

# St. Paul Newscaster



Published monthly in the interest of  
St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Diller, Nebraska

#### **Our Mission**

*To open our hearts and doors to share God's promise by transforming lives  
through our commitment and discipleship to Jesus Christ.*

**December 2021**

*Pastor Mark Liscom*

## **Advent and Christmas: Learning to wait**

The assumption of this article is that as you read this, you are waiting for something. There is something you want, something you wish for, something that you would like to see happen as you read this. It could be something as practical as a loan to be paid off, or something more personal like an inner sense of peace and contentment. You might be waiting for your child to be a little less rebellious, or your spouse to stop that irritating habit. But one thing is certain. All of us are waiting for something.

The assumption of this article is also that for you this waiting is probably experienced as something negative. A little build up in the traffic in Beatrice and you see people starting to get anxious and irritated. We don't like to wait. Waiting for us means that we are wasting time, that we are inefficient, that we aren't being productive. The gods that our culture worship have a simple message: "Get going! get busy! Do something! Make yourself useful!

But the truth is this: No amount of busyness ends the waiting. And the truth is also this: That all the things you are waiting for will never bring you what you are waiting for. For when all the loans are paid, and the people in your family have finally become what you want them to be, when you finally have enough money, or traffic lets up guess what you will find? More waiting. Waiting never ends.

For many people this may be discouraging. But the season of Advent and Christmas says something very different about waiting. The story of Advent and Christmas says that you are waiting, because God's Spirit is active and alive in you. We wait after all, because we have something like eternity within us. Stop the busyness. Just stop and wait. It will be hard for a while. But after a while the Christ child will begin to arrive. A sense of solitude. A sense that I can be content with what I have. The assurance that God is with us. And so there it is. It is in the waiting that we find what are waiting for.

My prayer is that you would receive the gift that Advent and Christmas bring season. The gift of learning to wait, expecting Jesus to be born in you. Blessings to you this Advent and Christmas Season.

*Pastor Mark*



### PAPERLESS NEWSCASTER OPTION AVAILABLE!!

The Newscaster is now available electronically for those that would like to receive it in this form rather than through the mail. If you would like to NOT receive a physical copy of the Newscaster, please email Jane Pretzer at [dpretz@diodecom.net](mailto:dpretz@diodecom.net) and let her know you want to be removed from the physical mailing list. You can always access the online version of the Newscaster at the Church website, [www.stpauldiller.com](http://www.stpauldiller.com), and click on the Newscaster tab for whatever publication you need. Another option is to be put on the email list that will include a link. If you would like the Newscaster emailed to you, email Sheri Schultis at [jschultis@diodecom.net](mailto:jschultis@diodecom.net) to be put on the list.

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**Typist: Kendra K. Weers    Calendar: Kendra K. Weers**

**Assembly: Kendra K. Weers**

#### **Newscaster Reporters**

Church Council – Tyler Wolken    Treasurer’s Report – Allen Roelfs

WELCA – Peggy Hemphill    Eunice Circle – Irene Gibson

Work Day – Carolyn Schultis

Christian Education and VBS – Kristen Hennerberg, Kristen Heidemann,  
Elizabeth Roelfs and Sheri Schultis

Youth News – Joely Weers, Myleigh Weers and Brennan Schultis

Worship Committee – Council    Mutual Ministry Committee - Council

Birthdays & Anniversaries – Jane Pretzer    WELCA Coffee List – Elizabeth Roelfs

Acolyte List – Pastor Mark Liscom & Kendra K Weers

Worship Assistants & Ushers Lists – Sherry Henrichs



*Sponsoring the December Newscaster are*

**Irene Gibson**

**in Loving Memory of Karl and Elenora Bunting  
for their December 22<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary**

*and*

**The Hemphill Family**

*Thank You for sponsoring this Newscaster in Memory of your Loved Ones and for supporting this publication.*

*There is an orange sign-up sheet on the announcements bulletin board in the back of the Narthex for 2022. Please consider sponsoring this important communication tool for our congregation.*

#### **Sunday, December 5**

Caroling for the Congregation 4:30pm

#### **Friday, December 24**

Community Christmas Eve Service

Children’s Christmas Eve Program

and Candlelight Service 7pm

#### **Saturday, December 25**

No Worship Service – Merry Christmas



**Christmas  
Worship  
Schedule**

# St. Paul Lutheran Church Council Minutes for November 17, 2021

Council members present were Pastor Mark, David Henrichs, Gary Bergmeier, Darin Weers, Diane Wellsandt and Peggy Hemphill. Also present at the meeting was Allen Roelfs. Tyler Wolken was absent. Pastor Mark started the meeting with an opening prayer and then God sightings were shared by council members. The minutes of the October 20 meeting were read by David. Diane made the motion to approve the minutes as read and Gary seconded. The minutes were approved.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Allen reported that there was a total available cash of \$4,524.10 in the account. Still needing to be paid are Stanton Propane, Norris, Portico and Pastor Mark's salary leaving an ending balance of (\$3,151.94). A preliminary budget was presented and discussed. It will be discussed further at the December council meeting. Gary moved to accept the report and Peggy seconded. The treasurer's report was approved.

## MEMORIAL TREASURER'S REPORT

Darin reported that there was an interest payment on the account of \$.70. The balance in the account is now \$12,774.59. Gary moved to accept the report and David seconded. The report was approved.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

Christian Education – N/A

Property – N/A

Communication & Outreach – Christmas caroling is planned for Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup>. Meet at the church at 4:30pm. Soup and snacks will follow at the church.

Music & Worship – N/A

Food Stand – N/A

Vice Chairman's Report – N/A

## OLD BUSINESS

The defibulator has arrived and Gary gave a short demonstration of how it works. Placement of the defibulator was discussed. Options for video and audio live streaming are still being explored. There will be no Mission Festival this year as Advent begins on November 28<sup>th</sup>.

## NEW BUSINESS

Hanging of the Greens will be the first Sunday in Advent, November 28, with a potluck to follow. There is a problem with the component/system controller for the screen and projector which is being looked into. Offering for the Thanksgiving Eve service will go to the local food pantries unless otherwise designated.

The next council meeting was set for December 15 at 7 p.m. and committees to meet at 6:30 p.m. Darin moved to adjourn the meeting and Diane seconded. The meeting was adjourned and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

- Peggy Hemphill for Tyler Wolken

<b>TREASURER'S REPORT</b>			
As of 11/17/2021			
<b><u>Current Balances</u></b>		<b><u>Operating Expenses</u></b>	
General Fund	\$ 4,524.10	Available Cash	\$ 4,524.10
Benevolence	\$ 170.00	Remaining Bills	
Designations	\$ 4,483.42	Norris (est.)	\$ 250.00
		Stanton Propane	812.70
		November Salary	4,067.77
		Portico	\$ 2,545.57
		Remaining Bal	<b>\$(3,151.94)</b>
Total	\$ 9,177.52		<i>Due mid-December</i>
<b><u>Offering Summary</u></b>			
	September	October	November
Current	\$ 7,424.50	\$ 8,682.00	\$ 3,363.26
Benevolence	\$ 101.80	\$ 639.64	\$ 90.00
Designated Funds	\$ 220.00	\$ 1,142.00	\$ 2.00
Totals	\$ 7,746.30	\$ 10,463.64	\$ 3,455.26
			(partial month)
<b>We need to receive <span style="color: red;">\$10,000.47</span> in CURRENT each month in order to meet our budget for 2021.</b>			



## Eunice Circle Women's Bible Study

# Bible Study



Eunice Circle met on November 8, 2021 at 1:30pm. Norma Banahan led our Bible Study. The gift of the Holy Spirit: Adevine wild goose chase. Wind of God refining and rerouting. God's Spirit guides our lives, giving us strength to endure hard things, hope amid uncertainty and moving us to acts of love.

Our study texts were from: Matthew 3:7 – 12; John 3: 1 – 10; Acts 9:10 – 19 and Acts 10:25 – 44 and 44 – 48; Romans 8:14 – 28 and 38 – 39; Galatians 5:16 – 23.

We opened with prayer and Hymn, "Come, Gracious Spirit, Heavenly Dove." We closed with prayer and The Lord's Prayer.

Norma called our meeting to order. Minutes were read and approved. Five (5) members answered roll call and two (2) guests were present. Our offering was \$20.00.

Old Business: Faith Formation children helped pack eighteen (18) school kit bags on Wed., Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> at 4 – 5pm. Work Day will be Oct. 26<sup>th</sup>.

New Business: Quilts, Baby Care kits, School kits and Personal Care kits are packed and delivered. Work Day is on Nov. 28<sup>th</sup>.

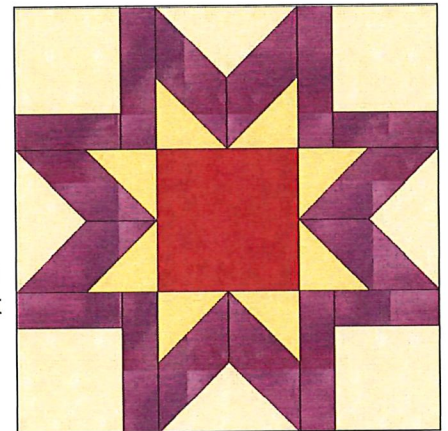
After Grace, Judy Landenberger served refreshments.

Next Eunice Circle meeting will be Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> at 1:30pm, Nov/Dec book. Irene Gibson will lead the Bible Study.

~ Irene Gibson, Recorder

### MISSION QUILTS and KITS

For over 75 years, the **Lutheran World Relief Quilt & Kit Ministry** has worked with caring people to share God's love with families around the world. This year St. Paul's Lutheran Church has given **49 Baby Care Kits** to LWR to provide the basics a family needs to care for their new baby the way they hope to, **48 School Kits** which contain essential supplies to help children continue learning in the face of serious obstacles, **12 Personal Care Kits** provide much-needed self-care, critical germ fighting, and the chance to regain dignity amidst situations of fear an uncertainty, and **45 Mission Quilts** used to shield recipients against the cold and rain, and for warm bedding. But their versatility also makes quilts useful as simple tents, floor coverings, or a wrap to hold a baby on a mother's back. The donations, time, gifts, and supplies you give through these projects are a blessing to so many families around the world. Thank you for your dedication, your generosity and your love for your neighbors!



A special thank you to Kendra K. Weers for taking our donations to the LWR Ingathering in Omaha.

Our next work day will be January 25, 2022 at 9 a.m.

*"For the needy shall not always be forgotten,  
nor the hope of the poor perish forever."*

*Psalm 9:18*



*Some of our extended church family members have been in the hospital recently.*

*Hudson Schlake, daughter of Kyle and Courtney Schlake, and Dan Rash*

*Please remember in your prayers all of our members and extended church family who are not able to be with us, those that are in assisted living and care centers and those who may be in need of God's comfort, healing and peace:*

*Franklin Damrow, Eldean Banahan, Linda Behrends and Rick Whittemire*

## St. Paul Women of the ELCA November Unit Meeting

### November 3, 2021

A Unit Meeting of the Women of the ELCA was held Wednesday, November 3, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. with eight women present. The meeting was opened by reading Our Purpose Statement in unison.

The business meeting was led by President, Ardith Barber. Minutes of the August 4, 2021, meeting were read and approved. It was reported that the balance in our treasury is \$1,008.38. Bills were approved for payment of supplies for the baby care kits, college kits and purchases for a funeral luncheon.

A thank-you was read from the Damrow family in gratitude for serving Betty's funeral luncheon.

We wanted to thank the Memorial Committee and the family of Jeanette Banahan for the new white tables. It was decided to sell the four large brown tables that have been replaced with the newer, lighter-weight white tables. We will offer them for \$30 each. Two tables have already been purchased leaving two tables to be purchased. If anyone is interested in purchasing one of these tables, please let one of the officers know.

It was reported that 45 quilts, 49 baby care kits, 48 school kits and 12 personal care kits had been assembled. We want to thank Kendra K. Weers for delivering these items to Omaha.

We are holding another drive for the local food pantries during the month of November. There is a box in the narthex for food donations. If anyone would like to donate money, it can be given to Diane Wellsandt. We would like to exceed last year's donations of 370 items and \$550 cash.

Our women's Thank Offering Service will be held Sunday, November 21. Hanging of the Greens will be held on the first Sunday in Advent which is November 28 and we will be serving cookies following church that day.

Discussion was held about removing the Cradle Roll board in the narthex due to it being neglected and outdated. It was decided to remove it for the present time.

Officers re-elected for 2022 were: President-Ardith Barber, Vice President-Linda Behrends, and Secretary-Peggy Hemphill. Jeanette Bures stepped down as Treasurer and Diane Wellsandt graciously accepted this office. We thank Jeanette for serving as Treasurer the last five years.

In the spirit of Thanksgiving, the meeting was closed with Ardith sharing an "I Am Grateful For" poster to each of those present. We were to write something each day that we are grateful for on each ray of sunshine.

Notes were written to our college students and 15 college care kits were assembled to be mailed to them letting them know that we are thinking of them.

Offering for the evening was \$60. Refreshments were served by Linda Behrends.



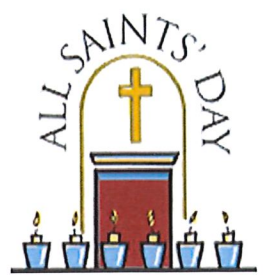
*Respectfully submitted,  
Peggy Hemphill, Secretary*



St. Paul's Congregation observed All Saints Sunday during the November 7<sup>th</sup> Worship Service.



We remembered several members who have passed this year; Jeanette Banahan, Judy Garton, Virgil Garton, Margery Keefover and Betty Damrow. We also remembered Rodney Sagehorn, whose funeral was held at St. Paul Lutheran.



Two memorials were given this year. The memorial for Kay Taylor was used for the continued Fellowship area remodeling, and the memorial for Jeanette Banahan was used for the purchase of 8 new white lightweight tables for the church to use for several functions.

We give thanks to God today for all their lives and for the love of God that is stronger and more enduring than death.



*Above, Brian Weers lights the candles in memory of those lost this past year.*

*L to R: The lit candles in memory of those lost; Congregation members light candles in memory of loved ones*



### BAPTIZED INTO OUR CHURCH

On Sunday, November 14, we welcomed Lucille Roze Bush into our church family through baptism. Lucille is the daughter of Hannah Ebeling and Corwin Bush and granddaughter of Shawn and Alicia Ebeling.

*Welcome to our church family!*



### Women of the ELCA Thank Offering Service and Community Thanksgiving Service

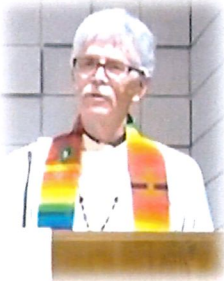


St. Paul Women of the ELCA conducted their annual Thank Offering service during the morning worship hour on Sunday, November 21. Officers sharing in the service were Ardie Barber and Jeanette Bures. Offerings collected during the service will be sent to support ministries of the Women of the ELCA.

When Women of the ELCA was formed in 1987, we committed to continue this tradition of giving in gratitude for blessings. Each year, in thousands of congregations, Thankofferings are given to support the life-changing ministries of Women of the ELCA. Together, we do more than we could ever do apart.



*"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for You." 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*



Pastor Mark giving the Thanksgiving message

On November 24, St. Paul Lutheran held a community Thanksgiving Service. We are fortunate to be able to worship together again and hear the message of hope and gratitude through scripture and remember the reason for Thanksgiving. Pastor Mark's message was about the Bible's description of gratitude – what it is, and what it ISN'T. Gratitude is a true appreciation of God's gifts, sharing a struggle with others who help each other through it; not being happy that you have it better than someone else – comparing and competing with others. We are thankful that God is always with us, and for the people who are with us in our challenges and journeys.



*On Sunday, November 7, First Communion was held during the worship service.*

*One new Confirmation student and her family came forward to participate in their first sacrament of Holy Communion. Congratulations to Josie Hennerberg as she begins her Confirmation journey and give thanks to God who sent his son to bring us into a relationship of love with one another.*



# HANGING OF THE GREENS



St. Paul Lutheran had a "Hanging of the Greens" worship service to begin Advent on Sunday, November 28.

It was a program written by a Pastor and used with permission of Good Shepherd Lutheran and Zion State Line Lutheran Church that gave the background of all the greens that are used at Christmas and during Advent. The program and worship service was led by the Youth, and many traditional carols were sung that associated with the greens that were featured.

The readings were done by Joely Weers and Pastor Mark. The first reading was about why we use the greens to decorate our church and the congregation sang, "Soon And Very Soon." The second reading was about the different colors and meanings of the paraments we use for worship. Brennan Schultis presented the Advent banner and placed it at the front of the church while the hymns "Joy To the World" and "Silent Night" were sung.



Myleigh Weers lit Advent candles and then readings about the Advent candles and the meanings were read. The congregation sang "This Little Light of Mine." Scriptures were then read. Verses from the hymns, "Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus" and "Go Tell It On The Mountain" were sung between the scriptures.

Joely then did a reading about evergreens because they do not die; through all the seasons they remain ever-green. Youth members Keira Hennerberg, Kellan Schlichtman, Brennan Schultis, Zach Warren and Esdon Weers hung the greens while the congregation sang "Deck The Halls".

As a reading was read about the Christmas Tree in Scripture, the youth placed ornaments on the tree and then the lights were lit and the congregation sang "O Christmas Tree."

Joely read the Gospel lesson and Pastor Mark had the message. The youth then received the offering.

After the Benediction, a potluck meal was served. The congregation enjoyed a delicious meal and wonderful fellowship to kick off the Advent season.



## COLLEGE STUDENTS 2021-2022

Here is a list of St. Paul's College Students, the WELCA is once again remembering these students with cards and prayers throughout the year. Please let Ardie Barber know if there are any changes or corrections.

**Samantha Clifford** – NWMSU, Business Management  
**Hayley Denner** - Concordia Univ., Art Education  
**Addison Heidemann** – Iowa State Univ. – Kinesiology & Physical Therapy  
**Tyson Landenberger** – Doane Univ. – Health & Human Performance  
**Skylar Pretzer** – UNO – Kinesiology  
**Jesse Scheele** – Online, Farm Operations  
**Kelsay Schlichtman** – UNL, Animal Science/Pre-Vet  
**Spencer Schmidt** - UNL

**Caleb Schultis** – Kansas State Univ., Agri-Business  
**Jadyn Schultis** – UNL, Elementary & Special Education  
**Bryston Warren** – Kansas State Univ., Ag Economics  
**Brianna Weers** – SCC Lincoln, Surgical Technologist  
**Neleigh Weers** – Bryan College of Health Sciences, Nursing



## Fruits of the Spirit Grow at CrossWalk

During the month of November the CrossWalk kids had the chance to discover how the Holy Spirit can help them grow in Gentleness, Goodness and Faithfulness. Each week includes a time to reflect on their highs and lows and speak to God in prayer. We continue our work to learn the books of the Bible.

Thankfulness was the theme for the Nov. 17 session. The students created a thankful chain. Each link listed something the children are thankful for. The kids crafted creative owls adorned with colorful feathers and large eyes. This flock was delivered to Gardenside residents with a Happy Thanksgiving wish. The final station offered the opportunity to fashion Thanksgiving cards shaped like pumpkins, Pilgrim hats or turkeys. Each carried the name of its creator along with a holiday wish. Friends from the community and within the family of faith at St. Paul received these gifts.

December holds many chances to share God's love and learning during our CrossWalk sessions. Thanks to all for your support, interest and prayers.

## Coat Drive is Big Success

By cleaning out our closets we have offered warmth to others and served as God's light to them. The coat rack was filled with:

3 pair of snow pants  
 2 vests  
 23 childrens coats

33 mens coats  
 14 womens coats

6 mens sweatshirts  
 1 youth boys hoodie  
 7 youth girls hoodies

Along with hats, scarves, gloves and mittens.

Donations will be distributed to the Diller-Odell schools and First Christian Coat Closet project in Beatrice.



Submitted by  
Beth Roelfs



## December Birthdays

1	Adam Roelfs	16	Jadyn Schultis
1	Hayley Denner	18	Sarah Crabtree
4	Andrew Liscom	19	Carolyn Schultis
5	Lacey Sasse	21	Kristen Helmerichs
8	Esdon Weers	22	Joe Novotny
9	Jeanette Hennerberg	25	Carol Barber
9	Kellan Schlichtman	26	Kelly Gold
10	Jason Wellsandt	26	RiLynn Sasse
11	Jarrold Heidemann	29	BethLee Beran
11	Eden Lottman	29	Allen Roelfs
16	Jan Gold	31	Kendra (Schmidt) Weers
16	Stacy Schlichtman		



## December Wedding Anniversaries

December 8, 1973  
 ☞ Mr. & Mrs. Charles & Ardith Barber

December 10, 2005  
 ☞ Mr. & Mrs. Tanner & Ann Parde

December 30, 2006  
 ☞ Mr. & Mrs. Allen & Stacy Roelfs









# December 2021



[www.stpauldiller.com](http://www.stpauldiller.com)

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Facebook – St. Paul’s Lutheran Church Diller Nebraska

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p><b>*** CHECK THE WEEKLY BULLETIN, FACEBOOK PAGE OR CHURCH WEBSITE for Calendar updates ***</b> Some events may change and/or were not available at press time</p>			1	2	3	4
			<p>CROSS WALK 4pm Christmas Program Practice 5pm</p>			
			NO Confirmation			
<p>Red Hymnal <b>5</b> Worship Service Holy Communion 9:30 AM  Caroling and Soup Supper 4:30pm Second Sunday of Advent</p>	6	7	8	9	10	11
			<p>CROSS WALK 4pm Christmas Program Practice 5pm</p>			
			Confirmation 7:00pm			
<p>Blue Hymnal <b>12</b> Worship Service 9:30 AM  Third Sunday of Advent</p>	13	14	15	16	17	18
	Eunice Circle 1:30pm		<p>Committee and Council Meetings 6:30/7pm</p>			
			<p>CROSS WALK 4pm Christmas Program Practice 5pm</p>			
			Confirmation Fun Night 7pm			
<p>Red Hymnal <b>19</b> Worship Service 9:30 AM  Fourth Sunday of Advent</p>	20	21	22	23	24	25
	<p>Newscafter items due</p>	 First Day of Winter	<p>CROSS WALK 4pm Christmas Program Practice 5pm</p>	CHRISTMAS PROGRAM DRESS REHEARSAL 7pm **	 Congregational Christmas Eve Service 7:00 pm	 Merry Christmas
			NO Confirmation			
<p>Blue Hymnal <b>26</b> Worship Service 9:30 AM</p>	27	28	29	30	31	
						



St. Paul Lutheran Church  
PO Box 37  
Diller, NE 68342

**VOLUNTEERS:** If you are unable to serve on the Sunday(s) you are assigned, PLEASE arrange with someone else to fill in and notify others in the assigned Sunday of the change. Thank You!

# December



## December 5 Sunday Worship Service

With Holy Communion

Second Sunday in Advent

Worship Assistant, David Henrichs

Greeter, Jim Bures

Ushers – Steve Hemphill, Brett Landenberger

Coffee Service – Carolyn Schultis, Sue Meyer



## December 12 Sunday Worship Service

Third Sunday in Advent

Worship Assistant, Gary Bergmeier

Greeter, Dennis Nippert

Ushers – Chad Lottman, Doug Lottman

Coffee Service – Jeanette Hennerberg,

Kristen Hennerberg



## December 19 Sunday Worship Service

Fourth Sunday in Advent

Worship Assistant, Brian Weers

Greeter, Dean Pretzer

Ushers – Don Meyer, Dennis Nippert

Coffee Service – Beth Roelfs, Judy Landenberger



## December 24 Christmas Eve Service

Children's Christmas Eve Program

Candlelight Service

Usher – Charles Barber



## December 26 Sunday Worship Service

Worship Assistant, Kendra K Weers

Greeter, Gary Bergmeier

Ushers – Dean Pretzer, Scott Pretzer

Coffee Service – Jill Bergmeier, Julie Schmidt

# January



## January 2 Sunday Worship Service

With Holy Communion

Worship Assistant, Sherry Henrichs

Acolyte – Peyton Denner

Greeter, Jim Bures

Ushers – \*Please check website, Facebook page and future bulletins\*

Coffee Service – Sheri Schultis, Toni Landenberger