



# JANUARY NEWSLETTER 2017

St. Paul Lutheran Church, NALC- 156 Poplar St. S.W. Bolivar, Ohio 44612 –  
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*From the Pastor...*

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## THE NEW YEAR

In the ancient Roman religion, Janus is the god of beginnings, passages and endings. He is usually depicted as having two faces since he looks to the future and the past. It is conventionally thought that the month of January is named for Janus. This figure accurately describes the manner in which many people look at their lives. We are the product of our past and the fabric of our dreams and aspirations.

As a pastor, I look at the New Year with hope and expectation while at the same time being cognizant of what the past year has taught me. God is always faithful. The Word of God assures us of that throughout human history. Our past is rooted in the promise of God to offer salvation to all believers. Of this much we can be certain every year. The future, though unknown to us presents itself as an opportunity to see just how reliable God is to His word. I recall seeing a banner with the words, "Do not be afraid of the future for God is already there."

As we look forward to the New Year, I hope that we can place our faith and trust in the future revelation of God's love and mercy while at the same time holding fast to the history of God's track record. The purpose of our existence is to follow the Lord each day in the New Year and beyond. I believe that we do that best by trusting in the power of God to heal, forgive and save His faithful people.

This New Year will mark the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. It is a unique time in history to rediscover the importance of the phrase, "justification by grace through faith." God saves and we believe that His grace is sufficient for us. It sounds very simple but just try living by that daily. The challenge for us as believers in this New Year and always is to see the hand of God at work in a world that is yearning for truth and justice for all.

In closing, I want to wish all of you a blessed, holy, faithful and happy New Year filled with confidence in the power and majesty of God to save us from all that we fear. Please make it a year of generosity and gratitude so that others may share in the blessings that God has given to you.

SOLI DEO GLORIA!

## Worship Ministers:

DATE	TIME	ASSISTANTS	DATE	TIME	LECTORS
1/1	10:30 a.m.	Randy Simers	1/1	10:30 a.m.	Marcia Howenstine
1/8	8:00 a.m.	Pam Ward	1/8	8:00 a.m.	Jen Ward
	10:30 a.m.	Terry Tegtmeier		10:30 a.m.	Cheryl Simers
1/15	8:00 a.m.	Charlann Young	1/15	8:00 a.m.	Sandy Ritter
	10:30 a.m.	Marcia Howenstine		10:30 a.m.	Steve Maurer
1/22	8:00 a.m.	Rose Harris	1/22	8:00 a.m.	Byron Lautenschleger
	10:30 a.m.	Dee Garrison		10:30 a.m.	Donna Dudash
1/29	8:00 a.m.	Dee Garber	1/29	8:00 a.m.	Pam Ward
	10:30 a.m.	Randy Simers		10:30 a.m.	John Seng
		<b>USHERS</b>			<b>ACOLYTES</b>
1/1	10:30 a.m.	Skip & Jeanie Steward	1/1	10:30 a.m.	Bailey Keane
1/8	8:00 a.m.	Greg & Julie Majors	1/8	8:00 a.m.	Austin Ward
	10:30 a.m.	Lisa & Bailey Keane		10:30 a.m.	Lizzie Kienzle
1/15	8:00 a.m.	John & Sandy Bolitho	1/15	8:00 a.m.	Carson Majors
		Rick & Lori Caughey		10:30 a.m.	William Sayner
1/22	8:00 a.m.	Byron & Marianne Lautenschleger	1/22	8:00 a.m.	Whitney Ward
	10:30 a.m.	Tom & Tammy Huggins		10:30 a.m.	Michael Eberly
1/29	8:00 a.m.	Jim & Jen Ward	1/29	8:00 a.m.	Kayla Majors
	10:30 a.m.	Dave & Linda Clugston		10:30 a.m.	Bailey Keane
		<u>Altar Guild</u> Charlann Young & Tenia Sears	<u>Fellowship</u>	<u>Community Meal</u>	
		<b>SCREEN MONITORS</b>			
1/1	10:30 a.m.	Lisa Keane			
1/8	8:00 a.m.	Sydney Ward			
	10:30 a.m.	Josh Dix			
1/15	8:00 a.m.	Austin Ward			
	10:30 a.m.	Doug Dix			
1/22	8:00 a.m.	Julie Majors			
	10:30 a.m.	Lisa Keane			
1/29	8:00 a.m.	Whitney Ward			
	10:30 a.m.	Josh Dix			

## Offering and Attendance

Date	12/4	12/11	12/18	12/24	12/25
Offering	6,923.00	2,125.00	4,518.00	\$3,094.00	\$1,142.00
Attendance	73	57	72	142	28

**Prayer Chain - This week remember in your prayers:** William Matthews, Robert Snyder, Dylan King, Imagene McClellan, David Dotson, Oltie Pickens, Jim Bagent, Richard Mahoney, Marlene Jisa, Ret Kendrick, John & Jeanette Ziegler, Jack Garrison, Karen Joki, Tia McCoury, Robin Sexton, Melinda Caldwell, Roxann Mizner, Chuck Slaybaugh, Lauren Seifert, Jackson Kuntz, Brad Hannon, Larry Lloyd, Candye Cook, Floyd McBeth, Nan Seng, **Servicemen & Women-** Andrea Gibson, Andy Jones, David Ward, Jordan Ritter, Adam Pohovey, Tony Lehmilller, William Robishaw, Calvin Farmer, Kirk Habrun



**Youth News:** Attn: All FROGS / GROGS and Parents!!! –

**FROGS (K - 6th grade)** next meeting is scheduled for January 15, 2017 from 5-7 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Please sign up on the YOUTH ACTIVITIES BOARD to help in planning food and supplies.

**GROGS (7th - 12th grade)** next meeting is scheduled for January 8th, 2017 5-8 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Please sign up on the YOUTH ACTIVITIES BOARD to help in planning food and supplies.

FROGS / GROGS Mixed Group Outing will be held Saturday, January 28th. All Youth K - 12 and parents are invited to meet for lunch at 1:00 pm

**TACO BELL** - 1600 N. Main St. North Canton

We will then travel as a group to - **PARK CENTRE LANES** - 7313 Whipple Ave. NW North Canton for an afternoon of GLOW BOWLING!!! With over 100 black lights, an incredible sound system, 40 digital music stations, and fabulous light show Park Centre Lanes is Stark County's premier Glow Bowling spot! All participants will be responsible for the purchase of their own lunch and the Youth Committee will cover the cost of shoe rental / bowling. Reservations are required so please sign up on the YOUTH ACTIVITIES BOARD if you would like to attend. Bumper lanes are available for our younger bowlers - please indicate on the sign-up sheet. If you need to arrange a car pool, please contact Lisa.

**IMPORTANT:** I am currently registering GROGS for the 2017 Mission trip scheduled for Sunday, July 30th through Friday, August 4th to Niagara Falls, NY. Anyone who was unable to attend the informational meeting and who has questions, please contact Lisa. We currently have 10 youths registered (Josh, Bailey, Brandon, Alex H, Michael, Alex Z, Sydney, Lizzy, Kayla and Whitney). We can add participants to our trip on a first come, first serve basis however there are currently only 4 open spots left and once the trip is full, applicants will be put on a waiting list and will not be guaranteed a spot on the trip. Please check your schedules and get back to me ASAP.

Enjoy your holidays and we will plan to see everyone again at our next Sunday school class on January 8th. Thank you again to all of the youth and adults who stepped forward and volunteered to help in the Christmas program last week - the congregation seemed to have a lot of fun and you all received great compliments!

## Readings:

First Sunday of Christmas	Baptism of our Lord	Second Sunday of Epiphany	Third Sunday of Epiphany	Fourth Sunday of Epiphany
1/1	1/8	1/15	1/22	1/29
Numbers 6:22-27	Isaiah 42:1-9	Isaiah 49:1-7	Isaiah 9:1-4	Micah 6:1-8
Psalm 8	Psalm 29	Psalm 40:1-11	Psalm 27:1, 4-9	Psalm 15
Galatians 4:4-7	Acts 10:34-43	Corinthians 1:1-9	Corinthians 1:10-18	Corinthians 1:18-31
Luke 2:15-21	Matthew 3:13-17	John 1:29-42	Matthew 4:12-23	Matthew 5:1-12

## JANUARY PRAYER FOCUS

The Prayer Focus for this month is REMEMBERING

On New Year's we always look back to remember the past year. We are a forgetful people but thankfully, God never forgets us. Let us make this a year of intentionally remembering. As Pastor Mike says, "Every day is Christmas, every day is Easter."

### REMEMBER

To thank Jesus: for creating me for sustaining me for all my blessings  
 For dying for me so my sins can be forgiven  
 For His resurrection so I have hope for the future  
 For being at the right hand of God interceding for me.

### REMEMBER

Christ is returning for me  
 God knows the intentions of my heart  
 I am the temple of the Holy Spirit who lives within me  
 I am, **by my faith**, united to Christ My salvation is secure with Christ  
 I am now seated with Christ in the heavenly places  
 My reason for living is to bring Glory to God  
 Make your New Year really happy by **Remembering** to:  
 Praise God from whom all blessing flow  
 Praise Him all creatures here below,  
 Praise Him above the heavenly host,  
 Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

**Amen**

<b>BIRTHDAYS</b>			
<b>Chris Eberly</b>	<b>1/3</b>	<b>Don Vrsan</b>	<b>1/17</b>
<b>Grace Shine</b>	<b>1/8</b>	<b>Tom Huggins</b>	<b>1/19</b>
<b>Colton Reeves</b>	<b>1/10</b>	<b>Trey Parker</b>	<b>1/21</b>
<b>Shawn Gettan</b>	<b>1/11</b>	<b>Toby Seifert</b>	<b>1/21</b>
<b>Julie Majors</b>	<b>1/12</b>	<b>Pam Ward</b>	<b>1/23</b>
<b>Floyd McBeth</b>	<b>1/12</b>	<b>Megan Gettan</b>	<b>1/24</b>
<b>Rachael Ritter</b>	<b>1/17</b>	<b>Jessica Dix</b>	<b>1/28</b>

**Book Club News:** Our next book selection will be *The Grace Effect* by Larry Alex Taunton, with the next discussion scheduled for Tuesday, January 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm. Mr. Taunton, a Christian author, apologist, and founder of the Fixed Point Foundation, is most recently known for sponsoring and debating numerous atheists, including Christopher Hitchens. However, this book chronicles the journey of the Taunton family after they discover Sasha, an Ukrainian orphan. Subtitled “How the Power of One Life Can Reverse the Corruption of Unbelief,” this is indeed a poignant human-interest tale of how this “grace effect” was demonstrated in their lives. Described as “Occasionally infuriating, often amusing, but always inspiring,” this book will provoke a range of emotions, with some unexpected turns. *If you’re interested, contact Terry Tegtmeier (\$5 each).*

**2016 REPORT OF THE SPREAD SOME SONSHINE GROUP –**

**CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS 2016 REPORT - Submitted by Pam Ward**

Christmas Blessings 2016 was held on Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup> and was very successful due to the support of the congregations represented by the Lawrence Township Ministerial Association - St. Paul Lutheran Church, St. John United Church of Christ, Bolivar United Methodist Church, Bolivar Wesleyan Church, Holy Trinity Catholic Parish, Zoar United Church of Christ, the Dollar General Store and members of our community who helped distribute the items and the Tusky Valley students and staff. A total of 59 families with 166 children were recipients of the following items: Toys provided by St. Paul Lutheran Church, Bolivar Wesleyan Church and Dollar General Store; hats, gloves, scarves and socks provided by Holy Trinity Catholic Parish; filled Christmas bags provided by Zoar United Church of Christ; Dollar General Gift cards provided by St. John United Church of Christ. Food baskets provided by Bolivar Methodist Church.

Gifts were wrapped by the St. Paul Lutheran Church youth group and their parents prior to the Give-Away. Senior Students from Tusky Valley High School helped to pack the food baskets and set up tables prior to the Give-Away. Many thanks to everyone who worked on or supported Christmas Blessings 2016 in any way. This is truly a blessing to our local families in need and a special blessing to see God's hand at work in such a wonderful and worthy cause. It is always a wonderful blessing to see how appreciative the individuals are who receive the items.

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Cards sent	478	476	514	706	555	417	340	420
Cards returned	71	75	54	72	85	69	56	69
# of children	172	179	132	168	206	170	153	166
Cost of toys	-	\$2, 422.70	2,222.40	2,547.86	2,876.62	2,184.37	2,115.12	2,312.47

Spread Some Sonshine Finances:

	All Funds	General Fund	Christmas Fund	Hennis Fund
Beginning Balance Jan. 1, 2016	\$3,435.77	\$ 46.95	\$3,195.01	\$ 193.81

Ending Balance Dec. 31, 2016                      2,934.71                      187.99                      2,552.91                      193.81

Note: Christmas Expenditures -                      for Toys: \$ 2,312.47

**Update for St. Paul's Prayer Chain Listing** - To keep our prayer chain listing current, it has been decided by the Worship Committee that the prayer chain listing will be updated monthly. Names on the Prayer list will be removed unless that name has been communicated to the St. Paul church office by the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month. Thank you for helping to keep this list updated. Therefore, the names on the current December list will need updated by the 25<sup>th</sup> of January to still be on the February Prayer List.

*With Christmas now behind us, 'tis the season for hoping to live a better, more fulfilling life in the following year. I'll save you the work of coming up with a list of resolutions for 2017. Here is 10 New Year's Resolutions Every Christian Should Make:*

1. **Resolve to stay faithful to Jesus Christ. He is the one Truth, Way and Life. There's no reason to look elsewhere.**
2. **Resolve to not let anything – a career, a significant other, social media, a house – become an object of worship.**
3. **Resolve to watch your language and not speak any destructive talk, especially involving the name of God.**
4. **Resolve to prevent burnout by putting aside work one day a week. Trust God to provide for your needs that day and just enjoy the time He's given you.**
5. **Resolve to talk to your parents on a regular basis, and show them love and respect.**
6. **Resolve to be angry less. Channel any feelings of rage, which Jesus said are as severe as murder, into worshipping God and serving others.**
7. **Resolve to honor your commitment to your spouse. Whether in thought or in deed, stay pure and loyal in the union God made.**
8. **Resolve to not take anything that's not yours, including stuff you can hold and put in your pocket, and plenty that you can't, like music downloads, streaming movies and hours on your timecard.**
9. **Resolve to speak about others only with truth and love, not gossip.**
10. **Resolve to be content with what you have, and not worry about that others are amassing.**

**Spread Some Sonshine Group** - The group would like to recognize the special programs and activities of 2016. The ladies feel blessed to be able to help families and are grateful to the Rebekah Sisters for their involvements to raise funds. The two groups were able to give \$200 to the Salvation Army and \$100 to the Friend of the Homeless Shelter.

They served 155 families from the Tusky Valley School system for Christmas this year at a cost of \$2,200.00.

The annual rummage sale is a big success and a lot of work, the Sonshine group recognizes the Rebekah Sisters and are thankful for their hard work. We couldn't do it without them. We have three wonderful women in the Sonshine group who are in their 90's, Arloene Howenstine, Jean Baker, and Rose Cunningham. We appreciate their input and enjoy their fellowship they are special. We like to make them feel as special as they are by celebrating their birthdays with flowers.

We would also like to thank our loving congregation for all that you give year-round. Through God we can do anything! We look forward to the first of the year where we join with our youth to distribute bags of popcorn to the nursing home!



# Month of JANUARY 2017

<b>SUN</b>	<b>MON</b>	<b>TUES</b>	<b>WED</b>	<b>THUR</b>	<b>FRI</b>	<b>SAT</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
Worship & Communion 10:30 a.m. 						
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
Worship & Communion 8:00 & 10:30 a.m. – Sunday School 9:15 a.m. GROGS 5-8:00 p.m.	Bible Study 7:00 p.m.		Vision Meeting 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice 7:30 p.m.	Worship Meeting 6:30 p.m.		Property 9:00 a.m.
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
Worship & Communion 8:00 & 10:30 a.m. – Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Fellowship FROGS 5-7:00 p.m.	Council 7:00 p.m.		Choir Practice 7:30 p.m.	Community Meal 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.		
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
Worship & Communion 8:00 & 10:30 a.m. Sunday School 9:15 a.m. -	Bible Study 7:00 p.m.	Book Club 7:30 p.m.	Choir Practice 7:30 p.m.			
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>				
Worship & Communion 8:00 & 10:30 a.m. – Sunday School 9:15 a.m.	Bible Study 7:00 p.m.					

