

St. Paul Newscaster



Published monthly in the interest of
St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church
Diller, Nebraska
January 2019
Pastor Mark Liscom

The World is a Perfectly Safe Place to Be

It sounds like a pretty crazy statement doesn't it? The world is a perfectly safe place to be. The reason of course is that we all know that the world is not a perfectly safe place to be. Car accidents, cancer, financial meltdown, drought, anger, contempt, terrorism, you name it. At every turn we know that the world is not safe at all.

And yet, what Jesus came to bring was exactly that. A different kind of reality. He called it the Kingdom of God, and he said that it was available to everyone. And it didn't matter what circumstances a person or group would find themselves in. They could step into a reality that was perfectly safe as they placed their trust in him.

I remember as a kid playing tag with my friends. And core to playing tag was a place we called "being on base". And what "base" was, was essentially the kingdom of God. If you were on base, you were safe. You couldn't get tagged in any way. You were just fine.

Home base is available to everyone, no matter who you are or where you are. To be a follower of Jesus is to learn to take "home base" with you into your daily life. It's not a way to avoid real life and its dangers, it's a way to face them and live them. Knowing that no matter what happens, you are perfectly safe. I don't have to operate out of fear and anxiety.

The world is a perfectly safe place to be. This changes everything.

Pastor Mark

NEWS LETTER STAFF

Editor: Kendra K. Weers

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Assembly: Kendra K. Weers

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Church Council – Jean Schmidt Treasurer – Allen Roelfs
WELCA – Robbyn Roelfs Eunice Circle – Irene Gibson Work Day – Carolyn Schultis
Sunday School and VBS – Kristen Hennerberg and Kristen Heidemann
Youth News – Jady Schultis, Skylar Pretzer and Brianna Weers

Worship Committee – Council Mutual Ministry Committee - Council
Birthdays & Anniversaries – Judy DeBoer & Jane Pretzer
WELCA Coffee List – Elizabeth Roelfs Acolyte List – Pastor Mark Liscom & Kendra K Weers
Worship Assistants & Ushers Lists – Sherry Henrichs

Sponsors

Our January Newscaster sponsors are:

Gary & Jill Bergmeier

*God's Peace to all throughout the New Year
and*

Brian & Kendra K Weers, Brianna & Joely

In honor of Kendra's Dad's (Bill Cummins) 90th Birthday on January 8.



We thank you for your sponsorship and support.

Please note that the sign-up sheet for 2019 sponsorships is up and 1 each are available for April and September and 2 sponsorships each are available for October and November.

Please consider sponsoring a Newscaster to continue providing this communication tool to the members of the congregation.

Welcome Back, Pastor Mbasha!!

Pastor Eliabu Mbasha and wife, Agnes, of Tanzania, Africa were recent visitors to St. Paul. Pastor Mbasha and Pastor Mark participated in a pulpit exchange in 2011 whereby Pastor Mbasha served St. Paul for approximately 6 weeks and Pastor Mark traveled to Tanzania to serve in Pastor Mbasha's home congregation.

An open house and soup luncheon honored the couple on Saturday, December 8.

Pastor Mbasha was extremely pleased to once again visit and especially to introduce Agnes to our members. They are in the states visiting their son who is attending a community college near Omaha.

We were once again reminded of the spiritual sharing and knowledge from across the world this experience brought to members of St. Paul and to Pastor Mark as he experienced their life and Pastorship in Tanzania.



ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, January 20, 2018 has been set for the date of St. Paul Lutheran Church's annual meeting.

The meeting will convene following the worship hour. Please come and help choose the leaders and goals of the congregation.

Committee reports will be due by **Sunday, January 13th** in order to be prepared and published in the annual committee reports.



Please place your reports in Jane Pretzer's church mailbox or email her at dpretz@diodecom.net.

Also, all accounts need to be turned in to the Audit Committee as soon as possible for the report to the congregation.

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Your TIMELY cooperation will be greatly appreciated!!

St. Paul Lutheran Church Council Minutes for December 19, 2018

Pastor Mark opened with a prayer. Members present were Melvin Beran, David Henrichs, Allen Roelfs, Jean Schmidt, and Jamie Schultis. Cindy Lottman arrived late. Jamie moved to accept the minutes, and Allen seconded. Motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Allen reported that the current balance is \$1,646.26. All outstanding bills have been paid, including Portico and Pastor Mark's salary. Other monthly bills will be paid by the end of the month. Allen will check with Stanton Propane about their bill before paying the due amount. The Blue Valley share of the Diller Picnic funds has been paid. The organists still need to be paid. Jean moved to accept, and Jamie seconded. Motion passed.

MEMORIAL TREASURER'S REPORT

Jamie reported that the current balance is \$13,317.80, including the month's interest. No financial activity for the month. Allen moved to accept, and Melvin seconded. Motion passed.

PASTOR'S REPORT

5 worship services, including the Hanging of the Greens Service, 1 Thanksgiving service, 2 confirmation classes, 2 youth group meetings, 1 service at the Kensington, 5 home communions, 1 Cluster meeting, 3 text studies. No mileage.

- Pastor Mark is working on how to present membership to discipleship for the Transformational Committee to the congregation.
- A thank you has been received from Guilford Wiemers for including him in the congregational prayers.

COMMITTEE REPORT

- Property--committee has been working on the water/snow damaged tiles in the front of the church.
- Nominating--committee is working on the annual meeting voting ballot for church council and nominating committee.

OLD BUSINESS

- The annual meeting has been scheduled for Sunday, January 20, 2019.
- Schedules are being completed for church activities (ushers, acolytes, coffee, children's sermons) and will be posted when done with longer term dates.
- Cindy has purchased the Christmas treats for young participants.
- Council further discussed the transfer of bank accounts from Fairbury to the State Bank of Odell. The option will be discussed at the annual meeting on January 20, 2019.

NEW BUSINESS

- Council discussed the formation of the St. Paul's Vision Team. Congregation members have volunteered to serve on the team. The group will begin meeting as soon as a mentor has been selected. Allen made a motion to seat the St. Paul's Vision Team, and Jamie seconded. Motion passed.
- The ballot for the annual meeting will read 80/60 with a vote for one between 80% current or 60% current and based on the current vote, a vote for world hunger or benevolence or BVCA.
- Council discussed the 2019 budget. A big change will be the insurance premium. Jean made a motion to propose the 2019 budget at the annual meeting with the increase to the organist's salary. Jamie seconded. Motion passed.

The next council meeting will be on Wednesday, January 16, 2019, at 6:00 p.m. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer. Allen made a motion to adjourn, and Cindy seconded. Motion passed

Jean Schmidt, Council Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT

General Fund Balance as of 12/31/2018 **\$ 6,349.10**

Bills Due by end of December: None
Total Due **\$ 0.00**

November/December

<i>Last Month: November</i>		<i>Current Month: December</i>	
Current	\$ 6,438.25	Current	\$ 17,258.26
Benevolence	308.22	Benevolence	2,755.05
World Hunger	25.00	World Hunger	75.00
Specials	0.00	Specials	320.00
TOTAL	\$ 6,771.47	TOTAL	\$ 20,408.31



We need \$12,307.87 in CURRENT per month to meet the 2018 budget.

Treasurer Allen Roelfs would like to extend a HUGE THANK YOU to the congregation for helping to make up the difference in the budget shortfall and we were able to pay all bills by the end of the year. Thank you all for your faithful stewardship to this congregation!

Eunice Circle Women's Bible Study



Eunice Circle met on December 10, 2018 at 1:30pm. Kay Taylor led the bible study - "Fear Not" - God is at work beyond our ability to imagine. "Fear Not" God's message to the shepherds is also for us, lighting our way to Christ.

Our study texts were from Genesis 15:1-6, Exodus 14:10-14 and 26-30, 1 Kings 17:8-24, Psalm 23, Isaiah 40:10-11, Ezekiel 34:11-16, Matthew 28:1-10, Luke 1:26-56 and Luke 2:1-20, John 10:11-16 and Philippians 4:7.

We opened with prayer by Kay Taylor. We closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Norma called the meeting to order. Minutes were read and approved. Six (6) members answered roll call. Our offering was \$15.00.

Old Business: Norma Banahan and Irene Gibson will continue as chairperson and recorder. Work Day Nov. 27th all day.

New Business: WELCA will meet in January. No Work Day in December.

After Grace, Linda Behrends served refreshments.

Next Eunice Circle will be January 14, 2019 at 1:30pm, Jan. Book. Linda Behrends will be study leader.

Irene Gibson, Recorder

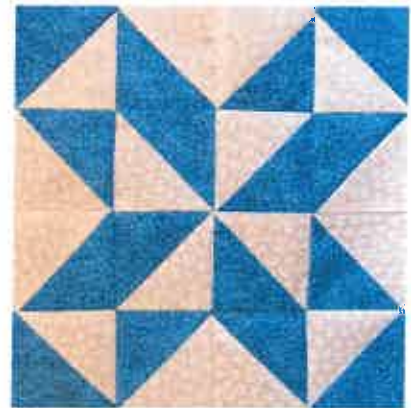
MISSION WORK DAY

On November 27 six quilts were assembled and tied.
Taking a break in December, our next work days will be
January 22 and 29.

All help is appreciated, we meet about 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

With these gifts the message is delivered - of God's ever-present love and care - to someone in need.

Thanks be to God!



Our Deepest Sympathy goes to two families of our congregation.

Betty Lawrence's son, Mark Lawrence, passed away on December 20 and his funeral services took place on December 27th in Fairbury.

Lee Heidemann, father of Jarrod Heidemann, passed away in November and his funeral took place on December 1st in Fairbury.

May God's healing grace and love surround and comfort you and your families.



Our Deepest Sympathy

Cody Scheele recently had an appendectomy. He is home and recovering well. Please keep him in your prayers as he recovers and heals.

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:

*Betty and Franklin Damrow, Richard Schnuelle,
Eden Lottman and Skylar Folkers.*



In Our Thoughts and Prayers

HANGING OF THE GREENS

St. Paul Lutheran had a “Hanging of the Greens” worship service to begin Advent on Sunday, December 2.

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 first reading was by Neleigh Weers about why we use the greens to decorate our church and the congregation sang, “Soon And Very Soon.” The second reading was again by Neleigh Weers about the different colors and meanings of the paraments we use for worship. Jesse Scheele 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.

Esdon Weers lit Advent candles while Skylar Pretzer did readings about the Advent candles and the congregation sang “This Little Light of Mine.” Scriptures were then read by Mallory Denner, Brianna Weers and Neleigh Weers. Verses from the hymns, “Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus” and “Go Tell It On The Mountain” were sung between the scriptures.



Brianna Weers did a reading about evergreens because they do not die; through all the seasons they remain ever-green, and the youth hung the greens while the congregation sang “Deck The Halls”.

As Samantha Clifford 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.”

Pastor Mark then read the Gospel lesson and had a short message. The youth then received the offering. All sang the final hymn, “O Come, O Come Emmanuel.”

After the Benediction, the Women’s group provided treats for the congregation as their Christmas celebration. It was a wonderful day.





Christmas Caroling and Soup Supper Fellowship was held on Sunday, December 9 at 4:30pm.

At the top left, we sang for Judy DeBoer. On the top right, for the Banahans and below that, we enjoyed some delicious treats at the Beran home after caroling. We went to many members' homes, including Cleo Perkins, Irene Gibson and Robert Weers.

In town, we saw Kay Taylor, Ron Barber, Melvin and Jean Weers, Virginia Lottman, Betty Hubka, Norris Gold, Rev. Dr. Delmar & Phyllis Wiemers and John Richards.

At middle left, Family Night Committee members served soup and other finger foods for the carolers.

At lower left, all enjoyed some delicious soup and fellowship.

Below, the Youth went caroling on December 23. They caroled for the Pretzers, Betty Lawrence, Marge Keefover, Virginia Lottman, Irene Gibson, the Banahans and Kay Taylor.

Please consider joining us next year for a wonderful time of service and fellowship.



I want to thank the both groups of Christmas carolers, the congregation and the youth, for coming and singing, it was greatly appreciated!

~ Virginia Lottman

Thank You, Women of the ELCA, for the care package that arrived just in time for finals. Helped out a lot!

~ Caleb Schultis

A BIG Thank You goes to Doug and Spencer Schmidt and Brian Weers and others that came and repaired the ceiling tiles in the sanctuary after the water damage. You all did a wonderful job!!

We are seeking women of the church to serve on the WELCA Executive Board and on the Work Group. We need one person to serve on the WELCA Board and 2 people to be on the Work Group. We want to thank Judy Garton and Judy Landenberger for many years of service at St. Paul.

Please contact Ardie Barber, Jeanette Bures, Robbyn Roelfs or Linda Beran if you are willing to help.





'SETTING THE STAGE FOR JESUS' Shared on Christmas Eve

The evening began with a cast of St. Paul members presenting "Setting the Stage for Jesus". The program included a lot of traditional carols that the audience was invited to sing. The key purpose of the play was to set a stage for Jesus in the hearts of all who attended.

The cast and crew of the "Setting the Stage for Jesus" program were:

Mary: Josie Hennerberg **Joseph:** Mason Schlichtman **Roman Announcer, Inn Keeper and Shepherd:** Peyton Denner **Lead Angel:** Joely Weers
Little Angels: Jocelyn Nippert, Turner Nippert, Aubrey Roelfs, Tynleigh Sasse, Rilynn Sasse, Addison Stein **Lead Shepherd:** Cale Clifford
Shepherd and Inn Keeper: Deb Nippert **Shepherds:** Creyton Heidemann, Beth Roelfs **Narrators:** Susan Lawton, David Parde, Madeline Parde, Brennan Schultis, Zachary Warren, Brianna Weers **Set Crew:** Keira Hennerberg **Accompanist:** Jeanette Bures **Support Crew:** Cheryl Denner, Kristen Hennerberg, Kristen Heidemann **Organizing Committee:** Kristen Hennerberg, Susan Lawton, Deb Nippert, Beth Roelfs.

During the Sundays of advent the play cast completed a variety of activities that helped to set the stage of their hearts for Jesus. One of those was the selection of a 'Caring Project'.

CARING PROJECT

The Caring Project for the children and crew of 'Setting the Stage For Jesus' was the Ronald McDonald House in Omaha. The group chose this project from several options. On December 16th, Sheri Schultis shared her experience with the McDonald House when she stayed with a friend whose child was ill. She ended her story with a picture of a smiling young lady who had been that tiny baby many years ago.

The participants were challenged to raise \$50 using their own resources. Some gave their allowance, others cleaned out the coin cups in their houses, or donated the money from the family swear jar. Grownups in the cast also made donations. They lovingly give \$187.82 to support families dealing with scary times of sickness. Everyone signed a card to send with the gift.

The purpose of the project was to help the participants open their hearts to Jesus by opening their hearts to others.



Christmas Poinsettias



*Given by Jim & Jeanette Bures in honor of our Grandchildren
Given by Brian, Kendra, Brianna and Joely Weers in loving memory of Imogene Cummins and Angie Weers*

Given by Dennis & Deb Nippert for all Blessings of Family and Friends

Given by Irene Gibson and Family in loving memory of Karl Bunting

Given by Dean & Jane Pretzer in honor of our family

Given by Irene Gibson and Family in loving memory of Eleanora Bunting

Given by Melvin & BethLee Beran and Family in memory of Nancy Lillie, Bill & Grace Baumfaulk and Emil & Elsie Beran

Given by Russell & Carofyn Schultis in honor of our Family

Given by Charles & Ardith Barber for the Blessing of our Family

Given by Larry, Susan and Lance Lawton in memory of John, Martha, David and Jerry Kujath

Given by Dean & Beth Roelfs in memory of Loved Ones

Given by Larry & Sondra Germer in honor of our Family



Merry Christmas



Youth will have a meeting the evening of January 6 at the parsonage at 630 and a progressive supper on January 20 beginning with appetizers at the church at 5:30. The next Youth Sunday will be January 27. Mark Your Calendar!



Confirmation will have their parents' night on Wednesday, January 9 at 7pm and the split classes on January 23rd and 30th. February parents' night will be on the 6th.

Elementary December 6



Secondary December 18



Top left, the elementary band performs and below left, the upper elementary choir performs.



Directed by Tiffany Schoenrock, at top right, the 7-12 Choir and below right, the High School band performs in their program.



The Diller-Odell FFA held their Greenhand Ceremony in December for the newest class of members. St. Paul members receiving their degree were Mallory Denner, Mykah Folkers, Ezekiel Jones and Esdon Weers. Congratulations on receiving your Greenhand Degree!



Happy Birthday



January Birthdays

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Darlene Balderson | 19 Taylor Landenberger |
| 5 Steven Behrends | 21 Dale Beran |
| 6 Dean Lottman | 21 Douglas Schmidt |
| 6 Mary Sasse | 24 Sondra Germer |
| 8 Judy Garton | 24 Cody Scheele |
| 8 Donald Meyer | 29 Annette Garton |
| 15 Mallory Denner | 30 Kim Fugett |
| 16 Kinley Speth | 31 Lisa Gold |

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January Wedding Anniversaries

January 8, 2011

Mr. & Mrs. Patrick & BriAnne Hemphill

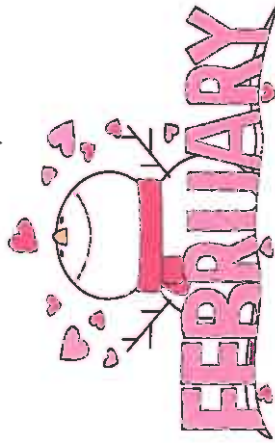


January 6 Sunday Worship Service
With Holy Communion
 Worship Assistant, **Brian Weers**
 Greeter, **Jim Dammrow**

January 13 Sunday Worship Service
 Worship Assistant, **Kendra K. Weers**
 Greeter, **Don Meyer**

January 20 Sunday Worship Service
Annual Congregational Meeting
 Worship Assistant, **Diane Wellsandt**
 Greeter, **Dennis Nippert**

January 27 Sunday Worship Service
 Worship Assistant, **Youth Group**
 Greeter, **Jim Bures**



February 3 Sunday Worship Service
With Holy Communion
 Worship Assistant, **Kendra K. Weers**
 Greeter, **Charles Barber**



Russell Schultis **Tim Scheele**
Jesse Scheele **Cody Scheele**

Doug Schmidt **Spencer Schmidt**
Jonathan Schmidt
Christopher Schmidt

Jamie Schultis **Caleb Schultis**
Darin Weers **Robert Weers**

Youth Group

Melvin Weers **Bob Wellsandt**
Doyle Wolken **Tyler Wolken**



Cole Ebeling
Myleigh Weers

Xavier Jones
Joely Weers

Skylar Folkers
David Parde

Karli Heidemann
Brennan Schultis

Spencer Weers
Madeline Parde



Children's
Sermon

Pastor Mark

Cheryl
Denner

David/Sherry
Henrichs

Youth Group

Pastor Mark



Beth Roelfs
Stacy Roelfs

Sheri Schultis
Stacy Schlichtman

Joyce Lahodny
Jean Schmidt

Robbyn Roelfs
Shannon Stein

Marlene Wolken
Cheryl Denner

January 2019



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SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 	2 NO Confirmation	3	4	5
<i>Red Hymnal</i> 6 Worship Service Holy Communion 9:30 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 AM <i>Epiphany</i> Youth Meeting 6:30 @ Parsonage	7	8	9 Confirmation Parents' Night 7:00pm	10	11	12
<i>Blue Hymnal</i> 13 Worship Service 9:30 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 AM ANNUAL REPORTS DUE	14 <i>Eunice Circle</i> 1:30pm	15	16 Council Meeting 6:00pm	17	18	19
<i>Red Hymnal</i> 20 Worship Service 9:30 AM Sunday School Activity During Meeting ANNUAL MEETING Following Worship <i>Newscaster items due</i> Youth Progressive Dinner 5:30	21	22 <i>Work Day</i> All Day	23 CONFIRMATION 6 th Grade 4pm 7 th -8 th Grades 7:30pm	24	25	26 Transformational Ministry Meeting in Lincoln
<i>Blue Hymnal</i> 27 <i>Youth-Led</i> Worship Service 9:30 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 AM	28	29 <i>Work Day</i> All Day	30 CONFIRMATION 6 th Grade 4pm 7 th -8 th Grades 7:30pm	31		



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