

Saint Paul Messenger

A Member of the North American Lutheran Church

December 2016

St Paul Lutheran Church
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The new church year is upon us. We enter the year with the season of Advent, which leads up to Christmas. We will have midweek Advent services in our fellowship hall on Thursday evenings at 6 pm. starting December 1. Our midweek worship is less formal than what we have on Sundays. The Thursday Advent worship will include readings from the gospel of Luke, messages about the covenants and promises leading up to Christ, and Holy Communion.

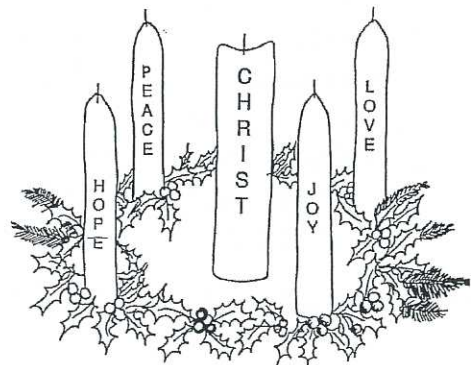
Our regular Sunday worship will also carry the theme of Advent in its own way. Each Sunday should give you the feeling that we are approaching Christmas more nearly as each week goes by. The Sunday Gospel readings are from Matthew, which will counterbalance nicely with our midweek readings from Luke.

Christmas Eve worship will be on Saturday, December 24 at 6 pm. in the sanctuary. We will be using our traditional liturgy for this. Then on Christmas Day, December 25 which is on a Sunday we will have a service at

the regular church time of 10 am. To differentiate this service from the Christmas Eve service, the Christmas Day service will be based on the Order of Matins.

Finally, a reflection on the participation of people within our congregation. Our church is blessed with a high level of member participation in very many different ways. As we enter the season of Advent I know that there will be a superabundance of [participation from many people in many ways as we meet together for worship. God surely will bless our community of faith through each other.

Pastor Turanski





Council Corner

St. Paul Lutheran Council Meeting Minutes

November 13, 2016

Present: Deb Elliott, Jim Reider, Jim Whitten,
Dave Schlaack, Peg Booher, Peg Walters

Absent: George White, Steve Mishler, Pastor
Turanski

Call to order by President Deb Elliott at 11:35 am
in church basement.

Opening Prayer: Deb Elliott

Congregational Comment: None

Approval of Agenda: Peg Booher asked that the
2017 Budget proposal be added to New Business

Secretary's Report:

Pastor Turanski sent a note asking for correction
and clarification of his intention that both Ruth
Mowat and Terese Whitten would work together to
lead services and preach during his

January vacation. The October Minutes only
named Terese. Dave Schlaack moved to accept
minutes, 2nd by Jimmie Reider, approved.

Treasurer's Report:

October Income: \$4,330.29, Expenses
\$4,262.04. Variance, +\$68.25. Oct. 31
Ckg Bal: \$27,464.71, Spec. Acct Bal.
\$5,201.39. Deb Elliott asked for a year-to-
date Income to Expense summary. Peg
Booher explained our balance is down
about \$3,000 since the start of the year. She
will begin including this information in her
monthly reports to Council.

Peg Booher advised that October Special
Offering of \$125 was donated to Oasis.
November Offering will go to Sears Food

Pantry. We began receiving small checks
from the Court as restitution for the damage
to our exterior doors a few years ago.
Payments of \$37 and \$20 have been
received. More may follow. Peg Booher
asked the Property Committee to consider
not postponing needed repairs until the next
budget year since a significant budget
balance remains year to date.

Motion to accept Treasurer's report by
Dave Schlaack, 2nd by Jimmie Reider,
approved.

Pastor & Elders –Pastor did not submit a written
report other than his request for amendment of the
Minutes.

Worship and Music – Submitted in writing

Thank offering & Harvest luncheon are
scheduled Nov. 20. Advent begins Nov. 27.
Midweek services are planned for 4
Thursdays at 6 pm beginning Dec. 1.
Congregational meeting will be held after
service Dec. 11, with installation of
Council, Elders, Lay Leaders on Dec. 18.
Christmas Eve service at 6 pm on Saturday
evening, Dec. 24. Christmas Day service
will be held at 10 am as a "said" service.
This will be Pastor's last Sunday before he
leaves for vacation.

Property: - Submitted verbally.

Dave Schlaack reported that he will meet with a
contractor this week to get prices on eaves and
other work to be done this fall.

Grass will be re-seeded in the spring.
Parking Lot sealing/painting bid of \$1,700
was received but will be postponed until
spring. Our gift to Rick Machleit has been
presented with our thanks for his many
hours of work for our building and grounds.

Council Corner cont.



Community Dinner – Submitted verbally

Deb Elliott reports she is still trying to meet with the committee to resolve the question about the separate checking account for the committee. Peg Walters asked if she should deposit the latest receipts in the new account and was advised that she should. The matter will be resolved by the end of the year, per Deb Elliott.

Call Committee: Written report from Ruth Mowat.

An inquiry has been received in response to our posting for a part-time Pastor. It is from a seminarian at the Institute of Lutheran Theology. This information has been forwarded to our

Michigan Dean, Pastor Loehrke. A follow up dialogue will begin as soon as a meeting of the Call Committee can be arranged. Linda Ahlgren has asked to be removed from the committee. Ruth Mowat has expressed her interest in finding another chairman.

Motion to accept Reports by Peg Walters, 2nd by Jimmie Reider, carried.

Old Business:

Annual Meeting - Deb Elliott announced the meeting date of Dec. 11 at service today. No candidates to replace Dave Schlaack, Steve Mishler and George White have been found yet.

The congregation will vote on a proposal to appoint Terese Whitten and Ruth Mowat as Commissioned Lay Leaders at St. Paul

New Business:

A request for transfer of membership to St. John, Houghton Lake, MI has been received from Peg Renner. It is being sent.

Letter from Ruth Mowat has been received stating that she will not accept compensation for leading services if it is offered to her.

NALC Pastors Conference in February. No action taken.

Call Committee reorganization. Ruth Mowat is resigning as chairman.

Funeral Luncheons at St. Paul. Deb Elliott asked for clarification of our policy for the use of our building for these events. Jim Whitten advised that we have a Building Use Policy available on the bulletin board in the narthex. Also, Ruth Mowat is stepping down from her leadership role in organizing luncheons. Deb Elliott advised that the St. Paul Women will discuss this further.

Sears Food Pantry has asked St. Paul for suggestions on how to raise funds for their ministry. Several ideas discussed, including earmarking excess income from the community dinners for the Food Pantry. No action taken.

2017 Budget. Peg Booher distributed copies of this year's budget and asked for suggestions on where to reduce our spending. If we begin compensating Commissioned Lay Leaders for leading services in January, we should include that in the new budget. She also proposed several possible reductions in salaries of some staff members. Also, small cuts in Evangelism, Education, Office expense, Worship, and Utilities. She will prepare a proposed budget of \$66,400 (compared to \$70,219 in 2016) for the Annual Meeting.

Council Corner cont.



Correspondence:

Several requests have been received for donations. They were passed to the Benevolence Committee.

Suggestion Box: Carol Roberts advised that, due to lifting restrictions, she can no longer deliver our food basket donations to Sears Food Pantry pick-up spot at the Video Store in Evert. She has asked to be relieved of this responsibility. No action taken yet.

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Next scheduled meeting is December 20, 2016.

Submitted by Jim Whitten, Secretary

Thank you!

A special thank you to Peg Booher, Deb Elliott and all their helpers for a time of great fellowship and delicious food at the Harvest Soup Lunch last month. It was a blessing to be together as a church family and enjoy such a nice time.



Thursday Advent Services at 6 pm.

This year's Advent Services will center on God's promises to His people.

We will learn His Covenants given through the ages to Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses and David.

We will discuss how God has given us his plan through the Scriptures to rescue and save His people from sin and death.

Join us in the Fellowship hall each Thursday from 6-7 pm for special music, Scripture and pastor's messages and an informal Communion service to make Advent 2016 meaningful for everyone. The evening will conclude in the Sanctuary with the placing of decorations on our Christmas Tree and adding figures to our Creche while singing Christmas Carols.

Notice is given that the following items are expected to be included in the agenda for our **December 11th Annual Congregational Meeting.**

APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSIONED LAY LEADERS

The following proposal was approved at the August 28, 2016 council meeting to be voted on by the congregation, at the annual meeting.

Shall this congregation officially appoint Commissioned Lay Leaders at St. Paul to perform the following duties: 1) Preach from the pulpit of St. Paul when authorized by the Pastor. 2) Lead worship at St. Paul, including the distribution of pre-consecrated elements, when authorized by the Pastor. 3) Perform other Pastoral duties if authorized by the Pastor. 4) Commissioned Lay Leaders would be expected to be reasonably available to make emergency Pastoral visits in the absence of the Pastor if requested by congregation members. 5) Compensation for these duties would follow guidelines established for Supply Clergy when leading an authorized St. Paul service. (Yes or No)

Shall Ruth Mowat be appointed as Commissioned Lay Leader? (Yes or No)

Shall Terese Whitten be appointed as Commissioned Lay Leader? (Yes or No)

If approved by the congregation, these appointments would officially authorize duties that Terese and Ruth are already performing.

Both candidates have indicated that they are not seeking compensation. Ruth will not accept payment. Terese will apply compensation toward her seminary education expenses if the Council offers it. The current amount allowed for Ordained Supply Pastors is \$150 plus mileage. Council can change this amount at any time and can offer other amounts of compensation to non-ordained Lay Ministers if they so choose.

2017 CONGREGATION BUDGET

As is our custom, the congregation will also be asked to approve a Budget for the coming year at our annual meeting. Our Treasurer, Peg Booher will present the 2017 Budget which is expected to include reductions to some existing staff salaries, and to items such as Worship, Education, Evangelism, Office Expenses, as well as small adjustments for utilities spending in our buildings.

Submitted by

Jim Whitten

Secretary of Council