

St. Paul's Newscaster



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

Jesus take the Wheel?

I heard a song the other day that was popular several years ago. The song is entitled, "Jesus take the Wheel" by Carrie Underwood. The song is about a woman driving home one night who hits a patch of black ice. What happens next is very interesting. Instead of trying to regain control of her car, the woman throws her hands into the air and screams, "Jesus take the wheel!" And in the end, it all works out.

Hmm. Is this what Jesus is about? Is this what "let go and let God" is all about? That when life gets tough and you get overwhelmed, that you can "let go of the wheel" and let God handle it?

In one sense, there is a powerful truth to the song. We know we "cannot save ourselves" and that God does for us what we can't. In the end our "rightness" is only God's possibility. That's the message. There is no faith without ultimately trusting God with our lives.

But on the other hand, giving Jesus "the wheel", or letting go doesn't mean everything works out great. I'm sure many people have cried out to God in the face of a car accident and did not survive. And so in the end, "Jesus take the wheel" ends up creating more questions than it answers, at least for me.

I'll just say this. If my car hits a patch of ice and skids out of control, no way am I letting go of the wheel. I believe that when you give your life to God, what you're saying is that you are willing to take responsibility for your own life. To deal with what's in front of you as honestly and with as much courage as you can muster. I can take the wheel, knowing that God is with me. That's faith.

Pastor Mark

NEWS LET TER

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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 for the February Newscaster are
Toby Fritzen in loving memory of Clara Fritzen, Shirleen Weers,
Richard Weers and Melissa Weers
and
Richard and Jean Schnuelle and family in honor of Jean's 80th
Birthday on February 23rd.*

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

Sweetheart Supper

**Take your sweetheart out for a lovely evening
Brought to you by our Youth
On Sunday, February 14**

\$20 per couple

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

Contact a member of our Youth for a reservation



St. Paul Lutheran Church Council Minutes for January 20, 2016

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

Minutes from the December meeting were reviewed. Jim moved to accept and Marcy seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Current Balance \$ 2,618.14

Jeanette moved to accept and Jamie seconded. Motion passed.

Memorial Treasurer's Report

Current Balance \$12,928.23

Pastors Report

N/A

Vice Chairman's Report

N/A

Committee Reports

- Music and Worship met recently and discussed using the video screen to implement music videos before and after worship services.

Old Business

- Pastor Mark has volunteers to serve on the newly organized Mutual Ministry Committee. They plan to meet monthly.

New Business

- After discussing implementing music videos as proposed by the Music and Worship Committee, it was encouraged by the Council that we start in February.
- Pastor Mark has decided to participate in a Round-Robin with area Pastors of the ELCA on Wednesdays during Lent. This will take the place of the multi-generational worship service discussed at our December meeting.

The next council meeting will be Sunday, February 21 following worship service.

Jeanette moved to adjourn and Marcy seconded.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

- Jeanette Bures, Council Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT			
General Fund Balance as of 1/17/2016		\$ 2,618.14	
Bills Due by end of January :	Portico		\$ 3,327.19
	Total Due:		\$ 3,327.19
December/January			
<i>Last Month: December</i>		<i>Current Month: January</i>	
Current	\$ 11,067.79	Current	\$ 6,784.55
Benevolence	843.24	Benevolence	340.60
World Hunger	125.00	World Hunger	0.00
Specials	<u>195.00</u>	Specials	<u>35.00</u>
TOTAL	\$ 12,231.03	TOTAL	\$ 7,160.15
We need \$11,763.97 in CURRENT per month to meet the 2016 budget.			



Minutes for the Annual Meeting St. Paul Lutheran Church, ELCA January 24, 2016

The 2016 Annual Meeting was called to order by Council President Scott Beran with 45 members present.

Pastor Mark Liscom opened the meeting with prayer. Minutes from the 2015 Annual Meeting were read. Darin Weers moved to approve the minutes and Jamie Schultis seconded. Motion passed.

Nominating Committee Report

Jim Damrow stated that committees were filled. Nominated for Church Council was Jean Schmidt and open to the floor for other nominations, none were received. David Henrichs volunteered to run for the second Council vacancy. Nominating Committee nominees were Dennis Nippert, Dennis Schmidt, Jim Damrow and Jamie Schultis.

Jim Damrow moved to cease nominations and Jamie Hennerberg seconded. Motion passed.

Budget

The 2016 Budget was presented by Council Treasurer Jim Damrow. Gary Bergmeier moved to accept the budget as presented. Jamie Hennerberg seconded. Motion passed.

Scott Beran thanked Jim Damrow and Jeanette Bures for serving the past three years on the Council.

Voting Results

Council: **Jean Schmidt, 45; David Henrichs, 42; Doug Schmidt, 2.** Nominating Committee: **Dennis Nippert, Dennis Schmidt, Jamie Schultis and Jim Damrow** received 44 votes each.

Food Stand: Run Food Stand if asked by Picnic Committee: 41 Yes; 3 No. Money from Food Stand to be designated as follows: **60% General Fund/20% Blue Valley/20% World Hunger, 30; 60% General Fund/20% Blue Valley/20% Benevolence, 13.**

Proposed 2016 Budget: 45 Yes; 0 No.

Pastor's Report

A Mutual Ministry Committee is being formed to state church mission and long-term congregational goals and as a congregation be clear about what we want to do together to be more attractive to others.

Youth is very involved this year with the Youth running the worship services the last Sunday of each month and doing many fun activities together as well as many service projects. Many thanks go to Jill Scheele and Sheri Schultis for their contributions. Confirmation was featured during lent where they did a "multi-generational" model that was well received. Also, one Confirmation class per month was a combined church/class session. Lock-Ins, service projects and other activities went well.

Church Council has been an efficient group and provided good leadership. A big thank you to all who serve on Council.

The church has undergone several projects this year. There is new carpet and tile through most of the church, new paint on most of the walls, storage areas updated and organized, and now a new church website. Thanks go to the carpet and property committees for the updates and to Dennis Schmidt for help on the website.

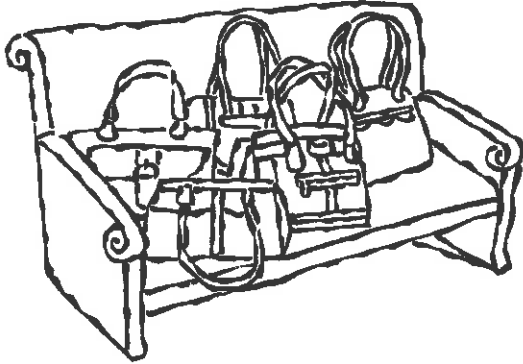
More thanks are listed in the Bulletin of Reports from the Annual Meeting as well as pastoral activities in the community and area from 2015.

Auditors Report

David Henrichs and Tim Scheele found books to be in order.

Kendra K Weers thanked everyone for their patience with the computer meltdown issues with the Newscaster.

Pastor Liscom gave a prayer for those persons who passed in 2015. Dennis Schmidt moved to adjourn the meeting and Diane Wellsandt seconded. Motion passed.



On Wednesday, January 27, 2016 beginning at 7:00 p.m. in St. Paul's Fellowship Room, the Women of the ELCA held their first Unit Meeting of the year. The meeting was opened by President Jane Pretzer with comments of appreciation and thanks to the many "Helping Hands" involved to complete the worthy projects taken on by our Women of the ELCA this past year. A special thanks recognizing retiring Secretary Jean Weers for an excellent job well done.

The business meeting was called to order. Minutes were read by Robbyn Roelfs and Treasurer's report was given by Carolyn Schultis, with an ending balance of \$384.29. A thank-you from Heritage Care Center Residents for Christmas card gift boxes made and filled at our Christmas Party was read.

Research and decision by executive committee and several Council members to purchase artificial Christmas tree while on sale was discussed as a wise move to eliminate Pastor's harvesting and alleviate symptoms of those with evergreen allergies. It was noted lights and ornaments will be needed and be discussed later.

Committee Reports:

Work Group and Kitchen – no report.

Eunice Circle reported good attendance with 10 quilts completed Tuesday.

Warren's Community Table project will again be co-Chaired by Betty Damrow and Cleo Henrichs.

Card Service Project continues with thanks to Betty Lawrence

Projects brought to Vote:

75% of Unit and Eunice Circle Offerings to Synod.

\$150 annually to St. John's Food Pantry, dispersed in two donations

\$150 annually to Blue Valley Community Action, dispersed in two donations

\$150 annually to Wymore Food Pantry, dispersed in two donations.

Monthly Card Project for those on Prayer List.

\$75 donation to Spring Gathering. Will be held April 23 by American Lutheran in Fairbury.

**** We are asked to provide two ladies to help count offering at Spring Gathering****

Our next project will be to host World Day of Prayer, March 4th for nearby community churches. Plans will be made for a 6:30pm Fellowship Luncheon with Worship Service to follow at 7:30pm. This year the service is written by the Women from Cuba, "Receive Children, Receive Me." The Cuban women will share stories of intergenerational wisdom, traditions and experiences of God's profound love and acceptance. As the scripture refers, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs" (Mark 10:14-15), inviting us all to seek Jesus with a childlike boldness.

A Bible trivia worksheet was completed and an offering of \$30 collected. Our meeting was closed with The Lord's Prayer and a closing thought from Jane, "A Recipe for the New Year." The women thanked Jane for all her work to organize and conduct such a good meeting. Many "thank-yous" were extended to Linda who served excellent refreshments.

Robbyn Roelfs, Secretary

Work Day

On January 26, with four women working before lunch and four after lunch, ten quilts were put together to be hemmed at home. Ripping and sorting, along with readying material was also done.

We'll need school kit bags to complete that project. Anyone interested in helping make the bags should see Norma. Any help would be appreciated.

We'll work again on February 23rd. It's a good way to spend a winter day. Anyone is welcome!

Thanks be to God!



Lent



Worship Series

This year we are having a “pulpit exchange” for Lent, beginning on February 17th. What that means is that each Wednesday we will have a pastor from a neighboring ELCA congregation lead our worship service, and Pastor Mark will be leading at that Pastor’s church.

The Pastors that will visit St. Paul are:

- Feb. 24 Pastor Rick Johnson from St. Paul (Soap Creek), DeWitt
- March 2 Pastor Travis Panning from First Lutheran, Wilber
- March 9 Pastor Greg Gabriel from St. John, Beatrice

Pastor Mark will lead worship on February 17th, and March 16th.

Given that this year is the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation we will be reviewing Luther’s Small Catechism. All in all we should have a wide variety of perspectives on our Lutheran heritage this Lenten season.



World Day of Prayer

World Day of Prayer services will be held Friday evening, March 4th at St. Paul Lutheran.

The evening will begin with fellowship and food at 6:30pm followed by a program at 7:00pm.

Everyone is welcome to attend.

St. Paul's Youth have been active in 2016. On January 31st, St. Paul's Youth again assisted with the Sunday morning worship service and coffee fellowship hour.

Greeter was Caleb Schultis and Ushers were Cody Scheele, Jesse Scheele, Armando Jones and Elliott Sasse. Worship Assistant was Jonathan Schmidt. The Children's Sermon was led by Bryston Warren who talked about how many people give up, saying "I just can't do it!", and how God gives you what you can do, not what you can't. First reading of Scripture was read by Holly Crawford, Second Scripture reading by Christopher Schmidt and the Gospel was read by Hayley Denner.



The refreshments were served by all the Youth present.

The evening of the 31st, the Youth held a progressive dinner where a wonderful evening of food and fellowship was enjoyed by many of our Youth.

Sweetheart Supper will be on Sunday, February 14 at the Church for \$20 per couple and there are seating times available at 5:30, 6:30 and 7:30. Please contact Jill Scheele or a Youth member after worship services.



Please see the church website, www.stpauldiller.com for updated acolyte and class schedules, especially during Lent, as Pastor Mark will be ministering at other area churches on Wednesday evenings. "Homework" is also available on the website.

Sunday School Teachers SPRING 2016 – "The Word Speaks"

Lesson	Date	Teacher	Teacher	Leader
Sy	1/10/2016	Kristen Heidemann	Sheri	Sheri
2	1/17/2016	Kristen Heidemann	Darin	Kristen
	1/24/2016	Annual Meeting	Movie & Snacks for Sunday School kids	
3	1/31/2016	Kristen Heidemann	Brian	Kristen
4	2/7/2016	Sheri	Jamie	Sheri
5	2/14/2016	Cheryl	Darin	Cheryl
6	2/21/2016	Angie	Kristen Hennerberg	Angie
7	2/28/2016	Cheryl	Ann	Cheryl
8	3/6/2016	Angie	Brian	Angie
9	3/13/2016	Jamie	Darin	Jamie
10	3/20/2016	Cheryl	Brian	Cheryl
	3/27/2016	EASTER	NO Sunday School	
11	4/3/2016	Sheri	Jamie	Sheri
12	4/10/2016	Angie	Kristen Hennerberg	Angie
13	4/17/2016	Sheri	Jamie	Sheri
14	4/24/2016	Cheryl	Ann	Cheryl
15	5/1/2016	Angie	Kristen Hennerberg	Angie

Sympathy is extended to the family of Kathy Lottman, formerly of Diller, whose funeral was held at Christ Community Church in Beatrice on Friday, January 29.

Our prayers are with your family and may you feel God's healing Grace.



Members recently hospitalized or having medical concerns include:

Charlie Barber, who had knee surgery, and is now recovering at home, and Don Meyer, who is home recovering from shoulder surgery.

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.



NEWSCASTER CORRECTION!!!



The December Newscaster mistakenly announced the marriage of Joe Henrichs to Mindy Randel. Joe Henrichs and McKenzie Randel, Mindy's daughter, were married here at St. Paul on November 28, 2015.

MANY apologies for the error!



When I was lonely, you offered me hope.

Members of St. Paul Lutheran will be attending a worship service with prisoners on March 5. If you want to participate in this important ministry, there are background check forms available that must be received in enough time to be completed. Please contact Pastor Mark for information.

I would like to thank the members of this wonderful congregation for their generous monetary gift at Christmas. It is greatly appreciated!

Pastor Mark



February Birthdays

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

February Wedding Anniversaries

February 14, 1965

☛ Mr. & Mrs. Dean & Sharon Lottman

February 18, 1984

☛ Mr. & Mrs. Kevin & Barb Sasse

February 2016



www.stpauldiller.com

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3 <i>Confirmation Parents' Night 7:00-8:30pm</i>	4	5	6
<i>Red Hymnal</i> 7 Worship Service 9:30 AM Holy Communion SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 AM	8 <i>Eunice Circle 1:30pm</i>	9	10 <i>Ash Wednesday Service 7:30 pm</i>	11	12	13
<i>Blue Hymnal</i> 14 Worship Service 9:30 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 AM	15	16	17	18	19	20
 <i>Sweetheart Supper</i> 5:30 - 8:30pm			<i>Lenten Service</i> 7:30 pm			
<i>Red Hymnal</i> 21 Worship Service 9:30 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 AM Council Meeting After Service Confirmation 7pm	22	23 Work Day All Day	24 <i>Lenten Service</i> 7:30 pm	25	26	27
<i>Blue Hymnal</i> 28 <i>Youth-Led</i> Worship Service 9:30 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 AM <i>Newscaster items due</i> Youth Meeting 6:30 at Parsonage	29					

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH
PO BOX 37
DILLER, NE 68342





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

February 10 Ash Wednesday Service
 Greeter, Dean Pretzer

February 14 Sunday Worship Service
 Worship Assistant, Brian Weers
 Greeter, Jim Damrow

February 17 Lenten Service
 Greeter, Dennis Nippert

February 21 Sunday Worship Service
 Worship Assistant, Kendra K. Weers
 Greeter, Franklin Damrow

February 24 Lenten Service
 Greeter, Jim Bures

February 28 Sunday Worship Service
 Worship Assistant, Youth
 Greeter, Youth



March 2 Lenten Service
 Greeter, Dennis Nippert

March 6 Sunday Worship Service
With Holy Communion
 Worship Assistant, Brian Weers
 Greeter, Dean Pretzer



Lance Lawton Chad Lottman
 Doug Lottman Don Meyer

Dennis Nippert Dean Pretzer
 Adam Roelfs Dean Roelfs

Kevin Sasse Doug Schmidt
 Spencer Schmidt Jonathan Schmidt

Youth

Jamie Schultis Caleb Schultis
 Brian Weers Darin Weers



Samantha Clifford
 Zeke Jones

Neleigh Weers
 Esdon Weers

Hayley Jones
 Nicolaus Engelman

Addison Heidemann
 Mallory Denner

Mykah Folkers
 Jady Schultis



Children's Sermon

Pastor Mark

Jeanette Bures

Cheryl Denner

Youth

Pastor Mark



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

Jeanette Hennerberg
 Kristen Hennerberg

Leatha Christ
 Donna Damrow

Jeanette Bures
 Jill Scheele

Cheryl Denner
 Marlene Wolken

Judy DeBoer
 Courtney Lottman