

JANUARY

2016

"...and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh." Matthew 2:11b (ESV)

Whether or not *St. Paul Epistle* is the place to air pet peeves may become an issue for debate, but so be it. Actually, two pet peeves arise out of the Christmas and post-Christmas seasons. The first has to do with the commercialization of Advent. I suppose it is an attempt by producers of Advent calendars to standardize their product and be able to use the same product year after year that contemporary Advent calendars begin on December 1 and provide a kind of count-down to Christmas. The reality is that each year the length of Advent differs because Advent begins the fourth Sunday before Christmas and not on December 1.

The other pet peeve has to do with the Twelve Days of Christmas. Advertisers and merchants today have stolen the words and moved the dates to fit in with the marketing of pre-Christmas sales. As with Advent (which really is before Christmas), the Twelve Days have also become a count-down to Christmas. Other than a mistaken first day, I might be willing to give the Advent issue a pass. I cannot do so with the Twelve Days.

Advent does work to prepare our hearts for both the celebration of Christ's birth and His second coming. The Twelve Days, however, point us to another celebration: Epiphany. Celebrated on the 6th of January, twelve days after Christmas, Epiphany is also about Christ's coming; but it is more about Christ's presence here. The season of Epiphany begins with the Feast of Epiphany when we commemorate the visit of the eastern wise men.

Central to that celebration are the gifts the sages brought: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Some have suggested these are prophetic gifts, the gold declaring Jesus King, the frankincense declaring Jesus Divine, and the myrrh preparing Jesus for death. The text does not exactly tell us this, but the interpretation does fit the narrative.

Whether or not the gifts are representative, the gifts are real and focus us on giving. In many cultures, what we give at Christmas is not given until Epiphany. As the wise men gave, so we give, gifts to our loved ones.

Of greater meaning, though, is the greater gift. "For God so loved the world that He gave." Both Christmas and Epiphany should point us to this gift. God knows our need. He weeps at our sin and the separation that sin caused. We deserve only death and separation, condemnation. But God loves us and wants us to be in right relationship with Him. He also knows that we cannot do enough to bridge the gap, to heal the rift. In His love, then, He has done all that is necessary. He gave His Son in death so that we do not have to die. He raised His Son to life so that we, too, can live.

This is the gift of Epiphany, God come to us.

Enjoying God's Gift with you, I am,

Pastor Christian Andrews

Please pray for... Lyle Bloedow, Addie Schubbee, Kathleen Konakowitz, Carol Meidl; Amanda Have-meier (Jody Krebs' niece), Tabor Gluth and all those serving in the military, at home and abroad.

Prayer Chain – If you have a prayer concern you would like passed along to the Prayer Chain, please call Jan Severson or the church office. Please specify if you want the concern on (1) the Prayer Chain and/or (2) included in Sunday morning prayers which will be included for **two** Sundays unless otherwise specified or request is renewed.

Memorials Given From 11/27/15 to 12/20/15

In Memory:	Given by:	Designated for:
E.L. & Dorothy Penk	David & Merle Kieper	St. Paul Cemetery Fund
Vera Arfmann	Connie Knutson	St. Paul Media Room
Catherine Sellner	John & Katie Mueller	St. Paul Lutheran Church
	Robert & Sharon Rogotzke	St. Paul Lutheran Church
	John & Mavis Gluth	St. Paul Lutheran Church
Gordon Hemisch	Don & Darlene Wilsterman	St. Paul Memorial Fund
Diane Runck	John & Mavis Gluth	St. Paul General Fund



Deadlines:

Sunday Bulletin: Wednesday by 10 am.

Epistle: 20th of each month.

Please call or email Katie at the church office with additions to or changes for the bulletins or Epistle. 507-723-5880 stpaul_lutheran@hotmail.com

Please refrain from driving on or parking on the church parking lot until it has been cleared of snow. Thank you.



Budget Recap & Attendance Year-To-Date (01/01/15 to 12/21/15) - No current financial update

Given to Budget	\$156,497.60	Operating Income	\$156,497.60
Budget	\$192,298.56	Operating Exp.	\$151,138.39
Difference	(\$35,800.96)	Difference	\$5,359.21



Attendance Worship Services

Sun, Nov 29 - 9am 97, 11am 9

Sun, Dec 6 - 9am 105, 11am 9

Sun, Dec 13 - 9am 121, 11am 31

Sun, Dec 20 - 10:00am 246

Thurs, Dec 24 - 6pm 286

Fri, Dec 25 - 10am 51

Sun, Dec 27 - 9am 60

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH SUMMARY OF THE DECEMBER COUNCIL MEETING - UNAPPROVED

President called the meeting to order at 7:30pm.

Sharon Rogotzke read Pastor Christian's devotions.

Note---Kurt G. will be doing the fruit for the Christmas bags.

Approved the Secretary's Report from the November 11, 2015 Council Meeting.

Approved the Financial Report.

BUILDING & GROUNDS

A decoration on the steeple fell off and is laying on the roof/gutter.

*Carpets---Haydens Furniture is the cheapest.

*Sound---New Life hopes to come Dec 21 & 22 to install the new system.

*Projection Screen---Dec 15th AVE is coming to submit a bid. Getting more bids.

PARISH EDUCATION REPORT

Luther League is doing a lock-in in April.

Elementary Youth Group---no members came to the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

*Call Committee---the committee recommends Eric Hullstrom from Jackson, MN. He has 11 ½ years preaching experience. He is married with 2 children.

December 27, 2015 will be the congregational vote for the Pastoral Call.

*Christmas Services---Pastor Christian will do services Dec 24 & 25 and have Dec 27th off.

Suggestion was made to have a Gideon speaker on Dec 27th with a Hymn sing Sunday.

*Snow Removal---approved at the November 22, 2015 special meeting.

*Christmas Program---There will be coffee talk from 9-10am before the 10am program. Treat bags will be handed out after the program.

NEW BUSINESS

*Nominating Committee---needs to meet

*Member visits---Members visited 23 shut-in members on Dec 5th. Thank you to the 1st & 2nd grade class for coloring the gift bags that were given to the shut-ins. Thank you to Larry & Kathy Pederson for donating the gifts for the gift bags.

*Memorial Loan---have the money to pay it back.

M/S/P to adjourn at 9:20pm with the Lord's Prayer.

Rhonda L. Larson

Church Council Secretary

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING ON November 11, 2015

President Jan Kratz called the meeting to order at 7:35pm.

Present: Jan Kratz, Kurt Glaeseman, Kathy Pederson, Rhonda Larson, Elsie Groebner, Sharon Rogotzke, Doug Gatzlaff, Russell Rogotzke, Paul Muske, Gary Renner and Connie Knutson.

Also Present: Katie Mueller---Parish Coordinator

Kathy Pederson read Pastor Christian's devotions on Thanksgiving.

M/S/P to accept the Secretary's Report from the October 14, 2015 Council Meeting.

M/S/P to accept the Financial Report.

PARISH EDUCATION REPORT

Kathy Pederson & Sharon Rogotzke volunteered to share a position on the board with each committing to 6 months. There will still be a rotating Council member on the board.

*Elementary Youth Group---should be getting Parish Ed. board approval for money spent on activities, and one of the leaders should also be attending the monthly board meetings.

*Luther League---one of the leaders should be attending the monthly board meetings to report on activities.

The Council will ask Shawna Jacobs and Jena Veenstra to be on the board.

BUILDING & GROUNDS

Ed requested a DeWalt leaf blower with a rechargeable battery from Runnings at a cost of \$199.99.

Jody requested a new vacuum cleaner.

Paul Muske & Ed cleaned up all the leaves at the parsonage.

Ed is painting the stucco on the garage.

*Council is asking for bids for snow removal until Nov. 19th, to be turned in to the church office.

Bids should include---equipment to be used, bid for parking lot & sidewalks, and bid for parking lot only. Council will have a special meeting on Sunday, November 22, 2015 to approve a snow removal bid.

M/S/P to buy the DeWalt leaf blower from Runnings for \$199.99.

Committee will ask Jody to bring them a recommendation of what she wants for a vacuum.

*Sound System---the one part is still backordered---will look into if New Life Communications can substitute something else for the backordered part.

*Projection Screen---New Life Communications suggested 2 options for a screen---1) where the tapestry hangs or 2)over the organ pipes. No action taken

MEMBER TRANSFERS

Saffert family transferred out. Kathleen Konakowitz transferred in.

M/S/P to accept the transfers.

OLD BUSINESS

Call Committee---They have 2 good candidates. They visited both candidates. Still working on it.

LifeTouch---the directory is proofed and sent back. They will send the changes and then print it.

German Supper---Final \$4843.95

Scholarships---checks were mailed out.

Letters will only go out to graduating seniors. The applications will be available at the church office or on the church website for college applicants.

M/S/P to accept the improved application forms and application letter.

Pastor for Christmas Services---don't have a pulpit fill yet.

It was suggested we do the services and ask Chaplain Noel Wetter to preside over communion. Will ask Chaplain Noel.

Max on Life---Johnsons decided not to buy it.

Parsonage Internet---Mediacom requires a one year contract and to have an individual's name on the account with a social security number. To stay with NU Telcom and increase the service from 7Mbps to 14Mbps is only an additional \$10/mo.

M/S/P to increase the internet speed at the parsonage from 7Mbps to 14Mbps for an additional \$10/mo with NU Telcom.

NEW BUSINESS

Christmas Program Treat Bags---Council will assemble them at 9am Saturday, December 19th.

It was requested that some be packed without peanuts due to some with peanut allergies.

Donations include---Peanuts---Doug G., Candy---Kathy P. & Paul M., Fruit---Kurt G. & Ed M., 100 Bags---Elsie G., Peanut Free Chex Mix(for Peanut free bags)---Rhonda L.

Vacation Increase Request---denied

Jody asked for increase in vacation from 1 week to 2 weeks. Staff review committee denied request.

Cemetery Tiling---complete

The tiling of the east end of the cemetery was completed the last week of October.

M/S/P to pay the cemetery tiling bill of \$3920.

Music Festival---held at St. Paul's Wednesday, December 30th at 7:00pm with a goodie potluck to follow in fellowship hall.

M/S/P to host the Choral Festival on Wednesday, December 30th at 7:00pm.

M/S/P to adjourn at 9:50pm with the Lord's Prayer.

Rhonda L. Larson

Church Council Secretary

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING ON NOVEMBER 22, 2015

President Jan Kratz called the meeting to order at 10:00am.

Present: Jan Kratz, Paul Muske, Rhonda Larson, Sharon Rogotzke, Gary Renner, Kurt Glaeseman

Three snow removal bids were received.

M/S/P to accept the snow removal bid from JECB Services, Inc for \$60/hr for both the parking lot and the sidewalks. (Note: Contract date of Nov 1, 2015 – Nov 1, 2016)

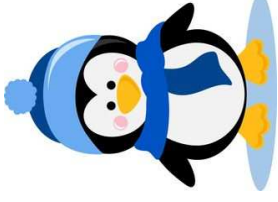
M/S/P to adjourn at 10:05am.

Rhonda L. Larson

Church Council Secretary



January 2016



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 9:00 Worship 10:00 Sunday School Coffee Talk 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast 11:00 Contemporary Worship 5:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast of Christmas Music Festival	4	5 11:00 Staff Meeting 7:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast 7:30 Parish Ed Meeting	6 6:00 Luther League 6:15 Confirmation 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	7	1 OFFICE CLOSED 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast of Christmas Music Festival	2
10 9:00 Worship 10:00 Sunday School Coffee Talk 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast 11:00 Contemporary Worship	11	12 11:00 Staff Meeting 7:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast	13 6:15 Confirmation 7:00 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 Council Meeting	14	15 OFFICE CLOSED	16
17 9:00 Worship 10:00 Sunday School Coffee Talk 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast 11:00 Contemporary Worship 1:30 Elem. Youth Group	18 1:30 Downtown Es- tates HC	19 10:00 SJLH Service HC 11:00 Staff Meeting 3:30 The Maples HC 7:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast	20 6:15 Confirmation 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	21	22 OFFICE CLOSED	23
24 9:00 Worship 10:00 Sunday School Coffee Talk 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast 11:00 Contemporary Worship	25	26 11:00 Staff Meeting 7:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast	27 6:15 Confirmation 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	28	29 OFFICE CLOSED	30
31 9:00 Worship 10:00 Sunday School Annual Meeting, Brunch 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast 11:00 Contemporary Worship						

9:00 am Worship Service

Date	Sound & Video	Reader	Acolyte	Greeters	Usher
01/03	Russell Rogotzke	Jo Muske	Randell Streich Ethan Langseth	Delwin & Beverly Beussman	Team 3
01/10	Matt Solmonson	Jeanette Pidde	Mitchell Buerkle Brendon Burekle	Richard & Lois Zihlke	Team 4
01/17	Tim Vogel	Mel Vogel	Kaden Jensen Cylee Graff	Bill & Mel Vogel	Team 1
01/24	Bob Kratz		Shane Clemon Alexis Clemon	Don & Sherry Bloemke	Team 2
01/31	Chris Longsdorf	Elsie Groebner	Haley Jensen Brooke Jensen	Jim & Elsie Groebner	Team 3

Sharon Rogotzke has been asked to call Greeters, Readers and Acolytes reminding them of their Sunday. **In order to avoid confusion, please call Sharon at 723-5117 if you will be gone and have found a substitute.**

11:00 am Contemporary Worship

Date	Leader
01/03	Jeff Krueger
01/10	Kathy Pederson
01/17	Katie Mueller
01/24	Megan Quesenberry
	NO CONTEMPORARY
01/31	Annual Meeting

Delivering bulletins in January

7 - Larry Pederson
14 - Mavis Gluth
21 - Jim Asmus
28 - Jill Vogel

January Altar Guild

Kelly Sargent
Linda Nachreiner
Dawn Marz

If you are unable to help, please find a substitute or switch months with someone.



January Birthdays!

- | | |
|---|--|
| 2 - Cody Wendt
3 - Leona Weckwerth
5 - Grace Jacobs
Stacia Rosenau
Justina Streich
6 - Kyler Zihlke
Mahesh Allen
9 - Jennifer Sellner
10 - Douglas Bakke
Glenn Jensen
11 - Moe Weber
Haley Jensen
12 - Alan Groebner
16 - Gerard Jensen
18 - Jim Kaehler
20 - Inez Marks
Ashlyn Rosenau
21 - Nickolas Rogotzke | 23 - Jacob Rogotzke
24 - Parker Gluth
Brad Haugo
Marilyn Kratz
24 - Gertie Rosenau
25 - April Sargent
Ellie Tonn
28 - Derek Shaw
29 - Dorene Bakke
Andrew Longsdorf |
|---|--|



January Anniversaries!

- 15 - Greg & Dee Ryan
21 - Paul & Colleen Meidl
31 - Elwin & Adeline Schubbe

Elementary Youth Group

We are meeting on January 17th from 1:30-4:00pm. Elementary Youth Group is open to preK-6th grades. Contact Kelly Jandura or Nikki Nachreiner if you are interested in learning more.



Luther League Meeting -- January 6th @ 6:00 pm --
Serving Brunch on January 31st for the Annual Meeting
Tubing at Mt. Kato afterwards!
-- Grades 7-12 Welcome -- Come join the FUN!!!! --

**Pastor Andrews will be out of town from December 26th-January 2nd.
The church office will be closed December 29th and January 1st.**

Please check your church mailboxes! The new Worship Service Participants and bulletin delivery schedules are finalized and in your boxes or were mailed to you! Thank you to those who continue to volunteer for these responsibilities!

Reminder! Please remember to pick up your 2016 offering envelopes. They are located in the upper Narthex. Thank you!

Congregational Annual Meeting Reports - All committee reports for the Annual Report are due in the office by Thursday, January 14, 2016.

The annual meeting will be held on January 31, 2016.

Thank you for the care package that was sent to me at SMSU. It was delivered at a great time. Also, Thank you for the generous church scholarship. It will be used towards my tuition to continue my education here at SMSU-Marshall. Thanks again for all your love, support and prayers.
Happy Holidays, Emily Vogel

Thank you to everyone who made the 30th Season of the Springfield Nativity Pageant a success. Special thank to those from St. Paul's who helped out: Chassidy Vanderwerf, Xandar Asmus, Carter Asmus, Ed Meidl, Katie Mueller, Russell Rogotzke, Jeff Krueger, Glenn & Anita Jensen, Amanda Jensen, Kathy Pederson, Kelly Sargent, Dave Bittler, Larry Potter and 4-H club members and Leaders. Thanks to everyone who supported the Soup & Salad Luncheon & Bake Sale, the 30th Season Celebration and the pageant.
Happy New Year to everyone and we look forward to the 31st season performances.
Jeff Krueger, & Ed Meidl



Music Opportunities at St. Paul's

Choir: Rehearsals are every Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. Contact Paul Muske or the church office for more information.

Bell Choir:
Contact Kristin Rogotzke for more information.

Special Music: Contact Jeff Krueger or the church office with questions or ideas.

**St. Paul Lutheran
Church, LCMC**
303 N Cass Avenue
Springfield, MN 56087

Postmaster: Dated material
Please Deliver Promptly
Address Service Requested

Calendar Highlights - January 2016

January 31st - Annual Meeting and Luther League Brunch

We are on the Web!
www.splcspringfield.org

Phone: 507-723-5880

Fax: 507-723-8712

Office Hours

Pastor: J. Christian Andrews

Sunday-Wednesday

jcandy1958@gmail.com

Parish Coordinator: Katie Mueller

Mon-Thurs 8:00 am - 3:00 pm

Email: stpaul_lutheran@hotmail.com

Housekeeper: Jody Krebs

Maintenance: Ed Meidl

Financial Secretary: Anita Jensen

Fin_secretary@newulmtel.net

St. Paul EPISTLE is a publication of St. Paul Lutheran Church. It is published monthly to keep members and friends informed of programs and ministries of the church.



Articles may be submitted for publication subject to content.

SUNDAY

Worship at 9:00am

Coffee Talk at 10:00

Sunday School at 10:00

Contemporary Worship 11:00

Springfield Area Food Shelf hours
Monday 9:30am – 11:30am
Thursday 5:00pm – 7:00pm
804 East Rock Street - Springfield, MN 56087
507-723-4120