

# St. Paul's Newscaster



Published monthly in the interest of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Diller, Nebraska  
January 2016  
Pastor Mark Liscom

## **I, The Lord of Sea and Sky, I Have Heard My People Cry.**

*(From the "With One Voice" Hymnal, #752)*

It struck me this Christmas that the story of Jesus is the story of a God who heard a calling from outside of himself. Jesus wasn't responding to an inner voice or desire. Jesus's action was not determined by his strengths or talents; what He was good at. Jesus wasn't trying to decide what would bring happiness or bring fulfillment to His life.

Jesus calling came out of the circumstances He found himself in.

This is radically different from the way we are taught to choose the course of our life today. The question that our counselors today will ask us when choosing a career or lifestyle will probably be this: What are you good at? What do you like to do? They might give you a test to determine your strengths. The person himself or herself might be more likely to ask a question like this: What can I do that will make me happy? What can I do to fulfill myself?

In other words, we're taught to respond to our own needs and desires, not to what is needed in the world around us.

I'm considering the notion that God calls us, not from within, but from the circumstances that surround us. And so to take seriously the life of Jesus would be to do the same. It is to take notice of what the needs are in our communities, families. The question is not this: What do I want out of life? You ask a different question: What does life want out of me?

We're pretty good at knowing what we need. This New Year, perhaps we might be more open to what the world needs from us. It does seem more like the way of Jesus, yes?

Blessings to you this New Year,  
Pastor Mark

# NEWS LET TER

**Editor: Kendra K. Weers**

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

## **Newscaster Reporters**

Church Council – Jeanette Bures    Treasurer – Jim Damrow  
WELCA – Jean Weers    Eunice Circle – Irene Gibson    Work Day – Norma Banahan  
Sunday School – Cheryl Denner

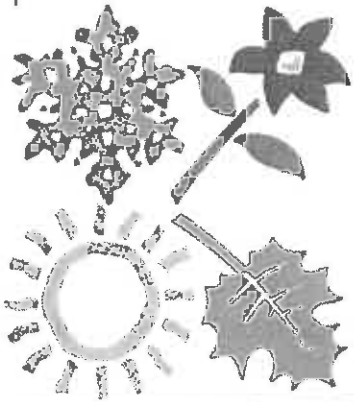
Worship Committee – Jeanette Bures    Witness & Service Committee – Kendra K Weers  
Birthdays & Anniversaries – Judy DeBoer  
WELCA Coffee List – Jan Gold    Acolyte List – Pastor Mark Liscom  
Usher List – Sherry Henrichs

## *Sponsors*

*Sponsors for the January Newscaster are  
Brian and Kendra K Weers and Family  
to honor our 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in April*



*There are MANY other sponsorships available for 2016. Please consider helping to provide this important service and communication to your fellow Newscaster recipients.*



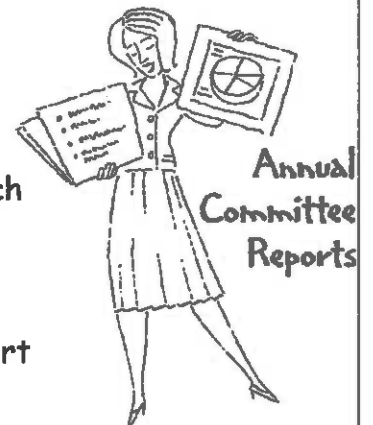
## **ANNUAL MEETING**

Sunday, January 24, 2016 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 17<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 16, 2015

Pastor Mark opened the meeting with prayer. Members present were Jim Damrow, Marcy Barber, Scott Beran, Charlie Barber, Jamie Hennerberg, and Jeanette Bures.

Minutes from the November meeting were reviewed. Jamie moved to accept and Charlie seconded. Motion carried.

## Treasurer's Report

Current Balance \$748.56

Jeanette moved to accept and Marcy seconded. Motion passed.

## Memorial Treasurer's Report

Current Balance \$13,455.26

## Pastors Report

4 Worship services, 1 Thanksgiving Worship service, 1 Confirmation Lock-In, 1 Confirmation class, 1 Confirmation service project, 2 Youth Group meetings, 1 Wedding and Rehearsal, 1 Cluster meeting, 1 Text study, 3 hospital calls, 5 home communions, 1 Nominating Committee meeting, 1 Baptism meeting and Baptism.

## Vice Chairman's Report

N/A

## Committee Reports

- Nominating Committee met recently.

## Old Business

- Dave Henrichs is planning to finish the insulation in the attic above the fellowship room.
- Thanks to Angie Clifford for purchasing and preparing the candy for Christmas Eve.
- Pastor Mark and Charlie have been reading the Constitution and will get together in January to discuss updates.

## New Business

- Pastor Mark proposed that we form a Mutual Ministry Committee as proposed in the Constitution. This would offer support and feedback as well as address our Mission at St. Paul. Jim made a motion to create this committee and Charlie seconded. Motion passed. We discussed having a person from the different groups within the church be on the committee. Please talk to Pastor Mark or a council member if you would be interested in serving.
- Pastor Mark will be gone on Sunday, December 27 and the Youth Group will be leading the worship service.
- Pastor Mark will again be doing the multi-generational worship service during Lent in 2016.
- We prepared the budget for the Annual Meeting which will be held January 24, 2016 following Worship services. Marcy made a motion that we follow Synod guidelines. Jim seconded. Motion passed.

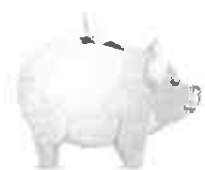
The next council meeting will be Wednesday, January 20 at 7:00.

Marcy moved to adjourn and Jamie seconded.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

- Jeanette Bures, Council Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT			
<b>General Fund Balance as of 12/16/2015</b>		<b>\$ 2,832.56</b>	
Bills Due by end of December:		Portico	\$ 3,327.19
Norris Public Power	\$350.00	Stanton's	<u>602.00</u>
Organists	950.00	<b>Total Due:</b>	<b>\$ 5,229.19</b>
<b>November/December</b>			
<i>Last Month: November</i>		<i>Current Month: December</i>	
Current	\$8,293.60	Current	N/A
Benevolence	0.00	Benevolence	N/A
World Hunger	0.00	World Hunger	N/A
Specials	<u>50.00</u>	Specials	<u>N/A</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 9,165.00</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ N/A</b>
<b>We need \$11,233 in CURRENT per month to meet the 2015 budget.</b>			





## Eunice Circle

Eunice Circle met on December 14, 2015 at 1:30pm. Norma Banahan led our Bible Study. Study was: Imagining - An Advent Lesson. God gives us the gift of imagining, which gives us sight to our faith. This advent as we wait for Jesus' coming, we prepare our hearts and minds to see what God has called us to do.

Study text was Luke 1:26-55. We closed with prayer and The Lord's Prayer.

Norma called our meeting to order. Minutes were read and approved. Five (5) members answered roll call. Our offering was \$10.00.

Old Business: Thank Offering boxes to be given on November 23<sup>rd</sup>. A speaker will be here and a pot luck dinner will follow. November 24<sup>th</sup> Work Day. NO Work Day in December.

New Business: Norma Banahan and Irene Gibson will continue as chairpersons and recorder respectively. We will continue with the baby care kits and school kits as our projects and Warren's Community Table.

After Grace, Cleo Perkins and Marla Weichel served refreshments.

Next Eunice Circle meeting will be January 11, 2016 at 1:30pm, January/February book. Kay Taylor is study leader. Jean Schnuelle will be hostess.

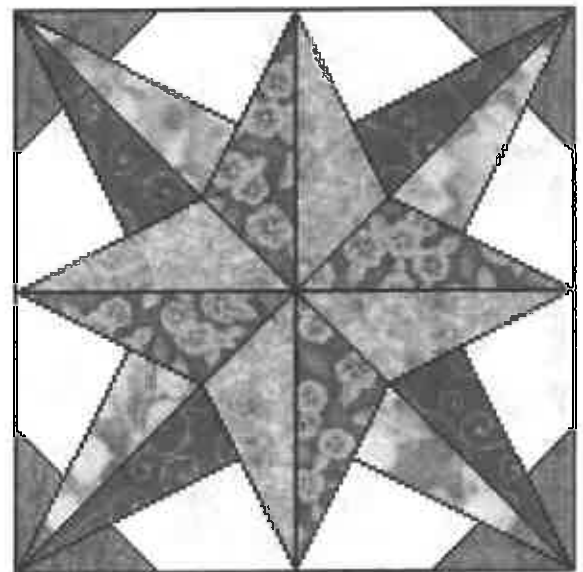
*Irene Gibson, Recorder*

## Work Day

Just a reminder, Work Day resumes January 26 after a holiday break. Of course, work at home goes on at any time, without it there would be fewer quilts and kits to send.

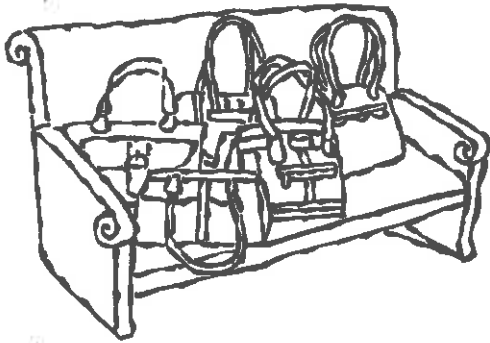
Lutheran World Relief items are highly regarded throughout the world because of their quality and consistency. We're very careful to follow the guidelines given, as far as the size and warmth of the quilts and items included in the kits. When all kits contain the same items, recipients are treated equally and fairly. That's important as many of them have already experienced a great deal of injustice or tragedy.

So as we continue our efforts in 2016, we can be sure the work of our hearts and hands will be a blessing to families in need around the world.



**Thanks be to God!**

## Women of the ELCA Unit Meeting 2016



We will begin our WELCA year with our first Unit meeting on Wednesday, January 27, 2016 beginning at 7:00 p.m. in St. Paul's Fellowship Room. Please note our Unit meetings will be held on Wednesday nights this year, in an attempt to avoid other community events.

Your 2016 Executive Committee members are Jane Pretzer, President; Linda Beran, Vice-President; Carolyn Schultis, Treasurer; and Robbyn Roelfs, Secretary. We thank them for their willingness to serve.

The Executive committee met in December to discuss and plan the 2016 calendar. Our 2016 events will be discussed at the Unit meeting.

All women of the St. Paul's are encouraged to attend. Please mark the date on your calendars. Hope to see you!!!



*Baptized on December 6 was Tynleigh Michelle Sasse, daughter of Karter and Tara Sasse and granddaughter of Kevin and Barb Sasse.*

*Sponsors for Tynleigh were Tiffany Herbek and Elliot Sasse.*

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

*Members recently hospitalized or having medical concerns include:*

*Toby Fritzen, who was hospitalized recently and is now recovering  
Hollie Crawford, who is still recovering at home*

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

*Irene Pretzer, Loretta Barber, Bernice Ebbers, Toby Fritzen, Hollie Crawford,  
Skylar Folkers, Mallory Helton, and Dylan Nippert.*

*Prayer Request*

*There are not enough words to thank everyone for all their prayers, calls, thoughts, cards, gifts, food and concerns at the time of Hollie's accident and since her return home.*

*She has had minor surgery since and has a long road ahead, but with your prayers, anything is possible. Also, Thank You to the church carolers on December 6. We enjoyed it very much.*

*God's Blessings to each and every one of you very, very much.*

*Thank You,  
Hollie Crawford  
and Joyce Lahodny*

*Thank  
You*



**Thank  
You**

**Thank you from the Confirmation Students!!**

Our Confirmation class would like to thank all of you who donated to our Socks for Seniors. With the money the congregation donated and money from the Diller-Odell Schools, we were able to buy 135 pair of socks for men and 120 pair for women.

These socks were donated to the 65 residents at the Beatrice Manor. Thank you for all your support!

*We would like to express our gratitude to Reverend Neal Anthony, PhD, Reverend Brian Moss, Bishop, Nebraska Synod, and Pastor Mark and all the clergy that participated in the service, also all our friends and family for their prayers, cards and words of support during the passing of our Brother and uncle, Reverend Darwin Garton.*

*Thank You All,  
Judy and Virgil  
Amy  
Rick and Annette  
Naomi and Jeff  
And their families*

*Thank  
You*

This December, St. Paul Youth Group had a couple of Christmas activities. We met the evening of December 6<sup>th</sup> to decorate the Christmas tree. And we also met on December 20<sup>th</sup> to go caroling in the community.

On December 27<sup>th</sup>, St. Paul's Youth again assisted with the Sunday morning worship service and coffee fellowship hour.

Greeter was Jonathan Schmidt and Ushers were Marquis Weers, Elliot Sasse, Hayley Denner and Kelsay Schlichtman.

Filling in for Pastor Mark was Cody Scheele and the Worship Assistant was Caleb Schultis. The Children's Sermon was led by Spencer Schmidt who talked about Jesus when he was twelve and preached at the temple. First reading of Scripture was read by Bryston Warren, Second Scripture reading by Isaiah Weers and the Gospel was read by Jesse Scheele. Cody Scheele read the sermon by Pastor Mark and himself.

The refreshments were served by Hayley Denner, Kelsay Schlichtman and Christopher Schmidt.

Thank you again for a job well done.

Thanks to our youth for their contributions to the Joy of Christmas this year!



## Christmas Caroling



Christmas Caroling and Soup Supper Fellowship was held on Sunday, December 6 at 5pm.

The above pictures were at the home of Virginia Lottman where she provided additional goodies to the carolers and below was at Kay Taylor's home where she enjoyed the singing.

After caroling at several homes in and around Diller, all enjoyed soup from the Family Night Committee and other goodies brought by carolers.



# Women of the ELCA Christmas Gathering

St. Paul's Lutheran Women of the ELCA gathered Sunday afternoon, December 6 for their annual Christmas Party. Carolyn Schultis and Linda Beran were hostesses of the event.

The afternoon was started with a welcome by Linda Beran to 15 ladies that attended the Christmas Party. "Joy to the World" was sung with Peggy Hemphill at the piano. A wonderful Christmas Poem was read by Carolyn Schultis, followed by singing "Away in a Manger".

The women gathered together and made fun treat bags and treat boxes filled with candy for area care centers. Fifty-Four small candy bags were made for the Kensington in Beatrice and 63 Christmas card boxes were made for Heritage Care Center in Fairbury. All were very happy and appreciative of our giving.

Everyone enjoyed a luncheon and closed with singing "Silent Night". Many thanks to all that attended. It was a fun and joyous afternoon. **Merry Christmas and Blessing in the New Year!**

## Christmas Poinsettias

*Given by Donald Meyer in loving memory of Virginia Meyer and Gracie Schultz*

*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 Mothers Fern & Irene*

*Given by Jim & Jeanette Bures in honor of our Grandchildren*

*Given by Irene Gibson and Family in loving memory of Eleanor Bunting*

*Given by Melvin & Jean Weers in memory of Ed & Christina Weers and Clarence & Amanda Krebs*

*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 Charles & Ardith Barber in memory of our Parents*

*Given by Darin & Kendra Weers and Children in loving memory of Gary & Joyce Schmidt and Angie Weers*

*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 God's Love*

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

*Given by Richard & Jean Schnuelle in honor of our Family*

## Merry Christmas





December 24, 2015



*Above, the Youth and boys sing "We Three Kings" to start the program*



*Above, the girls sing "Magnificat, the Lord" as part of "Mary's Surprise" in the program*



*Above, all program participants sang "Emmanuel" to close the program.*



*On the left, the adult choir sings "I Want to See Christmas".*

The Church and congregation again enjoyed a beautiful Christmas Program where the children, Preschool through High School, sang and signed to several wonderful traditional and contemporary Christmas Carols and songs.

Our Youth joined the boys in the opening of the program with "We Three Kings" and the girls had their own moment with "Magnificat, the Lord". It was so nice to have ALL the children of our congregation be a part of the Christmas Eve Program.

The adult choir also made a special appearance after the children's program by singing "I Want to See Christmas" which was accompanied by Pastor Mark on the guitar.

Pastor also had a wonderful message which was followed by the Candlelight Service. Thanks go to all involved with this beautiful program; the directors, musicians and participants and their families. Thank You for bringing us this annual event!

# DONATIONS WANTED

With the new year approaching we will once again begin preparing materials for our Lutheran World Relief Projects--quilts, baby care kits, personal care kits, health kits, school kits and fabric kits.

The many contributions we receive for these projects have been overwhelming and greatly appreciated. We are asking your cooperation when donating these items. We have designated areas of the church for these projects and it is important that these donations reach the correct area.

Please contact **Norma Banahan** for any donations in regard to quilt making and fabric kits. **Ardith Barber and Marcy Barber** are in charge of the baby care kits, personal care kits and health kits. **Irene Gibson** has been responsible for assembling the school kits. Your cooperation in contacting these individuals when donating items would be greatly appreciated!!!

These projects are a reflection of our church in Missions, together they strengthen the fellowship within our congregation. They are a faith witness to our community—a work of our hearts and hands. Together we are creating projects which are a blessing to people in need around the world. Please consider becoming a part of this important and vital activity in our church. There is a project for everyone!!!

## The Meaning of Epiphany



Epiphany, which comes from the Greek word *epiphaneia*, means “an appearance” or “a revealing.” Centuries ago, the church set aside January 6, the 12th day after Christmas, to mark the revealing of Jesus as Christ to the wise men, who were Gentiles. Jesus’ first followers were Jewish, so the revelation of the divine Christ to the non-Jewish magi reminds us that Jesus came to earth to save the whole world.

Symbols of Epiphany include light, a star, a crown (or three crowns) and a globe or stylized portrayal of the world. The color of Epiphany is green to symbolize life, growth, hope and eternity.

On the church calendar, the Epiphany season lasts until Ash Wednesday, which is determined by the date of Easter.

*-The Newsletter Newsletter, January 2016*

## 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	Jan Gold

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

### January Wedding Anniversaries

January 8, 2011

☞ Mr. & Mrs. Patrick & BriAnne Hemphill

January 27, 1996

☞ Mr. & Mrs. Howard & Cleo Perkins

# JANUARY

**January 3 Sunday Worship Service**  
**With Holy Communion**  
 Worship Assistant, Dennis Hennerberg  
 Greeter, Charles Barber

**January 10 Sunday Worship Service**  
 Worship Assistant, Jim Damrow  
 Greeter, Dean Pretzer

**January 17 Sunday Worship Service**  
 Worship Assistant, Brian Hennerberg  
 Greeter, Don Meyer

## ANNUAL MEETING

**January 24 Sunday Worship Service**  
 Worship Assistant, David Henrichs  
 Greeter, Dennis Nippert

**January 31 Sunday Worship Service**  
 Worship Assistant, Youth  
 Greeter, Youth



**February 7 Sunday Worship Service**  
**With Holy Communion**  
 Worship Assistant, Jamle Schultis  
 Greeter, Jim Bures



Scott Beran Gary Bergmeier  
 Jim Bures Chris Clifford

Franklin Damrow Jim Damrow  
 John Denner Jeremy Engelman

Larry Germer Jarrod Heidemann  
 Steve Hemphill Dennis Hennerberg

Brian Hennerberg Calvin Hennerberg  
 Reese Hennerberg Jamie Hennerberg

Youth

Lance Lawton Chad Lottman  
 Doug Lottman Don Meyer



Hayley Jones  
 Esdon Weers

Nicolaus Engelman  
 Addison Heidemann

Jadyn Schultis  
 Mallory Denner

Brianna Weers  
 Mykah Folkers

Hannah Ebeling  
 Tori Smith

Samantha Clifford  
 Zeke Jones



**Children's  
 Sermon**

Pastor Mark

Dave/Sherry  
 Henrichs

Beth Roelfs

Jean Schmidt

Youth

Pastor Mark



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

Joyce Lahodny  
 Robbyn Roelfs

Ardith Barber  
 Marcy Barber

Jean Weers  
 Ruth Horsky

Cindy Lottman  
 Shelly Lottman

Marla Weichel  
 Cleo Perkins

Jeanette Hennerberg  
 Kristen Hennerberg

# January 2016



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SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					<b>1</b> <i>Happy New Year</i>	<b>2</b>
<p><i>Red Hymnal</i> <b>3</b>  <b>Worship Service</b>  <b>9:30 AM</b>                      Holy Communion                      NO SUNDAY SCHOOL</p>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Epiphany</i></p> <p><b>Confirmation</b>  <b>Parents' Night</b>                      7:00-8:30pm</p>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<p><i>Blue Hymnal</i> <b>10</b>  <b>Worship Service</b>  <b>9:30 AM</b>                      SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 AM  <b>Youth Meeting 6:30</b>                      at Parsonage</p>	<b>11</b> <i>Eunice Circle</i> 1:30pm	<b>12</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>13</b></p> <p><b>Confirmation</b>  <b>Service Project</b>                      7:00-8:30pm</p>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<p><i>Red Hymnal</i> <b>17</b>  <b>Worship Service</b>  <b>9:30 AM</b>                      SUNDAY SCHOOL                      and Confirmation                      (at Parsonage)  <b>10:30 AM</b>                      ANNUAL REPORTS DUE</p>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>20</b></p> <p><b>Council Meeting</b>                      7:00pm</p>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<p><i>Blue Hymnal</i> <b>24</b>  <b>Worship Service</b>  <b>9:30 AM</b>                      SUNDAY SCHOOL                      Activity During Meeting  <b>ANNUAL MEETING</b>                      Youth Meeting 6:30                      at Parsonage</p>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> <i>Work Day</i> All Day	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>27</b></p> <p><i>Women of the ELCA</i>  <b>Unit Meeting</b>                      7pm</p>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<p><i>Red Hymnal</i> <b>31</b>  <i>Youth-Led</i>  <b>Worship Service</b>  <b>9:30 AM</b>                      SUNDAY SCHOOL  <b>10:30 AM</b>                      Newscaster items due</p>			<p>ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH                      PO BOX 37                      DILLER, NE 68342</p>			