

St. Paul's Newscaster



Published monthly in the interest of
St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Diller, Nebraska
January 2018
Pastor Mark Liscom

Jesus and His Intelligent Teachings

It seems true to me that Jesus is rarely thought of as being very smart or intelligent. If you ask about smart people you're much more likely to come up with Albert Einstein or Bill Gates, or maybe Bill Nye the science guy. Jesus is just not up there with the "smart" people.

This has not always been the case. Early in the history of America, just about all universities assumed that knowledge of God was core to being intelligent. Harvard, Princeton, Yale, the great universities, assumed a religious world view that valued and pursued the knowledge and understanding of God.

For many reasons, this understanding has been lost. Knowledge has been replaced with FAITH. Just "take it on faith". The outcome of this however is that there are no major fields of study that regard seeking after God as offering anything of intelligent value to it. And the vast majority of Christians may have faith for example that the Bible is God's Word, but very little knowledge of it.

No wonder then that Jesus is not thought of in terms of being very intelligent. But there is a remedy for this. Many of Jesus teachings have been saved for history in Scripture. And they are some of the most intelligent teachings the world has ever known. These teachings converted the most intelligent people in the Greco/Roman world at the time to the Christian faith. They answered the questions the smartest people in the ancient world had been asking for well over 500 years.

I think it may be time to recover these teachings. It seems strange to say it, but the teachings of Jesus are not well known, even to Christians. I'll work on changing that this year.

Pastor Mark

NEWS LETTER ITEMS

Editor: Kendra K. Weers

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

Assembly: Kendra K. Weers and Cleo Perkins

Newscaster Reporters

Church Council – Jean Schmidt Treasurer – Marcy Barber
 WELCA – Robbyn Roelfs Eunice Circle – Irene Gibson Work Day – Norma Banahan
 Sunday School – Kristen Hennerberg and Kristin Heidemann
 Youth News – Jadyne Schultis, Skylar Pretzer and Brianna Weers

Worship Committee – Council Mutual Ministry Committee - Council
 Birthdays & Anniversaries – Judy DeBoer
 WELCA Coffee List – Beth Roelfs Acolyte List – Kendra K Weers
 Usher List – Sherry Henrichs

Sponsors

Our January Newscaster sponsors are:

**Dean and Beth Roelfs
 to Celebrate the Gifts
 the New Year Holds**



We thank you for your sponsorship and support.

Please note that the sign-up sheet for 2018 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.

Please take note of the dates of things that are happening with the Church this month:

- Monday, Jan 1 - Happy New Year!
- Saturday, Jan 6 - Epiphany
- Sunday, Jan 7 - Epiphany Sunday; Baptism of Our Lord; Communion
- Monday, Jan 8 - Eunice Circle
- Wednesday, Jan 10 - Confirmation Class - See Schedule
- Sunday, Jan 14 - Youth Progressive Supper; Annual Reports Due
- Monday, Jan 15 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- Wednesday, Jan 17 - Council Meeting
- Sunday, Dec 21 - Annual Meeting following Worship
- Wednesday, Jan 24 - Confirmation Service Project
- Wednesday, Jan 24 - **NEWSCASTER ITEMS DUE**
- Sunday, Jan 28 - Youth-Led Worship; Youth Meeting at Parsonage
- Wednesday, Jan 31 - Confirmation Class - See Schedule
- Wednesday, FEBRUARY 14 - Ash Wednesday



ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, January 21, 2018 has been set for the date of St. Paul Lutheran Church's annual meeting.

The meeting will convene following the worship hour. Please come and help choose the leaders and goals of the congregation.

Committee reports will be due by **Sunday, January 14th** in order to be prepared and published in the annual committee reports.

Please place your reports in Jean Schmidt's church mailbox or email her at jschmidt@diodecom.net.



Also, all accounts need to be turned in to the Audit Committee as soon as possible for the report to the congregation.

Your TIMELY cooperation will be greatly appreciated!!

St. Paul Lutheran Church Council Minutes for December 20, 2017

Pastor Mark opened the meeting with prayer. Members present were Charles Barber, Marcy Barber, David Henrichs, Cindy Lottman, Allen Roelfs, and Jean Schmidt. Minutes from the November meeting were reviewed. David moved to accept the minutes, and Marcy seconded. Motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Marcy reported that the current balance is \$2,817.84. All bills, except for Portico, have been paid. The organists will be paid the first part of 2018. And a propane bill, if propane is delivered, will need to be paid. Jean moved to accept, and Allen seconded. Motion passed.

MEMORIAL TREASURER'S REPORT

Allen reported that the current balance is \$13,290.77, including last month's interest. There was a bill paid for reimbursement of expenses associated with the church's new sign. All bills have now been paid for the sign. Marcy moved to accept, and Jean seconded. Motion passed.

PASTOR'S REPORT

4 worship services (Hanging of the Greens), 1 Thanksgiving service, 1 youth group mercy meal service project, 1 counseling session, 1 pre-marital meeting, 1 baptism/meeting, 1 youth group Christmas caroling, 4 hospital calls, 5 home communions, 2 confirmation classes. 1 funeral, 2 text studies, 1 Cluster meeting, 1 SEC Christmas caroling, 1 Mutual Ministry & Transformational Ministry meeting, 1 Christmas Eve music rehearsal, and 1 property workday. No mileage.

- There are 15-18 individuals who would like to become members. Pastor Mark will contact them and make plans.
- The Mutual Ministry & Transformational Ministry met and discussed what direction we should head and how to go about accomplishing what we'd like to achieve. The Transformational Ministry will meet in Lincoln on January 27 and the Mutual Ministry & Transformational Ministry will meet on February 4.
- Pastor Mark worked on the screen issue and found a loose wire and hopefully that was the problem.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Christian Education - Christmas program rehearsals have been going well. A final rehearsal is scheduled.
- Nominating - plan to meet after Christmas to make plans for nominations needed for annual meeting.
- Mutual Ministry - met with Transformational Ministry; progress was made as to what direction to take.
- Property - workday was scheduled before Thanksgiving; work was completed; thanks to all that helped!

OLD BUSINESS

- Annual meeting will be on Sunday, January 21, 2018.
- Christmas treats for youth have been purchased.

NEW BUSINESS

- Auditors (Tim Scheele, Dean Pretzer, Stacy Schlichtman) need to complete the book audits before the annual meeting.
- The church received a letter stating that paperwork for continuance of the permit for the church sign along Highway 8 needs to be completed. Allen will take care of the paperwork.
- The Council discussed the proposed budget for the annual meeting. David moved to give Pastor Mark a salary raise of \$1,282.00 and the Social Security/Benefits to follow as a percentage of salary as proposed by Synod. Allen seconded, and motion passed. Jean moved to accept the proposed budget for 2018, and Charles seconded. Motion passed.

The next council meeting will be on Wednesday, January 17, 2018, at 6:30. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer. Jean made a motion to adjourn, and Cindy seconded. Motion passed.

Jean Schmidt, Council Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT			
General Fund Balance as of 12/20/2017		\$ 2,817.84	
Bills Due by end of December:		November Portico	\$ 3,893.20
December Portico	\$3,893.20	Organists	\$ 950.00
		Total	\$ 8,736.40
November/December			
<i>Last Month: November</i>		<i>Current Month: December</i>	
Current	\$ 7,963.90	Current	\$ 7,294.60
Benevolence	506.49	Benevolence	486.15
World Hunger	75.00	World Hunger	0.00
Specials	35.00	Specials	147.00
TOTAL	\$ 8,553.39	TOTAL	\$ 7,927.75
We need \$11,984.57 in CURRENT per month to meet the 2017 budget.			



Eunice Circle



Eunice Circle met on December 11, 2017 at 1:30pm. The Bible Study was led by Norma Banahan. "Joy To the World" God in Christ is for all humanity. This Advent we prepare our hearts to receive the gift of Jesus, whose birth calls all creation to joy and wonder at God's love.

The focus verses from Luke 2:9-14.

We opened with prayer and Hymn, "Joy To the World." We closed with prayer and The Lord's Prayer. Norma called the meeting to order. Minutes were read and approved. Four (4) members answered roll call. Our offering was \$8.00.

Old Business: Nov. 19th - Thank Offering during Church Service. Hanging of the Greens on Dec. 3rd during Church Services. Carry-In dinner (hosted by WELCA) to follow services.

New Business: No Work Day in December. Officers will continue - Norma Banahan, Chairperson and Irene Gibson, Recorder for next year.

After Grace, Marla Weichel served refreshments.

Next Eunice Circle will be January 8, 2018 at 1:30pm, Jan/Feb. book. Irene Gibson will be study leader.

Irene Gibson, Recorder

Our Deepest Sympathy goes to two families of our congregation.

Shirley Beran, the Mother of Dale Beran passed away on December 3, 2017 and her services were in Fairbury on December 8.

Noel Abrahamson, Father of Jan Liscom, passed away on December 27, 2017 in Seattle, Washington, and his services will take place on January 4, 2018.

*May God's healing grace and love surround and comfort you
and your families.*



*Our Deepest
Sympathy*



*In Our
Thoughts
and Prayers*

*Several of our congregational members have been in or
currently are in the hospital recently.*

Jeanette Banahan is at her parents' home recovering from her stroke and is doing well.

Betty Damrow had surgery and is recovering in Beatrice.

Jim Bures fell but is okay and is recovering at home.

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:*

*Toby Fritzen, Richard Schnuelle, Dylan Nippert,
Eden Lottman, Mallory Helton and Skylar Folkers.*

HANGING OF THE GREENS

St. Paul Lutheran had a “Hanging of the Greens” worship service to begin Advent on Sunday, December 3.

It was a program written by a Pastor and used with permission of Good Shepherd Lutheran and Zion State Line Lutheran Church that gave the background of all the greens that are used at Christmas and during Advent. The program and worship service was led by the Youth, and many traditional carols were sung that associated with the greens that were featured.

The first reading was by Hayley Denner about why we use the greens to decorate our church and the congregation sang, “Soon And Very Soon.” The second reading was by Neleigh Weers about the different colors and meanings of the paraments we use for worship. Jesse Scheele presented the Advent banner and placed it at the front of the church while the hymns “Joy To the World” and “Silent Night” were sung.

Armando Jones lit Advent candles while Samantha Clifford and Bryston Warren did readings about the Advent candles and the congregation sang “This Little Light of Mine.” Scriptures were then read by Jadyne Schultis. Verses from the hymns, “Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus” and “Go Tell It On The Mountain” were sung between the scriptures.



Spencer Schmidt did a reading about evergreens because they do not die; through all the seasons they remain ever-green, and the youth hung the greens while the congregation sang “Deck The Halls”.

As Neleigh Weers read about the Christmas Tree in Scripture, the youth placed ornaments on the tree and then the lights were lit and the congregation sang “O Christmas Tree.”

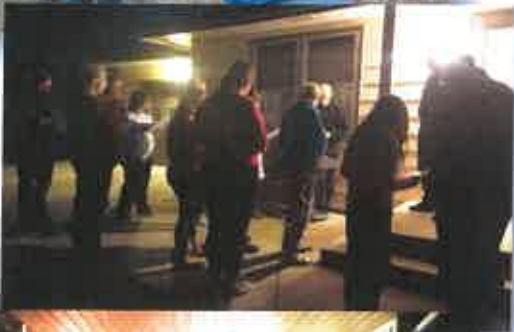
Mahaila Engelman then read the Gospel lesson and Pastor Mark had a short message. The youth then received the offering.

After the Benediction, the Women’s group provided a potluck meal for the congregation as their Christmas celebration. It was a wonderful day.





Christmas Caroling



Christmas Caroling and Soup Supper Fellowship was held on Sunday, December 3 at 5pm.

At the top left, we sang for Norma Banahan. In the middle, for Robert Weers and below that, at Kay Taylor's home.

We went to many members' homes, including Norma and Eldean Banahan, Irene Gibson, Cleo Perkins, Robert Weers and Judy DeBoer. In town, we saw Kay Taylor, Betty Lawrence, Franklin Damrow, Ron and Carol Barber, Virginia Lottman, Marg Keefover, Betty Hubka and John Richards.

At the bottom left, a quick shot of most of the carolers. In the bottom center, Family Night Committee members served soup and other finger foods for the carolers.

At bottom right, all enjoyed some delicious soup and fellowship.

Please consider joining us next year for a wonderful time of service and fellowship.



*I want to thank the Christmas carolers for coming and sharing your singing of carols – I enjoyed your singing – it was great!
Merry Christmas to all.*

Irene Gibson

A special Thank-You to the Youth Group for coming to our house to sing Christmas Carols on Sunday night, December 17. We enjoyed it very much.

Melvin and Beth Lee Beran



St. Paul Lutheran enjoyed a lovely Christmas Eve program put on by members from pre-school age through adults.

The night began with our Youth singing, "Angels We Have Heard On High" accompanied by Pastor on his guitar. After a Hymn, the Children began their program called, "A Super Christmas."



All the superheroes, from Catwoman to Iron Man, found out there was a new superhero that they had to meet, much to the surprise of Mary and Joseph. It was a fun program that brought modern and biblical together.

After the program, we had another hymn, and a musical duet offering, "Mary Did You Know" by Angie Clifford and Brian Weers which began the Candlelight Service. Pastor had a wonderful message which was followed by a special vocal solo, "Be Born In Me" by Jady Schultis followed by Lighting of the Candles. The program concluded with the Hymns, "Silent Night" and "Joy To the World."

Thanks to all involved with this program; the directors, children, Youth, singers and participants and their families. Thank You for bringing us this annual event!



Christmas Poinsettias



- Given by Dean and Beth Roelfs in celebration of family*
- Given by Brian, Kendra, Brianna and Joely Weers in loving memory of Imogene Cummins and Angie Weers*
- Given by Judy DeBoer and Family in loving memory of Alfred DeBoer and Emil & Martha DeBoer*
- Given by Irene Gibson and Family in loving memory of Karl Bunting*
- Given by Dean & Jane Pretzer in honor of our family*
- Given by Jim & Jeanette Bures in honor of our Grandchildren*
- Given by Irene Gibson and Family in loving memory of Eleanora Bunting*
- Given by Robbyn Roelfs and Family in memory of Stan Roelfs*
- Given by Melvin & BethLee Beran and Family in memory of Nancy Lillie, Bill & Grace Baumfaulk and Emil & Elsie Beran*
- Given by Russell & Carolyn Schultis in honor of our Family*
- Given by Larry, Susan and Lance Lawton in memory of Our Parents, John & Martha Kujath and Brother, Jerry Kujath*
- Given by Jim & Jeanette Bures to the Glory of God*



Merry Christmas





Our Youth led the worship service on New Year's Eve, December 31. The Worship Assistant was Kelsay Schlichtman and the Greeter was Spencer Schmidt. There was no Children's Sermon.

The first and second scriptures were read by Hayley Denner. The Gospel was read by Jesse Scheele. Pastor's sermon was based on our second scripture, Galatians 4:4-7, about how Jesus was born under the law to save us from the law; no longer a slave, but a child of God, an heir. Ushers were Brianna Weers, Spencer Schmidt, Jesse Scheele and Hayley Denner. The refreshments were served by Brianna Weers and Hayley Denner.

Youth will have a progressive supper on January 14 beginning with appetizers at the church at 5:30. The next Youth Sunday will be January 28 with a meeting that evening at the parsonage. Mark Your Calendar!

Elementary December 7



Secondary December 19



Above left, the elementary students used modified flashlights for one of their songs about Christmas Lights, and above right, the upper elementary are directed by Jan Licom. Directed by Tiffany Schoenrock, at below left, the 7-12 Choir and High School Band, below right, performs in their program.



January Birthdays

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Darlene Balderson | 19 Taylor Landenberger |
| 5 Steven Behrends | 21 Dale Beran |
| 6 Dean Lottman | 21 Douglas Schmidt |
| 6 Mary Sasse | 24 Sondra Germer |
| 8 Judy Garton | 24 Cody Scheele |
| 8 Donald Meyer | 29 Annette Garton |
| 15 Mallory Denner | 30 Kim Fugett |
| 16 Kinley Speth | 31 Lisa Gold |



January Wedding Anniversaries

January 8, 2011

☞ Mr. & Mrs. Patrick & BriAnne Hemphill

JANUARY

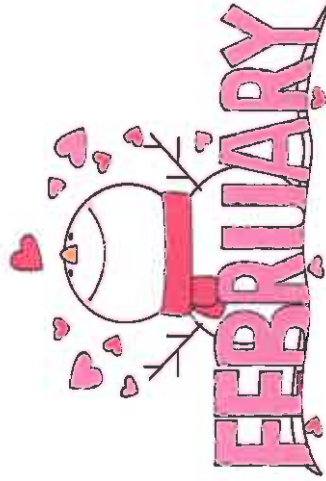


January 7 Sunday Worship Service
With Holy Communion
Assisting Minister, Brian Weers
Greeter, Charles Barber

January 14 Sunday Worship Service
Assisting Minister, David Henrichs
Greeter, Jim Damrow

January 21 Sunday Worship Service
Assisting Minister, Jamie Schultis
Greeter, Don Meyer

January 28 Sunday Worship Service
Assisting Minister, Youth Group
Greeter, Youth Group



February 4 Sunday Worship Service
With Holy Communion
Assisting Minister, Kendra K. Weers
Greeter, Franklin Damrow



Larry Germer Jarrod Heidemann
Steve Hemphill David Henrichs

David Henrichs Brian Hennerberg
Calvin Hennerberg Reese Hennerberg

Harry Kising Brett Landenberger
Tyson Landenberger Chad Lottman

Youth Group

Doug Lottman Don Meyer
Dennis Nippert Dean Pretzer



Reminder: If you are scheduled, you are expected to arrive. Arrange for someone else to cover if you will not be there for your scheduled Sunday.

Karli Heidemann
Xavier Jones

Mallory Helton
Zachary Warren

Esdon Weers
Skylar Folkers

Mykah Folkers
David Parde

Mallory Denner
Spencer Weers



Children's
Sermon

Pastor Mark

Kristen
Heidemann

Jean Schmidt

Youth Group

Pastor Mark



Please furnish your own Styrofoam cups or use the cups in the kitchen cupboard

Beth Roelfs
Stacy Roelfs

Sheri Schultis
Stacy Schlichtman

Joyce Lahodny
Jean Schmidt

Robbyn Roelfs
Carla Jones

Norma Banahan
Deb Nippert

January 2018



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SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 <i>Happy New Year</i>	2	3 NO Confirmation	4	5	6 <i>Epiphany</i>
<i>Red Hymnal</i> 7 Worship Service <i>Holy Communion</i> 9:30 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 AM	8 <i>Eunice Circle</i> 1:30pm	9	10 CONFIRMATION 6 th Grade 4pm 7 th -8 th Girls 6pm 7 th -8 th Boys 730pm	11	12	13
<i>Blue Hymnal</i> 14 Worship Service 9:30 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 AM ANNUAL REPORTS DUE Youth Progressive Dinner 5:30	15	16	17 Council Meeting 7:00pm	18	19	20
<i>Red Hymnal</i> 21 Worship Service 9:30 AM Sunday School Activity During Meeting ANNUAL MEETING Following Worship	22	23 <i>Work Day</i> All Day	24 Confirmation Service Project 7:00-8:30pm	25	26	27
<i>Blue Hymnal</i> <i>Youth-Led</i> 28 Worship Service 9:30 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 AM Youth Meeting 6:30 @ Parsonage <i>Newscaster items due</i>	29	30 <i>Work Day</i> All Day	31 CONFIRMATION 6 th Grade 4pm 7 th -8 th Girls 6pm 7 th -8 th Boys 730pm			



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