

# St. Paul's Newscaster



Published monthly in the interest of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Diller, Nebraska  
December 2015  
Pastor Mark Liscom

## Advent

Most of us grew up in families that taught us to delay gratification. Get your homework done before you watch the movie, do your chores before you head out with your friends. It's one of the most sensible approaches to life that there is. Get the hard stuff done first, your enjoyment of the rest will be much greater.

The problem of course is that it's much easier at times to reverse the order. Usually it's not much fun. You play around and do this and that, but hanging over your head is this project, or phone call, something for your job that is always in the back of your mind. But rather than just getting it done, you put it off, procrastinate, or sit on Facebook. Then finally when you can't put it off any longer you get it done. Ugh.

If you understand this, you have a good understanding of the meaning of Advent. In order to experience the reality of God's presence in the world, there is a chore that needs to be done first. That chore is this: getting clear about that in our lives which is broken and not what we would like it to be. Looking at where we need the healing.

We can go straight to joy and fun and Christmas and have a great time. But it's just like your chores, the more you put them off, the worse it will be for you when it finally comes time to do them. You can avoid looking at your life and where it needs improvement, not take it seriously. But one day you will probably have to. Why not get it over with?

It's easier to be busy and distracted with all the Christmas Season, than to do Advent. There is all this fun to do. And it's great, no problem. But when it comes to God, it's best to get the hard part over with first. Take a look at your life, and think about where you need improvement. It's not that much fun. But as you learn about it, Joy to the World won't be far behind.

Pastor Mark

# NEWS LETTER

starts

**Editor: Kendra K. Weers**

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

## **Newscaster Reporters**

Church Council – Jeanette Bures    Treasurer – Jim Damrow  
WELCA – Jean Weers    Eunice Circle – Irene Gibson    Work Day – Norma Banahan  
Sunday School – Cheryl Denner  
School News and Luther League – Kelsay Schlichtman  
Worship Committee – Jeanette Bures    Witness & Service Committee – Kendra K Weers  
Personals – Betty Damrow    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 Eleanora Bunting  
on their December 27<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary  
and  
Pr. Mark and Jan Liscom  
in Honor of their 30<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary*

*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 6**  
Caroling for the Congregation  
5:00 PM

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

**Friday, December 25**  
Christmas Day Worship Service  
9:30 AM



## Christmas Worship Schedule

# St. Paul Lutheran Church Council Minutes for November 18, 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 October meeting were reviewed. Charlie moved to accept and Marcy seconded. Motion carried.

## Treasurer's Report

Current Balance \$394.00

Marcy moved to accept and Jamie seconded. Motion passed.

## Memorial Treasurer's Report

Current Balance \$13,375.26

## Pastors Report

2 Confirmation classes, 1 Confirmation make-up class, 1 Confirmation trip to Mosaic, 1 Confirmation service project, 4 Worship services, 2 Text studies, 1 Prison visit, 2 other calls, 2 Pre-marital meetings, 1 Youth Group meeting, 1 Youth trip to homeless shelter, 1 storage problem meeting, 1 Pre-baptism meeting and baptism, 3 Rest Home visits, 1 Hospital call, 1 Cluster meeting.

## Vice Chairman's Report

N/A

## Committee Reports

- Christian Ed has decided on a program for Christmas Eve.

## Old Business

- Dennis Schmidt and Pastor Mark have been working on the church website.

## New Business

- Pastor Mark and Charlie will be looking at the current Constitution to see if updates are required.
- Christmas Caroling will be December 6 with the time to be announced.
- Angie Clifford has volunteered to take care of the Christmas candy.
- Pastor Mark went over *Quick Check* with us. It is a Congregational Vitality & Sustainability Assessment from the Nebraska Synod, ELCA that is intended to be used to promote growth in our congregation. Pastor Mark will be working on this independently and bringing ideas to our next meeting.

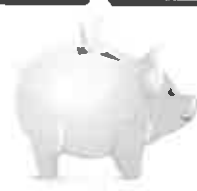
The next council meeting will be Wednesday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30.

Jeanette 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 11/19/2015</b>		<b>\$ 329.32</b>	
Bills Due by end of November:		Portico	\$ 3,327.19
Norris Public Power	\$208.00	Others	<u>536.74</u>
		<b>Total Due:</b>	<b>\$ 4,071.93</b>
<b>October/November</b>			
<i>Last Month: October</i>		<i>Current Month: November</i>	
Current	\$6,217.71	Current	\$8,293.60
Benevolence	400.20	Benevolence	0.00
World Hunger	75.00	World Hunger	0.00
Specials	<u>1,070.00</u>	Specials - Carpet	<u>50.00</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 7,762.91</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 9,165.00</b>
<b>We need \$11,233 in CURRENT per month to meet the 2015 budget.</b>			



## Eunice Circle

# Women's BIBLE Study



Eunice Circle met on November 16, 2015 at 1:30pm. Irene Gibson led our Bible Study. Study was: Slow Faith – Tempo – Guisto (pronounced “juice-toe”). All time is holy and human beings are meant to live in sacred sync with God’s rhythms. We can look to Jesus for a way we can keep Sabbath rest while we work steadily for change. Theme verse was Luke 8:15. Study Text from Luke 12:22–31, 13:18–21, 8:4–15.

Our opening Hymn was “When Long Before Time” (ELW #861). Our closing Hymn was “O Blessed Spring” (ELW #447). We closed with prayer and The Lord’s Prayer.

Norma called our meeting to order. Minutes were read and approved. Three (3) members and Pastor answered roll call. Our offering was \$6.00.

Old Business: After October 27<sup>th</sup> – the Items packed for Lutheran World Relief will be delivered to Lincoln. Our program is ready for November 9<sup>th</sup> WELCA meeting.

New Business: ThankOffering boxes to be given November 22<sup>nd</sup>. A speaker will be here and a pot luck dinner will follow. November 24<sup>th</sup> will be Work Day. NO Work Day in December.

After Grace, Marla Weichel served refreshments.

Next Eunice Circle meeting will be December 14, 2015 at 1:30pm, December book. Norma Banahan is study leader. Betty Damrow will be hostess.

*Irene Gibson, Recorder*

## Work Day

Meeting November 24, seven quilts were assembled and tied. Considerable cleaning and sorting were done.

Looking back, our congregational efforts for finishing LWR projects ended with 58 boxes delivered to Lincoln by Carolyn and Jane. It’s our way of ministering to our neighbors in need.

Taking a break in December our next Work Day will be January 26. All help is appreciated, we meet from about 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

**God’s Work, Our Hands**



Prayer  
Request  
4



*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, Skylar Folkers, Mallory Helton, and Dylan Nippert.*



*Women of the ELCA Christmas Celebration*

*Sunday, December 6, 2015 at St. Paul Lutheran*

*Beginning at 2:00 pm*

*Please bring a finger food and a couple old Christmas Cards.*



*We will be making treat bags and boxes  
To be given to the area care centers.  
All women of the congregation are  
encouraged attend to enjoy an afternoon  
of fellowship and fun.*

***WELCA Thank Offering Service***

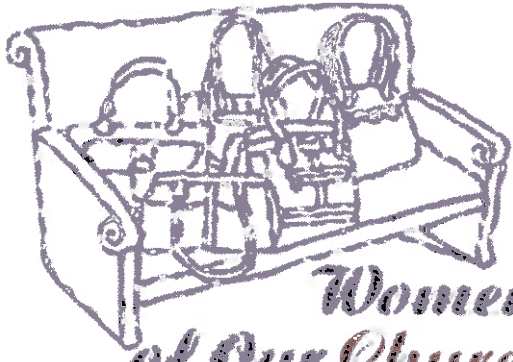


**Thank  
Offering**

St Paul's Women of the ELCA conducted their annual Thank Offering service during the morning worship hour on Sunday, November 22.

It is a tradition grounded in our celebration of community, of meeting together to joyfully give thanks for what God has given us. ThankOfferings 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 Jean Weers, Carolyn Schultis and Jane Pretzer. Anyone still wishing to give a ThankOffering may contact Carolyn Schultis, treasurer.



## Women of the ELCA

### UNIT MEETING

November 9, 2015

The Women of the ELCA met on Monday, November 9 with ten women present. The meeting was opened with a prayer followed with a program given by the Eunice Circle on Giving through Lutheran World Relief. It was a very interesting and informative program. We learned that in 2014 the huge amount of 485,000 quilts was given to Lutheran World Relief.

The meeting was called to order, and Our Purpose was read by all. Minutes were read, and the treasurer's report given with a current balance of \$1224.19. Thanks were given for the good job done by our ladies for serving funerals. Warrens Table Report stated that the monetary gifts were good. Thanks to the Carpet Committee and all who helped for a job well done. It is being enjoyed by all.

Names were read for our monthly volunteer card project as follows;

November, Betty Lawrence; December, Jane Pretzer; January 2016, Norma Banahan.

WELCA officers for 2016 are: President, Jane Pretzer; Vice President, Linda Beran; Secretary, Robbyn Roelfs; Treasurer, Carolyn Schultis

WELCA voted to purchase new shelving units for the back corner room, a new vacuum cleaner and nine new vents for the church. They also voted to donate \$300 to LWR for shipping expenses for the items made by our church.

WELCA Christmas party is on December 6 at 2:00. Come and bring an old Christmas card for a fun craft project.

The next Women of the ELCA Unit Meeting is in February 2016!! Watch for the exact date.

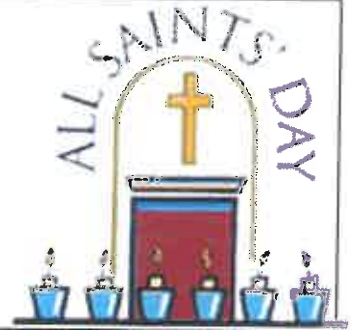
Offering was \$36.00. An appropriate Thanksgiving closing was read, followed by The Lord's Prayer. Refreshments were served by hostesses Linda Beran and Ardie Barber.

*Respectfully submitted, Jean Weers*

St. Paul's Congregation observed All Saints Sunday during the November 1<sup>st</sup> Worship Service.

Remembered were Harold Oltman, Angie Weers and Kent Kising. Memorials that were dedicated were for the Carpet Fund in memory of Jessica Holtmeier Nabity and two brass Candle Lighters in memory of Charles Sr. and Verneal Barber.

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



## Hospital List



Members recently hospitalized or having medical concerns include:

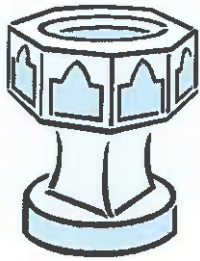
Charlie Barber, who will have surgery on his ankle

Kevin Sasse, who had gall bladder surgery and is recovering well

Hollie Crawford, who was in an accident and is now recovering well at home

Prayers are also being sent to Jean Schnuelle for continued healing and strength.

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



There were two Baptisms during the November 8, 2015 Church Service. Vivian Rose Nish, Daughter of Brian and Jennifer Nish, was baptized with Sponsors Jill Rallis and Josh Germer. Pierce Alexander Rallis, Son of Paul and Jill Rallis, was also baptized into faith with Sponsors Jennifer Nish, Gina Aurand and David Rallis.

We welcome them into our Church Family and the Family of God.

Thank you is not sufficient to express my thanks to all of you who came to my aid during the coffee hour on November 15. Richard and I are truly blessed to be a part of this loving and caring church family. God Bless you all.

Richard and Jean Schmueller

Thank  
You

Change  
of  
address



Loretta Barber has moved to Good Samaritan in Beatrice. Please send any cards or letters to her at her new address.

We hope she is enjoying her new home!

After the new flooring was put in the kitchen, cabinets were also cleaned out. There are many bowls and pans that have never been picked up and they have been put out on the counter. Please help get rid of some of the clutter in the kitchen and check to see if any of the dishes belong to you. Thanks!



Congratulations to Tad and Emily Meyer of Lincoln who are the proud parents of a baby girl, Harper Grace. Harper was born November 14, 2015 at the Beatrice hospital weighing 7 pounds 11 ounces and 20 inches. Grandparents are Neil and Sue Meyer.



Joe Henrichs and Mindy Randel were married at St. Paul Lutheran with Pastor Mark Liscom officiating on Saturday, November 28, 2015.

Following the evening ceremony, the reception was at Classic's at the Beatrice Country Club. They are currently honeymooning at Moon Palace in Cancun.

Congratulations on your union and may God bless you in your marriage!





St. Paul's Youth again assisted with the Sunday morning worship service and coffee fellowship hour on November 29<sup>th</sup>.

The Worship Assistant was Kelsay Schlichtman and the Children's Sermon was led by Caleb Schultis who talked about how sometimes everything being equal is not a good thing, like making brownies with all ingredients being equal made them taste REALLY bad, so sometimes, all things equal is not right. Advent reading was by Jesse Scheele, Scripture was read by Spencer Schmidt and Cody Scheele read the Gospel. Pastor did the Sermon.

Greeter was Christopher Schmidt. Ushers were Mahaila Engelman, Corina Lottman, Jonathan Schmidt and Jesse Scheele. The refreshments were served by Hayley Denner, Jonathan Schmidt and Jesse Scheele.

Thank you again for a job well done.

### Upcoming Youth Schedule

- Sunday, December 6 – Tree Decorating at 6:30pm**
- Sunday, December 20 – Christmas Caroling at 5:00pm**
- Sunday, December 27 – Youth-Led Worship Service**



### CONGRATS GRIFFIN VOLLEYBALL!!

The Diller-Odell Griffins volleyball team again did well this year. They had a great regular-season record and did well at all tournaments, including the State Tournament where they played in the Championship game and were State Runner-Up.

*Way to go, girls! We are proud of you!*

### Youth Mission Trip to People's City Mission in Lincoln

Sunday afternoon, November 8<sup>th</sup>, the Youth Group went to People's City Mission in Lincoln to do service projects and learn about how the mission helps the homeless in Lincoln. The guys worked in the gym cleaning and re-assembling the rubber floor mats and the girls cleaned the day care play area. Not very glamorous jobs, but work that was greatly appreciated by the staff. Our Youth did a great job.

Following our work, we were given a basic tour of the mission. Many of the homeless are employed but have families and just can't make ends meet, so there are many rooms for families. We tried to imagine living with our family in a single room. There are also single apartments and "transition" housing where people who are employed can live while getting back on their feet.

Following our tour we had supper with everyone, and headed back home. Our Youth were most impressed by the way the staff treated them with respect and encouragement. We talked about how it is that in difficult circumstances we find ourselves caring more and having more compassion for people.

It was a good day and we sensed God's healing presence in the world. Thanks to Jill Scheele for her work in putting our trip together, Dennis Schmidt for helping drive, and Sheri Schultis for letting us use the "church van" (her suburban).





On Sunday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>, Melissa Miller, a graduate of Diller High School, and her husband Brad and family came to our church and talked about their experiences and calling to serve God through Saving Grace World Missions.

The Miller Family are a missionary family that was called to the Amazon Jungle. "We moved to Manaus, Brazil in June of 2011 and have successfully been reaching the people of the Amazon Basin with the good news of Christ and His resurrection from the dead."

The Millers now live in Concordia, Kansas and continue to serve God in their community.

We TRULY appreciate their dedication to God and thank them for the message of service that they brought to our congregation.

After Worship, we all enjoyed a potluck dinner and a time of fellowship with the Millers.

If anyone wants more information about the Millers or [Saving Grace World Missions](http://www.SGWM.com), you can email them at [millerstobrazil@yahoo.com](mailto:millerstobrazil@yahoo.com) or see the website, [www.SGWM.com/miller](http://www.SGWM.com/miller) to partner financially or learn more about the missions.



SAVING GRACE  
World Missions



St. Paul's confirmation class met at the church on Friday, November 20 at 7pm for their Lock-In. They started with some fun by going to the Rolla Rena in Beatrice for roller skating. Afterwards, they went to Wal-Mart for a scavenger hunt and to purchase socks for residents at Beatrice Rehab, where they raised enough money to purchase over \$250 worth of socks.

After Wal-Mart fun, they went back to the church for crab soccer and other games and Pastor lead a Bible talk and study. After a little sleep, they enjoyed a time of fellowship and breakfast. As one can see in the pictures, a good time was had by all!





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 29, December 6, 13 and 20 and dress rehearsal will be on Wednesday, December 23 at 7pm. If your child(ren) will not be participating, please let the committee know as soon as possible.

**Christmas Caroling will be held on Sunday, December 6, leaving the church at 5pm.**

**Come join in a fun time of fellowship and food. Please bring snack foods to share with the soup that will be provided by the Family Night Committee.**



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 13**. 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.

#### Lutheran World Relief Projects

With the new year approaching we will once again begin preparing materials for our Lutheran 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.

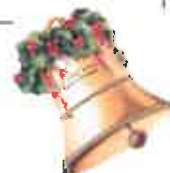
Please contact **Norma Banahan** for any donations in regard to quilt making and fabric kits. **Ardith Barber and Marcy Barber** are in charge of the baby care kits, personal care kits and health kits. **Irene Gibson** has been responsible for assembling the school kits. Your cooperation in contacting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



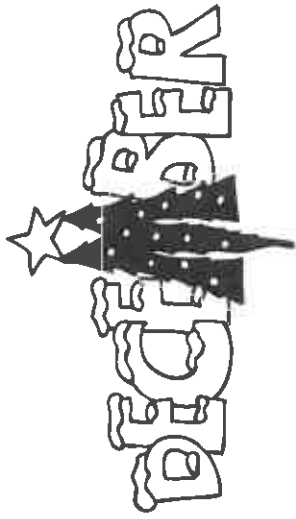
### December Birthdays

- |                       |                           |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 Adam Roelfs         | 16 Jady 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 | 25 Carol Barber           |
| 9 Kellan Schlichtman  | 26 Kelly Gold             |
| 10 Jason Wellsandt    | 26 RiLynn Sasse           |
| 11 Jarrod Heidemann   | 29 Beth Lee Beran         |
| 11 Eden Lottman       | 29 Allen Roelfs           |
| 16 Jan Gold           | 30 Diane Kisling          |
| 16 Stacy Schlichtman  | 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



**December 6 Sunday Worship Service**  
**With Holy Communion**  
 Worship Assistant, Brian Hennerberg  
 Greeter, Jim Damrow

**December 13 Sunday Worship Service**  
 Worship Assistant, David Henrichs  
 Greeter, Don Meyer

**December 20 Sunday Worship Service**  
 Worship Assistant, Sherry Henrichs  
 Greeter, Dennis Nippert

**December 24 Christmas Eve Service**  
 Greeter, Franklin Damrow

**December 25 Christmas Day Service**  
 Greeter, Jim Bures

**December 27 Youth-Led Sunday Service**  
 Worship Assistant, Youth  
 Greeter, Youth



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



Tim Scheele  
 Jesse Scheele

Cody Scheele  
 Russell Schultis

Jamie Schultis  
 Brian Weers

Caleb Schultis  
 Darin Weers

Melvin Weers  
 Charles Whitehead

Bob Wellsandt  
 Doyle Wolken

Youth Members

Scott Beran  
 Jim Bures

Gary Bergmeier  
 Chris Clifford



Jadyn Schultis  
 Mykah Folkers

Brianna Weers  
 Zeke Jones

Hannah Ebeling  
 Neleigh Weers

Samantha Clifford  
 Tori Smith

Hayley Jones  
 Esdon Weers



Children's  
 Sermon

Pastor Mark

Kay Schlake

Kristen  
 Heidemann

Youth

Pastor Mark



Please furnish your own Styro-foam cups or use the cups in the kitchen cupboard

Diane Wellsandt  
 Kendra K Weers

Kristen Heidemann  
 Sherry Henrichs

Peggy Hemphill  
 Betty Damrow

Youth

Joyce Lahodny  
 Robbyn Roelfs

# December 2015



St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, PO Box 37, Diller, NE 68342

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Confirmation Parents' Night 7:00pm	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<i>Red Hymnal</i> Worship Service <b>6</b> 9:30 AM Holy Communion CHRISTMAS PROGRAM PRACTICE 10:30 – 11:45am WELCA Christmas Gathering 2:00pm Caroling and Soup Supper 5:00 pm Youth Tree Decorating 6:30pm	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Confirmation Service Project 7:00pm	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<i>Blue Hymnal</i> Worship Service <b>13</b> 9:30 AM CHRISTMAS PROGRAM PRACTICE 10:30 – 11:45am	<b>14</b> <i>Eunice Circle 1:30pm</i>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Council Meeting 6:30pm	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<i>Red Hymnal</i> Worship Service <b>20</b> 9:30 AM CHRISTMAS PROGRAM PRACTICE 10:30 – 11:45am Youth Christmas Caroling 5:00pm	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> NO Confirmation CHRISTMAS PROGRAM DRESS REHEARSAL 7:00PM <i>Newscaster items due</i>	<b>24</b> Christmas Eve Service 7:00 pm	 <b>25</b> <i>Christmas Worship 9:30 AM Red Hymnal Holy Communion</i>	<b>26</b>
<i>Blue Hymnal</i> Youth-Led Worship Service and Confirmation 9:30 AM NO SUNDAY SCHOOL	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 		



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