

The ST. PAUL LUTHERAN Messenger



Caring and Sharing God's Love

January 2017

LETTING OUR LIGHT SHINE IN 2017

By Pastor Aaron



And so here I sit on a dark and cold December night – December 31st, to be exact – wrapping up 2016 by reflecting on what has been and anticipating what is yet to come. The year we are leaving behind has been exciting for all of us. Certainly many of you have marked special occasions and can highlight the focal points of 2016: milestone birthdays or anniversaries, new job opportunities, retirement, answered prayers, sustained health and happiness. Yet we can also recount the dark valleys we trudged through: financial trouble, relationship problems, health issues, death, or discontentment. We take the opportunity on nights like this to inventory the past year as we build a bridge into a fresh 365 days.

I haven't always used New Years Eve to be so contemplative, however. In fact, one of my favorite childhood memories is loading up with my parents to watch the annual New Years fireworks show outside our northeastern South Dakota town. Huddled together in the back seat of the family Buick, passing back and forth popcorn and snacks, we'd watch the crisp December night sky light up with a beautiful pyrotechnics display. As I think back on those New Years Eve nights watching the illuminated darkness I can't help but remember Matthew 5:16: *"In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."*

As you discern the list of new years resolutions you've laid out for 2017 does this verse top the list? As we anticipate the year ahead for St. Paul Lutheran is this verse guiding our ministry? 2016 will go down as a year to remember in my memory bank because this was the year I accepted the call to serve here. Now as I eagerly await the days and months on the unfolding horizon I ask you: how will we spread the light of Christ to brighten a world walking in great darkness? How and to whom will we proclaim the gospel message? Where do you see St. Paul Lutheran heading? These questions are yet to be answered, but I find myself excited and honored for the opportunity to journey through the next year with you. As we let our lights shine may everything we do bring glory to the name of Christ and may every journey we embark on together be walked in love. Here's to the hopes and fears of 2017, all wrapped up in the Christ child of Bethlehem we just welcomed into our midst. Here's to the highs and lows coming around the corner. Through it all may we have the faith to say: To God alone be the glory. Amen.



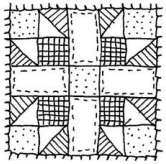


EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

January Circle Meetings

Altar Guild will meet on Wednesday, January 11th at 6:30pm at Pizza Ranch. Husbands are invited to attend. The bible study leader and hostess will be Karen Mosier.

Helping Hand Circle will meet on Thursday, January 12 at 2pm at Aspen Heights in Hull. We will start our new book "Bless These Lips" with our first lesson being Day 1 – "Do You Need a Mouth Makeover?" Our hostess will be Evelyn Bakker.



The **LWR Quilters Group** will gather on Monday, January 9 from 10am to 3:30pm. Noon lunch will be furnished. Join us for a fun day of sewing and fellowship. Questions? Contact Deanna or Wanda.

Church Council will meet on Wednesday, January 4 at 7:00pm in the fellowship hall. The incoming council members are invited to attend.

St. Paul Lutheran's **Annual Meeting** will be held on Sunday, January 22nd following worship. All active and voting members are encouraged to attend. During worship on the 22nd we will install the new church council.



After reviewing the results from our **Men's Ministry survey** Pastor Aaron has concluded the best time for Men's Ministry to take place continues to be every other Friday morning at 6:30am. Please join us as we fellowship with one another over breakfast and God's Word.



The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated in January on Sunday, January 15th.

YOUTH GROUP

Junior Lutherans will meet on Sunday, January 22nd from 5:00pm to 6:30pm at the church. Supper will be provided. Bring a friend!

January Worship Assistants

Deacon: Lonnie Egdorf

Head Usher: Donna Dickmann

Ushers: Rob McAlpine, Greg Rens, David Tiedemann, and Loren Reyelts

Duties: Michelle Rens and Darlene Sohl

New Adult Forum Series

On Thursday, January 26th Pastor Aaron will begin a new Adult Forum series entitled "**Big Questions, Biblical Answers**". This 5-week series will tackle 5 big questions using God's Word to provide clarity amidst confusion. The outline for the series is as follows:

January 26th – Does science confirm the Bible?

February 2nd – Why listen to the Bible about sex and marriage?

February 9th – Why believe in a 6-day creation?

February 16th – Did dinosaurs and humans live together?

February 23rd – From where did the different races come?

JANUARY CALENDAR



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:30am: Worship	2	3 6:30pm 4:16 (<i>Young Adults Group</i>)	4 7:00pm: Church Council	5	6	7 10:00am: Christmas Program Rehearsal
8 9:30am: Worship (<i>Christmas Program</i>) 10:30am: Adult Bible Study	9 10:00am: Quilting 1:30pm: The Upper Room	10	11 6:30pm: Altar Guild at Pizza Ranch	12 2:00pm: Helping Hands	13 6:30am: The Rock (<i>Men's Breakfast Bible Study</i>)	14
15 9:30am: Worship 10:30am: Adult Bible Study 10:30am: Sunday School	16 1:30pm: The Upper Room	17 6:30pm 4:16 (<i>Young Adults Group</i>)	18	19	20	21
22 9:30am: Worship (<i>Council Installation</i>) 10:30am: Annual Meeting 5:00pm: Junior Lutherans	23 1:30pm: The Upper Room	24	25	26 6:30pm: Adult Forum "Big Questions, Biblical Answers"	27 6:30am: The Rock (<i>Men's Breakfast Bible Study</i>)	28
29 9:30am: Worship 10:30am: Sunday School 10:30am: Adult Bible Study	30 1:30pm: The Upper Room	31 6:30pm: 4:16 (<i>Young Adults Group</i>)				



January Birthdays:

5th – Norman Tiedemann
 5th – Austin McAlpine
 6th – Ken Nielsen
 6th – Harley Behrens
 10th – Diane Fick
 14th – Gordon Egdorf
 15th – Kenzee DeStigter

15th – Elaine Sohl
 15th – Terry Anderson
 16th – Morgan Wellendorf
 20th – Daryl VanDyk
 30th – Karen Mosier
 31st – Natalie Schmith

Happy Anniversary

January Anniversaries:

8th – Dallas and Melanie Willemssen
 20th – Lawrence and Kathleen Sohl
 24th – Keith and Sara Anderson



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“Striving to be mirrors of Christ by sharing God's word and caring for all of God's people.