

# 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.*

**March 2024**

*Pastor Mark Liscom*

## Interpreting the Bible

“When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.” (Luke 14:12-14)

Ok, is it wrong to invite your friends over for dinner? Or your relatives? To listen to the way that the Bible is often used today you would have to come to that conclusion. You’ve heard the line, and it’s still around. When all else fails, read the instructions.

But of course, this would be ridiculous. Even though it is “what the Bible says” and in this case “what Jesus says”, most of us would be able to figure out that something else must be going on here. That this kind of rigidity is a sign that something has gone awry.

A quick point. It’s important to remember that the Bible is not a substitute for God. The Bible never points to Itself as an authority. The purpose of the Bible is to point us to the reality of God given in the gift of Jesus.

Now read the text again from that perspective. Does this point us to the love of God given in Jesus Christ? Does it say something about the heart of God? Now we’re getting somewhere. It’s important to remember this when we are interpreting the Bible.

# St. Paul Lutheran Church Council Minutes for February 19, 2024

Council members present were Brian Weers, Jeanette Bures, Gary Bergmeier, Scott Pretzer, Allen Roelfs, Pastor Mark, Peg Hemphill, Doug Schmidt and Diane Wellsandt. Pastor Mark then opened the meeting with a prayer. Allen moved to approve the minutes and was seconded by Jeanette. Motion passed.

**NEW OFFICERS** were elected. Vice-Chair, Gary Bergmeier; Secretary, Brian Weers; Treasurer, Allen Roelfs; Memorial Treasurer, Jeanette Bures; Financial Secretary, Scott Pretzer; Financial Reporter, Doug Schmidt.

**NEW COMMITTEE COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES** were chosen. Christian Education, Allen Roelfs; Memorial, Jeanette Bures; Property, Doug Schmidt; Communication and Outreach, Scott Pretzer; Music and Worship, Brian Weers; Food Stand, Allen Roelfs.

Gary thanked Diane and Peg for their service. Peg was Financial Secretary – taking money to the bank and reporting to the Treasurer, Allen. Diane was Financial Reporter.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Benevolence has started over, so the amount looks small. Christian Ed good yet, Portico outstanding yet. No big expenses on the horizon. January giving was a little light due to the weather. A balance of \$10,483.62 in the General Fund was reported. Brian moved to accept the Treasurer's Report and it was seconded by Doug. Motion passed.

## MEMORIAL TREASURER'S REPORT

Interest of \$1.68 has been received to make a total balance of \$11,678.84, after paying the doors and receiving endowment from the Synod. Were able to use several memorials and put them to good use. Thank you to those families who gave memorials. Allen moved to approve report and was seconded by Gary. Motion passed.

## PASTOR'S REPORT

Four worship services, 2 pre-marital sessions, 3 text studies, 1 Cluster meeting, 1 Ash Wednesday Service, Annual Meeting reports, 1 Youth meeting, 2 Confirmation classes, 6 communion visits.

## VICE CHAIRMAN REPORT

Mentioned the Eternal Candle holder. No emergencies to address.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

*Christian Education* – Committee met on January 28<sup>th</sup>. There is a discipline problem with a few kids in CrossWalk. Received grant from the Community Foundation. Mentioned Camp Carol Joy Holling.

*Music & Worship* – Will do the Seder Meal again on Maundy Thursday. Holy Week is coming together.

*Memorial* – Had the meeting on Sunday, February 18<sup>th</sup> to discuss final front door issue.

*Property* – Drywall nails are popping out around the church and some tape is coming loose, a few windows are cracked. Need a meeting to look church over. Discussed lights for stained-glass windows on East side of sanctuary, Doug contacted Crescent Electric for suggestions. Bush by Narthex and other bushes need to be addressed.

*Communication & Outreach* – N/A

*Food Stand* – N/A

## OLD BUSINESS

The Hwy 8 and PWF signs are to be re-done with decals. Allen will take them to Beatrice and have them done.

## NEW BUSINESS

Bank accounts are now part of Heartland Bank and the email accounts need to be set up.

Lenten Series will be on Lutheran Doctrine.

Pastor Mark brought up that input for a complete restructure of the ELCA is being gathered.

Nebraska Synod of the ELCA Zoom listening sessions will be Tuesday, February 27<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday March 5<sup>th</sup>, 90 minute sessions from 7:00-8:30pm, and Pastor will announce these sessions.

Sweetheart Supper will take place on Sunday, February 25<sup>th</sup>. Plans are finalized.

The next council meeting was set for Monday, March 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm and committees to meet at 6:30pm. Allen moved to adjourn the meeting and Scott seconded. The meeting was adjourned and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

~ Brian Weers, Council Secretary

## TREASURER'S REPORT

As of 2/18/2024

### Current Balances

General Fund	\$ 5,574.78
Benevolence	\$ 962.20
Designations	\$ 3,946.64
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$10,483.62</b>

### Operating Expenses

Available Cash	\$ 5,574.78	
Remaining Bills		
Portico	\$ 1,880.00	<i>Waiting for bill</i>
<b>Remaining Bal</b>	<b>\$ 3,694.78</b>	

### Offering Summary

	December	January	February
Current	\$ 11,949.61	\$ 6,903.42	\$ 6,445.80
Benevolence	\$ 1,428.90	\$ 134.00	\$ 828.20
Designated Funds	\$ 0.00	\$ 255.00	\$ 165.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$ 13,378.51</b>	<b>\$ 7,292.42</b>	<b>\$ 7,439.00</b>

(partial month)

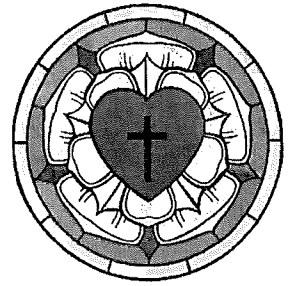
**We need to receive \$10,325.39 in CURRENT each month in order to meet our budget for 2024.**



February 14, 2024

# LENTEN SERIES 2024

The five Lenten Services at St. Paul will be a study of "Lutheranism", the basis, theology and practice. Pastor Mark will provide the message each week exploring these aspects of being a Lutheran. Most services are available on our Facebook page, and the printed sermons are available upon request. Each week during Lent, a meal will be served before the worship service and provided by the Council, WELCA, Confirmation Students and several generous volunteers from our congregation. They will also be assisted by our Confirmation students who then have a short class following the service.



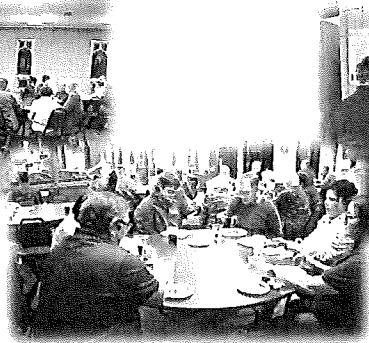
Ash Wednesday services took place on February 14. At right, the imposition of ashes. At bottom, the Communion




## LENTEN MEAL FELLOWSHIP 2024

The Lenten services started on February 21, 2024 with the Church Council providing the first meal of spaghetti, salads and garlic bread. The pictures below are from the first meal.

THANK YOU to the Council and helpers who provided this delicious meal and fellowship!  
Subsequent meals will be featured in the April Newscaster.



Dr. Rev. Delmar and Phyllis Wiemers have been wintering near their daughter. They love hearing from their faith family at St. Paul's. If you would like to mail greetings to them, their address is: 900 E 29th St., Apt. 2, Fremont, NE, 68025.

Contact us! 

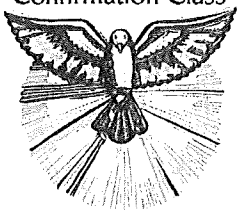
*thank you*

### THANKS FROM WYMORE FOOD PANTRY

Members and Friends of St. Paul Lutheran Church,  
The food pantry sends a big thank you for your donation. We really appreciate this. May God Bless each one of you.

Sincerely,  
Wymore Food Pantry  
*Ruby Hardin*

## Confirmation Class

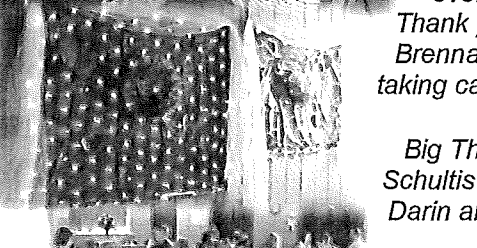


Confirmation students attended the Ash Wednesday service on February 14<sup>th</sup> and will have shortened classes following Lenten services in February on the 28<sup>th</sup> and in March on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. Classes for Holy Week are Maundy-Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup> and Good Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup> during worship services. April classes will be the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>; please see the Newscaster and the Church website on the Confirmation page for more information. Confirmation Sunday will be on Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup> during worship.

The Youth will have a meeting this month for preparation of the Easter Sunday breakfast. It is on the calendar for March 10<sup>th</sup>, but is not firmly set. For updates, please see the church website, texts or Facebook.



## Sweetheart Supper February 25, 2024



Many of our Youth provided a lovely evening at the Sweetheart Supper. Thank you, Zachary, Kellan, Keira, Joely, Brennan, Myleigh, Peyton and Xavier, for taking care of everyone and making all of us feel special.

Big Thank Yous to Jamie, Sheri and Jadyn Schultis for preparing the delicious food and to Darin and Kendra Weers and Pastor Mark for helping out in the kitchen.

**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!

# MARCH

## March 3 Sunday Worship Service With Holy Communion

Worship Assistant – Gary Bergmeier  
Greeter – Dean Pretzer  
Coffee Service – Robbyn Roelfs, Stacy Roelfs

## March 10 Sunday Worship Service

Worship Assistant – Kendra K Weers  
Greeter – Charles Barber  
Coffee – Jane Pretzer, Jill Zabokrtsky

## March 17 Sunday Worship Service

### St. Patrick's Day

Worship Assistant – Diane Wellsandt  
Greeter – Gary Bergmeier  
Coffee Service – Radene Beran, Sue Meyer



## March 24 Sunday Worship Service

### Palm Sunday

Worship Assistant – Gary Bergmeier  
Greeter – Jim Bures  
Coffee Service – Marcy Barber, Sondra Germer



## March 31 Sunday Worship Service

### With Holy Communion

### Easter Sunday

Worship Assistant – David Henrichs  
Greeter – Dennis Nippert  
Coffee Service – Leatha Christ, Diane Wellsandt



## April 7 Sunday Worship Service

### With Holy Communion

Worship Assistant – Sherry Henrichs  
Greeter – Dean Pretzer  
Coffee Service – Beth Roelfs, Marlene Wolken