

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.*

November 2023
Pastor Mark Liscom

I Know that I Know that I Know!

A while back I was listening to a popular radio preacher talk about what it means to believe in God. And in the end, it came out something like this: “I know that I know that I know that I know!” He began in a normal tone of voice and slowly began to increase the fervor of his tone. “I know that I know that I know!” The cheering started slowly and soon the whole place was bursting with that kind of confidence that only absolute certainty can provide. This was the image of what it means to believe.

Hmm. I don't think this is believing. It is a form of a popular pep rally technique. You could use it at the beginning of a football game. Just get a big drum and start a beat. Boom, Boom, Boom, Boom. It does do something to you to be sure! It fills you with something! But I don't think it's belief.

The following is a quote from the leaders guide in our confirmation curriculum this year. And I think this is critical for all of us to get. Take some time with this if you would.

“Real life is a complicated undertaking. Very few of us enjoy perfect clarity about who we are and what we believe, and those who claim such clarity are most likely lying”

It's a strong statement, but one that needs a hearing. The point is that we live in a world of much religious exaggeration. In other words, the temptation as a believer is to put on an appearance that we believe with greater certainty than we actually do.

One of the blessings of believing in Jesus is to be relieved of this need to exaggerate. To discover, that our questions and uncertainty, even our doubts, hold a great gift of community and more honest connections with one another. Behind all the hype, is usually another reality, much more human and down to earth. And becoming human and down to earth is exactly how Jesus came to be with you.

Now, we are getting a taste of believing.

Pastor Mark

Editor: Kendra K. Weers

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

Assembly: Kendra K. Weers

Newscaster Reporters

Church Council – Brian Weers Treasurer’s Report – Allen Roelfs

WELCA – Peggy Hemphill Eunice Circle – Irene Gibson

Work Day – Carolyn Schultis

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

Youth News – Joely Weers, Myleigh Weers and Brennan Schultis

Worship Committee – Council Mutual Ministry Committee – Council

Birthdays & Anniversaries – Jane Pretzer Personals – Elizabeth Roelfs

WELCA Coffee List – Elizabeth Roelfs Acolyte List – Pastor Mark Liscom

Worship Assistants & Greeters Lists – Sherry Henrichs



Sponsoring the November Newscaster are

**Keith and Colby Bartlett
in Loving Memory of
Cindy Bartlett**

*Thank You for sponsoring this Newscaster in
Memory of your Loved One*



Sponsors for 2023 have been fulfilled, we thank you!

There is an orange sign-up sheet on the announcements bulletin board in the back of the Narthex for 2024. Please consider sponsoring this important communication tool for our congregation.

November/December WELCA Activities

**November 19, 2023 (Sunday)
ThankOffering Service during the
Morning Worship Hour**

Women of the ELCA Thank Offering Service

St. Paul Women of the ELCA will conduct their annual Thank Offering service during the morning worship hour on Sunday, November 19. Thankofferings are given to support the life-changing ministries of Women of the ELCA.

Together, we do more than we could ever do apart.



**December 3, 2023 (Sunday)
Hanging of the Greens during
Morning Worship Hour
Advent Begins**



St. Paul Lutheran Church Council Minutes for October 18, 2023

Council members present were Pastor Mark, Diane Wellsandt, Brian Weers, Jeanette Bures, Gary Bergmeier, Peg Hemphill and Allen Roelfs. "God Sightings" were shared and Pastor Mark offered an opening prayer. The minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed. Correction of Jeanette being present at the September meeting was added. Diane moved to accept the minutes and Jeanette seconded. The minutes were approved as corrected.

Treasurer's Report

Allen Roelfs reported that Diller Telephone Company phone bill was not on report, but got it since the report and was paid. Portico will be on the next month's statement. The furnace has been paid for, \$5,754.60 from current was used, and used \$16,200 from the special fund for the rest. We are still \$6,847.82 ahead in the account. Benevolence is getting close to our commitment. The health plan has been submitted. The copier contract due date needs to be changed to avoid late charges because of when it is due and when the council meeting falls. After all the bills have been paid, the balance in the account is \$6,847.82. Peg moved to accept the report and Brian seconded. Motion passed.

Memorial Treasurer's Report

The account received \$4.52 interest making the balance \$22,745.36. Allen moved to accept the report and Brian seconded. Motion passed.

Pastor's Report

2 Confirmation classes, 1 Confirmation service project, 4 worship services, 1 Building Leaders meeting, 1 Cluster meeting, 1 Text Study, 1 Youth meeting, 3 home communions. Hasn't gotten a response about Church Sunday from Confirmation families. Next Wednesday, October 25th, Confirmation students in 3-4 groups, will go to the MOSAIC Halloween Party.

Vice Chairman's Report

Things are going okay.

Committee Reports

Worship and Music – All Saints Sunday (November 5) is coming up, and we will have a potluck after worship service.

This will also be First Communion for the Confirmation students. Pastor will call the families of Russell Schultis, Jean Schmidt, Isaiah Weers, Rick Whitemire, Franklin Damrow and Dave Lottman about remembering them and lighting a candle on that day.

Christian Education – are discussing how the Ten Commandments should be taught.

Food Stand – No report.

Property – No report.

Communication and Outreach – No report.

Memorial – No report.

Old Business

- The Building Leaders workshop is Saturday and Sunday, October 21st and 22nd. Pastor is going to Building Leaders on Saturday, October 21st.
- Trunk or Treat is on Sunday, October 29th, we may also hand out hot dogs. Contact Beth if you plan to participate.
- The biggest problem with some congregations is how to do communion at those churches that don't have pastors.
- Front door frames are not yet in
- The old furnace is now gone
- Doug Lottman said we could get a little aggregate to put in the parking lot from them
- Discussed the Eternal Candle again, may try to extend the wall bracket

New Business

- The Diller Foundation gave the church a donation for using our church for meetings
- The church web domain needs to be renewed
- Advent will begin the first Sunday in December, on the 3rd
- Christmas Eve this year is on a Sunday
- Youth Group will meet on Sunday
- Christian Education will meet on October 30th

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 15, 2023 at 7pm, committees meet at 6:30pm. Allen moved to adjourn the meeting and Jeanette seconded. The meeting was adjourned and closed with The Lord's Prayer.

~ Brian Weers, Council Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT

As of 10/16/2023



Current Balances

| | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| General Fund | \$ 8,883.06 |
| Benevolence | \$ 153.85 |
| <u>Designations</u> | <u>\$ 3,612.38</u> |
| Total | \$12,649.29 |

Operating Expenses

| | | |
|------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Available Cash | \$8,883.06 | |
| Remaining Bills | | |
| Diller Telephone | 184.03 | (not yet received) |
| Portico | <u>\$1,851.21</u> | (not ready yet) |
| Remaining Bal | \$6,847.82 | |

Offering Summary

| | August | September | October |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Current | \$ 7,274.20 | \$ 6,113.40 | \$ 5,319.40 |
| Benevolence | \$ 1,220.80 | \$ 1,129.60 | \$ 153.85 |
| Designated Funds | <u>\$ 168.00</u> | <u>\$ 630.00</u> | <u>\$ 100.00</u> |
| Totals | \$ 8,663.00 | \$ 7,873.00 | \$ 5,573.25 |

(partial month)

We need to receive \$9,754.00 in CURRENT each month in order to meet our budget for 2023.



October Eunice Circle

Eunice Circle met on October 9, 2023 at 1:30pm. The Bible Study was led by Irene Gibson. Holy Places – Sanctuary. As Jesus dwells in us, we become a living sanctuary, where God's presence is revealed.

Our study texts were from Leviticus 19:33-34; Isaiah 56:1-8; Matthew 17:1-9; Matthew 25:31-40; Ephesians 2:17-22; 1 Peter 2:4-5; and other passages from Genesis, Isaiah and Matthew. The focus verses – Ephesians 2:17-22.

We opened with prayer and Hymn, "Built on a Rock". We closed with prayer and Hymn, "Oh Praise the Gracious Power" and The Lord's Prayer.

Norma called our meeting to order. Minutes were read and approved. Six (6) members, one (1) guest and Pastor Mark answered roll call. Our offering was \$47.00.

Old Business: Faith Formation children will pack school kit bags on Wednesday, September 14th. Work Day will be September 26th.

New Business: Faith Formation children packed forty (40) school kit bags, the remainder were packed by Eunice Circle members. Fifty (50) total school kit bags. Coat and food collection taking place. October 24th is Work Day where we will pack quilts.

After Grace, Linda Behrends served refreshments. November hostess is Jane Pretzer.

Next Eunice Circle meeting will be November 13th, 2023 at 1:30pm, November/December book. Norma Banahan will lead the Bible study.

~ Irene Gibson, Recorder

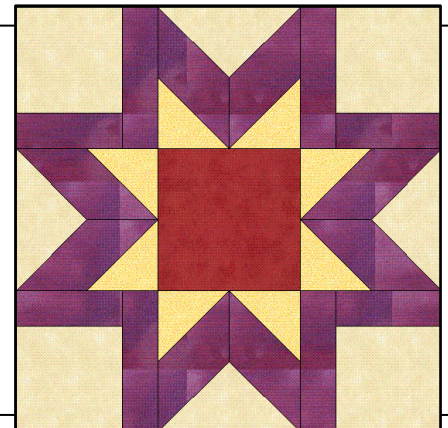
Mission Work Day

Once again it is time to box our quilts and kit ministry for Lutheran World Relief. Quilts were boxed on Oct. 24, and taken to Omaha in November.

Our quilts and kits are urgently needed to care for neighbors in need and show them that even in their most trying times, they are not alone.

Our next work day will be November 28.

Thanks Be To God



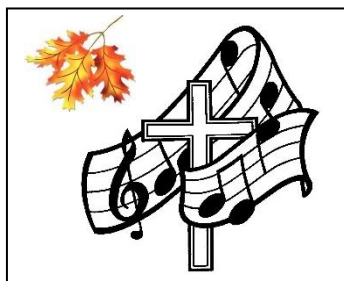
CLEAN OUT YOUR CLOSETS

ANNUAL COAT DRIVE

The St. Paul Coat Drive is currently going on. The community is being invited to join our efforts in collecting new or gently used winter wear such as coats, hats, hoodies, scarves, socks, gloves, and snowpants. All sizes are needed. Items will be distributed through various locations to serve local communities. All items are given out at NO COST. Before they are taken to the various donation centers, there will be an opportunity for community members to select items they need to stay warm and safe during the upcoming season of snow and cold.

Contact Beth Roelfs @ 402-793-5556 or broelfs73@gmail.com if you have questions.

Please hang donations on the west side of the coat rack in the entry. Your gifts are appreciated!!



The impromptu choir sang "Blessed Assurance" from the Blue Hymnal during our October 8th Worship service.

Thank you to those that come and share their music gifts. It truly makes our worship special!

BAPTISM

We celebrated the baptism of Dawson James Roelfs, son of Josh and Kalli Roelfs and grandson of Jody and the late Neal Roelfs, on October 22. Sponsors were Clint and Kali Bruna and Darcy Revis.

May God be a guiding light and source of peace in his life. Congratulations to the family on this momentous day.



SPECIAL HAPPY BIRTHDAY WISHES TO PHYLLIS WIEMERS

What a joy to honor Phyllis Wiemers as she celebrated her 90th birthday. We pray that she received many well wishes and realizes that she holds a special place in the hearts of many. May God give you lots of reasons to smile as you look forward to the next year.

Some of our congregational members have been in the hospital and/or suffered losses recently.

Brenda Engelman, who had surgery in October and is home recovering.

Betty Hennerberg, who had surgery and recovering at Beatrice Rehab.

Jim Bures has had health issues, but is at home recovering.

Roger Beran remains in our prayers.

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:

Eldean Banahan, Robert Weers, Norris Gold, Betty Hennerberg, Ervin Hennerberg, Tyler Wolken, Toni Landenberger, Mike Balderson and Norman Balderson



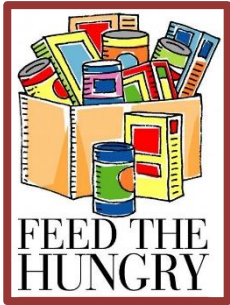
CROSSWALK STUDIES THE STORIES OF THE BIBLE

This year the CrossWalk studies are focusing on the stories of the Old Testament. In October we learned the stories of Noah, Abraham and Sarah as well as Jacob's deception of his brother Esau. We are working to help the students understand God's desire to connect to his children.

The students are working to learn the books of the Bible, practicing using the Bible as a tool and building their prayer habits.



They have already met their pop tab goal and celebrated with a banana split party on October 18. They have embraced the mission of serving families at the Ronald McDonald House through pop tabs. Everyone is invited to support their mission. Drop off any donations at the church. The kids welcome your help in reaching their goal of 10 gallons of pop tabs. ~ Submitted by Beth Roelfs



FOOD DRIVE COMPETITION

Help St Paul reach our goal of collecting 750 pounds of food and personal care items during the month of November. Our congregation has been invited to participate in a FOOD DRIVE COMPETITION with other churches in Jefferson County. Needed items include: soup, instant potatoes, pasta, pancake mix, canned meat, canned fruits and vegetables along with ALL PERSONAL CARE ITEMS.

Watch the campaign thermometer to check our progress. Join in on the fun while lovingly serving the needs of others. The contest goes through December 3.



~ Photos and Article by Allen Roelfs

On Wednesday evening, October 25th, the Confirmation students from St. Paul Lutheran in Diller attended a Halloween party at MOSAIC in Beatrice.

The party was attended by MOSAIC residents along with Confirmation classes from other area Homestead Cluster ELCA congregations.



Congratulations On Your Achievement

Congratulations goes out to Valerie Lottman for placing 2nd in the 5th/6th division of the Jefferson County Spelling Contest. Awesome Job!!

Congratulations on a great effort and showing from our school!



Trunk-or-Treat at St. Paul's October 29, 2023

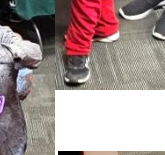
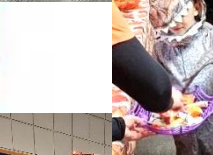
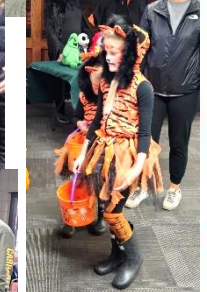
HALLOWEEN TRUNK OR TREAT MOVES INDOORS

With the forecast for cold and snow, the Trunk or Treat fun moved indoors this year, but it didn't deter fifty-eight children and many parents from joining in on the fun. All were greeted by members of the Diller Fire Department who delighted trick or treaters with a visit on the firetruck. Once inside they had their choice of 11 tempting tables/booths to get a treat and play some games. Witches, bull riders, dinosaurs, spiderman and many more could also relax and enjoy a hotdog and cup of hot cocoa while Halloween tunes played.

Booth winners were: Best display - Beth Roelfs,
Best host costume-Kendra K. Weers and
Best treat - Joyce Carpenter.

Door prize winners were: Kids - Jax Young and
Gunner Snyder, Adults - Allen Roelfs and Kim Brown.

A huge thank you to everyone who made this fun
packed fellowship happen!



THANKSGIVING SERVICE



St. Paul Lutheran will once again host its annual Community Thanksgiving Worship Service on Wednesday evening, November 22 at 7pm. All are welcome and encouraged to attend this special service.



Christmas Poinsettias

If you would like to purchase a poinsettia for Christmas, there will be a sign-up sheet for whoever wishes to bring one. More information will be in the December Newscaster.



CAROLING

Christmas Caroling is anticipated to be on December 3rd. PLEASE SAVE THE DATE!! More details will be on the Facebook page, website, or call a member of the Council and please check the updated calendar.



A big THANK YOU goes to Alexis Schmidt who donated the pumpkins and gourds to decorate the church. They look GREAT!



November Birthdays

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Judy Landenberger | 13 Katelin White |
| 1 Jordan Langenberg | 18 Michael Wellsandt |
| 2 Myleigh Weers | 22 Leana Lottman |
| 5 Danielle Reeson | 23 Brenda Engelman |
| 6 Neil Meyer | 25 Dennis Schmidt |
| 6 Brianna Weers | 25 Colby Bartlett |
| 8 Linda Garcia | 26 Russell Schultis |
| 8 Rhonda Balderson | 26 Diane Wellsandt |
| 9 Leatha Christ | 28 Deborah Nippert |
| 10 Sharon Lottman | 28 Jacob Langenberg |
| 11 Susan Lawton | 30 Kelsey Engelman |
| 13 Donna Damrow | 30 Spencer Weers |

November Wedding Anniversaries

- November 1, 1980
 ⚭ Mr. & Mrs. Dennis & Deborah Nippert
- November 16, 1988
 ⚭ Mr. & Mrs. Gary & Jill Bergmeier
- November 28, 2015
 ⚭ Mr. & Mrs. Joseph & McKenzie Henrichs

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!



**November 5 Sunday Worship Service
With Holy Communion
First Communion
All Saints Sunday and Memorial Dedication**
*Worship Assistant, Brian Weers
Greeter, Gary Bergmeier
Coffee Service – Jane Pretzer, Jill Zabokrtsky*



November 12 Sunday Worship Service
*Worship Assistant, Gary Bergmeier
Greeter, Dennis Nippert
Coffee Service – Stacy Roelfs, Beth Roelfs*

November 19 Sunday Worship Service
*Worship Assistant, David Henrichs
Greeter, Dean Pretzer
Coffee Service – Radene Beran, Sue Meyer*



**November 26 Sunday Worship Service
Christ the King Sunday**
*Worship Assistant, Sherry Henrichs
Greeter, Charles Barber
Coffee Service – Marcy Barber, Sondra Germer*



**December 3 Sunday Worship Service
With Holy Communion
Hanging of the Greens Service
First Sunday in Advent**

*Worship Assistant, Kendra K Weers
Greeter, Gary Bergmeier
Coffee Service – Leatha Christ, Diane Wellsandt*



November 2023



www.stpauldiller.com

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Facebook – St. Paul’s Lutheran Church Diller Nebraska

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|--|---|---|---|---|-----------|---|
| <p>☼ Please check the Facebook page or website for schedule changes or additions. Some information was not available at press time. ☼</p> | | |  <p>1</p> <p>CROSS WALK Christian Ed 4:00pm</p> <p>Confirmation 7pm Parents' Night</p> | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| <p><i>Red Hymnal</i> Worship Service 5 9:30 AM <i>Holy Communion</i></p> <p>  </p> <p>ALL SAINTS SUNDAY DEDICATION SUNDAY Veterans Recognition POTLUCK following WORSHIP</p> | 6 | 7 | <p>8</p> <p>CROSS WALK Christian Ed 4:00pm</p> <p>Confirmation 7pm Service project</p> | 9 | 10 | <p>11</p> <p></p> <p>VETERAN'S DAY</p> |
| <p><i>Blue Hymnal</i> Worship Service 12 9:30 AM</p> | 13 <i>Eunice Circle</i> 1:30pm | 14 | <p>Committees/ Council Meetings 6:30/7 pm</p> <p>CROSS WALK Christian Ed 4:00pm</p> | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| <p><i>Red Hymnal</i> Worship Service 19 9:30 AM</p> <p>WELCA ThankOffering Service</p> | 20 | 21 | <p>22</p> <p><i>Thanksgiving Service</i> 7pm</p> | <p>23</p> <p></p> <p>Thanksgiving Office Closed</p> | 24 | 25 |
| <p><i>Blue Hymnal</i> Worship Service 26 9:30 AM</p> <p> <i>Newscaster items due</i></p> | 27 | 28 Work Day All Day | <p>29</p> <p>CROSS WALK Christian Ed 4:00pm</p> <p>Confirmation 7pm</p> | 30 | | |



St. Paul Lutheran Church
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