

Relax, It's Christmas!

Jesus is coming we say. But here is a question for you. When we meet Jesus, what would be the best way to describe his personality? Surely, for those of you who have been walking with him for some time, there must be some way to describe the overall presence of Jesus. What is the essential nature of his character, the Spirit of his person? What kind of person is coming?

The best word to describe the character of Jesus might be the word <u>relaxed</u>. That's the core of his healing presence. I think people who have been following Jesus for some time will learn to radiate this naturally. They just have the ability to make you feel at home, that you have a place. Because they have experienced and cultivated this place within and can share it.

I have talked with so many people over the years, whose experience of the Christmas Season is just the opposite. There is so much stress, that when it's over they're just glad it's done. Even our bible texts can be stressful. Watch! Be on the alert, so you don't miss it! But this vigilance is often more stressful than any form of calm or relaxation.

The foundational discipline to cultivate in order to receive the Christ child is simply this. Relax. If you can't relax (and I know what that is), ask God to help you and then take the time for silence and listen for an answer. Whatever you do, don't "try to relax" on your own! That's totally going in the wrong direction. Ask for it. Simply ask. Not once, but for the season. THEN, wait and watch. Do the discipline of Advent. The gift will come.

"How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given. So God imparts to human hearts the blessing of his heaven" (O Little Town of Bethlehem, verse 3).

Pastor Mark



Editor: Kendra K. Weers

Typists: Kendra K. Weers and Jane Pretzer Calendar: Kendra K. Weers
Assembly: Kendra K. Weers

Newscaster Reporters

Church Council – Jean Schmidt — Treasurer – Allen Roelfs

WELCA – Robbyn Roelfs — Eunice Circle – Irene Gibson — Work Day – Carolyn Schultis

Sunday School and VBS – Kristen Hennerberg and Kristen Heidemann

Youth News – Jadyn Schultis, Skylar Pretzer and Brianna Weers

Worship Committee - Council Mutual Ministry Committee - Council Birthdays & Anniversaries - Judy DeBoer & Jane Pretzer WELCA Coffee List - Jan Gold Acolyte List - Pastor Mark Liscom Worship Assistants & Usher Lists - Sherry Henrichs



Sponsors

Our December Newscaster sponsors are:
John Hemphill, Steve Hemphill, Janet Whitehead and
Jean Bunger Families
In Loving Memory of Clark & Leona Hemphill's Anniversary

Irene Gibson in Loving Memory of Karl and Eleanora Bunting on their December 27th Wedding Anniversary

We thank you all for your sponsorship and support.

Please note that the sign-up sheet for 2019 sponsorships is up and many sponsorships are available.

Please consider sponsoring a Newscaster to continue providing this communication tool to the members of the congregation. JANUARY SPONSORS ARE URGENTLY NEEDED.



Sunday, December 2

Hanging of the Greens Reception Provided by WELCA

Sunday, December 9

Caroling for the Congregation 4:30pm

Monday, December 24

Congregational Christmas Eve Program and Candlelight Service 7pm

Tuesday, December 25

Christmas Day Worship Service 9:30am

St. Paul Lutheran Church Council Minutes for November 14, 2018

Pastor Mark opened with a reading of Hymn 612 followed by a prayer. Members present were David Henrichs, Cindy Lottman, Allen Roelfs, Jean Schmidt, and Jamie Schultis. Melvin Beran was absent. Allen moved to accept the minutes, and Jamie seconded. Motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Allen reported that the current balance is \$1,573.52. Portico has been paid. A property insurance premium needs to be paid. Other monthly bills will be paid by the end of the month. The Blue Valley share of the Diller Picnic funds will be paid as soon as possible. Jamie moved to accept, and Jean seconded. Motion passed.

MEMORIAL TREASURER'S REPORT

Jamie reported that the current balance is \$13,315.19, including the month's interest. No financial activity for the month. Allen moved to accept, and Cindy seconded. Motion passed.

PASTOR'S REPORT

Pastor Mark took one week of vacation, 1 Nebraska Synod Theological Conference, 1 confirmation class, 2 youth group meetings, 2 worship services, 2 adult ed classes, 1 Mission Festival Service, 5 hospital calls, 3 home communions, 1 WELCA Holy Spirit study, 2 text studies, 1 Homestead House service, No mileage.

- Pastor Mark is working on getting a person to be the "accountability partner" for the goal setting committee.
- Pastor Mark spent one night in the emergency room and two days doing heart testing.
- Feedback on Mission Festival Service was positive; congregation enjoyed the speaker and the program that followed the service; the congregation enjoyed the potluck and social time.

COMMITTEE REPORT

• Transformational--committee met with only 3 members; discussed opening up the meetings to members of the congregation; may become involved in the goal setting committee following listening process.

OLD BUSINESS

- Pastor has met with one individual interested in becoming an assistant minister.
- Christmas program will involve Sunday School students, Confirmation students, Youth Group, and adults.

NEW BUSINESS

- Council discussed the formation of a group/committee to follow up on listening process. The committee will be referred to as "St. Paul's Vision Team" and will have 6-9 members. There have been 3 individuals volunteer.
- There are several projects that need updating: envelope numbers, mailbox names, newscaster mailing list, and membership list. Council members will be working on these tasks.
- Council discussed the possibility of transferring bank accounts from Fairbury. Cindy moved to give Jamie and Allen permission to look into opening a memorial account and a general fund account at the State Bank of Odell. David seconded. Motion passed.
- Council discussed the purchase of new deposit slips. Council decided to try the generic form provided at no cost.
- Council discussed the division of designated funds on the annual meeting ballot. The split has been 60%-20%-20%.
- Council discussed how to get schedules for church service activities out sooner. A hard copy will be on bulletin boards at church and schedules will also be found on the church website.
- Council discussed Christmas treats. Cindy volunteered to purchase the treats.
- Council discussed the annual meeting. The annual meeting will be held on Sunday, January 20, 2019.

The next council meeting will be on Wednesday, December 19, 2018, at 6:00 p.m. The following month's meeting will be on Wednesday, January 16, 2019, at 6:00 p.m. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer. Allen made a motion to adjourn, and Cindy seconded. Motion passed.

- Jean Schmidt, Council Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT General Fund Balance as of 11/23/2018 \$ 529.28 Bills Due by end of November: Pastor's Salary \$ 3,866.87 Total \$8,866.87 October/November Last Month: October Current Month: November Current \$ 5,477.00 Current \$ 5,296.88 Benevolence 213.25 Benevolence 267.88 World Hunger 25.00 World Hunger 0.00 Specials 85.00 Specials 0.00 **TOTAL TOTAL** \$5,800.25 \$ 5,564,75 We need \$12,307.87 in CURRENT per month to meet the 2018 budget.

Eunice Circle Women's Bible Study



Eunice Circle met on November 12, 2018 at 1:30pm. The Bible Study was led by Irene Gibson. "Turn, turn, turn: A time for faithful repentance." Turning as a church to the world. Why is repentance important in the life of Christian faith? What happens when the church repents? When we repent as one body in Christ, we open the way to healing and recognition.

We opened with prayer and Hymn, "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy." We closed with prayer and Hymn, "Rise Up, O Saints of God" and The Lord's Prayer. We read, "Thanks for the Harvest". The focus verse taken from 1 John 1:8-9.

Bible study texts from 1 John 1:5-10, John 8:31-36, John 20:19-28, Isaiah 55:6-13, Ecclesiastes3:1-15, 1 Corinthians 1:25-31, 1 Corinthians 2:6-16, 2 Corinthians 3:18, 2 Corinthians 4:1-7 and 2 Corinthians 7:9-10.

Norma called the meeting to order. Minutes were read and approved. Five (5) members answered roll call. Our offering was \$13.00.

Old Business: Projects moving forward. WELCA meeting Thursday, Nov. 8th at 1:30pm. Work day October 23rd. Will pack LWR Items Oct. 30th. Thank Offering will be at services Nov. 18th.

New Business: Norma Banahan and Irene Gibson will continue as chairperson and recorder. Work Day is Nov. 27th, all day.

After Grace, Cleo Perkins served refreshments.

Next Eunice Circle will be Dec. 10, 2018 at 1:30pm, Dec. book. Kay Taylor will be study leader.

Irene Gibson, Recorder

Our sympathy goes to the family of long-time St. Paul member, Toby Fritzen, who passed away on November 7 and his funeral services were in Filley on Monday, November 12.

Sympathy also goes to the Wellsandt family. Diane's mother passed away on November 11.

Please keep these families in your thoughts and prayers.





Several of our congregational members have been in the hospital recently.

Jean Weers has been in the hospital but is at home and doing well

Kendra (Schmidt) Weers had back surgery and is recovering well

Pastor Delmar Wiemers is at home recovering after falling and breaking his hip.

Please remember them in your prayers as they recover and heal.

Please also remember in your prayers all of our members and extended church family who are not able to be with us, those that are in assisted living and care centers and those who may be in need of God's comfort, healing and peace:

Betty and Franklin Damrow, Richard Schnuelle, Eden Lottman and Skylar Folkers.

St. Paul Women of the ELCA November Unit Meeting

President Linda Beran opened our Unit Meeting at 1:00pm with warm welcomes. Six women attended and began with reading an opening prayer in unison followed by our WELCA Statement of Purpose.

The business meeting opened with the Minutes read by Sec Robbyn Roelfs and approved with minor corrections. Treasurer Jeanette Bures gave the financial report with the current balance of \$1706.08. Outstanding bills to be paid in near future were briefly discussed including 3rd Quarter Synodical offering, Travel fund to NSWO convention, Food pantry, Thank Offering, and diaper bill Ardith Barber will submit for Baby kit diapers.



Committee Reports: Work Day - reported on quilt progress going good with the upcoming day to pack and deliver. She noted there is no work day in December. Postage or shipping on a quilt \$2.25, School kit \$1.40, Personal care kit \$2.65, and Baby care kit \$1.30 was discussed. Norma Banahan motioned with second by Jeanette Bures to send \$400.00 approved.

Warren's Table Project—youth serving zucchini bread, biscuits and gravy for 30 to 40 attending.

New Business: College outreach project of Care Packages (including a nice variety of items) with a card will be sent for Thanksgiving to college students. Some ideas for discussion on projects we could use our funds for in future were dishwasher in parsonage and new acolyte and assisting minister robes. Thank Offering program the woman do for church was discussed. The Hanging of the Greens Sunday December 2nd was also discussed and cookies to provide.

Linda Beran will be retiring from the WELCA officers so we will be need a volunteer. A huge thank you to Linda for doing such a good job for us!! Mark your Calendar

Upcoming Events:

Winter Retreat—January 19, 2019 - Grand Island, NE.

World Day of Prayer—Mar 1, 2019

Southeast Spring Gathering—March 23, 2019 – Auburn, NE.

WELCA NE Synodical Convention at Camp Carol Joy Holling - October 11-13, 2019

Pastor Mark gave a great Bible Study and an offering was collected. Wonderful refreshments served by Ardith - Thanks!! The meeting was closed with a prayer read in unison.

"I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, now and evermore. Amen.

- Submitted by Robbyn Roelfs

Women of the ELCA Thank Offering Service

St. Paul Women of the ELCA conducted their annual Thank Offering service during the morning worship hour on Sunday, November 18. Officers sharing in the service were Linda Beran, Norma Banahan, Ardie Barber and Jeanette Bures. \$188.00 was collected and will be sent to support ministries of the Women of the ELCA.

When Women of the ELCA was formed in 1987, we committed to continue this tradition of giving in gratitude for blessings, Each year, in thousands of congregations, Thankofferings are given to support the life-changing ministries of Women of the ELCA. Together, we do more than we could ever do apart.

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for You." First Thessalonians 5:16-18









November 11 2018

On Sunday, November 11, we welcomed Deacon Connie Stover, Director of "Seeking the Spirit Within" for the Nebraska Synod and served in the past as an assistant to the Bishop. She preached during the worship service and led a workshop following the service.

. This program is designed to help people learn how to listen to God, self and others and to become present in the moment. Our minds are constantly going from past to future, but God is in the PRESENT. It takes work and practice on how to do this. Seeking the Spirit Within was one of several initiatives created from a strategic planning process undertaken by the Nebraska Synod in 2006 which resulted in a primary conclusion that the root of Christ's mission anywhere at any time is spiritual leadership. Spiritual directors help to strengthen the spiritual leadership of our synod and its people in these ways: by leading faith formation groups for



adults in the congregations; providing spiritual directions for registered and lay leaders; working with Nebraska Synod congregations in transition; facilitating devotions and times of prayer for various Nebraska Synod gatherings; and facilitating annual guided retreats for Nebraska Synod adults. Deacon Stover talked to us in her message about these retreats, and the next one will be on February 2, 2019. She also discussed in her message on how crisis in our lives affects us spiritually – when you have nothing left, THEN you are open to God. In Psalm 146, God gave everything to us; he holds up those without options; pay attention to what is going on today, and where is God in this? God cannot be known by thinking, only by experiencing and loving. We need to pay attention to what is going on TODAY – where is God in this? God cannot be known by thinking, only by experiencing and loving. Pay attention to what God is doing in our everyday lives, and LISTEN to others.



After worship, Deacon Stover had a "mini-retreat", where she taught us a little about LISTENING. She set the session by lighting a candle in the middle of our "circle" that we formed in the sanctuary. The candle in the middle is a visual reminder of God's presence. She then used a song from scripture, Psalm 45. We closed our eyes, and it was read in full and then cycled down while pausing in between: "Be still, and know I am God" – "Be still, and know I am" – "Be still, and know" – "Be still" – "Be". "We all know our DOING, not much about our BEING." We then had a prayer, and each drew a piece of paper with something on it and we were to think about why we were grateful for it. Some of the items were ice, winter, laughter, sand, colleagues, friends, mountains, sunshine, stars, seeds, color, texture, emptiness, structure, tears and cicadas. Deacon Stover told us that this exercise, makes us think about what we are grateful for – pure gift – which is something that did not come from US. She then used a prayer sheet (which was a handout) as the blessing for the potluck meal after the session.

If anyone would like more information, contact Connie at: 308-440-4450 ♦ conniestover@nebraskasynod.org seekingthespiritwithin.org, click Drinking From The Well





Small packages, great things

The motto for Hershey's Kisses used to be "Big things come in small packages!" That also could be a motto for Bethlehem, for Baby Jesus and, indeed, for us. It's an important message to remember when we fear we're too weak to fix the world's problems, too small to fight the gigantic terror that threatens a loved one or too lacking in abilities we see in others.

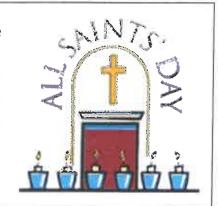
"But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah," God declares through the prophet Micah (5:2, NRSV), "from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel." Bethlehem was a mere village. God's ruler for Israel started as an infant. His birthplace was a small stable, not a palace or temple. But size isn't everything. Big — that is, great — things can come in small packages. And thanks to the tiny baby who grew up to share immeasurably huge love with the world, God can do great things through you, too!

~ The Newsletter Newsletter, December 2018

St. Paul's Congregation observed All Saints Sunday during the November 4th Worship Service.

We remembered Howard Perkins and Darrell Sasse who passed away during the last year and the funeral of Neal Roelfs that took place at St. Paul Lutheran. There were no memorials dedicated this year.

We give thanks to God today for all their lives and for the love of God that is stronger and more enduring than death.







As a congregation, we will be conducting a food drive beginning now and going through the Advent season. Bring your food donations to the church – help us collect food for the needy.

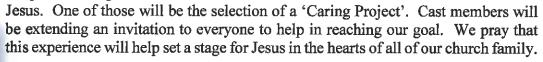
Also, coats will be delivered to Blue Valley in Fairbury and/or the coat drive in Beatrice at First Christian Church the last week of December. Clean out those closets and help keep someone warm this winter.

"Setting the Stage for Jesus" on Christmas Eve

You are warmly invited to share in the joy of the birth of Christ on Christmas Eve, Dec. 24 at 7 p.m. The evening will begin with a cast of St. Paul members presenting "Stetting the Stage for Jesus". We have included a lot of traditional carols that the audience will be invited to sing. The wonderful tradition of the 'Candle Lighting' service will follow.



During the Sundays of advent, the play cast will be completing a variety of activities that will help set the stage of their hearts for





We look forward to sharing this moment of holy celebration with you!



Christmas Poinsettias can be ordered through the church. Cost will be \$18 each with checks payable to St. Paul Lutheran and purchased through Sim's Florist in Fairbury. Sims will deliver them to the church on December 24 and will be displayed during the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Worship Services.

There is a sign-up sheet in the back table in the Narthex. Orders will be taken until Sunday, December 16. If anyone would like to bring one on their own instead of through the church, please sign up at the bottom of the same sheet by December 23 so information can be included in the bulletin insert and bring your plant to church by NOON on December 24. Please contact Kendra K. Weers if you have any questions.

COLLEGE STUDENTS 2018-2019

Here is a list of St. Paul's College Students, the WELCA is once again remembering these students with cards and prayers throughout the year. Please let Ardie Barber know if there are any changes or corrections.

Hayley Denner – Concordia Univ., Art Education Shyla Goldsberry – Lamar CC – Horse Performance Reese Hennerberg – Nebraska Wesleyan Univ.

Camille Hennerberg - NWMSU, Education

Tyson Landenberger - Doane Univ., Health & Human Performance

Lance Lawton - MWSU - Convergent Journalism

Nathan Liscom - UNL - Psychology

Corina Lottman - Univ. of Central Missouri., Pro-Pilot

Christian McCown - Doane Univ., Business Admin.

Reed Pretzer - UNL, Agri-Business

Jonathan Schmidt - SCC Beatrice, Agronomy & Agri-Business

Sarah Schmidt - UNO, Speech/Language Pathologist

Spencer Schmidt - UNL

Caleb Schultis – KSU, Agri-Business

Contac

Ashlen Vanover - NWMSU, Animal Science

Marquis Weers - SCC Milford, Electrical Engineering

Tyler Wolken - UNL, Applied Science

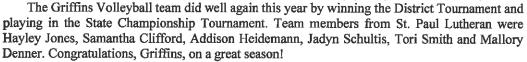


Our High School Youth have been busy this past month. Besides the Youth activities at church, several of our Youth were selected to be a part of the Pioneer Conference Honor Choir which was held on Monday, November 5 at Friend High School.

Each school's representatives sang a few numbers with their own school and then all the schools came together and performed combined pieces. At left, Diller-Odell's representation.

Congratulations to Kelsay Schlichtman, Hannah Ebeling, Brianna Weers, Jadyn Schultis and Mallory Denner for being selected to participate.

The One-Act team also performed and placed well at the Pioneer Conference competition at Humboldt and the District Competition at Pawnee City. Several cast members received Superior ratings and their performances were well received. St. Paul member participants were (Cast) Samantha Clifford, Brianna Weers and Jadyn Schultis and (Crew) Mahaila Engelman, Neleigh Weers, Skylar Pretzer and Tori Smith. It was a fun show that was enjoyed by all.



The Griffins Girls also won some individual awards this year. Skylar Pretzer was named to the All-State Softball Team and Addison Heidemann was named to the Pioneer Conference Volleyball First Team. Congratulations, Girls!!







- 1 Adam Roelfs
- 1 Hayley Denner
- 4 Andrew Liscom
- 5 Harry Kisling
- 5 Lacey Sasse
- 8 Esdon Weers
- 9 Jeanette Hennerberg
- 9 Kellan Schlichtman
- 10 Jason Wellsandt
- 11 Jarrod Heidemann
- 11 Eden Lottman
- 16 Jan Gold
- 16 Stacy Schlichtman
- 16 Jadyn Schultis

- 18 Sarah Henrichs
- 19 Carolyn Schultis21 Kristen Helmerichs
- 22 Joe Novotny
- 23 Ardyce Wiemers
- 23 Sondra Kotas
- 24 Jody Helton
- 25 Carol Barber
- 26 Kelly Gold
- 26 RiLynn Sasse
- 29 Beth Lee Beran
- 29 Allen Roelfs
- 30 Diane Kisling
- 31 Kendra (Schmidt) Weers



December Wedding Anniversaries

December 8, 1973

Mr.& Mrs. Charles & Ardith Barber

December 10, 2005

Mr.& Mrs. Tanner & Ann Parde

December 28, 1985

Pastor & Mrs. Mark & Jan Liscom

December 30, 2006

Mr.& Mrs. Allen & Stacy Roelfs

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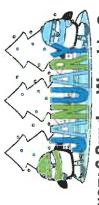
December 2 Sunday Worship Service Worship Assistant, Sherry Henrichs Greeter, Jim Damrow Hanging of the Greens With Holy Communion

December 9 Sunday Worship Service Worship Assistant, David Henrichs Greeter, Don Meyer December 16 Sunday Worship Service Worship Assistant, Jamie Schultis Greeter, Dennis Nippert

December 23 Sunday Worship Service Worship Assistant, Sherry Henrichs Greeter, Jim Bures

December 24 Christmas Eve Service Greeter, Dean Pretzer

December 25 Christmas Day Service Greeter, Charles Barber December 30 Sunday Worship Service Worship Assistant Youth Group Greeter, Youth Group



January 6 Sunday Worship Service Worship Assistant, Brian Weers With Holy Communion Greeter, Jim Damrow



David Henrichs Brian Hennerberg Calvin Hennerberg Reese Hennerberg

Xavier Jones Joely Weers

> Tyson Landenberger Chad Lottman Harry Kisling Brett Landenberger

Dennis Nippert Dean Pretzer Doug Lottman Don Meyer

Allen Roelfs Adam Roelfs Dean Roelfs B. J. Stein

furnish your

OWN

enbs or use Styrofoam

Sermon

the cups in the kitchen cupboard

Pastor Mark

Cindy Lottman

Shelly Smith

Beth Roelfs

Madeline Parde Spencer Weers

Jill Bergmeier

Ardith Barber

Beth Lee Beran

Linda Beran

Schultis Sheri

Karli Heidemann

David Parde

Carolyn Schultis Anne Parde

Heidemann

Kristen

Keira Hennerberg **Brennan Schultis**

Youth Group

Kellan Schlichtman

Youth Group

Skylar Folkers

Angie Clifford Jane Pretzer

Pastor Mark

Myleigh Weers

Cole Ebeling

Tim Scheele

Russell Schultis

Jesse Scheele Cody Scheele

Stacy Roelfs Beth Roelfs

December 2018



www.stpauldiller.com								
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT		
*** CHECK THE WEEKLY BULLETIN *** for Calendar updates. Many events were not available at press time.								
Red Hymnal Holy Communion Worship Service 9:30 AM First Sunday in Advent Hanging of the Greens CHRISTMAS PROGRAM PRACTICE 10:30 – 11:45am	3	4	Confirmation Parents' Night 7:00pm	6	7	8		
Blue Hymnal Worship Service 9:30 AM CHRISTMAS PROGRAM Second Sunday Advent PRACTICE 10:30 – 11:45am Caroling and Soup Supper 4:30 pm	10 Eunice Circle 1:30pm	11	12 NO Confirmation	13	14	15		
Red Hymnal Worship Service 9:30 AM CHRISTMAS PROGRAM PRACTICE Third Sunday, Advent 10:30 - 11:45am Youth Christmas Caroling 5:00pm	17	18	Council Meeting 6:30 pm	CHRISTMAS PROGRAM DRESS REHEARSAL 6:30 PM	21 First Day of Winter	22		
Blue Hymnal 23 Worship Service 9:30 AM Fourth Sunday, Advent	Congregational Christmas Eve Service 7:00 pm	Red Hymnal 25 Worship Service 9:30 AM NO SUNDAY SCHOOL	26 NO Confirmation Newscaster items due	27	28	29		
Red Hymnal Youth-Led 30 Worship Service 9:30 AM NO SUNDAY SCHOOL	St. Paul Lutheran Church PO Box 37 Diller, NE 68342							