

**ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
321 NORTH 10TH STREET
BEATRICE, NE 68310**

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PARISH NEWSLETTER

**St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Beatrice, Nebraska
JANUARY 2016**

Stpaulbeatrice.org

January 2016

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
8:00am Divine Service 9:15am Bible Class & Sunday School 10:30am Divine Service	7:00pm Weekday Holy Communion Service	12:00pm Ladies Quilting 1:30pm Ladies Aid 5:00pm LWML Ex. Board 6:15pm Topic Leaders 6:30pm Board for Parish Ed 7:30pm Elders	1:00pm Dorcas Society 2:30-4pm Catechism	12:00pm Ladies Quilting 1:30pm Ruth Circle	1:30pm Eunice Circle	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
8:00am Divine Service 9:15am Bible Class & Sunday School 10:30am Divine Service	7:00pm Weekday Holy Communion Service	12:00pm Ladies Quilting 12:00pm Quilt Tying 7:00pm Church Council	1:30pm Naomi Circle 2:30-4pm Catechism	12:00pm Ladies Quilting 2:00pm Lydia/Mary Circle	8:00am Men's Bible Study Breakfast at Aunt Mary's	10:00am Altar Guild
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
8:00am Divine Service 9:15am Bible Class & Sunday School 10:30am Divine Service 1:30pm Voter's Meeting	7:00pm Weekday Holy Communion Service	12:00pm Ladies Quilting	2:30-4pm Catechism	12:00pm Ladies Quilting 1:00pm Dorcas at Good Sam		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
8:00am Divine Service 9:15am Bible Class & Sunday School 10:30am Divine Service	7:00pm Weekday Holy Communion Service	12:00pm Ladies Quilting 12:00pm Quilt Tying 6:30pm Social Club	2:30-4pm Catechism	12:00pm Ladies Quilting		
31						
8:00am Divine Service 9:15am Bible Class & Sunday School 10:30am Divine Service						
					Church Office Closed	

JANUARY 2016 NEWSLETTER

SCHOOL NEWS

“When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house they saw the child with Mary His mother, and they fell down and worshiped Him.” Matthew 2:10-11

As the New Year begins, we rejoice in the Birth of the Savior, Christ our King. To celebrate His birthday, the teachers and students enjoyed a break from school on December 21st through January 4th. Classes resumed on Tuesday, January 5th.

January 1st our Parent Teacher League hosted a “New Year’s Family Celebration”, featuring a bounce house, obstacle course, face painting, games, dancing, and concessions. It was a wonderful opportunity for our school community to engage in fun and fellowship!

This month, we are looking forward to our Online Mission Trip to Guatemala. Each day the week of January 25th, the students will watch an online presentation from missionaries in Guatemala. We will also spend class time learning about the culture, geography, and history of the country. This program is presented by Lutheran Hour Ministries, and gives the students a chance to not only learn about another country, but also learn how the Gospel is being spread throughout the world.

B.E.A.R (Be Excited About Reading) Fair will be held in January, with the kickoff scheduled for the 14th. Students will be taking magazine subscriptions, as in the past, but new this year they will be selling cookie dough, and also an “Entertainment” App that provides coupons for a variety of stores and restaurants. The profits from the fair are used to buy new books and magazines for the school library. We appreciate your support of this school fundraiser.

We are presently taking applications for the 2016-2017 school year for the Preschool (3 year olds) and Pre-Kindergarten (4 year olds) class sessions. Anyone interested in enrolling should contact the school office at 402-223-3414 for an application.

Have a Blessed New Year in the Lord!

In Christ,

Amy Duever
St. Paul’s Lutheran Principal

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Notes and Reminders...

Every Sunday -

8:00am & 10:30am - Divine Services

9:00am - Coffee & Snacks served in the basement

9:15am - Adult & Youth Bible Class and Sunday School

Church Office: Office hours are 8:30am to 1:30pm, Monday through Friday. The office may be closed on occasion, so please call ahead.

Thank You to the gracious people at the BSDC for preparing our monthly newsletters for mailing this month. We sincerely appreciate their volunteer work and a job well done.

Thank You to the gracious people who provided, served, or attended our Advent Luncheons and Suppers. We especially thank Chris Morris for donating the soup, LWML Circles for providing the cookies and serving at the lunches, and the following groups for preparing the meals for the suppers, Elders, Trustees, Stewardship, Evangelism, and the Board for Parish Education

The Board of Elders will meet Wednesday, January 5th at 7:00pm.

In reference to the meeting of a group of individuals with then office secretary, Ashley Mentgen, which led to her resignation, the council hereby clarifies that this group did not have authority to act on behalf of the council; and the council in no way approves or endorses the meeting itself, things said, or any actions taken at this meeting. In the future let it be clearly known that authorization lies solely with the church council in actions relating to the hiring, firing, or disciplinary actions of the church secretary.

Quarterly Voter's Meeting will be January 12th at 1:30pm.

Reminder to Dorcas members! The January meeting will be held January 21, 2016 at the Good Samaritan Home in the activity center. We will leave the church parking lot at 12:45 for those wishing to car pool. Our business meeting will be at 1:00pm. We will host the resident's bingo party at 2:00pm.

*Visit our website for the latest updates at
stpaulbeatrice.org*

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January at St. Paul's Lutheran School:

5 - Class resumes

18 -Teacher In Service Day (No School)

Our St. Paul's students will be singing in church on the following Sundays:
Children's Christmas Program: January 24th, February 28, April 10 & May 15. Dates are subject to change.

BULLETINS RECEIVED

November 14

November 29

November 22

December 5

Dorothy Nickels

Helen Burger

Ruth Poppe

Helen Burger

Holy Savior, Lincoln, NE

First Trinity Lutheran Church, Beatrice, NE

King of Kings Lutheran Church, Gardner, KS

Our Savior Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, SD

As 2015 comes to a close I would like to thank a few people for their contributions the past year.

Jim Pittman donated \$2,500 back to the church and \$2,500 back to the school from his final bill for replacing the church roof. He also is repairing the parsonage roof and repairing the gutters and installing leaf guards on the gutters at the school at no expense to the church and school. If you see Jim or Rose Pittman please be sure to thank them for this donation.

Ron Buss and Bob Frerking continue to donate their time to keeping up our church and school. They have been a blessing for me as they have been able to respond much quicker to problems.

I would like to thank the trustees that are finishing their terms Dwayne Delozier, Eric Jobman, Jason Duff, and Monte Lofing.

Other individuals that work behind the scenes to keep our church and school going are Dale DeBuhr, church custodian, Thad Loomis, school custodian, Greg Ficke mowed the church lawn, Carter Aden mowed the school lawn and Suzanne Munn for renovating the landscaping.

A special thank you to all that helped with the church cleaning and all that helped in any way during the year.

We will be changing Church Treasurer for the coming year. Brandy Scheer will become treasurer of St. Paul's starting January 1st. We wish to thank Arvid Weist for his many years as the Church Treasurer.

Steve Schmidt
Chairman of Trustees

JANUARY 2016 NEWSLETTER

Stewardship Article

“In all things I have shown you that . . . we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive’” (Acts 20:35). And indeed it is. Does this not strike a chord that resonates in us all? Which of us can’t recall the look of surprise and thanks for the Christmas gifts that we labored to give to those whom we love? And the joy written on their face when that gift is received with thanksgiving means more than all the gifts we have received. It is more blessed to give than to receive.

Our Lord knew this because He practiced it. He gave of Himself, sparing not even His life in death, in order to give us back to our Father in heaven. He knew that in giving, you get more because in giving joy is multiplied: the one who receives and the one who gives both rejoice in what is given and received. What is more the one who receives is thankful and only wants to give back to the one who gave so generously.

So also with our tithes and offerings in church. We want to give because we have received from God all that we are and all that we have. Our giving does not originate in what we must do to earn God’s favor. We have God’s favor because of the gift of His Son which we receive through Word and Sacrament. Thus, we are made free from the compulsion of giving. Now our tithes and offering are freely given *in thanksgiving* for what God has so generously given to us.

Why then does the church struggle to make budgets? Why does the church always seem stretched so thin? After all the Church is the place where God not only gives to us once, but continually again and again. And what gifts He gives! He gives us the forgiveness of sins, generously pouring out His grace and mercy because He loves us. So why does the church struggle?

It is because sin still clings to us. Our fallen nature makes us selfish and miserly. It leads us to believe that we can have our cake and eat it too. Because of sin we want to receive, but not give. We want God’s blessings, but we don’t want to share them with those around us. We want to remain comfortable in our own self-contained, neat, and tidy lives, without the headaches of loving those around us by helping them in their time of need.

“Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’” Remember that God has placed you in a church, not only to receive His grace and mercy, but also to use you to bless others. Your tithes and offerings ensure that those around you have a pastor to preach the life-saving and life-giving Word of God. They ensure that the lights and heat and air-conditioning are working. They ensure there is water for Holy Baptism and bread and wine for the Holy Communion. Everything the Church does, she is able to do by and through the generosity of the members of the Church.

So remember the words of the Lord Jesus. It is more blessed to give than to receive. And remember the joy that attended the gifts you gave at Christmas. This same joy attends your gifts to the church.

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Chad Bird wrote:

God is with His people. Not in a burning bush, not in a pillar of cloud, not riding on the chariot throne, not seated between the cherubim. The old things have passed away, and, behold, new things have come. The God who in days of old brought forth Eve from Adam's flesh now brings forth the New Adam from the New Eve's flesh. "This One is now bone of our bones and flesh of our flesh; He shall be called Man, because He was taken out of woman." God has married His people – not in a bush or cloud or atop a throne, but within a virgin. Not by conversion of the Godhead into flesh but by taking the manhood into God. The Reality has assumed the image, the Creator has partaken of creation, God has become man. O sing unto the Lord a new song, for a woman is pregnant with Yahweh.

But she is not the only one pregnant; so is Elizabeth, her relative. Within her is the six-month-old prophet of the Most High who will go before the Lord to prepare His ways. John's ministry will be patterned after Elijah's whose ministry was patterned after that of Moses. When John opens his mouth, you hear the sound of a prophetic choir. Moses, Samuel, Elijah, Elisha, Isaiah, Jeremiah and a host of others all crowd into the pulpit of his mouth to proclaim, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world."

But before John preaches, before he baptizes, before he is even born, he is filled with the Holy Spirit and leaps in his mother's womb. John is called and ordained in utero. The Baptizer enters his office while still swimming in the water of the womb.

The mother of this prophet is visited by the Mother of God. In the coming together of these two pregnant women, we see the coming together of the old and the new. For Elizabeth – in her old age, former barrenness, priestly husband, and prophetic son – is an icon of the old and aging Israel.

Whereas Mary – in her youth, maternal virginity, and divine Son – is an icon of the new and everlasting Israel of God. As Sarah was the alpha mother in Israel so Elizabeth is the omega. She will give birth the last of the OT prophets. The curtain's about to close, the veil rent in twain. Israel, who had, in a sense, been journeying since the days of Abraham, would finally come to their destination at the river Jordan. And there will stand John, to shepherd them across the baptismal river to rest within the promised land of the Messiah's holy flesh.

Because of all this the infant prophet leaps for joy. And well he should, and well should we. For if seas roar, and rivers clap their hands; if mountains and hills sing together; if the mouths of infants and nursing babes and unborn prophets shout for joy – if all these, with one heart and mouth, glorify God on the day of His visitation, how much more should we? For Mary's song is the song of the redeemed as she chants: "the Mighty One has done great things for me; and holy is His name." The Mighty One has indeed done great things for Mary and Elizabeth and John and you.

For you who sprint blindly down the paths of self-interest, He has laid bare His heel for the ancient serpent's fangs. For you whose careless words slice away at friend and foe, He is the silent Lamb who offers His throat to the priestly blade. For you who drink iniquity like water, He is the Sea that swallows up your enemies. For you who hunger and thirst for unrighteousness, He is the Land flowing with milk and honey. The divine judge has become your human substitute. He has done great things for you though you have done great things against Him.

Therefore, repent and rejoice! Let newborn babes and old codgers leap for joy; join David in dancing before the new Ark of the Covenant. Rejoice and ponder the mystery. Let all the sons of Adam and all the daughters of Eve remove their sandals before Mary's womb. For behind that pregnant veil is the new ark of the covenant, the Ark that is not covered in gold but skin; that is not filled with the law tablets of stone but the flesh and blood of the Gospel; that does not have a jar of manna and Aaron's budding staff, but the Manna come down from above and the Tree of Life, all for you. God is with His people for God is one of us.

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Notes from Pastor Irmer

A new year that is full with promise. There are so many things we anticipate in the new year and so many older things we treasure. We treasure old friends, family and familiar places. We look forward to new challenges and some changes that lie in the future.

Our best security is in our God who promises that He is the same, yesterday, today and forever (Hebrews 13:8). He promises that He has loved us with an everlasting love (Jeremiah 31:3). He promises that He will never leave us or forsake us (Deuteronomy 31:8). He assures us that nothing can separate us from His love in Jesus Christ, (Romans 8:39).

With those promises we need not fear anything now or in the future. We can't see into the future so we don't know exactly what is in store for us. We know, however there will be joy and there will be sorrow. There will be persecution and mistreatment and there will be love and there will be peace with God.

God has made us His children through our baptism into Christ. St. Paul reminds us, "Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life," (Romans 6:3-4).

As long as water is wet your baptism is at work. You are a baptized child of God. The faith that God the Holy Spirit created in you is His faith. It is faith in Jesus Christ. It is faith in Jesus Christ that saves you and keeps you safe through whatever you face, whenever you face. it.

May God richly bless and keep us all in 2016.

Pr. Irmer