



Saint Paul Messenger

A Member of the North American Lutheran Church

St Paul Lutheran Church
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January 2017

This is the time to look at the calendar. God has placed before us a new calendar year, and we are at the point of entering 2017. Technically speaking it is 2017 AD to differentiate it from BC. Our whole calendar system is reckoned from the birth of Christ. It is pretty cool to think that even the secular calendar that is in use throughout our country has the imprint of Christ on it, because the number of our year is measured from his birth.

Some people think that BC stands for Before Christ, and that AD stands for After Death. The BC does in fact stand for Before Christ, but the AD actually stands for the Latin words Anno Domini which means "year of our Lord" and refers to the birth of Jesus rather than his death. So the calendar that is in use throughout major portions of the world still testify to the year of our Savior's birth.

Dates concerning things in the Old Testament are referred to as BC. This is also calculated from the birth of Christ. However the larger that the BC numbers get, the further back in time they measure. The reign of king David was approximately 1000 BC which means that his kingship was about a thousand years before Christ. Everything is measured from the birth of Christ, either counting backwards from his birth for things in the Old Testament, or by counting forward from his birth for things happening in more recent times.

The birth of Christ is the center of time. This is a beautiful part of our heritage. There have been attempts to change BC to BCE to make it more politically correct, with BCE standing for Before Christian Era. You may have seen such a reference in some books. Personally I don't like it and refuse to use it. It is just another attempt to replace Christ. I hope it goes the way of the metric system that they tried to force on us decades ago.

At least for the time being, our calendars still count from the birth of Christ. And despite any changes that the world may attempt, for the Christian the center of time will always be the birth of Christ.

Pastor Turanski

Reminder:

Pastor Turanski and Lynette will be in Alabama during the month of January. For ministry during his absence please contact Commissioned Lay Leaders Terese Whitten (878-4150), or Ruth Mowat (734-9142) or Elder Don Waker (989-382-5107) or Elder Vera Bailey (832-4534).



The President's Pen

To St Paul Members and friends,

It's so hard to believe that this year is coming to an end already. We have been busy and are blessed over and over again as we do God's work. There have been lots of events at St. Paul that have occurred that show we continue to work for the betterment of our Lord. The Community Dinner has certainly been successful and continues to reach out to our local community. It is a lot of work and we need to continue to show our support and help to this mission. Our Warm Coat Closet is being utilized by many, many people in Ewart and in surrounding areas. We're getting calls daily to help people in need and that is what God is asking us to do. Our Women's Group has provided funds to many organizations including; Wise, The Hersey House of Hope, local reading program, backpacks for school children, The Warm Coat Closet and continued support to the local Sears Food Pantry. Even though we are small, we keep on doing the things that are important.

In our December Congregational Meeting, we elected three new council members; Don Waker, Steve Mishler, and Dave Schlaack. We thank the outgoing member, George White, for his time committed to this job and to our new members for giving up of your time to help in doing God's work at our church. We also voted to approve both Ruth Mowat and Terese Whitten as Commissioned Lay Leaders. We thank them for their willingness to serve our church.

How do we properly thank Pastor Turanski for all that he does? He does the work of a full-time pastor as a part-time and continues to bless us. We thank God for you and Lynette and pray you have a nice, restful vacation in January.

I would personally like to thank everyone for all of the work that they do in keeping St. Paul running efficiently day to day;

Our Elders (Don, Ruth, Terese, Vera)

Our Council members (Deb, Steve, Jim, Peg B., Dave, Jimmie, Peg W., George, Don)

Vera Bailey, Rhoda Proper, Joyce Bailey, and anyone else who serves on the Altar Guild team

Don Waker and Joyce Bailey for their work in the Sound Booth

All of our Lay Readers & Communion Assistants (Vera, Carol, Don, Rhoda, Peg B. Deb E., Ruth, Terese & Jim)

Jimmie Reider and his Usher helpers

Bev Reider, our Financial Secretary, and those who help her with financial recording

Peg Booher, our Treasurer

Everyone who participated in our Choir during the year

Terese, our Publication Secretary

Jim, our Music Coordinator

Don & Rosemary, our Custodians and taking care of coffee hour and for all of the other multi-tasking that Don somehow does.

Peg W. & Peg B. for their work with the Warm Coat Closet

Peg. W and her helpers who put on our Dinner With Friends ministry

Dave Schlaack, Rick Machleit and those who help with the Property Committee

The members of our Worship Committee (Vera, Carol R., Jim, Terese and Pastor)

Carol Roberts for organizing the Thank Offering and coordinating our donations to the Food Pantry & setting out the garbage each week.

And if there is someone that I missed, please forgive me and just know that what you do means a lot for our church.

Please continue to pray daily for our church and if you have suggestions or ideas of ways that we could improve, please let me know.

Always remember that kindness is essential and vital to each one of us. As stated in Ephesians 4:32 "Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you."

Kindly submitted,

Deb

Council Corner



St. Paul Lutheran Council Meeting Minutes December 18, 2016

Present: Deb Elliott, Jim Reider, Jim Whitten, Peg Booher, Peg Walters, Don Waker, Pastor Turanski

Absent: Steve Mishler, Dave Schlaack

Call to order by President Deb Elliott at 11:33 am in church basement.

Opening Prayer: Pastor Turanski

Congregational Comment: None

Approval of Agenda: None

Secretary's Report:

Motion to approve minutes of 11/16 meeting by Peg Walters. Approved.

Treasurer's Report:

November Income: \$3,690.00, Expenses \$9,130.26. Variance, \$-5440.26.

Oct. 31 Ckg Bal: \$21,890, Spec. Acct Bal. \$5,201.39.

Peg Booher advised our 2nd payment to NALC is due. Council confirmed it should be sent in December.

We will continue to collect special offerings each month for now. Peg will check to see if the Fire Department Explorer program should remain on our list of offerings.

Council decided that, due to our \$11,000 deficit for 2016, no additional benevolence donations should be sent.

Peg advised that we have gotten away from submitting vouchers for expense reimbursement with authorized signatures. She asks that we again use & sign the appropriate voucher form.

Motion to accept Treasurer's report by Jim Whitten, approved.

Pastor & Elders – Pastor presented a written report . (posted on the Council Bulletin Board) He also re-stated that he wishes to remain "hands-off" during the new Pastor call process.

Worship and Music – Submitted verbally by Jim Whitten

Advent mid-week services conclude 12/22. We will use the current Green book liturgy until 1/8/17 and switch to the Blue book until Ash Wednesday, March 1.

Property: - No report.

Council Corner cont.



Community Dinner – see Old Business

Call Committee: Verbal report by Deb Elliott.

Ruth Mowat has stepped down as chairman. Linda Ahlgren has resigned from the committee. New Call Committee members are needed. Terese Whitten is stepping in to lead the committee for now. She will follow up with the candidate who contacted us last month.

Motion to accept Reports by Jim Reider, carried.

Old Business:

Community Ministry Committee A meeting was held at which time, the committee agreed that all funds that were deposited in their separate account will be returned to the St. Paul Treasurer. A proposal is being made that, after the St. Paul seed money is deducted, remaining funds might be split between St. Paul and the United Methodist Church for use in their own ministries. Each church would account for where the money was used.

New Business:

Flowers for Christmas. The Worship Committee will decorate the church with poinsettias again this year.

New Council members. Don Waker is newly elected and Dave Schlaack and Steve Mishler were re-elected at our Annual congregational meeting Dec. 11. All in attendance were formally installed at Worship this morning. Election of Council Officers will take place at our January 2017 meeting.

Christmas Gifts for staff. In light of our 2016 spending deficit, no Christmas bonuses will be authorized this year.

Correspondence:

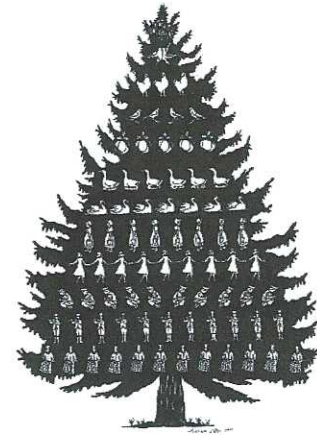
Several requests have been received for donations. They were passed to the Benevolence Committee.

Suggestion Box: None

Meeting adjourned as 12:35 pm and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Next scheduled meeting is January 15, 2017.

Submitted by Jim Whitten, Secretary



Celebrating the 12 Days of Christmas

The 12 Days of Christmas, what a great song right? But there is more to the story. The world outside the church starts celebrating Christmas right after putting the Thanksgiving leftovers in the fridge but in the Church, Thanksgiving and Christmas are separated by the season of Advent. During Advent we prepare our hearts and minds for the birth of our Savior which is celebrated on December 25th. In the church, the 12 days of Christmas are actually the days from December 25th through January 5th. These 12 days are filled with a number of Biblical events that are

often completely overlooked. Not all the events are cheery or festive but they are important parts of God's story of mercy to His children.

December 25th of course is when we celebrate God's greatest gift to us, the fulfilling of a promise made long ago, the birth of our Savior. December 26th is set aside to remember the death of St. Stephen who was martyred for his faith. You might remember Stephen as the one who was stoned to death while Saul (later Paul) stood by guarding the peoples' coats. December 27th is the festival of St. John, who wrote one of the Gospels. December 28th is referred to as the day of Holy Innocents on this day we recall all the male children in Bethlehem killed by Herod's soldiers as they search for the baby Jesus. On January 1st we celebrate the circumcision and naming of Jesus. Following Jewish tradition and the Law of Moses, for the Jews this ceremony admitted male children into their covenant with God. Little did anyone understand that Jesus underwent this not for himself but for us. From the beginning of his ministry on earth, Jesus was obedient to the Father's will. January 2nd through January 4th give us a chance to ponder all these events and then on January 5th, the Christmas season comes to a close by our celebration of Twelfth Night, the eve of the Epiphany of our Lord.

The Day of Epiphany traditionally is thought of as the day the Wise Men presented their gifts to Jesus. For Christian believers the Day of Epiphany opens a season of light – the Lord's light – that has come into the world. Epiphany offers us the opportunity to discover who this Jesus really is. During this season the Sunday readings point to who this Jesus is; God's Son - in the baptism narrative, Jesus as one with authority - as He calls his disciples and begins to teach them, Jesus as someone who cares for us and our problems - as he works miracles of healing. The

Epiphany season ends on Transfiguration Sunday, where on a mountain his three closest disciples see Him shining with a brilliant light.

As the church, during Advent we prepare for the birth of Jesus. On December 25th we celebrate His coming into the world as a baby and for the next twelve days we continue to celebrate Christmas. This baby Jesus came first to the Jews and yet the Wise Men's arrival to worship him foreshadows the fact that through this one man's life, death, and resurrection all who believe on him will be saved.



Did you know you can follow NALC on Facebook?

“Discipleship Moment” videos from Bishop John Bradosky and other NALC executive staff members and leaders are published regularly.

Reflections on what the word “discipleship” really means, the vision for the NALC, and what it means to be “mission-driven” are just a few of the many topics you will hear about. Personal stories from local congregations, international missions and personal ministry experiences will also be featured.

Also available on the NALC Facebook page you can find brief, easy to read, daily devotionals. What a great way for God's word to be written on the palm of your hand!