

# St. Paul's Newscaster



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

## The Birth of Jesus and Political Power

*"In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered".*

Thus begins the story of Jesus birth in the Gospel of Luke. It has to be, must be, a study in contrasts and in this case the contrast is made between the power of the Emperor and the power of God.

Throughout history, humankind has been presented with a choice between these two kinds of power, and which one we believe in. The power of the Emperor is the power of the "strongman". The rule is by decree and enforced with a fear of punishment. The only language the Emperor understands is force.

The power of God stands in sharp contrast, a completely different vision. Here we have the power of a helpless infant. The power of two poor parents, strangers in a strange land. In his teaching this child would bless the poor and weak, and be a man "with nowhere to lay his head" (Luke 9:58). The power of God is, in other words, the power of the powerless.

How do we put the two together? Obviously we need the power of the state, the power of the law, and the fear of punishment in order to have any kind of order. There is no way to say that the power of the Emperor is bad or automatically wrong.

But still the greater power is, if our tradition is true, the power of God. The power of a helpless child, a poor refugee asking for admittance, the power of a person who has nothing left.....but faith in God. Here is where we find the power to change the human heart.....and here the Emperor's power has to bow to that which is greater.

Pastor Mark

# NEWS LETTER STAFF

**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*

*There were no sponsors for January.*



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

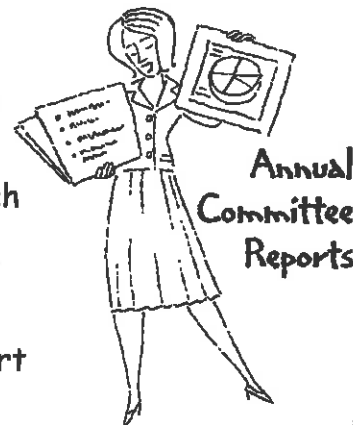
**Sunday, January 22, 2017** has been set for the date of St. Paul Lutheran Church's annual meeting.

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 15<sup>th</sup>** in order to be prepared and published in the annual committee reports. Please place your reports in Jane Pretzer's church mailbox or email her at [dpretz@diodecom.net](mailto:dpretz@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 21, 2016

Pastor Mark opened with a Bible reading. Members present were Charles Barber, Marcy Barber, Scott Beran, Jamie Hennerberg, David Henrichs and Jean Schmidt. Minutes from the November meeting were reviewed. Marcy moved to accept and David seconded. Motion passed.

## Treasurer's Report

Current Balance \$ 3,725.87

November Portico has been paid. The December Portico needs to be paid as well as a few other bills. David moved to accept and Charles seconded. Motion passed.

## Memorial Treasurer's Report

Current Balance \$ 18,008.96

A check will be written to pay for printing checks for the new account (non-Memorial money). Jean moved to accept and Marcy seconded. Motion passed.

## Pastors Report

- No report available, 227 miles.
- Pastor Mark purchased a lapel microphone to replace the headset.

## Old Business

- Pastor Mark cannot find a CD player that meets the church's needs. He will continue looking for a new one to purchase. If none can be found, we may need to look at other options.
- The organ has been looked at and cleaned. No need to look at purchasing a new one at this time.
- The property committee has taken down all but one of the trees that needed to be removed. The last tree will be removed as soon as possible. The tree stumps will be ground out to remove them.
- Several small repairs in the restrooms and kitchen are being taken care of.
- Christmas caroling was well attended and enjoyed by 20 people. In order to encourage more members to participate, new ideas may be considered next year.
- The Youth Group and congregation game night was not well received. Need to find a way to get more people involved in this worthwhile activity.
- Pastor Mark is finishing the Community Foundation application and will submit it for review.
- The Newscaster has been going well. Thank you to everyone who is involved with getting the news out on time!
- The Hanging of the Greens service was enjoyed by those in attendance, very positive feedback on the activity. New things can be tried and ideas need to be brought up and considered.

## New Business

- People have noticed that the church sign is getting old with broken bricks chipping out and falling off. The memorial committee may want to discuss replacing the current one.
- The property committee needs to check on a door at the church that does not always completely shut. A new handle has been put on, but needs to be watched to make sure that took care of the problem.
- Annual meeting has been set for Sunday, January 22, 2017. The nominating committee needs to be working on finding nominees.
- Pastor Mark would like to work with Confirmation Class again during Lenten services, instead of participating in the Round Robin during that time.

The next council meeting will be Wednesday, January 18, 2017 at 7:00. Jamie made a motion to adjourn and Charles seconded. Motion passed. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

*Jean Schmidt, Council Secretary*

<b>TREASURER'S REPORT</b>			
<b>General Fund Balance as of 12/18/2016</b>		<b>\$ 3,725.87</b>	
Bills Due by end of December:		Dec. Portico	\$ 3,686.92
November Portico	\$3,686.92	Stanton Propane	<u>588.00</u>
		<b>Total Due:</b>	<b>\$ 7,961.84</b>
<b>November/December</b>			
<i>Last Month: November</i>		<i>Current Month: December</i>	
Current	\$ 6,853.40	Current	\$ 7,642.64
Benevolence	887.60	Benevolence	1,822.51
World Hunger	192.00	World Hunger	192.00
Specials	<u>35.00</u>	Specials	<u>45.00</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 7,968.00</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 8,622.55</b>
<b>We need \$11,796.97 in <span style="color: red;">CURRENT</span> per month to meet the 2016 budget.</b>			



## Eunice Circle



Eunice Circle met on December 12, 2016 at 1:30pm. Our Bible Study was led by Norma Banahan. "What wants to be born in you? Advent is a time of darkness and possibility." Advent is a period of waiting and anticipation, a time of preparation, of making ready, and a time of possibility. Shhhhh. Slow down. Listen. Pay attention. Advent is on its way.

Our texts were taken from: Psalm 44:10a, Genesis 1:1-5, John 1:1-5, Luke 1:26-40 and Matthew 1:18-19. We opened with the Hymn, "Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus." We closed with 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 \$11.00.

Old Business: Program by Eunice Circle was finalized for the WELCA Unit Meeting held on Nov. 16, 2016 at 7pm. Carolyn and Ardith took LWR boxes to Lincoln. Work Days will be Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. Thankoffering service will be Sunday, November 20<sup>th</sup>. Hanging of the Greens service will be on Sunday, November 27<sup>th</sup>.

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

After Grace, Betty Damrow served refreshments.

Next Eunice Circle meeting will be January 9, 2017 at 1:30pm, January/February book. Irene Gibson is Study Leader.

*Irene Gibson, Recorder*

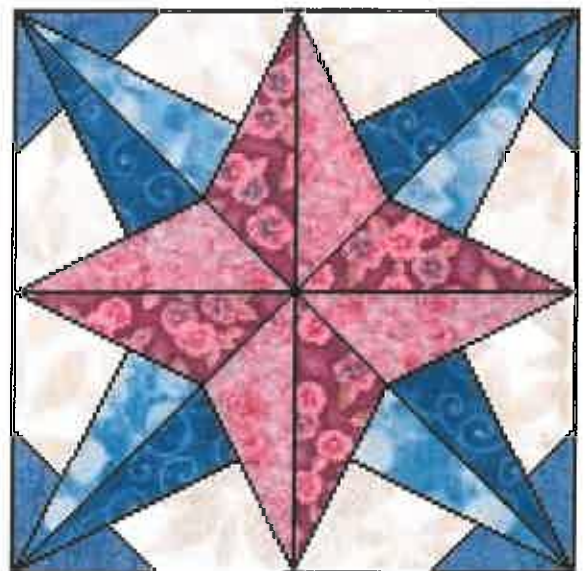
## Work Day

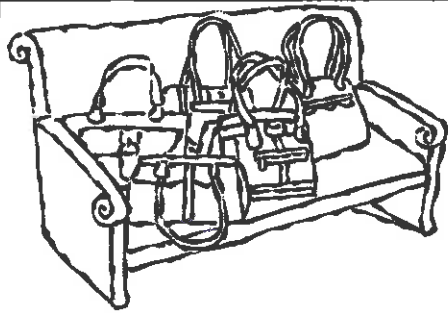
We're making progress! Eight quilts were put together November 29. As the recipients of our LWR quilts use them to shield against the cold and rain and for warm bedding, we make an effort to be sure they're substantial.

Alas! We're running short of materials to fill the quilts. Old blankets, bedcovers of every kind, drapes curtains, tablecloths and the like work well. Such donations would be welcome. If you have anything, just drop it off at church. We'll find it!

Work continues at home, and we'll meet on January 24 and 31. All help is appreciated.

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





## Women of the ELCA News

The WELCA executive committee of Linda Beran, Robbyn Roelfs, Jeanette Bures and Jane Pretzer will be meeting soon to discuss WELCA activities for 2017.

Our next WELCA Unit Meeting will be in February---date to be announced soon.

We appreciate the support and involvement of the Ladies of St. Paul's and we are thankful for the many activities that we are able to support such as area food pantries, area Spring Gathering, St. Paul's annual Spring Salad Supper, Diller picnic foodstand, our Lutheran World Relief projects and our annual Thankoffering Service.

Lutheran World Relief was organized in 1945 in the US after WWII left an estimated 1/5 of the world's Lutherans homeless. Here at St. Paul's, we are doing our part in support of LWR projects by preparing School Kits, Baby Care Kits, Personal Care Kits and Hand-Tied Quilts. These projects are a reflection of the unity of St. Paul's in Missions, together they strengthen the fellowship within our congregation. They also serve as a faith witness to our community – as we join our hearts and hands together blessing people in need around the world.

We, the Women of the ELCA, want to THANK EVERYONE for their generous contributions and witness of faith. *(From insert provided on Mission Sunday)*

*Our Deepest Sympathy goes to the Dean and Jane Pretzer and their family for the loss of their mother, Irene, on November 30.*

*Funeral services for Irene were at St. Paul Lutheran on December 3 with Pastor Mark Liscom officiating.*

*She was a long-time member of St. Paul Lutheran and a vibrant part of Diller for many years, and she will be missed by many in the community.*

*May God's healing grace and love be with your family.*



*Our Deepest Sympathy*



*Baptized on November 27 were Kasen and Knox Sasse, twin sons of Riley and Sonja Sasse and grandsons of Kevin and Barb Sasse.*

*Sponsors for Kasen were Kaely Ayala and Connor Pahl, and sponsors for Knox were Myndee Jung and Garrett Ebbers.*

*We welcome them to our church family and wish them and their family God's blessings!*

## Christmas Poinsettias



*Given by Dennis & Deb Nippert for the Joy of Life and 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 Mother Fern and in loving memory of our Mother Irene*

*Given by Allen and Stacy Roelfs in honor of our Family*

*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 John & Martha Kujath and Jerry Kujath*

*Given by Doug, & Cindy Lottman in memory of Harold (Bud) Lottman and Orbyn & Martha Sasse*

*Given by Dean & Beth Roelfs in Celebration of Family*

*Given by Robert Weers in loving memory of Angie Weers*



*Merry Christmas*

*Thank  
You*

*Our heartfelt thanks to everyone for your many expressions of sympathy at the passing of our Mother, Irene Pretzer. Special thanks to Pastor Mark for his pastoral visits and his words of comfort. We are so grateful for the concern and support of our Church Family. May God Bless each of you!*

*Thank You,  
Dean and Jane  
and Family*

*Members recently hospitalized:*

*Steve Hemphill had total knee replacement surgery on November 22<sup>nd</sup> and is recovering well at home.*

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

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

*Prayer*   
*Request*



# "A New Star"

December 24, 2016



*Above and below, the children, confirmation classes and youth sing in round. "There's a New Star in the Sky" to begin the program*



*Above, Gabriel tells Mary and Joseph about the good news and the coming Christ*



*Above, the three kings follow the star to Bethlehem and present their gifts to the new King. They also warn Mary and Joseph of Herod's plans.*



The Church and congregation again enjoyed a lovely Christmas Eve Program where the children, Preschool through High School, sang traditional and contemporary Christmas Carols and songs. Our Youth joined the children in the opening of the program with "There's a New Star in the Sky", and the congregation sang traditional carols within the program. It was so nice to have ALL the children of our congregation be a part of the Christmas Eve Program.

Women from the adult choir also made a special appearance after the children's program by singing the refrain of "I Heard the Bells" with Pastor Mark singing the lead and playing the piano. Pastor also had a wonderful message which was followed by the Candlelight Service.

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

# Christmas Caroling



Christmas Caroling and Soup Supper Fellowship was held on Sunday, December 4 at 5pm.

The picture on the left is from Virginia Lottman's home, and bottom left, we sang indoors at Robert Weers' home. And below, after caroling at several homes in and around Diller, all enjoyed soup from the Family Night Committee and other goodies brought by carolers.

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



## Happy Birthday



### 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           |

# 8



## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

### January Wedding Anniversaries

January 8, 2011

☞ Mr. & Mrs. Patrick & BriAnne Hemphill

January 27, 1996

☞ Mr. & Mrs. Howard & Cleo Perkins





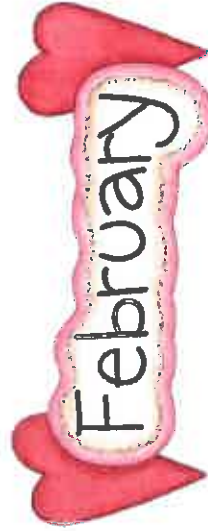
**January 1 Sunday Worship Service**  
With Holy Communion  
Worship Assistant, Jim Damrow  
Greeter, Dean Pretzer

**January 8 Sunday Worship Service**  
Worship Assistant, Diane Wellsandt  
Greeter, Charles Barber

**January 15 Sunday Worship Service**  
Worship Assistant, Kendra K Weers  
Greeter, Dennis Nippert

**January 22 Sunday Worship Service**  
*Annual Meeting*  
Worship Assistant, Brian Hennerberg  
Greeter, Don Meyer

**January 29 Sunday Worship Service**  
Worship Assistant, Youth  
Greeter, Youth



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



Brian Hennerberg Calvin Hennerberg  
Reese Hennerberg David Henrichs

Brett Landenberger Harry Kising  
Tyson Landenberger Chad Lottman

Doug Lottman Don Meyer  
Dennis Nippert Dean Pretzer

Adam Roelfs Dean Roelfs  
Doug Schmidt Spencer Schmidt

Youth

Kevin Sasse Tim Scheele  
Jamie Schultis Caleb Schultis



Addison Heidemann  
Skylar Folkers

Jadyn Schultis  
Mykah Folkers

Mallory Denner  
Skylar Folkers

Brianna Weers  
Xavier Jones

Addison Heidemann  
Ezekiel Jones

Esdon Weers  
Kari Heidemann



Pastor Mark

Sheri  
Schultis

Jeanette  
Bures

Jean  
Schmidt

Youth

Pastor Mark



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

Joyce Lahodny  
Jean Schmidt

Robbyn Roelfs  
Julie Schmidt

Beth Roelfs  
Cleo Perkins

Norma Banahan  
Deb Nippert

Marlene Wolken  
Carla Jones

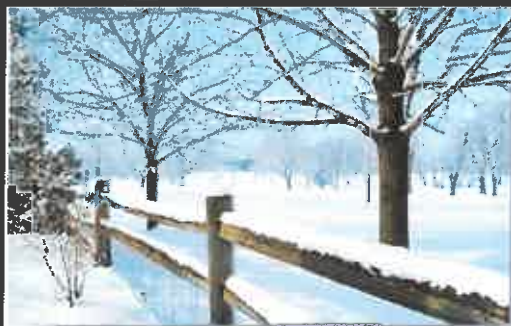
Jeanette Hennerberg  
Kristen Hennerberg

# January 2017



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



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