

**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 2017**

Stpaulbeatrice.org

January 2017

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:00am Divine Service 9:15am Bible Class & Sunday School 10:30am Divine Service	2 7:00pm Weekday Holy Communion Service	3 12:00pm Ladies Quilting 1:30pm Ladies Aid 5:00pm LWNAL Ex. Board 6-1:5pm Topic Leaders 6:30pm Board for Parish Ed 7:00pm Elders	4 1:00pm Dorcas Society	5 12:00pm Ladies Quilting 1:30pm Ruth Circle 7:00pm Choir Practice	6	7
NO SCHOOL - CHRISTMAS BREAK						
8 8:00am Divine Service 9:15am Bible Class & Sunday School 10:30am Divine Service 12:00pm Church Pot-Luck Dinner	9 7:00pm Weekday Holy Communion Service	10 12:00pm Ladies Quilting 12:00pm Quilt Tying 7:00pm Church Council	11 1:30pm Naomi Circle 2:30-4pm Catechism	12 12:00pm Ladies Quilting 2:00pm Lyda/Mary Circle 7:00pm Choir Practice	13 1:30pm Eunice Circle	14
15 8:00am Divine Service 9:15am Bible Class & Sunday School 10:30am Divine Service 1:30pm Voter's Meeting	16 7:00pm Weekday Holy Communion Service	17 12:00pm Ladies Quilting	18 2:30-4pm Catechism	19 12:00pm Ladies Quilting 7:00pm Choir Practice	20 8:00am Men's Bible Study Breakfast in Church Basement	21 10:00am Altar Guild
22 8:00am Divine Service 9:15am Bible Class & Sunday School 10:30am Divine Service	23 7:00pm Weekday Holy Communion Service	24 12:00pm Ladies Quilting 12:00pm Quilt Tying	25 2:30-4pm Catechism	26 12:00pm Ladies Quilting 7:00pm Choir Practice	27	28
29 8:00am Divine Service 9:15am Bible Class & Sunday School 10:30am Divine Service	30 7:00pm Weekday Holy Communion Service	31 12:00pm Ladies Quilting 6:30pm Social Club				

SCHOOL NEWS

“He only is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken. On God rests my salvation and my glory; my mighty rock, my refuge is my God.” Psalm 62:6-7

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 from December 22nd through January 3rd. Classes resumed on Wednesday, January 4th.

December 30th, our Parent Teacher League hosted a “New Year’s Family Celebration”, featuring a bounce house, obstacle course, balloon animals, Happy D Clown Magic Show, games, dancing, and concessions. It was a wonderful opportunity for our school community to engage in fun and fellowship!

On Monday, January 9th, the students will be packing Mercy Meals, which will be sent out to feed starving families throughout the world. The students will work to pack 6,000 meals that day, but we are so proud to announce that we raised over \$1,000 for meals! We exceeded our goal of raising \$500, and with the matching funds from Martin Seckel, we raised enough to purchase about 10,000 Mercy Meals! What a wonderful accomplishment!

This month, we are looking forward to our Online Mission Trip to Madagascar. Monday through Thursday, the week of January 23rd, the students will watch an online presentation from missionaries in Madagascar. 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 17th. Students will be taking magazine subscriptions, 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, and also to continue to improve our outdoor classroom. We appreciate your support of this school fundraiser.

We are presently taking applications for the 2017-2018 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



January at St. Paul's Lutheran School:

- 4 – Classes Resume
- 9 – Mercy Meals Packing
- 16 – No School (Teacher In-Service Day)

Our St. Paul's students will be singing in church
on the following Sundays:

Jan. 22, Feb. 26, Mar. 26, Apr. 23, May 14
Dates are subject to change.



Do you need a prayer?

If you would like a prayer for you at church, please call the church office or contact Pastor Irmer by Thursday. Please do this once you know that you need prayers, especially if you will be having medical procedures and will be in the hospital. You may also call Pastor Irmer's cell at 402-239-0283. Please leave your name and number so they can return your call.

Another prayer option:

There are currently two Prayer Chains available here through our church.

Chain #1 contact person is Darlene Scheideler at 402-228-1909.

Chain #2 contact person is Mary Ann Stohs at 402-223-2287.

Contact either of these ladies or both to start the chain going for prayers.

They each have a list of ladies on their list that will call each other to spread the need for your prayer. When you call, give them your name and what you may need a prayer for, you may also just ask for prayers and not give the reason why, God will know what you need the prayer for.

If you would like to be a person on a Prayer Chain so that you may pray for those who need prayers, please contact Mary Ann Stohs at the number above. Men are welcomed as well to be a part of the Prayer chain.

ADULT CHOIR:



Anyone wishing to sing in an adult choir for St. Paul's Lutheran Church are encouraged to attend rehearsals Thursdays at 7:00pm in the sanctuary.



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

Every Monday

7:00pm - Divine Service

Church Office: Office hours are 8:30am to 1:30pm, Monday thru Friday.

While Pastor will be around, the office may be closed on occasion, so please call ahead.

For pastoral emergencies contact Pastor Irmer on his cell phone at 402-239-0283.

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.

Radio Broadcasts and Bulletin Sponsorships are available for 2017. Radio sponsorship cost \$100 and bulletin sponsorship cost \$20. Please call Kelly in the church office if you are interested in sponsoring a date.

The church potluck held on November 6 had a great turnout! Thanks to all who attended! The next one will be January 8 at noon at church. Mark your calendar and come for great food and great conversation with fellow St. Paul members. No meeting, no reason, just fellowship! Hope to see you then!

The Board of Elders will meet Tuesday, January 3rd at 7:00pm.

Voter's Meeting - Sunday, January 15th at 1:30 pm

BULLETINS RECEIVED

December 4

December 11

December 11

Bob & Vicki Frerking

Arvid & Althea Wiest

Bob & Vicki Frerking

Our Savior Lutheran Church, Odell, NE

Hope Lutheran Church, Shawnee, KS

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church,
Plymouth, NE

January Birthdays & Anniversaries - 2017

Happy Birthday to...

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <p>1 Mitchell Irmer
Graham Southwick
Evelyn Wortman
Janeen Young</p> | <p>9 Ronald Naaf</p> | <p>Steven Stark</p> |
| <p>2 Angela Craven
Shelby Garton
James Hill
Jeremy Johnsen
Sheila Meyer
Nancy Sedlacek</p> | <p>10 Chandler Sandman
Matthew Schmidt
John Wiegand</p> | <p>19 Kenneth Loemker
Christine Rix</p> |
| <p>3 Carolyn Nelson</p> | <p>11 Corey Loseman
Brandy Scheer
Emily Thavenet</p> | <p>21 Aaron Lawson
Linda Oestreich</p> |
| <p>4 Amy Brott
Alex Eckhoff
Andrew Franzen
Elaine Roberts
Dave Roschewski
Kylie Schreifels
Zoe Sunderland</p> | <p>12 Junior Lofing
Ryan Loseman
Adam Riekenberg
Cynthia Riekenberg
Elda Riekenberg</p> | <p>22 Lufei Young</p> |
| <p>5 Aaron Busboom
Adaline Dorn
Daryl Dorn
Shirley Roebke</p> | <p>13 Brandon Rickers
Rhonda Rickers</p> | <p>23 Robin Klaus
David Meyer
Anna Petersen
Chelsea Rogge</p> |
| <p>6 Bruce Fossler
Carol Irmer
Travis Lang</p> | <p>14 Janet Dreyer
Cooper Huls</p> | <p>24 Tena Meyer
Roger Mohling
Melody Philippi-Aden</p> |
| <p>8 Duane Stroemer
Jeremy Williams</p> | <p>15 Kevin Ankersen
Nicole Zimmerman</p> | <p>25 Mark Rogge
Tiffany Wallman</p> |
| | <p>16 Jessie Houser
Angelea McConnell
Ashton Sandman</p> | <p>26 Adam Engler
Joy Hager</p> |
| | <p>17 Stacey Peters
Randy Workman</p> | <p>27 Carissa Hoops</p> |
| | <p>18 Loretta Mohling
Laura Munn
Alexander Niedfeldt
Bronson Smith</p> | <p>28 Nelda Guenther
Delores Rahe</p> |
| | | <p>29 Ella Klaus
Norma Lohse</p> |
| | | <p>31 Tamera Adam
Jon Clausen
Rene Farley
Lucinda Lawson</p> |

Happy Anniversary to...

- | | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|--|
| 15 Mark & Linda Engler, 33 yrs. | 22 Richard & June Martin, 64 yrs. | |
| 19 Robert & Victoria Frerking, 31 yrs. | | |

If your information is missing or incorrect, please contact Kelly in the church office as work continues in order to keep our records up to date. We apologize for any errors.

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

2017

ROSTER OF HOUSEHOLDS

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Beatrice, Nebraska

CODE NUMBER OF ELDERS – ASSIGNED TO FAMILIES

- | | | | |
|------|----------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| (1) | 223-5123 | Dave Doering..... | Eldean Adam to Matthew Brott |
| (2) | 228-3932 | Wilferd Deke..... | Tammy Brown to Clair Duensing |
| (3) | 223-5997 | Mike Southwick..... | Michael Duever to Sonia Grupe |
| (4) | 223-3177 | Rod Aden..... | Nelda Guenther to Angela Hooks |
| (5) | 228-4010 | Duane Delozier..... | Brian Hoops to Stacia Kelle |
| (6) | 239-9128 | Cliff Kumm..... | Ann Kelley to Tamra Little |
| (7) | 228-1028 | Craig Wallman..... | Stefanie Lloyd to Alan Mentgen |
| (8) | 688-4245 | Dennis Leners..... | Shawn Meyer to Stacey Peters |
| (9) | 754-4213 | Eldean Adam..... | Kevin Petersen to Shirley Roebke |
| (10) | 223-2786 | Ron Buss..... | Della Roebke to Lawrence Sohl |
| (11) | 806-0445 | Norbert Meyer..... | Norbert Sohl to Craig Wallman |
| (12) | 239-5313 | Robert Frerking..... | Brian Walters to Chelsea Zutavern |

**St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Board and Committee Roster
2017**

Chairman:		Vice-Chairman:	
Brad Long	425-591-5318	Jim Nelson	402-228-4465
Secretary:		Treasurer:	
Vicki Frerking	402-239-5312	Brandy Scheer	402-806-0464
Pastor:		Principal:	
Rev. Douglas D. Irmer	402-239-0283	Amy Duever	402-223-4925

Elders

Dave Doering	402-223-5123	Cliff Kumm	402-239-9128
Rod Aden	402-223-3177	Ron Buss	402-223-2786
Eldean Adam	402-754-4213	Duane Delozier	402-228-4010
Norbert Meyer	402-228-2137	Wilferd Deke	402-228-3932
Robert Frerking	402-239-5313	Mike Southwick	402-223-5997
Craig Wallman	402-228-1028	Dennis Leners	402-688-4245

Board for Parish Education

Peggy Loseman	402-806-8832
Amy Southwick	402-223-8997
Toree Lang	402-239-4040

Sunday School Board

Dixie Johnson	402-806-7504
Kelly Mees	402-806-8839
Lacey Jurgens	402-239-7267

Evangelism

Carissa Hoops	402-230-9477	Floice Meyer	402-228-4327
Vicki Frerking	402-239-5312	Rhonda Easley	402-228-0319
Johanna Gellermann-Long	425-591-5318	Berri Easley	402-228-0319
Denise Spilker	402-688-4459		

Trustees

Ron Meyer	402-223-3904	Wayne Huls	402-223-2724
Mike Johnson	402-239-6320	Nick Jurgens	402-239-8329
Andrew Zimmerman	402-230-0506	Kevin Peterson	402-223-4734
Greg Holle	402-806-0699	Bryan McAllister	402-228-0299
Leon Zimmerman	402-223-3392		

Stewardship

Suzanne Munn	402-223-5582	Marilus Snyder	402-223-0434
Diane Lux	402-228-2363	Peggy Doering	402-223-5123
Carla Loemker	402-520-0015	Crystal Meyer	402-239-1565

Stewardship Article

Celebrating New Years is a celebration of the past and the future. We take stock of the past with thanksgiving and sometimes even relief (that it's over), and we look to the future in the hope and anticipation and perhaps even worry of what it holds.

The point is that New Year's celebrations remind us of who we are as opposed to who we would like to be; what we have done in comparison to what we want to do. It reminds us of our accomplishments, but mostly it reminds us of our failures. What we've lost. Who we've lost.

New Years is our own version of Dickens' classic *A Christmas Carol*. And we all play Scrooge. We are visited by the ghosts of our pasts, presents, and futures.

St. Paul writes: "The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. As it is written, 'He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.' He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for all your generosity, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God" (2 Cor 9:6–15).

St. Paul tells us that the Lord of all will both supply and increase what you need to give to the church for its work in and for the world. He tells us that this work that God is doing in us will enrich and bless us in every way and through this it will produce thanksgiving to God. With this in mind, here is some practical advice to help you take stock of your giving of years past, which will help you to change what needs to be changed, improved, or done away with altogether.

First, attend the Divine Service to receive God's gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation. If you've not been faithful in attending worship to hear the preaching of God's Word, to receive forgiveness, and feast of the rich food of our Lord's body and blood for the eternal benefit of your body and soul, then repent and come to receive the gifts God freely gives. God doesn't want your money. He wants you—all of you (Matt 22:20–22).

Second, pray for the Lord's help. Your right as a Christian is to speak with your Father, the King of all creation, freely through His Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ. Go to the throne of grace and ask for strength and wisdom to follow His bidding faithfully (John 15:1–16).

Third, consider what the Church is and what the Church does. The Church is a mercy place. It inhales the mercy of the Father by the death, resurrection, and ascension of His Son through the preaching of the Gospel and the Sacraments. It exhales this mercy in love toward the neighbor. You are a member of the Church, of God's family. Thus, you are not only a recipient of God's mercy, but a bearer of that mercy for the life of the world. You spread that mercy in showing mercy through the generous giving of your

income to support the work of the Church in and for the world, as the Israelites did in the Old Testament (Lev 27:1–34).

Fourth, take stock of your current giving in light of the New Testament's teaching on supporting the work of the Church. Are you giving of your first fruits, taking it out of your paycheck first, or does God get what's left over? Are you giving voluntarily and cheerfully? Are you giving proportionally and generously? The Old Testament required a tithe, ten percent. The New Testament gives freedom to be generous, to give more for the Church's work. Are you relying on God's promise to provide and increase what you need to do His work? If your answer is no to any of these, repent. If God gave you His only Son, will He not provide for you all things, even physical things? Trust Him, His Word, and heed it.

So, don't let your past define your future. Rather, commit for the year a generous proportion of your income, which is God's gift to you for this body and life.



Upcoming LWML Events

LWML Winter Event

Saturday, February 25, 2017

10:00am to 12:00pm in the church basement

Collection:
Mites

Pajama Prayer Party NE North & South Districts

Saturday, April 22, 2017

Host Site:
Peace Lutheran Church, Grand Island, NE

Watch the bulletin for more updates!

Higher Things Reflections

Wednesday of the Second Week of Advent
Daily Lectionary: [Isaiah 24:1-13](#); [1 John 1:1-2:14](#)

"We ask you, brothers, to respect those who work hard among you, who are over you in the Lord and who admonish you. Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other." (1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 from the Small Catechism, Table of Duties: What Hearers Owe Their Pastors)

Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord! In the Name + of Jesus. Amen. Your pastor is your pastor because Your Lord Jesus sent Him to be your pastor. God could have sent you any number of pastors from all over the world. But God, in His wisdom or maybe because of His sense of humor, sent you the one you have.

God never promised perfect pastors. Yours isn't perfect. His family isn't perfect either. Just like you, a pastor has good days and bad days. He has sins that he knows about and is working out in confession. He has sins that He doesn't know about that you may have to endure.

His faults are not why He was called to be your pastor. He was apostled (sent) by the Lord Jesus to advent you. Everything that He does, everything that He says, is to point you to Jesus, the Coming One. He's in your life to knock down the mountains of sins in your world with the Lord's words and to fill the valleys of darkness with Jesus' forgiveness.

You don't have to call him "Pastor." You can call him whatever you want. But when you are tough spot, "George" can't save you. However, "Pastor" is going to speak in the place of Christ and open heaven for you with three little words: "I forgive you." So you might consider respecting him and calling him by what he wants to be called.

Your pastor's whole job is to point you to Jesus in order to save you. When you stray, he's the shepherd who is going to toss you back into the sheep pen kicking and screaming. When you get lost, God will send him to find you. That's why he's been called to be your pastor.

You don't have to like your pastor. But you are given to respect him. That means you give up your sins. Repent of them. Hear the Lord's

Word of forgiveness from your pastor's mouth. Then, take and eat the Body and drink the Blood of Christ.

Remember, it's not an accident that your pastor is your pastor. He's a gift from God. Be a gift to him, and receive the Lord's gifts in peace with God and those around you. Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord! In the Name + of Jesus. Amen.

Chad Bird for January 2017

The choir of angels can't be credited with the first Christmas hymn. Nor was it a lullaby the virgin cooed to her swaddled infant. You have to go much farther back.

God belted out the first Christmas hymn on day six of creation. He took a deep breath and sang, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness." There you have it. In that ten-word song God indicated he would one day make a manger his throne. The Lord was hinting that "he was to reveal himself to the world in the man Christ," wrote Luther.

He who made man would one day man be made.

The backstory of the incarnation is therefore the first story of the Bible.

GOD DOESN'T BECOME LESS, WE BECOME MORE

And this fills us with unspeakable hope. Right from the get-go, God's interest had a laser-like focus: he was intent on recreating us when we trashed our creation. When he poured out oceans and rivers, he was preparing for our baptism into Christ in the waters of the Jordan.

When he planted the oaks in Eden, he was making sure there'd be wood for both a manger and a cross. When he sowed the fields with wheat, he was readying the world for bread that would clothe his body in the meal of meals. When he made the heavenly lights, he ensured there'd be a star to guide wise men from the East, and a sun to darken when fools affixed his Son to a tree.

As with all the other particulars of our world, so it was with the pinnacle of divine labor. He created us with an eye on recreating us. He made humanity in his image because one day he would assume that image. The Creator would become a creature while remaining Creator.

God would not become less; we would become more.

FELIX CULPA

That's why the church fathers often shock us by speaking of the *felix culpa*, the "happy fault" or "happy fall" into sin. The joy is not in the innocence lost but the union with God achieved in the incarnation. As the liturgy of the Easter Vigil puts it, "Oh happy fault that earned so great, so glorious, a Redeemer." Our human nature was wonderfully created, says one prayer, and yet more wonderfully redeemed.

We gain more in Jesus than we lost in Adam.

Christmas doesn't transport us back into Eden. No, God swings for the fence. The incarnation is a home run. It leads from Bethlehem to the right hand of the throne of God. There we sit with Jesus, who is bone of Mary's bone and flesh of our flesh. God has "seated us with him [!] in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus," (Ephesians 2:6).

Oh happy fall that leads to our joyous exaltation with Jesus!

GOD'S WONDERFUL PLAN

All of this is the wonderful plan that God has for our lives. And not just for us, but for all creation. He promised his nativity when the world was just a baby. He hinted at it, prophesied it, acted it out through Israel's history.

The entire Old Testament story is a vast intake of breath by the angels which they exhaled in their Christmas hymn, "Glory to God in the highest."

How much does this glorious God want you to have? Everything. You are the reason he made the sun and moon, grass and dirt, Pluto and plankton. It's all a vast canvas on which is painted, in a rainbow of colors, one glowing message: I love you.

In love I created you.

In love I redeemed you.

In love I forgive you, indwell you, and make you holy.

In love I will remake everything for you to have an everlasting home.

That love is what Christmas is all about. God, finally and decisively, acts to sow the seeds of a kingdom of power that is inching its way toward the eschaton, when it will explode into a new heavens and new earth, where we will dwell with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in peace and joy forever.

Q: Why does the church year begin at Advent and what is the history of Advent?

A: The word “advent” is from the Latin word for “coming” (*adventus*), and as such, describes the “coming” of our Lord Jesus Christ into the flesh.

Advent begins the church year because the church year begins where Jesus’ earthly life began—in the Old Testament prophecies of his incarnation. After Advent comes Christmas, which is about his birth; then Epiphany, about his miracles and ministry; then Lent, about his Calvary-bound mission; then Easter, about his resurrection and the sending of the apostles; and then Ascension (40 days after Easter) and Pentecost, with the sending of the Holy Spirit.

The first half of the church year (approximately December through June) highlights the *life* of Christ. The second half (approximately June through November) highlights the *teachings* of Christ. The parables and miracles play a big part here. That’s “the church year in a nutshell,” and it should help reveal how Advent fits into “the big picture.”

