

St. Paul's Newscaster



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

Salvation = Imagination

I remember as a young boy a time when I had a vivid imagination. My mom had an old spinning wheel in our living room.....and I remember thinking that it looked like the captain's wheel on a sailing ship. I could grab the wheel and look out the living room window at the clouds moving past the window and imagine that I was the captain of a great ship. Mom said I could stand there for a long time, just moving the spinning wheel back and forth. Lost in my imagination, it was a great experience that I've always remembered.

As I become older however, I lost most of that part of me. The stress of getting grades, of having friends, of "making something out of myself" took its toll. I did what I did because I couldn't imagine anything else. To think outside the box, to have a different idea about God I discovered often angered people. Imagination was discouraged, even regarded as dangerous.

This Christmas season we wait for the child Jesus to bring us our longed for salvation. And to put it simply, that salvation is this: To have your imagination restored. A well-known text from Acts 2 says this: "In the last Days God says, I will pour out my Spirit on every kind of people, your young men will see visions, your old men dream dreams". Throughout the Scriptures this is a central feature of the promised power of God.

Perhaps we all need to take the time this Christmas Season to find that child in us. The one we left behind many years ago in order to be practical, or "useful". I'm sure that child is still in you, waiting to be welcomed and cared for, listened to. As we learn to do that, perhaps we can discover what it means that Jesus came to us in the form of a child at Christmas. Jesus was "born to save"to restore our imaginations and wonder.

NEWS LET TER

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

A Big Thank-You to our December sponsors:

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

*John Hemphill, Janet Whitehead, Steve Hemphill,
Jean Bunger and their families
in Memory of Clark and Leona Hemphill
for their 70th Anniversary on December 27th, 1946*

*We express gratitude to everyone who sponsored the Newscaster throughout the year.
We appreciate your support of this communication to all church members.*

Sunday, December 4
Caroling for the Congregation
5:00 PM

Saturday, December 24
Christmas Eve Program
And Candlelight Service
7:00 PM

Sunday, December 25
Christmas Day Worship Service
9:30 AM



Christmas Worship Schedule

St. Paul Lutheran Church Council Minutes for November 16, 2016

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

Treasurer's Report

Current Balance \$ 1,902.28.

The Church insurance has been paid. October and November Portico still needs to be paid. David moved to accept and Jean seconded. Motion passed.

Memorial Treasurer's Report

Current Balance \$ 15,616.03

The bill for the albs has been paid. The bill for the Christmas tree ornaments still needs to be paid. The checkbook has arrived for the memorial checking account that has been opened. Jamie moved to accept the Memorial Treasurer's report and Marcy seconded. Motion passed.

Pastors Report

Four worship services, 2 Confirmation classes, 1 Mosaic dance with Confirmation class, 2 youth group meetings, 1 meeting about organ, 4 communions, 1 prison visit, 1 Synod Justice Committee meeting, 1 death penalty press conference in Omaha, 1 premarital meeting, 4 counseling meetings, 3 text studies, 1 Cluster meeting, 1 worship service planning meeting, 3 other calls. 1 morning and afternoon bus route and 3 afternoon only bus routes for the school, 231 miles.

- Pastor will not be attending the ELCA Global Mission on November 19-20 because it has been cancelled.
- Feedback on the Mission Festival program/speaker was favorable. It was a very interesting presentation.
- There will be a Hanging of the Greens service on November 27. The Christmas tree needs to be set up.
- Christmas program directors have been arranged.
- The youth will have a game night on Sunday, November 20.
- Pastor Mark will hold a Thanksgiving Service on November 23 at 7:30.

Old Business

- Jamie is working on arranging a date and time to remove the trees. Would like to complete the project ASAP.
- Pastor Mark has been trying to find someone to look at the organ. Calls and emails are not being answered. Discussion continues on whether to repair or replace the current organ. Pastor is looking into purchase options.
- Pastor Mark has found a new CD player and will make the purchase.

New Business

- During the Advent season, there will be a food donation collection to be delivered to Blue Valley.
- On December 4, the church will go Christmas caroling.
- The Community Foundation has sent a request to find a project for the church. Pastor Mark will fill out the application with a request and submit it for funds for Vacation Bible School.

The next council meeting will be Wednesday, December 21, 2016 at 7:00.

Jamie made a motion to adjourn and Jean seconded. Motion passed.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Jean Schmidt, Council Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT			
General Fund Balance as of 11/13/2016		\$ 2,726.28	
Bills Due by end of November:	October Portico	\$ 3,686.92	
	November Portico	<u>3,686.92</u>	
	Total	\$ 7,373.84	
October/November			
<i>Last Month: October</i>		<i>Current Month: November</i>	
Current	\$ 10,507.59	Current	\$ 4,066.00
Benevolence	726.00	Benevolence	724.00
World Hunger	150.00	World Hunger	100.00
Specials	<u>85.00</u>	Specials	<u>0.00</u>
TOTAL	\$ 11,518.59	TOTAL	\$ 4,980.00
We need \$11,763.97 in CURRENT per month to meet the 2016 budget.			



Women's
STUDY
GROUP



Eunice Circle

Eunice Circle met on November 14, 2016 at 1:30pm. Bible Study was led by Irene Gibson. Study was, "When God chooses the Unlikely - Paul and the Power of Failure." God's power is made perfect in weakness, freeing us from fear of failure. Paul was successful at preaching the Gospel to Gentiles, despite his failures. Might "weaknesses" - our own or our congregation's - help to reveal God's strength and power? What can we learn from failures? Our study text was from Acts 7:58-8:3 and 22:6-21, I Corinthians 12:12-26, 2 Corinthians 1:25, 2:1-5, 4:5-7 and 12:7B-10.

We opened with a prayer and Hymn, "Change My Heart O God." We closed with a prayer and Hymn, "The Lord Now Sends Us Forth." We prayed The Lord's Prayer and Irene read an article - "Applying Bible Principles."

Norma called the meeting to order. Minutes were read and approved. Six (6) members answered roll call and also attended by Pastor. Our offering was \$17.00.

Old Business: Norma and Irene will continue as leader and recorder for this next year. Baby Care Kits will be boxed by confirmation students. October 25th the quilts will be boxed.

New Business: Program by Eunice Circle was finalized for the WELCA Unit Meeting on Wednesday, November 16th at 7pm. Carolyn and Ardith took LWR boxes to Lincoln. Work Days will be November 22nd and 29th. ThankOffering Service will be Sunday, November 20th. Hanging of the Greens will be on Sunday, November 27th.

After Grace, Cleo Perkins served refreshments.

Next Eunice Circle meeting will be December 12, 2016 at 1:30pm, December book. Norma Banahan will be study leader.

Irene Gibson, Recorder

MISSION WORK DAY

St. Paul's LWR donations were delivered to Lincoln on November 7, thanks to Carolyn and Ardy!

Six women came November 22 and assembled and tied six quilts by noon, then decided to clean up and call it a day. As usual, they'll be hemmed at home, where other work will be done. Will work again November 29, then take a break until January 24.

The New Year will find us working on all the kits at some time. Needs throughout the world continue, we do our part to show love and caring to others less fortunate.

God's Work, Our Hands



The Wednesday Nov 16th meeting opened with prayer and welcoming of ten women by Jane Pretzer. Reciting the WELCA Statement of Purpose, reminds us our faith and service supports many in our church, society, and world. Robbyn Roelfs gave the minutes –approved as read. Carolyn Schultis gave the treasurer’s report, reviewing transactions with approval, and an ending balance of \$1061.69.

Committee Reports:

Work Group--Funerals served--went well.

Warren’s Table--2nd Tues of May & Sept. Cleo Henrichs reported transition went well with Jeanette Bures and Jill Scheele organizing a pulled pork sandwich meal & our youth group serving 25-35. We are proud of our youth’s service in providing this worthy outreach.

Eunice Circle--Meets 2nd Monday at 1:30pm. **Active since 1963--welcomes anyone interested to attend.** Reported work day success on completion of: **102 quilts, 50 school bags, 60 baby care kits, 12 personal care kits, and 6 fabric kits!** A big thanks to Carolyn and Ardith for transporting the many boxes to Lutheran World Relief pick-up in Lincoln. Discussion on providing donated fabric for next year’s school bags to American Lutheran Church-Fairbury women, who offered to sew them.

Kitchen--Research by Ardith on high faucet for kitchen sink reported and discussed. Motion to purchase approximate cost of \$250 carried. Discussion followed on installation.

Card Committee—Betty Lawrence continues in sending cards remembering our Church Family in difficult times. Monthly Card Schedule—December-Jane, January-Norma Banahan.

New Business:

Thank Offering Service is planned for Sunday November 20th.

Hanging of the Greens Service to celebrate the Beginning of Advent Sunday November 27th. The youth group will present the service. The WELCA Officers will organize and serve Carry-In Luncheon after the service.

Treasurer Duties will be taken on by Jeanette Bures in New Year. Much thanks to Carolyn for all her efforts and work in past years of service.

Executive Committee will meet in December to organize WELCA activities for next year.

Women of the ELCA Winter Retreat: Saturday January 21, 2017 St Paul’s Lutheran-Grand Island, NE

A Special Thanks to Eunice Circle for presenting the bible study program, “Of the Same Mind” Philippians 4: 2-3. An offering of \$52 was collected and a closing with The Lord’s Prayer. Refreshments graciously served by Carolyn—Thank you!

Jane’s Closing Thought: A most appropriate reflection on Thanksgiving and a poem of Thanksgiving Blessings!

~ Submitted by Robbyn Roelfs



Women of the ELCA Thank Offering Service

St Paul’s Women of the ELCA conducted their annual Thank Offering service during the morning worship hour on Sunday, November 20.

It is a tradition grounded in our celebration of community, of meeting together to joyfully give thanks for what God has given us. Thank Offerings have always been and still are our opportunity to say Thank You to God in both significant and ordinary moments.

Officers sharing in the service were Jane Pretzer, Carolyn Schultis and Robbyn Roelfs. Anyone still wishing to give a Thank Offering may contact Carolyn Schultis, treasurer, or Jeanette Banahan, incoming Treasurer.

Our Mission Festival was held at St. Paul Lutheran on November 6, 2016. Special Guests were Fai'z Rab, the Director of Public Relations for Lutheran Family Services, and Shafiq Jahish, a refugee from Afghanistan.

Fai'z Rab gave a short presentation about the many programs of Lutheran Family Services with a focus on the refugee resettlement and screening processes. It was eye-opening as to how many people LFS serves in many different ways, from human trafficking, relocation from disasters, family counseling to refugee resettlements, and many more.

After the LFS presentation, Shafiq Jahish shared his story of how he became a refugee and was resettled in Omaha. He was raised in Afghanistan and came to America first as a student and went to university in the Midwest, where he was able to learn a lot about the English language and pursue his degree. He returned home after graduation to find his country embroiled in war. Upset with the violence and the terrorists destroying his country, he decided to use his English skills and served with the US and other NATO allies as an interpreter. Never having a gun or military survival training, he went in the trenches with our military to help them defeat those that wanted to destroy his home. However, being an interpreter makes you an important target for the terrorists, so he realized he had to leave, and entered a refugee camp with his family. Even though he had honorably served with and was highly supported by our military, it still took him 3 years to go through the extensive background checks and vetting that all refugees have to go through in order to be resettled, and even then, an extremely small percent are resettled in the United States.

From the LFS website, the resettlement process has 9 steps. The many steps are, 1) Refugee applicants identify themselves to the UN Refugee Agency, UNHCR; 2) Applicants are received by a federally-funded Resettlement Support Center (RSC); 3) Biographic security checks start with enhanced interagency security checks; 4) Department of Homeland Security (DHS)/USCIS interview; 5) Biometric security checks; 6) Medical check; 7) Cultural orientation and assignment to domestic resettlement locations; 8) Travel to designated country; and 9) Arrival in the country. If it is the US, they have to apply for a green card, and with that application, a whole new set of security checks begin. Also, this process may be repeated at any one of the steps if new information is found, like a misspelling or a new family member is located, or if a medical condition is discovered. In that case, they do not advance past step 6.

Once the refugees finally are resettled in their designated country, then they have a whole new set of challenges. For many, it is difficult to adapt to a new country, especially where they are not wanted, and the language barrier can be extremely difficult, especially for women. Most women are not allowed to be educated, and even if they are, fitting into a new way of life where they are the expected caretakers of the family can have many roadblocks. Shafiq shared the fact that his wife had some trouble adapting until another family from Afghanistan was resettled in Omaha. She then had other people from her country to talk to and they helped each other cope and adapt to their new way of life.

Information packets from Lutheran Family Services are located in the back of the Narthex. We invite you to go to their website www.lfsneb.org, and learn about the MANY services our church provides in so many ways. After the interesting and informative presentation, a potluck meal was enjoyed by many members.

If you have an interest in one of our church's many ministries, please let Pastor Mark or the Council know so we can include it in future Mission Festivals.



Shafiq Jahish talks about his life as a refugee



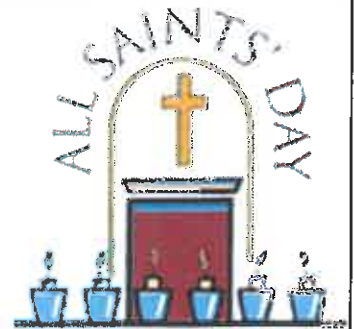
From left to right, Fai'z Rab and his son, Pastor Mark and Shafiq Jahish

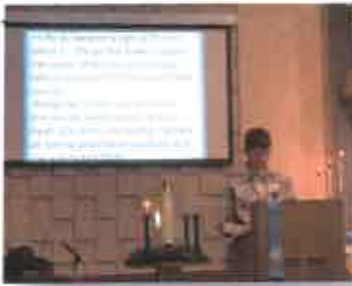


St. Paul's Congregation observed All Saints Sunday during the November 6th Worship Service.

Remembered were Jean Schnuelle, Bernice Ebbers, Loretta Barber and Bob Geer. Memorials that were dedicated were for Christmas ornaments, an organ shelf and new albs for the worship assistants given in loving memory of Angie Weers.

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





Bryston Warren read about the significance of Holly

St. Paul Lutheran had a "Hanging of the Greens" worship service to begin Advent on Sunday, November 27.

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 was led by the Youth, and many traditional carols were sung that associated with the greens that were featured.

The Hanging of the Greens



The first reading was by Neleigh Weers about why we use the greens to decorate our church. The second reading was by Hailey Jones and the different colors and meanings of the paraments we use for worship. Spencer Schmidt presented the Advent banner and placed it at the front of the church. Armando Jones lit candles while Caleb Schultis did a reading about candles in worship. Scriptures were then read by Hayley Denner, and the youth hung the greens while the congregation sang "Deck The Halls".



Our Christmas Tree decorated by our Youth and a wreath placed on the wall

Bryston Warren then read about holly in Scripture, and as Kelsay Schlichtman read about the Christmas Tree in Scripture, the youth placed ornaments on the tree and then the lights were lit.

Pastor then read the Gospel lesson and had a short message. After the Baptism of Kasen and Knox Sasse, the youth 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.



A full house enjoyed a delicious meal provided by the Women's group with beautiful table decorations



In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Please keep in your prayers

~Irene Pretzer passed away on Wednesday, November 30 in the hospital with her loving family at her side. Services will be held at St. Paul Lutheran on Saturday, December 3.

~Keith Pralle passed away recently and his services are pending.

Our deepest sympathy to the families of Irene and Keith. May you find comfort in God's ever-present love.

David Duis recently had abdominal surgery in Lincoln and is now at home for a long recovery.

May God's healing peace be with you as you recover.



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



Mom loved her church family. Thank you to all of you for your prayers, love, cards, visits and support over the years. She cherished her relationships and sometimes couldn't imagine how many cared. Thank you, Pastor Mark, and the St. Paul's fellowship for the many joyous times you shared with her. God Bless you.

~ Kaye Schlake

Thank You



FEED THE HUNGRY



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 first week of December. Clean out those closets and help keep someone warm this winter.

It is the time of year we prepare for our annual Children's Christmas Eve Program. The Christian Education Committee will hold practices during the Sunday School hour from 10:30 to 11:45 am. Parents, please have your children attend practice as often as possible.

Practices will be held on Sundays, November 27, December 4, 11 and 18 and dress rehearsal will be on Friday, December 23 at 7pm. If your child(ren) will not be participating, please let the committee know as soon as possible.



Christmas Poinsettias can be ordered through the church. Cost will be \$15 each with checks payable to St. Paul Lutheran and purchased through Sim's Florist in Fairbury. Sims will deliver them to the church on Christmas Eve 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 18. 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 Christmas Eve. Please contact Kendra K. Weers if you have any questions.



Happy Birthday

December Birthdays

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 Adam Roelfs | 16 Jadyne Schultis |
| 1 Hayley Denner | 18 Sarah Henrichs |
| 4 Andrew Liscom | 19 Carolyn Schultis |
| 5 Harry Kisling | 21 Kristen Helmerichs |
| 5 Lacey Sasse | 22 Joe Novotny |
| 8 Esdon Weers | 23 Ardyce Wiemers |
| 9 Jeanette Hennerberg | 23 Sondra Kotas |
| 9 Kellan Schlichtman | 25 Carol Barber |
| 10 Jason Wellsandt | 26 Kelly Gold |
| 11 Jarrod Heidemann | 26 RiLynn Sasse |
| 11 Eden Lottman | 29 Beth Lee Beran |
| 16 Jan Gold | 29 Allen Roelfs |
| 16 Stacy Schlichtman | 30 Diane Kisling |
| | 31 Kendra (Schmidt) Weers |



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY



December Wedding Anniversaries

- December 8, 1973
 ☞ Mr. & Mrs. Charles Barber
- December 10, 2005
 ☞ Mr. & Mrs. Tanner Parde
- December 28, 1985
 ☞ Pastor & Mrs. Mark Liscom
- December 30, 2006
 ☞ Mr. & Mrs. Allen Roelfs



December 4 Sunday Worship Service
With Holy Communion
 Worship Assistant, **Brian Weers**
 Greeter, **Jim Damrow**

December 11 Sunday Worship Service
 Worship Assistant, **Sherry Henrichs**
 Greeter, **Don Meyer**

December 18 Sunday Worship Service
 Worship Assistant, **David Henrichs**
 Greeter, **Don Meyer**

December 24 Christmas Eve Service
 Greeter, **Dennis Nippert**

December 25 Sunday Worship Service
Merry Christmas
 Worship Assistant, **Jamie Schultis**
 Greeter, **Jim Bures**



January 1 Sunday Worship Service
With Holy Communion
 Worship Assistant, **Kendra K Weers**
 Greeter, **Dean Pretzer**



Darin Weers **Melvin Weers**
Robert Weers **Doyle Wolken**

Gary Bergmeier **Jim Bures**
Chris Clifford **Franklin Damrow**

Jonathan Schmidt **Kevin Sasse**
Jamie Schultis **Caleb Schultis**

Jarrold Heidemann **Steve Hemphill**
Dennis Hennerberg **Jamie Hennerberg**

Brian Hennerberg **Calvin Hennerberg**
Reese Hennerberg **David Henrichs**



Esdon Weers
Spencer Weers

Xavier Jones
Karil Heidemann

Mallory Denner
Mykah Folkers

Brianna Weers
Ezekiel Jones

Addison Heidemann
Skylar Folkers



Children's
Sermon

Pastor Mark

Dave/Sherry
Henrichs

Beth Roelfs

Jean Schmidt

Pastor Mark



Sherry Henrichs
Carla Jones

Cindy Lottman
Shelly Smith

Beth Roelfs
Kallie Roelfs


Sheri Schultis
Stacy Schlichtman

Joyce Lahodny
Jean Schmidt

December 2016



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SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>*** CHECK THE WEEKLY BULLETIN *** for Calendar updates. Many events were not available at press time.</p>				1	2	3
<p><i>Red Hymnal</i> 4 Worship Service 9:30 AM CHRISTMAS PROGRAM PRACTICE 10:30 – 11:45am</p> <p>Caroling and Soup Supper 5:00 pm</p>	5	6	7	8	9	10
<p><i>Blue Hymnal</i> 11 Worship Service 9:30 AM CHRISTMAS PROGRAM PRACTICE 10:30 – 11:45am</p> <p>Youth Meeting 6:30 at Parsonage</p>	12 <i>Eunice Circle</i> 1:30pm	13	14	³³ 15	16	17
<p><i>Red Hymnal</i> 18 Worship Service 9:30 AM CHRISTMAS PROGRAM PRACTICE 10:30 – 11:45am</p> <p>Youth Christmas Caroling 6:00pm</p>	19	20	21	22	23	24
			<p>Council Meeting 8:00pm</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; color: red; text-align: center;"> <i>Newscaster items due</i> </div>		<p>CHRISTMAS PROGRAM DRESS REHEARSAL 7:00 PM</p>	<p>Christmas Eve Service 7:00 pm</p>
<p><i>Red Hymnal</i> 25 Worship Service Holy Communion 9:30 AM</p>  <p>NO SUNDAY SCHOOL</p>	26	27 <i>Work Day</i> All Day	28	29	30	31
			NO Confirmation			

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