

# **Prepare yourself for God**

"How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is giv'n So God imparts to human hearts, the blessing of his heav'n"

Sometimes the core teaching and truth lies right under our noses and we don't really see it. The words above are from the third verse of the Christmas Hymn "O Little Town of Bethlehem". These words are so wise and so true.

We know what the Christmas season can mean for many of us. It means hustle and bustle and busyness. It means shopping and parties and preparations for family time. It's our culture, this is our way of life, and we readily adopt its ways.

It's great, but you have to understand that hustle and bustle and busyness are hazardous to your soul. You get worn down, played out, and by the end of Christmas you've just lost heart. I've spoken with many people who are just glad after the holidays that it's over with.

Please, this year don't let that happen. The third verse of O Little Town of Bethlehem is so simple and so deeply true. The best way to prepare for coming of Jesus is finding in your day, a time of silence and stillness. You need to learn how to untangle yourself from your business and you're relationships and all that your life requires of you. For at least some time each day.

Simply ask God to come to you. Just ask. See what happens. That's how you prepare for the coming of Jesus to you at Christmas.....and any other time of course.

Have a great Christmas, Pastor Mark





#### Editor: Kendra K. Weers

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

#### Newscaster Reporters

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

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

Our November Newscaster sponsors are:
Irene Gibson in Loving Memory of
Karl and Eleanora Bunting
on their December 27th Wedding Anniversary
and
Jeanette Banahan
For National Disability Awareness Month

### We thank you all for your sponsorship and support.

Please note that the sign-up sheet for 2018 sponsorships is up and many sponsorships are available.

Please consider sponsoring a Newscaster to continue providing this communication tool to the members of the congregation. January sponsors are urgently needed.

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

- Sunday, Dec 3 Communion; Youth-Led Worship with Hanging of the Greens Service; WELCA sponsored potluck after worship; church caroling and soup supper
- Wednesday, Dec 6 Confirmation Parents' night (only class for December)
- Monday, Dec 11 Eunice Circle
- Sunday, Dec 17 Youth Caroling
- Wednesday, Dec 20 Council Meeting
- Thursday, Dec 21 Christmas Program Dress Rehearsal
- Sunday, Dec 24 Children's Christmas Eve Program
- Monday, Dec 25 Christmas Day Worship Service
- Wednesday, Dec 27 Newscaster Items DUE
- Sunday, Dec 31 New Year's Eve; Youth-Led Worship
- Sunday, Jan 7 Epiphany Sunday; Communion



Sunday, December 3
Hanging of the Greens
Carry-In Dinner
Caroling for the Congregation 4:30pm

#### Sunday, December 24

Worship Service 9:30am Children's Christmas Eve Program and Candlelight Service 7pm

Monday, December 25

Christmas Day Worship Service 9:30am

## St. Paul Lutheran Church Council Minutes for November 15, 2017

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

#### TREASURER'S REPORT

Marcy reported that the current balance is \$457.25. All bills, except for the hot water heater & video/screen (which have not been received) and the November Portico, have been paid. The weather is getting colder so a propane bill will be coming in soon too. Jean moved to accept, and Allen seconded. Motion passed.

#### MEMORIAL TREASURER'S REPORT

Allen reported that the current balance is \$13,373.08. The electrical bill for the church sign has not been received. Chris Schlichtman has donated the labor/concrete work for the new sign. Thank You!! Marcy moved to accept, and Jean seconded. Motion passed.

#### PASTOR'S REPORT

4 worship services, 1 Confirmation trip to Mosaic, 1 Confirmation parent's night, 3 Wednesday night Confirmation classes, 1 pancakes/prayer Confirmation, 2 Youth Group meetings, 1 Synod Social Justice meeting, 3 text studies, 8 hospital calls, 4 home communions, 1 baptism and pre-baptism meeting, 1 Theological Conference, 1 worship committee meeting, and 1 Transformational Ministry meeting; no mileage.

- New Confirmation schedule went well this month.
- Pastor Mark would like to schedule a Transformational Committee, including the Mutual Ministry members, meeting with Rich.
- Pastor has been approached about starting a Boy/Cub Scout troop. Council discussed the possibility and felt it should decline the
  offer at this time.
- Pastor Mark would like to take advantage of Thrivent's program to compensate service project expenses. After discussion, Council
  felt it was worth looking into for projects such as musicians for services, diapers for kits, etc.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORT**

- Christian Education the Christmas program has been planned and volunteers are arranged.
- Property will schedule a workday before Thanksgiving; Dean Pretzer recently sprayed the church yard for weeds. Thank You!!

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

- David and Charles will do a walk around the church to create a list of projects. A scheduled workday will be arranged before Thanksgiving, if possible.
- · Cindy has contacted all individuals with stolen checks.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

- Beatrice Daily Sun sent an inquiry about purchasing an ad to publish information about the Christmas services at St. Paul. After discussion, Council decided it would not publish in paper; however, it will be put on the new church sign.
- Christmas caroling will be on Sunday, December 3.
- Sunday Church Service will be on Sunday, December 24, as usual. Christmas Eve Service will be on Sunday, December 24. Christmas Morning Service will be on Monday, December 25. Council will have treats for the youth; Jean will purchase them.
- Annual meeting has been set for Sunday, January 21, 2018. Budget and Salary will be discussed at next meetings.

The next council meeting will be on Wednesday, December 20, 2017, at 6:30. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer. Allen made a motion to adjourn and Jean seconded. Motion passed.

Jean Schmidt, Council Secretary

100	ORT	URER'S REP			
		\$ 19.55	s of 11/22/2017	General Fund Balance a	
(4	\$ 3,893.20 1,300.89	mber Portico water heater)	Bills Due by end of November: Nove Other Bills (includes new		
	\$ 5,194.09		Total		
	•	ober/November	Oct		
h: November	Current Month: No		Last Month: October		
\$ 6,543.50	ent	Curre	\$ 14,318.77	Current	
411.99	evolence	Benev	62.25	Benevolence	
0.00	World Hunger		100.00	World Hunger	
35.00		Speci	110.00	Specials	
\$ 6,990.49		TOT	TOTAL \$ 15,178.02		



#### **Eunice Circle**

Eunice Circle met on November 13, 2017 at 1:30pm. Kay Taylor led the Bible Study. The Apostles' Creed - We believe in the Holy Spirit...The Holy Spirit breathes chaos into order, bringing the whole creation in line with God's plan. The Apostle's Creed is more than just words. They carry us through doubt, sorrow and joy.

The focus verse from Genesis 1:2. The text was from John 20:24 through 36, and Genesis 1:1 through 5.

We opened with prayer and Hymn, "Spirit of Gentleness." We closed with prayer and The Lord's Prayer.

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

Old Business: Finalized program for WELCA Unit meeting on Nov. 8, 2017 at 7pm. Workdays are Oct. 24th and 31st is packing of LWR boxes. Nov. 19th – ThankOffering during Church Service. Hanging of the Greens on Dec. 3rd during Church Services. Carry-In dinner (hosted by WELCA) to follow services.

New Business: November 19th is Thankoffering during Church Services. Hanging of the Greens is on Dec. 3rd during Church Services and carry-in dinner (hosted by WELCA) to follow services.

After Grace, Cleo Perkins served refreshments.

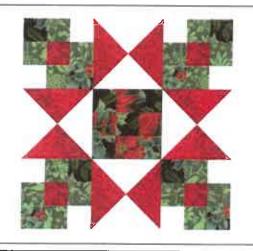
Next Eunice Circle will be Dec. 11, 2017 at 1:30pm, Dec. book. Norma Banahan will be study leader.

\*Irene Gibson, Recorder\*\*

## MISSION WORK DAY

Our Lutheran World Relief Quilts and Kits filled two pickups, with Pastor delivering the overflow, this was a true congregational effort! As needs increase around the world, requests for Quilts and Kits are also on the rise, they are urgently needed.

Though not meeting in November or December, we'll have 2 workdays in January, the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. As always, all help and donations are appreciated. Baby Care Kits and School Kits will be put together in due time. Let's go!





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

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

Betty Damrow has been moved to Beatrice Health and Rehab after her fall.

Jim Bures had heart surgery and is recovering well.

Please remember them in your prayers as they recover and heal.

Please also remember in your prayers all of our members and extended church family who are not able to be with us, those that are in assisted living and care centers and those who may be in need of God's comfort, healing and peace:

Toby Fritzen, Richard Schnuelle, Kay Taylor, Dylan Nippert,

Eden Lottman, Mallory Helton and Skylar Folkers.

# St. Paul Women of the ELCA November Unit Meeting

"You are Not Alone" was the inspiring and informative program presented by members of the Eunice Circle at the November 8, 2017 WELCA Unit meeting of St. Paul women. They shared excerpts from personal experiences of women in such situations as jealousy, being afraid, saying good-bye, when loved ones struggle and experiencing a crossroads situation. The readings reminded each of us that we are not alone in our struggles – God's Grace and God's Love always surround us. Appreciation was extended to lesson leaders Irene Gibson, Norma Banahan, Kay Taylor, Cleo Perkins and Marla Weichel.



President Jane Pretzer opened the business meeting with prayer and members reciting the WELCA Purpose Statement. Minutes of the August 16, 2017 Unit Meeting were read by Secretary Robbyn Roelfs. Treasurer Jeanette Bures reported the current Unit's balance as \$1,611.59.



LWR Relief projects were recently completed and boxed for delivery. These projects are a reflection of the unity of St. Paul in Missions, strengthening the fellowship within our congregation. We THANK EVERYONE for their generous contributions and witness of faith. Our 2017 projects include: 67 Baby Care Kits, 12 Personal Care Kits, 6 Fabric Kits, 65 School Kits and 118 Quilts. Special thanks was extended to Carolyn Schultis and Jeanette Hennerberg for delivering our projects to a Lincoln church. In closing, a motion was made, seconded and approved to send a \$300 donation to LWR for shipping costs.

Committee Reports also included: Warren's Table – served by St. Paul Youth and adult volunteers in September. Congregation thanked for their monetary contributions in making the meal preparation possible. Kitchen – A special thank you extended to Becky Snyder for donation of two round linen tablecloths. Her thoughtfulness will be noted with a personal thank you note. Work Day – Quilting activities will continue on Tuesday, November 28 beginning at 9am. All helping hands are welcome!!!

Appreciation was expressed to all those dedicated to our LWR Projects, to our Car Chairperson Betty Lawrence and to our monthly card volunteers for remembering our Church Family in their time of need.

Ardith Barber has graciously accepted appointment to the WELCA Executive board. St. Paul 2018 Executive Board Members will be Linda Beran, Robbyn Roelfs, Jeanette Bures and Ardith Barber.

Correspondence was read from our new Southeast Conference Board Member Nancy Erdmann from Wilber. An invitational letter was also shared from Alexis Gerritse of Plymouth, member of the Nebraska Synod's Leadership team regarding an upcoming presentation, "Once We Were Refugees" November 18 in Grand Island.

WELCA Thankoffering service will be conducted during our morning worship hour on Sunday, November 19. Our Thankofferings show gratitude for God's Blessings and give us a tangible way to express that gratitude. It is our way of saying Thank You to God in both significant and ordinary moments.

Our Advent Season will begin with our "Hanging of the Greens" Sunday, December 3 during our morning worship hour. This special service will be followed by a carry-in dinner hosted by WELCA.

An offering of \$38.00 was received and the meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Jane's closing comments were Thoughts of Thanksgiving – It is important to remember that Thanksgiving is composed of two words: Thanks and Giving – we are reminded to give Thanks for the Blessings in our Lives and also to consider what Giving actions of time and talent we can share to Bless others and to fully express the meaning of Thanksgiving: Thanks and Giving!



Our Youth again led the worship service on November 26. The Worship Assistant was Hayley Denner and the Greeter was Hollie Crawford. The Children's Sermon was led by Caleb Schultis, from Matthew 25:45-46, where Jesus was talking to his Disciples, "...'Truly! tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life." Meaning, if someone is nice to you, return the niceness. God and Jesus have done the ultimate niceness by dying on a cross. Say thank you to God and Jesus by treating the lowest of people well, and in turn, you treat the Lord well.

The first scripture was read by Samantha Clifford and the second was read by Jadyn Schultis. The Gospel was read by Addison Heidemann. Ushers were Bryston Warren, Jesse Scheele and Hollie Crawford. The refreshments were served by Brianna Weers, Hannah Ebeling, Mahaila Engelman and Haley Jones.

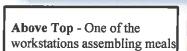












**Above** – Parent volunteers finishing and weighing meals

Right – Pr. Stuckwish informing Youth about the Mercy Meals program and who receives them



**Above Top -** A second workstation assembling meals

**Center** – Finished meals are sealed and packed for distribution

Above – Finished meals ready to feed the hungry

On November 26, our Youth assembled over 5,000 Mercy Meals at the Odell Community Building. The ingredients were assembled at two work stations and then were finished and weighed before they were sealed and packed for distribution. Pr. Stuckwish of the Odell church gave the Youth a presentation of information about the program and how it serves people all around the world, including right here in the United States. Afterwards, the Youth enjoyed pizza and fellowship.



Please keep in your prayers the family of Howard Perkins who passed away on Friday, November 24.

His services will be held on Tuesday, November 28 and luncheon will be held afterwards at the church.

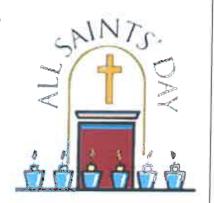
Our deepest sympathy to his family.

May you find comfort in God's ever-present love.

St. Paul's Congregation observed All Saints Sunday during the November 5<sup>th</sup> Worship Service.

We remembered Irene Pretzer who passed away during the last year. The memorial dedicated to the church was the new Witness and Message Sign in the front lawn from the memorials of Loretta Barber, Elaine Erdman, Robert Geer, Irene Pretzer, Jean Schnuelle, Kathy Lottman Tucker and Irene Wolken.

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







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 last 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, December 3, 10 and 17 and dress rehearsal will be on Thursday, December 21 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 \$18 each with checks payable to St. Paul Lutheran and purchased through Sim's Florist in Fairbury. Sims will deliver them to the church on December 23 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 10. 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 December 23. Please contact Kendra K. Weers if you have any questions.



St. Paul WELCA is excited to begin a new project this year and would like to include the congregation. We thought it would be nice to maintain a connection with our students when they go to college so we have decided to remember them on their birthday and maybe another holiday through the school year to let them know we are thinking of them. We have already sent several cards and have even heard back from a couple of them letting us know how much they enjoyed getting the cards, so we already feel it is a worthwhile project. It does not come without some challenges and it will require help from parents and grandparents to help us keep their information current. We also appreciate the time the congregation takes to sign the cards, I think the kids really like reading the names, so thank you for that, there are more coming up. Also, please feel free to connect with them on your own by sending a note or card anytime. Their names and addresses are included in an insert in the Newscaster.



Our High School Youth have been busy this past month. Besides the Youth activities at church, several of our Youth were selected to be a part of the Pioneer Conference Honor Choir which was held on Monday, November 6 at Tri-County High School.

Each school's representatives sang a few numbers with their own school and then all the schools came together and performed combined pieces. At left, Diller-Odell's representation without

the 4 boys chosen. Below, the combined chorus.

At right, three of our Freshman Youth received their Greenhand Degrees and official FFA Jacket in a ceremony on Tuesday, November 21.











- Adam Roelfs 1
- 1 Hayley Denner
- 4 Andrew Liscom
- 5 Harry Kisling
- 5 Lacey Sasse
- 8 **Esdon Weers**
- 9 Jeanette Hennerberg
- 9 Kellan Schlichtman
- 10 Jason Wellsandt
- 11 Jarrod Heidemann
- 11 Eden Lottman
- 16 Jan Gold
- 16 Stacy Schlichtman
- 16 Jadyn Schultis

- 18 Sarah Henrichs
- 19 Carolyn Schultis
- 21 Kristen Helmerichs
- 22 Joe Novotny
- 23 Ardyce Wiemers
- 23 Sondra Kotas
- 24 Jody Helton
- 25 Carol Barber
- 26 Kelly Gold
- 26 RiLynn Sasse
- 29 Beth Lee Beran
- 29 Allen Roelfs
- 30 Diane Kisling
- 31 Kendra (Schmidt) Weers

# **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

#### **Cody Scheele**

510 E 5th St.

Hastings NE 68901

College – CCC Hastings

Major - Electrician

Birthday - January 24

#### **Christian McCown**

**Doane University** 

1014 Boswell Ave. Suite # 901

Crete NE 68333

College - Doane University

Major – Business Administration

Birthday - May 21

#### **Taylor Landenberger**

1030 Forest Ave.

Crete NE 68333-2342

College - Doane University

Major -

Birthday – June 17

Email - tlandenberger@gmail.com

#### **Reese Hennerberg**

SMB: 3110 5000 St. Paul

Lincoln NE 68504

College -

Major -

Birthday – June 18

#### **Reed Pretzer**

Harper Hall # 522

1150 North 14th St.

Lincoln NE 68508-1297

College - UNL

Major - Agri-Business

Birthday - July 9

#### **Marquis Weers**

600 State Street Rm # 402

Milford, NE 68405

College – SCC Milford

Major - Electrical Engineering

Birthday - July 15

#### Nathan Liscom

1780 R St.

University Suites Rm 128

Lincoln NE 68508

College - UNL

Major – Psychology

Birthday - August 16

#### Tyler Wolken

58025 PWF Rd.

Diller NE 68342

College – UNL

Major - Applied Science

Birthday - September 2

#### **Corina Lottman**

South Ellis Hall Rm 102

301 Anderson St.

Warrensburg MO 64093

College -University of Central Missouri

Major - Pro-Pilot

Birthday - Oct 1

#### **Lance Lawton**

**MWSU** 

Leaverton Hall Rm 3012A

4525 Downs Drive

St. Joseph, MO 64507

College – Missouri Western State University

Major - Convergent Journalism

Birthday – October 2

Email- llawton1missouriwestern.edu

#### Sarah Schmidt

**University Village** 

Unit # 265 6506 University Dr. South

Omaha NE 68182

College - UNO

Major - Speech Language Pathologist

Birthday October 10

#### Jonathan Schmidt

71225 Hwv 103

Diller NE 68342

College - SCC - Beatrice

Major - Agronomy & Agri-Business

Birthday- October 14

#### **Brady Helton**

**Doane University** 

1014 Boswell Ave. STE # 677

**Crete NE 68333** 

College -Doane University

Major – Engineering

Birthday - November 9

#### Shyla Goldsberry

#### **Camille Hennerberg**



December 3 Sunday Worship Service Worship Assistant, Jamie Schultis With Holy Communion Hanging of the Greens Greeter, Don Meyer December 10 Sunday Worship Service Worship Assistant, Kendra K. Weers Greeter, Dennis Nippert

December 17 Sunday Worship Service Worship Assistant, Diane Wellsandt Greeter, Franklin Damrow December 24 Sunday Worship Service Worship Assistant, Jim Damrow Youth Group Greeter,

Greeter, Dean Pretzer December 24 Christmas Eve Children's Program

December 31 Sunday Worship Service Worship Assistant Youth Group Greeter, Youth Group



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



Robert Weers Darin Weers Melvin Weers **Brian Weers** 

Bob Wellsandt Doyle Wolken Charles Barber Dale Beran

Gary Bergmeier Jim Bures Melvin Beran Scott Beran

Chris Clifford Franklin Damrow John Denner

Reminder If you are

someone else to cover if you will not be there for your to acolyte. Arrange for scheduled Sunday

Children's Sermon

Styrofoam cups or use the cups in the kitchen cupboard

Please furnish your own

Peggy Hemphill

Jan Gold

Keira Hennerberg Mykah Folkers

Pastor Mark

Zachary Warren Skylar Folkers

Sheri Schultis

Linda Behrends

Jane Pretzer

Kellan Schlichtman Mallory Denner

Jeanette Bures

Jill Bergmeier Angle Clifford

> Mallory Helton Cole Ebeling

Cheryl Denner

Sherry Henrichs Jacki Smith

Youth Group

**Ezekiel Jones** Esdon Weers

Youth Group

Cindy Lottman Shelly Smith

> Karli Heidemann Xavier Jones

> > Larry Germer Jarrod Heidemann

Steve Hemphill

David Henrichs

Pastor Mark

Stacy Roelfs Beth Roelfs

# December 2017



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SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT			
	HE WEEKLY Calendar up ere not availa	dates.			1	2			
Red Hymnal Holy Communion Worship Service 9:30 AN First Sunday in Advent Sanging of the Greens Polluck Dinner CHRISTMAS PROGRAM PRACTICE 10:30 – 11:45am Caroling and Soup Supper 5:00 pm	4	5	Confirmation Parents' Night 7:00pm	7	8	9			
Blue Hymnal 10 Worship Service 9:30 AM CHRISTMAS PROGRAM PRACTICE 10:30 – 11:45am	Eunice Circle 1:30pm	12	NO Confirmation	14	15	16			
Red Hymnal 17 Worship Service 9:30 AM CHRISTMAS PROGRAM PRACTICE 10:30 – 11:45am  Youth Christmas Caroling 5:00pm	18	19	Council Meeting 6:30 pm	21 CHRISTMAS PROGRAM DRESS REHEARSAL 6:30 PM	22	23			
Red Hymnal 24 Worship Service 9:30 AM  Chil\dren's Christmas Eve Service 7:00 pm	Red Hymnal 25 Worship Service 9:30 AM NO SUNDAY SCHOOL	26	NO Confirmation  Newscaster items due	28	29	30			
Red Hymnal Youth-Led 31 Worship Service 9:30 AM		N. A.	ST. PAUL LUTHE PO BOX 37 DILLER, NE 68						

