

# St. Paul's Newscaster



Published monthly in the interest of  
St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Diller, Nebraska  
February 2017  
Pastor Mark Liscom

## Luther's Donkey Theology

This year is the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation, and I'm going to make some effort this year to bring some of what Luther said and wrote to the people of St. Paul. So here is a quote of from Luther on what it means to be a Christian using our friend the donkey as a metaphor.

One of the great gifts of the spiritual life is the ability to poke fun at yourself. Here is a great example of Luther poking fun at himself.

*"If however, you feel and are inclined to think that you have made it, flattering yourself with your own little books, teaching, or writing, because you have done it beautifully and preached excellently; if you are highly pleased when someone praises you, if you perhaps look for praise, and would sulk or quit what you are doing if you did not get it—if you are of that stripe, dear friend, then take yourself by the ears, and if you do this in the right way you will find a beautiful pair of big, long, shaggy donkey ears. Then do not spare any expense! Decorate them with golden bells, so that people will be able to hear you wherever you go, point their fingers at you, and say, 'See, See! There goes that clever beast, who can write such exquisite books and preach so remarkably well'. That very moment you will be blessed and blessed beyond measure in the kingdom of heaven. Yes, in that heaven where hellfire is ready for the devil and his angels."*

*To sum up: Let us be proud and seek honor in the places where we can. But here the honor is God's alone, as it is said, "God opposes the proud, but give grace to the humble"; to whom be glory, world without end, Amen.*

Roflol! You've got to love donkey theology.

# NEWS LETTER

**Editor: Kendra K. Weers**

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

Assembly: Cleo Perkins and Kendra K. Weers

## **Newscaster Reporters**

Church Council – Jean Schmidt    Treasurer – Marcy Barber

WELCA – Robbyn Roelfs    Eunice Circle – Irene Gibson    Work Day – Norma Banahan  
Sunday School – Cheryl Denner

Worship Committee – Council    Mutual Ministry Committee - Council

Birthdays & Anniversaries – Judy DeBoer

WELCA Coffee List – Jan Gold    Acolyte List – Pastor Mark Liscom

Usher List – Sherry Henrichs



*Sponsors for the February Newscaster are  
Doug and Cindy Lottman  
and  
Melvin and BethLee Beran  
In Honor of Sweethearts*

***There are MANY other sponsorships available for 2017. Please consider helping to provide this important service and communication to your fellow Newscaster recipients.***

## **Sweetheart Supper**

**Take your sweetheart out for a lovely evening  
Brought to you by our Youth  
On Sunday, February 12**

**\$20 per couple**

**Seating times are 5:30, 6:30 and 7:30pm**

**Contact a member of our Youth for a reservation**



# St. Paul Lutheran Church Council Minutes for January 18, 2017

Pastor Mark opened the meeting with prayer. Members present were Charles Barber, Marcy Barber, Scott Beran, Jamie Hennerberg, Jeanette Bures, David Henrichs and Jean Schmidt.

Minutes from the December meeting were reviewed. Jamie moved to accept and Charles seconded. Motion passed.

## Treasurer's Report

Current Balance \$ 1,279.02

All Bills have been paid. The February Portico needs to be paid. David moved to accept and Jean seconded. Motion passed.

## Memorial Treasurer's Report

Current Balance \$17,979.69 Charles moved to accept and Marcy seconded. Motion passed.

## Pastors Report

Four Worship services, 1 Christmas Eve service, 1 Cluster meeting, 3 rest home visits, 2 hospital calls, 2 text studies, 1 funeral, 2 Confirmation classes, 1 Confirmation service project, 3 counseling sessions. No Mileage.

## Committee Reports

N/A

## Old Business

- The last tree was taken down. Just the stump removal and final clean-up needs to be completed.
- A CD player was found that could be hooked up and used with the current speaker system.

## New Business

- A window in the Parsonage leaks air so it needs to be checked and possibly replaced.
- A proxy form was received from an insurance company. Marcy will take care of it.
- Annual reports need to be turned in as soon as possible.
- Budget for 2017 annual meeting was reviewed.
  - Pastor's salary is negotiable with the benefits set based on salary paid. A review of the benefits package may be necessary to understand what benefits are included.
  - Discussion was held on increasing the janitor's salary. Charles made a motion to increase the salary by \$200 to pay the janitor \$4,000. Jean seconded. Motion passed.
  - Dave moved to present the budget as reviewed with Pastor's salary and the janitor's salary being adjusted to reflect current increases. Charles seconded. Motion passed
- Allen Roelfs agreed to be a nominee for Church Council. We still need a second individual to serve on council. The committee needs to find individuals for the nominating committee.
- Discussion was held on where the Diller Picnic Food Stand funds should go, provided St. Paul's continues to operate it. Marcy made a motion to have 60% go to the general fund and the remaining 40% to be equally divided between 2 of 3 choices: Blue Valley, Benevolence and World Hunger. David seconded, Motion passed. The congregation will vote on choices during the Annual Meeting.

The next council meeting will be Wednesday, February 15 at 7:00.

Jamie made a motion to adjourn and Marcy seconded. Motion passed. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

- Jean Schmidt, Council Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT			
General Fund Balance as of 1/14/2017		\$ 2,250.62	
Bills Due by end of January :	Portico	\$ 3,686.92	
	Total Due:	\$ 3,686.92	
December/January			
<i>Last Month: December</i>		<i>Current Month: January</i>	
Current	\$ 15,284.24	Current	\$ 5,876.70
Benevolence	1,785.31	Benevolence	971.60
World Hunger	75.00	World Hunger	0.00
Specials	75.00	Specials	90.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 17,219.55</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 6,938.30</b>
<p><b>We need \$11,984.57 in CURRENT per month to meet the 2017 budget.</b></p>			



# Minutes for the Annual Meeting of St. Paul Lutheran Church, ELCA January 22, 2017

The 2017 Annual Meeting was called to order by Council President Scott Beran with 41 members present. Pastor Mark Liscom opened the meeting with prayer. Minutes from the 2016 Annual Meeting were reviewed. Darin Weers moved to approve the minutes and Doug Lottman seconded. Motion passed.

## **NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT**

Scott Beran presented the Church Council ballot. Nominated for Council was Allen Roelfs. From the floor, Dennis Schmidt nominated Cindy Lottman. Cindy agreed, no other nominations. Jamie Schultis moved that nominations cease and Charles Barber seconded. Motion passed.

Scott Beran presented the nominating committee ballot. Nominated were Jim Damrow, Cindy Lottman, Dennis Nippert and Jamie Schultis. Since Cindy had agreed to run for Church Council, her name needed to be removed. Scott Beran volunteered to run for nominating committee in place of Cindy Lottman. No other nominations. Diane Wellsandt moved that nominations cease and Allen Roelfs seconded. Motion passed.

Darin Weers made a motion to accept the voting ballot and was seconded by Jamie Schultis. Motion passed.

## **BUDGET REPORT**

Scott Beran presented the budget report on the ballot. Pastor's salary will increase. The amount is in line with the Synod requirements, but remains at the low end of the recommendations. Benefits increase by percentage based on the salary. It was noted that a review of the benefits package was in order. There may be methods to save money, and a review will indicate what benefits are available to Pastor Mark.

There was also a proposed \$200 salary increase for the janitor. This would bring the salary to \$4,000. Darin Weers moved to accept the budget for approval and was seconded by Doug Lottman. Motion passed.

## **VOTING RESULTS**

Council: **Allen Roelfs and Cindy Lottman**. Nominating Committee: **Jim Damrow, Dennis Nippert, Jamie Schultis and Scott Beran**.

Food Stand: Run Food Stand if asked by Picnic Committee: 37 Yes, 2 No. Money from Food Stand to be designated as follows: **60% General Fund/20% Blue Valley/20% World Hunger**. The other option of **20% Benevolence** was rejected.

Proposed 2017 Budget: 41 Yes; 1 No.

Ballot numbers are available from Jean Schmidt upon request.

## **PASTOR'S REPORT**

Pastor Mark started his report with a biblical study from John 5:1-8. Pastor read the report aloud and stated that the programs that we do have are fairly solid. Programs include the Confirmation class, Youth Group, women's circle, Bible School and Sunday School. Pastor Mark would like to incorporate some new ideas into these programs like multi-generational Sunday School and adult forums.

Worship had mixed reviews. During Lent, Pastor Mark participated in a round-robin series with other pastors. A series on the book of 1 Corinthians was presented during the summer. Mission Festival was held in the Fall. A "Hanging of the Greens" service at the beginning of Advent was well received.

Pastor stated that he felt that overall, things seem to be going well and the programs we have function pretty well.

## **AUDITOR'S REPORT**

Tim Scheele, Sherry Henrichs and Dean Pretzer were the 2016 auditors. They found the books to be in order. It was noted that the auditors are appointed by the Council and are no longer voted in by the congregation.

## **MEMORIAL TREASURER'S REPORT**

David Henrichs reported that the Memorial account has been changed from a savings account to a money market account and that there was a charge for the checks that did not come out of memorial funds.

The Arnold Henrichs and Eunice Henrichs growth fund balance at the end of 2016 was \$16,461.95. The principal of \$14,000 has to stay in the account, but the interest can be withdrawn and used and additional investments can be placed into the account to help it grow, and these funds can come from memorials or donations. If anyone wants to contribute to the fund, let David know.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND RECOGNITION

Scott Beran and Jamie Hennerberg are going off of Council. Scott encouraged all members to consider serving on Council.

Synod Convention will be on June 1-3 in Kearney. Representatives are needed, and if interested, please let Pastor Mark know as soon as possible.

Charles Barber noted that the mowing has been going well, and if anyone else would like to help, let him know so you can be added to the schedule.

Kendra K Weers stated that there are many sponsorships available for 2017. The cost is \$70 per month, and can be split into two sponsorships at \$35 each. These sponsorships help defray the costs of publication.

Sherry Henrichs stated that confirmed members may volunteer to be Worship Assistants.

David Henrichs announced that the usher list will be updated, and if anyone wants to be taken off the list, they need to let him know.

Pastor Liscom gave a prayer for those persons who passed in 2016. Many thanks were extended to the congregation members for everything done for the church...seen and unseen. David Henrichs moved to adjourn the meeting and Charles Barber seconded. Motion passed. Pastor Mark closed with prayer.

Jean Schmidt, Council Secretary (*edited for length*)

### St. Paul Women of the ELCA News.....

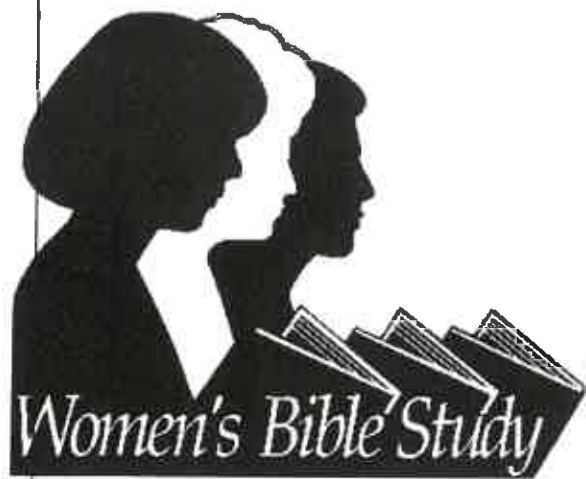
February Unit Meeting of  
St. Paul WELCA  
February 22, 2017  
7:00 p.m.



Discussion will include our 2017 Activities  
The Executive Board includes President, Jane Pretzer  
Vice President, Linda Beran; Secretary, Robbyn Roelfs  
Treasurer, Jeanette Bures  
Ladies, please plan to attend this evening of planning and  
fellowship.

*For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among  
them.*

***Matthew 18:20***



## Eunice Circle

Eunice Circle met on January 9, 2017 at 1:30pm. Irene Gibson let the Bible study, "Galatians - Christian Faith and Christian Freedom - NO OTHER GOSPEL." Paul explains that we are justified by Grace through Faith in Christ - an idea central to Martin Luther's understanding of the Christian tradition. Five hundred years after the reformation, God's work continues daily through us - in the church, in the world, and in our lives.

Our text was taken from Galatians 1:1 through 2:21. The theme verse was from Galatians 2:16.

We opened with a prayer and Hymn, "Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil." We closed with the Hymn, "Lord, Keep Us Steadfast In Your Word," a prayer and The Lord's Prayer.

Norma called our meeting to order. Minutes were read and approved. Six (6) members answered Roll Call. Our offering was \$13.00.

Old Business: Bible studies will be led, this next year, by Norma Banahan and Irene Gibson. Refreshments will be served by other ladies to be decided among themselves. Work Days will be January 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>.

New Business: Our projects will be Baby Care Kits, Health Care Kits, Fabric Kits and depending on amount of fabric for School Kits how many we will be able to fill. Work Days are January 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>. Annual Church Congregational meeting will be January 22<sup>nd</sup> after worship services.

After Grace, Marla Weichel served refreshments.

Next Eunice Circle meeting will be February 13, 2017 at 1:30pm, January/February book. Norma Banahan will lead the Bible Study.

- Irene Gibson, Recorder

## Work Day

Meeting January 24 were eight women who spent all or part of the day assembling nine quilts, ripping materials and ironing tops. We appreciate donations, still need more items to be used as fillers for the quilts.

On-hand is fabric for at least 50 school kit bags, if anyone is interested in helping sew any, please let us know.

Coffee, snacks and fellowship was enjoyed after clean-up. We'll work again January 31, then again February 28.

Anyone is welcome to join in our efforts.

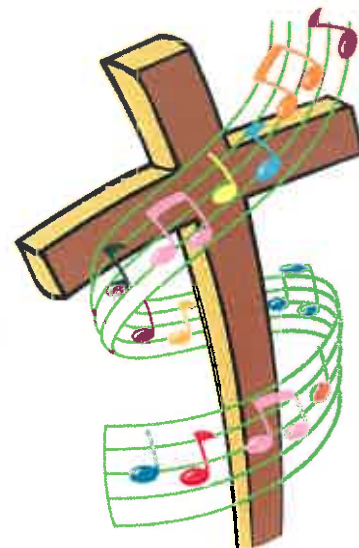
**God's Work. Our Hands.**



**The Worship and Music Committee Report  
was inadvertently omitted from the Bulletin of Reports  
of our Annual Meeting on January 22, 2017.**

**My apologies, Jane**

## ***Worship and Music Committee***



Not too many changes this year apart from our usual special worship services.

We are fortunate to have Peggy Hemphill and Jeanette Bures who continue to share their talents as organists, thank you for your dedication. We did have a little scare this fall with the organ not working, but after some TLC, it seems to be working again just fine, hopefully for a long, long time.

A big thankyou to the folks who do the Children's Sermons.

Thanks to everyone who contributes in any way to make our services special, such as soloists, the choir, readers, etc.

A big thank you to Kendra K. Weers for all she does to make our sanctuary look beautiful, changing the paraments, decorating, doing the graduation board and for providing the banners for our Baptisms.

We continue to play videos prior to church services, we still struggle sometimes with skips during the songs. We have decided to not sing during communion arnd are now playing videos during that time. We thank Ardie Barber who has been selecting and playing the videos, if anyone has a favorite, please share it with her and we'll see if it's available.

We had a few extra special services that included:

- ♪ *Lenten Service where we enjoyed a pulpit exchange and reviewed Luther's Small Catechism.*
- ♪ *Beautiful Easter Services with the Youth breakfast.*
- ♪ *VBS Sunday where the children of the community share their week.*
- ♪ *Pastor Mark doing an in-depth study on the book of Corinthians this summer, very interesting.*
- ♪ *Always touch is our All Saints Sunday where we light candles for those passing this year.*
- ♪ *The Women of the ELCA Thankoffering service.*
- ♪ *Pastor and Jane Pretzer organized an Advent service for our church titled, "Hanging of the Greens" which everyone really enjoyed. The Youth Group did a wonderful job of conducting this service.*
- ♪ *Everyone looks forward to the Sunday when our Youth conduct the service, what a wonderful job they all do, thank you.*
- ♪ *The Sunday School children of the church, once again, lead the Christmas Eve service. Kristen Hennerberg, Stacy and Kelsay Schlichtman and Ann Parde were leaders this year, thank you.*

Committee members: Ardie Barber, Jeanette Bures, Peg Hemphill, Brian Weers and Marcy Barber – Council Representative.

- St. Paul's Youth have had a busy month. On January 29<sup>th</sup>, St. Paul's Youth again assisted with the Sunday morning worship service and coffee fellowship hour.

Greeter was Hollie Crawford and Ushers were Hayley Denner, Jesse Scheele, Jonathan Schmidt and Isaiah Weers. Worship Assistant was Kelsay Schlichtman. The Children's Sermon was led by Caleb Schultis who talked about how everyone is busy. In Genesis, even God took a break, so we should, too. First reading of Scripture was read by Christopher Schmidt, Second Scripture reading by Neleigh Weers and the Gospel was read by Spencer Schmidt.

The refreshments were served by all the Youth present.

The evening of the 29<sup>th</sup>, the Youth held a progressive dinner (make-up from weather postponement) where a wonderful evening of food and fellowship was enjoyed by many of our Youth.

Sweetheart Supper will be on Sunday, February 12 at the Church for \$20 per couple and there are seating times available at 5:30, 6:30 and 7:30. Please contact Jill Scheele or a Youth member after worship services.



Join us for “prayer and pancakes” after worship on Sunday, February 19 and then we will head out to Beatrice Manor for our service project.

To keep up with changes in the schedule and what may be coming up, please see the church website, [www.stpauldiller.com](http://www.stpauldiller.com).

You can also find updated acolyte and class schedules and “homework”.

Pastor Mark has begun an Adult Education Forum, or, lesson study, that will take place in the sanctuary during the Sunday School hour after worship services.

The plan is to begin about 10:40 and go no later than 11:00, so as to not conflict with peoples' plans for the day.

Please join us for some discussion and fellowship as we learn about God's word.







*Congratulations to Melvin and Jean Weers who are the proud Great-Grandparents of a baby boy, Jaxon Allen Price. He is the son of Anessa and Curtis Price of Lincoln. Jaxon was born January 17.*

*May God bless you and the new addition to your family!*

*Members recently hospitalized or having medical concerns include:*

*Dean Roelfs, who had double knee surgery and*

*Dr. Curtis Burhoop, husband of Kimberly (Schultis) Burhoop, who has had some serious medical issues and is being treated.*

*We pray that God's Grace and Healing be with all of you!*



**Always  
In Our  
Prayers**

*Please 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, Kay Taylor, Kaye Schlake, Dylan Nippert, Eden Lottman, Mallory Helton and Skylar Folkers*

*Our deepest sympathy goes to the family of Rev. Art Grimm, who passed away on January 1. His funeral was January 10 at St. John Lutheran Church in Beatrice.*

*Pastor Grimm served our congregation for many years as an interim Pastor and many times as supply Pastor in the years following.*

*Our prayers are with his family and may they feel God's healing Grace.*



*Volunteers  
Needed*



**We Need You!!**

We are in **urgent** need for two volunteers to go to Synod Assembly in Kearney on June 1-3 and represent our congregation.

Help keep our congregation "in the loop" with our Synod, plus, it's informative and FUN!!

Please let Pastor Mark know if you are able to help.

**Lent**



**Worship Series**

Lent will begin on Ash Wednesday, March 1. Services will be held at 7:30pm. Our Lenten series will be including the Confirmation students in a multi-generational approach. Please join us!



When I was lonely, you offered me hope.

Last year, members of St. Paul Lutheran attended a worship service with the Prison Ministry and we would like to send a group again this year if possible. If you are interested in participating, please contact Pastor Mark so we can get a group together and support this important ministry.



**February Birthdays**

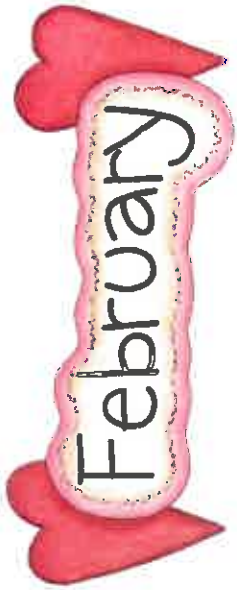
- |                     |                      |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| 4 Leyton Speth      | 16 Hayley Jones      |
| 4 Addison Stein     | 17 Charles Whitehead |
| 5 Rick Garton       | 17 Chris Schlichtman |
| 5 Kristin Heidemann | 18 Shawn Weers       |
| 6 Margery Keefover  | 18 Elliot Sasse      |
| 6 Keira Hennerberg  | 19 Ardith Barber     |
| 8 Tara Sasse        | 20 Toni Landenberger |
| 9 Creyton Heidemann | 21 Ezekial Jones     |
| 10 Joel Holtmeier   | 23 Irene Pretzer     |
| 10 Tybor Smith      | 23 Shyla Goldsberry  |
| 11 Joyce Lahodny    | 24 Brandy Dial       |
| 11 Tanner Parde     | 24 Blair Whitehead   |
| 12 Jill Bergmeier   | 25 Jerry Holtmeier   |
| 14 Steve Hemphill   | 27 Chris Clifford    |
| 16 Matt Wiegand     | 28 Jeanette Banahan  |



**February Wedding Anniversaries**

February 14, 1965  
 ♡ Mr. & Mrs. Dean & Sharon Lottman

February 18, 1984  
 ♡ Mr. & Mrs. Kevin & Barb Sasse



**February 5 Sunday Worship Service**  
**With Holy Communion**  
 Worship Assistant, Diane Wellsandt  
 Greeter, Jim Damrow

**February 12 Sunday Worship Service**  
 Worship Assistant, Dennis Hennerberg  
 Greeter, Jim Bures

**February 19 Sunday Worship Service**  
 Worship Assistant, David Henrichs  
 Greeter, Dean Pretzer

**February 26 Sunday Worship Service**  
**Annual Meeting**  
 Worship Assistant, Youth  
 Greeter, Youth



**March 1 Ash Wednesday Service**  
 Greeter, Jim Damrow

**March 5 Sunday Worship Service**  
**With Holy Communion**  
 Worship Assistant, Dennis Hennerberg  
 Greeter, Don Meyer



Kevin Sasse      Tim Scheele  
 Jamie Schultis      Caleb Schultis

Brian Weers      Darin Weers  
 Melvin Weers      Robert Weers

Bob Wellsandt      Doyle Wolken  
 Charles Barber      Dale Beran

Youth

Meivin Beran      Scott Beran  
 Gary Bergmeier      Jim Bures



Esdon Weers  
 Karli Heidemann

Tori Smith  
 Spencer Weers

Brianna Weers  
 Skylar Folkers

Addison Heidemann  
 Mykah Folkers

Jadyn Schultis  
 Ezekiel Jones



Pastor Mark

Cheryl  
 Denner

Dave/Sherry  
 Henrichs

Youth

Pastor Mark

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



Jeanette Hennerberg  
 Kristen Hennerberg

Leatha Christ  
 Donna Damrow

Jeanette Bures  
 Jill Scheele

Cheryl Denner  
 Sondra Germer

Judy DeBoer  
 Courtney Loftman

# February 2017



www.stpauldiller.com

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			<b>1</b> <i>Confirmation Parents' Night 7:00-8:30pm</i>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<i>Red Hymnal</i> <b>5</b> <b>Worship Service</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> Holy Communion SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 AM	<b>6</b> <i>Eunice Circle 1:30pm</i>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> <i>Confirmation 7:00-8:30pm</i>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<i>Blue Hymnal</i> <b>12</b> <b>Worship Service</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 AM	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>  <i>Valentine's Day</i>	<b>15</b> <i>Council Meeting 7:00pm</i>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
 <i>Sweetheart Supper</i> 5:30 - 8:30pm						
<i>Red Hymnal</i> <b>19</b> <b>Worship Service</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 AM	<b>20</b>  <i>President's Day</i>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> <i>Women of the ELCA Unit Meeting 7pm</i>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<i>Confirmation Prayers &amp; Pancakes after worship Service Project at 1pm at Beatrice Manor</i>						
<i>Blue Hymnal Youth-Led</i> <b>26</b> <b>Worship Service</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 AM <i>Newscaster items due Youth Meeting 6:30 at Parsonage</i>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> <i>Work Day All Day</i>	<b>March 1</b> <i>Ash Wednesday Service 7:30 pm</i>			

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