. The children in each cottage make a "wish list" and we post it on our bulletin board. You can look over the list and decide which gifts you would like to purchase and for which children. You mark that you have taken that particular "wish", then do your shopping, wrap and mark the package with the child's name and the cottage number.

(Continued on page 8)

Hanging Your Christmas Decorations

The Dolphin Small Group would love to help hang Christmas decorations for members who are no longer able to handle such a task. We will be happy to gather your decorations from storage, decorate trees, and string lights. Clean up will be available after the holidays. If you would like assistance, please contact Erika Wulff as soon as possible so we can put you on the schedule.

Family Christmas Gathering December 1st, 7:00 p.m.

The Worship and Music Committee will sponsor the Annual Christmas Gathering on Thursday, December 1st at 7:00 p.m.

There will be a court of Santa Lucia, the Adult Choir, the Rejoice Choir, Children's Choirs and other musical talent as well as the ever-popular sing-along. Come join and celebrate Christmas with our church family. Bring your friends and neighbors.

A reception will follow with our members' tasty homemade cookies and punch. Church members, please bring a plate of your favorite cookies or treats to share.

We need some volunteers to help set up and to serve the cookies and punch. If you are willing to help serve, please contact Peggy Felfe OR Joy Kovar.

Oh, Come All Ye Faithful! Sunday, December 11, 3:00 p.m.

Join us in a wonderful Christmas tradition—singing Christmas carols to some of our cherished friends! We will meet at the church and then caravan to homes around Round Rock. All ages are welcome and song sheets will be provided.

After the caroling, we will continue our fellowship by sharing a meal of soup and chili around 6:00 p.m. at the church. If you are able to eat with us, please sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex by Wednesday, December 7, so we can ensure that we have plenty of food for all. If you have any questions please contact Paula Dietz.

Adult Education

The Art of Marriage

A new one-and-a-half day video event built on the same biblically based content as Family Life's *Weekend to Remember* marriage getaway.

January 27-28, 2012 at Palm Valley Lutheran Church
Friday 7:00- 9:30 PM - Free childcare is available.
Saturday 9:00 AM- 4:00 PM - Childcare not available.

The Art of Marriage brings together some of the most respected and influential pastors and experts on marriage and family, all in one setting, for a fresh approach to help couples fully experience God's design for marriage: engaging stories, real-life testimonies, man-on-the-street interviews and humorous vignettes. This weekend will renew and strengthen your relationship, whether you are newly weds or married a long time. The cost is 50.00 per couple and includes two manuals, snacks, drinks, and lunch on Saturday. For more information or to register contact Manny Castro or email marriage@pvlc.org.

Financial Peace University

Thursday, January 12, 2012 through Thursday April 26
(No class February 23, March 15, and April 5)

More than one million families have attended with amazing results. On average, these families paid off \$5,300 in debt and saved \$2,700 in just the first 90 days! Stop worrying about money, and start your journey to Financial Peace today. The first lesson is totally free! Just register to attend. You may purchase a family membership after the free lesson and attend the full course. Family memberships usually cost around \$100 and includes all class materials. For more information or to register contact Tracy Nolan or email financialpeace@pvlc.org

Wild at Heart

Discovering The Secret of a Man's Soul
Sadly, most men abandon the dreams and desires-aided by a Christianity that feels like nothing more than pressure to be a "nice guy." It is no wonder that many men avoid church, and those who go are often passive and bored to death. In this provocative Bible study, Eldredge gives men permission to be what God designed them to be-dangerous, passionate, alive, and free!

This small group is for men only. For more info Contact Russ Peterson or email ironmen@pvlc.org

(Continued on page 8)



Children's Sunday School
for Ages 2 – 5th Grade 10:15am – 11am

JAM-O-WEEN was so much fun. We had over 45 kids in attendance! We hope to offer other JAM (Jesus & Me) events in the future. If you feel God is calling you to volunteer to be a part of this important mid week ministry for our children, please let us know.

Would you like to meet other parents? Would your kids like some time to play with their church friends? Come fellowship with us at our monthly **Sunday school social**. Bring or grab a lunch for your family. We gather together in the CLC or the grove on the 2nd Sunday of each month right after Sunday school (11:00 ish). **This month's social will be the same Sunday as our Christmas Program, December 11th.**

It is a social and a "wrap party"! Every successful show has to have a wrap party! Join us! Bring a pot luck side or desert to share.

Youth Praise Team If you enjoy singing praise songs and are in 2nd-8th grader – come join the fun! Contact Pam Dieterich to join.

Children's Christmas Program & Live Nativity

The Children's Christmas program will be Sunday, December 11th during the 9am service. Children of all ages are encouraged to participate. We will also need youth and adult volunteers.

Our show will "go on the road" on Friday, December 9th. We will be performing a live Nativity at the annual Round Rock Family Christmas Night from 6:30-9:30 PM. For more information on the Christmas program or the live Nativity, talk to Tracy Nolan or email:

childrensministry@pvlc.org

Next Children's Ministry Meeting – Come see what fun things we have going on with Children's ministry in 2012. We meet the first Monday of every month at 7pm at church. Our next meeting is Monday, December 5th! Please join us! For more information on Children's Ministry (2s – 5th grade), please email us at childrensministry@pvlc.org

Sunday school continues each Sunday with our brand new Spark curriculum. You can read more about the curriculum as well as find a full scope and sequence schedule for the year at:

<http://www.activatefaith.org/curriculum/>. We are using the Lectionary series, which runs on a 3-year cycle. We are in year A-B.

Please join us for a brief opening for all ages at 10:15am in the Parish Hall each Sunday. We will sing songs, learn about the Bible lesson, celebrate birthdays and pray before children are dismissed to their classrooms listed below. Sunday school is from 10:15am-11:00am.

- 2s – Carrie & Ryan Jackson-Room 13
- 3s – Beth Schroeder-Room 5
- 4s – Erika Wulff-Room 9
- Kindergarten – Christina Rendon-Room 12
- 1st Grade – Susan Mathias & Christina Johansson-Room 1
- 2nd Grade – Kim Clymer-Room 25
- 3rd Grade – Lori Brill & Pam Boerst-Room 24
- 4th & 5th Grade – Peter & Hans Curran-Room 19

Sunday School Coordinator – Kim Kubala

(Continued from page 3 - Stephen Ministry)

As of now we have three members of PVLC who've committed to attending the next Stephen Ministry training which we hope to begin sometime in January of 2012. Please contact any member of the SM Team with any questions you might have or to let them know you'd like to be part of the next SM class.

E-mail Chris Orton at countyfuzz2323@aol.com if you would like to read some heartfelt testimonials from members of PVLC who've had a Stephen Minister as well as testimonials from Stephen Ministers themselves.

PVLC's Stephen Ministry Team

Stephen Leaders

- Nancy Rabb
- Paula Dietz
- Chris Orton

Stephen Ministers

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Buddy Burk | Liz Knox-Brock |
| Jennifer Curran | Jill Lampi |
| Ann Delisi | Sharon May |
| Linda Dufner | Bonnie Mueller |
| Peggy Felfe | Randall Revisore |
| Lynn Fuhrman | Lane Roberts |
| Vivian Gee | Sharon Revisore |
| Tim Harman | Jeanie Richter |
| Jerry Kirchner | Charlene Smola |



*Random thoughts
from my head to yours...*

It is hard to believe that 2011 is coming to end. What is even harder to believe is that I have been busy planning the summer schedule for the students.

So I am happy to announce that all students 1st-12th grade will be attending Camp Chrysalys July 1-6, 2012. There will be a \$100.00 deposit due by February 15, 2012. The sign-up form is on the youth bulletin board.

I want to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

In his love,
Anna Froehlich
Office: (512) 255-3322
Email: youth@palmvalleylutheranchurch.org

We are looking for a few good Volunteers:
We need adult volunteers to come help us on Wednesday nights from 6 to 8 pm in the CLC. Please Contact Anna Froehlich for more details.

Upcoming Events:

2011
Dec 2, 2011 - Parents Night Out Fundraiser
Dec 14, 2011 - Christmas Party

2012
Jan 4, 2012-Youth wide scavenger hunt
Jan 13-16-SW Synod Sr. High Youth Gathering in Austin
July 18-21-Natl. ELCA Youth Gathering New Orleans, LA
February 10-12, 2012 Disciple Now Weekend

**YOUTH FUNDRAISER
for National Gathering**

**PARENTS NIGHT OUT!!!!
On December 2, 2011
PVLC CLC
6pm to 10 pm
\$ 10.00 for 1st child and
\$5.00 per additional child
(Children aged 1-11 years old.)**

Summer 2012 Dates:
**Jr. High Mission trip to Arlington, TX
June 24 - 29, 2012**
**Summer Camp @ Camp Chrysalis
All Grades 1st - 12th
July 1 - 6, 2012
More Details to Follow**

(Continued from page 5 – Social Ministry)

Bring the package to the church office in early December. Anything you choose will be appreciated by these children. It is a joy to see the happy faces of the children as the gifts are delivered to the Home and as they help put them under the Christmas tree.

As you count your blessings this year, get in the Christmas spirit. Help make this a happy Christmas for these children. God gives us lots of opportunities to share our joy and love, and this is a really special one.

(Continued from page 7-Adult Education)

Lutheran Basics: *What You Thought You Knew about Lutherans*

This class will be taught by retired Pastor Pablo Nestler. Tuesday evenings, February 28-April 17th from 7:00-9:00 PM. For more information or to register contact Tracy Nolan or email financialpeace@pvlc.org

***Special Thanks
to those who helped
with the December Echoes:***

*Johnnie Pecht Jean Kammer
Ann Grimes Marion Fowler
Pat Wolff Emily Fehlis
Delpha Berg*

**Next Echoes Deadline:
Friday, December 16, 2011**