

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.*

August 2023

Pastor Mark Liscom

A “Christ Centered” Article

Once in a while, you might hear that the goal of the Christian life is to be “Christ Centered”. Well, since this is the pastor’s article, I’ll give you my take on what this might mean.

The example I’ll use is this very article. How would I go about making this article centered in Christ? I suppose I could talk about Jesus. That would be Christ centered. I could pray about what to write, which I did. Is that what we mean? I could write an article about making Jesus your top priority. Is that it? Like a lot of religious language, it can get pretty vague.

This article, I would argue, is Christ centered in this way. In spite of my best efforts, this article is imperfect. And the author of it, is also imperfect too. My perceptions of God are limited, and I am finite in my understandings.

What makes this article “Christ centered” then, is that in the end, this article rests on God’s unchanging Grace. My imperfect offering to the degree it is effective, is sufficient by the Grace of God alone. And what that means is that whatever I think and believe, I will approach it with an appropriate sense of humility.

We live in a world that is being bullied by religious certainty and claims to truth. To be Christ centered is a faith of a different character. The beauty of Christ centeredness is that it is our imperfections and weaknesses that let in the light. And so.....I offer this “Christ centered” article.

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,

Kristen Hennerberg and Kristen Heidemann,

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



Sponsors for the August Newscaster are

Dean and Jane Pretzer

in Honor of Our 54th Wedding Anniversary

and

Chris and Angie Clifford

in Honor of Our 25th Wedding Anniversary

Congratulations on your anniversaries! Thank You for sponsoring this Newscaster!

All sponsorships for 2023 have been fulfilled. Thank You!!

There is a 2024 sponsorship sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the back of the Narthex.

We are deeply grateful for the kindness and sympathy extended to our family during this difficult time. We appreciated the sympathy cards, flowers, food and hugs received, and we thank Pastor for his visits and prayers.

Your kindness and sympathy were gratefully appreciated and will always be remembered.

~ The Russell Schultis Family

~ Carolyn and Family

We wish to express our sincere thanks and appreciation for all the cards and well wishes from St. Paul's members while Betty had two surgeries and was in rehab at Good Samaritan. Ervin could not stay at home alone, so was at Heritage Care Center in Fairbury for a time. Thanks especially to Pastor Liscom for his prayers, visits and sharing of communion with us. We have been settled for some time now at home and are doing well. We are truly blessed!

~ Ervin and Betty Hennerberg



St. Paul Lutheran Church Council Minutes for June 21, 2023

Council members present were Jeanette Bures, Peg Hemphill, Pastor Mark, Brian Weers, Diane Wellsandt and Allen Roelfs. Gary Bergmeier was absent. God sightings were shared by the council, and Pastor Mark opened with a prayer. Minutes were read and Diane moved to approve the minutes and seconded by Jeanette. Minutes approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Allen reported all bills for the month have been paid. Current balance is \$9,475.94, and we are at half of our goal for Benevolence. Pastor Mark moved to accept the Treasurer's report and Peg seconded. Motion passed.

MEMORIAL TREASURER'S REPORT

Jeanette reported that there was \$1.36 in interest received for a total account balance of \$15,657.87. We have received the Kraft grant from the Synod (Thank you, Allen!) for \$6,000 for the front door project. Peg moved to accept the report and Brian seconded. The report was approved.

PASTOR'S REPORT

4 worship services, 2 funerals, 1 youth activity, 4 hospital calls, 5 rest home visits, attended Synod Convention, 2 pre-marital sessions, 1 Cluster meeting, 2 Text studies.

VICE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

N/A

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Christian Education – N/A

Property – N/A

Food Stand – Did not meet, but council discussed the Picnic Food Stand and felt it went ok. Could always make a few changes.

Communication & Outreach – N/A

Music & Worship – N/A

OLD BUSINESS

- ~ Talked about front door, furnace and the A/C
- ~ Pastor turned in cost of new Confirmation books
- ~ Pastor reported that he felt the Adult Forum Lite is going well

NEW BUSINESS

~ Propane contract needs to be turned in by July 1st. It is \$1.63/gallon with pre-pay for whole amount of propane. If we pay 20 cents/gallon down payment, total cost is \$1.68/gallon. Allen moved to do the 20 cents/gallon down payment option, Diane seconded. Motion passed.

~ Pastor Mark is trying to contact Otto Schultz about Mission Festival.

~ Pastor showed the council his Confirmation schedule and also asked for some names of potential students, may try to have a church day on a Sunday with pancakes, etc. Pastor felt that Confirmation during Lent went ok where the students came to services and held a short meeting afterwards. Plan on doing the same next year during Lent.

~ Diane reported that Jadyn Schultis contacted her about having the Youth Serviceship Camp here at the church, and told her yes to the camp.

~ Jeanette asked about the St. Paul wedding policy, and was discussed by the Council.

~ Peg brought up that the Ellis Methodist church's Pastor is leaving the church. She wondered about the kids that attend the Ellis church, possibly inviting them to join our church. Pastor Mark told the Council about "Methodism" theology and "Lutheranism" theology, and about how the Missouri Synod of the Lutheran church theology is about "Instructionalism".

The next council meeting was set for Wednesday, July 19th at 7:30pm and committees to meet at 6:30pm. Allen moved to adjourn the meeting and Peg seconded. The meeting was adjourned and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

~ Brian Weers, Council Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT

As of 6/19/2023

Current Balances

| | |
|--------------|--------------------|
| General Fund | \$ 9,475.94 |
| Benevolence | \$ 641.32 |
| Designations | \$19,930.73 |
| Total | \$30,047.99 |

Operating Expenses

| | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| Available Cash | \$ 9,475.94 |
| Remaining Bills | none |
| Remaining Bal | \$ 9,475.94 |



Offering Summary

| | April | May | June |
|------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Current | \$ 9,264.68 | \$ 8,266.80 | \$ 4,643.80 |
| Benevolence | \$ 387.42 | \$ 155.45 | \$ 98.45 |
| Designated Funds | \$ 213.00 | \$ 25.00 | \$ 26.00 |
| Totals | \$ 9,865.10 | \$ 8,447.25 | \$ 4,768.25 |

(Partial Month)

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

St. Paul Lutheran Church Council Minutes for July 19, 2023

Council members present were Gary Bergmeier, Allen Roelfs, Peg Hemphill, Pastor Mark, Brian Weers and Jeanette Bures. Diane Wellsandt was absent. God sightings were shared by the council, and Pastor Mark opened with a prayer. Minutes were read and Allen moved to approve the minutes and seconded by Peg. Minutes approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Allen reported that he appreciated the financial support. Benevolence is close to half way to our annual goal. All the bills except Portico, which hasn't been received yet. We have a total cash available of \$7,505.14. Brian moved to accept the Treasurer's report and Jeanette seconded. Motion passed.

MEMORIAL TREASURER'S REPORT

Jeanette reported that there was \$1.87 interest received for a total account balance of \$15,592.74. The Growth Fund balance is \$21,547.52, according to the statement. Peg moved to accept the report and Allen seconded. The report was approved.

PASTOR'S REPORT

4 worship services, 1 funeral, 3 text studies, 1 Cluster meeting, 1 meeting at St. John Lutheran, 2 communions, 2 pre-marital meetings, 2 Building Leaders meetings and 1 Bishop meeting. Some churches in the Cluster are without pastors, so they are looking at possibly linking up via video, just trying to figure out what to do, if anything – we are equipped to do it now if we need to. Will be taking vacation from August 17th through 31st.

VICE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

No issues have been brought up. Did receive some good comments about the Isaiah Weers funeral.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Communication & Outreach – N/A

Christian Education – Final preparations are made for VBS which will take place on August 3rd at Camp Jefferson near Fairbury. Congregations from St. Paul Lutheran and Ellis United Methodist churches are invited to the program that goes from 6 to 6:30, with BBQ meal at 6:30.

Memorial – Discussed the new front doors which are forthcoming.

Property – Discussed furnace, the new unit is in at Wrightsman's. May see if someone would want the old unit.

Food Stand – Met and discussed Diller Picnic proceeds and operation of the food stand.

Music & Worship – N/A

OLD BUSINESS

~ Propane contract was turned in

~ Haven't talked to Pastor Otto Schultz yet (wrote letter about CHD (Chronic Helpers Disease) about self-care and quick fixes)

~ Still looking at potential Confirmation students from the area

NEW BUSINESS

~ Arden Dorn (Associate Pastor at St. John's Lutheran in Beatrice) is holding a "Building Leaders" workshop on October 21st and 22nd. Basically, we need more pastors. Presentation on the format of being part of the ELCA, what it means to be a part of the ELCA and serve it. Everything's changing – how to adapt to churches without a permanent pastor, etc., and how to get more pastors, lay leaders, etc., and how to address this locally.

~ Active remote worship meeting on September 12 at 7:30. Online Joint Communication brainstorming session.

~ At Cluster meetings, there have been requests for someone to come to some churches to do some Sunday afternoon services and do communions, etc.

~ Pastor Mark will be on vacation August 17th through 31st.

The next council meeting was set for Wednesday, August 16th at 7:30pm and the 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 7/19/2022

Current Balances

| | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| General Fund | \$ 9,356.35 |
| Benevolence | \$ 157.00 |
| <u>Designations</u> | <u>\$19,882.73</u> |
| Total | \$29,396.08 |

Operating Expenses

| | |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| Available Cash | \$ 9,356.35 |
| Remaining Bills | |
| <u>Politico</u> | <u>1,851.21</u> (Awaiting Bill) |
| Remaining Bal | \$ 7,505.14 |



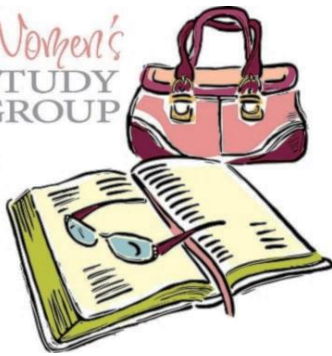
Offering Summary

| | May | June | July |
|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Current | \$ 8,266.80 | \$ 7,099.60 | \$ 4,193.00 |
| Benevolence | \$ 155.45 | \$ 528.65 | \$ 157.00 |
| Designated Funds | <u>\$ 25.00</u> | <u>\$ 26.00</u> | <u>\$ 27.00</u> |
| Totals | \$ 8,447.25 | \$ 7,665.25 | \$ 4,377.00 |

(Partial Month)

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

Women's
STUDY
GROUP



June Eunice Circle

Eunice Circle met on June 12, 2023 at 1:30pm. The Bible study was led by Irene Gibson. *Salvation now...* Promised salvation now: Jesus brings wellness.

Our study texts were from John 2:1-11; John 5:1-17; Matthew 12:9-13; Mark 3:1-6; Luke 13:10-17; 1 Samuel 21:1-6. Our focus verse, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now." (John 2:10)

We opened with prayer and Hymn, "Gather Us In". We closed with prayer and Hymn, "Now Thank We All Our God" and The Lord's Prayer.

Norma called our meeting to order. Minutes were read and approved. Five (5) members answered roll call and one (1) guest. Our offering was \$44.00.

Old Business: The St. Paul Church will have a food stand only on Saturday night of the Diller Picnic, June 17th.
Work Days on May 23rd and 30th.

New Business: WELCA Unit Meeting will be in August. Work Day on June 27th.

After Grace, Linda Behrends served refreshments. Jane Pretzer will be July Hostess.

Next Eunice Circle meeting will be July 10, 2023 at 1:30pm, July/August book. Norma Banahan will lead the Bible study.
~ Irene Gibson, Recorder

July Eunice Circle

Eunice Circle met on July 10, 2023 at 1:30pm. Norma Banahan led our Bible Study. "Salvation now: Tangible salvation now: Christians as bringers of wellness.

Our Study texts were from John 2:1-12; John 3:16-17; John 13:20-35. Also, several other verses from John. Our focus verse was "Do whatever he tells you." (John 2:5b). We opened with prayer and Hymn, "Now the Silence". We closed with prayer and Hymn, "Now Thank We All Our God", and The Lord's Prayer.

Norma called our meeting to order. The minutes were read and approved. Six (6) members answered Roll Call. Our offering was \$28.00.

Old Business: WELCA Unit Meeting will be in August. Work Day on June 27th.

New Business: Our Thanks to Ardith and Charles Barber for getting our Bible Study from the computer - we were able to have our Bible Study. Marla donated printing paper. WELCA Unit Meeting will be August 13th after Church Service. School Supplies are purchased. Work Day on July 25th.

After Grace, Jane Pretzer served refreshments. August Hostess is Ardith Barber.

Next Eunice Circle Meeting will be August 14th, 2023 at 1:30pm, July/August book. Irene Gibson will lead the bible study.
~ Irene Gibson, Recorder

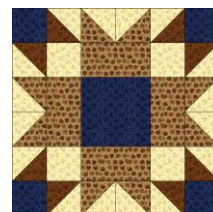
St. Paul WELCA August Unit Meeting Sunday, August 13, 2023 Following Worship Services

The meeting will take place in the sanctuary
following worship service

All Women of the church are encouraged to attend

Mission Work Day

Work Day is July 25. Please check future editions of the Newscaster for further updates about this work group.



5

Jays & Concerns

Caring Thoughts



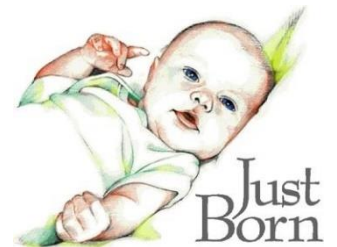
We send caring thoughts and prayers to the family of Russel Schultis as they grieve his passing and celebrate his life. Russel passed away on June 8. His funeral service was held at St. Paul on June 13. The service provided the opportunity to hear beloved stories, laugh and honor Russel. We continue to support Carolyn, Greg, Jamie, Kimberly and the entire family during this time of loss.

Isaiah Weers was a presence in the lives of many. Isaiah was only 22 years old when he passed away very unexpectedly on June 23, but he lived an amazing life. A large group of friends and family gathered at St. Paul on June 30 to honor his life and mourn his death. Our hearts are sad and we reach out to Shawn, Marquis, Spencer, Grandma Judy and family with loving support.

Joyful Celebrations

We celebrate the arrival of Dawson James Roelfs, son of Josh and Kalli Roelfs. Dawson was born on July 20. He couldn't arrive home soon enough for 'Big Brother Alex'. He is also welcomed by Grandma, Jody Roelfs. What a joy to share this precious gift of life with your family.

Congratulations goes out to Colt and Hayden Nutsch at the arrival of their wonderful little boy, Koy Steven. Koy was born on July 17 and is welcomed home by 'Big Brother Kutter'. We also are happy for grandparents, Steve and Peg Hemphill. We pray God will continue to bless your joyful family.



CONGRATULATIONS goes out to the many student-athletes who competed with passion over the summer. Your stages included the baseball field, basketball court, volleyball court, swimming pool and dance stage. We are proud of all of you for the dedication you show and the honors you earned.

A BIG shout out to our Dean's List achievers at St. Paul Lutheran. Brianna Weers, studying to be a Surgical Technologist at Southeast Community College – Lincoln, had a 4.0 GPA for the spring 2023 semester, and to Addison Heidemann, majoring in Kinesiology and Health for being named to the Spring 2023 Dean's List at Iowa State University. Students named to the Dean's List must have earned a grade point average of at least 3.50 on a 4.00 scale while carrying a minimum of 12 credit hours of graded course work. Addison's dedication to her education and volleyball endeavors lifts this honor to a noteworthy high level. Congratulations!

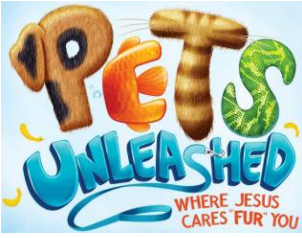
Prayer List



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:

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

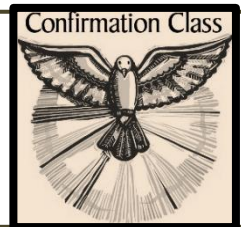
VBS 2023 PETS UNLEASHED: WHERE GOD CARES "FUR" YOU!



LET'S HELP CARE 'FUR' THE PETS! Each year, our program aims to support a caring project in our community. In line with this year's Pets theme, we will be supporting the Beatrice Humane Society. EVERYONE is invited to help in the effort by donating items from the needs list or making a monetary gift. The drive will launch at VBS on Aug. 3 and continue through the month of August. Items can be placed in the Kennel located in the front hall of the church. Cash donations should be placed in an envelope and marked for Humane Society. Make checks out to St. Paul but in the memo line note 'For Humane Society'. Students from St. Paul's and the Ellis Methodist Church will be delivering all the donations in mid-September.

Suggested Items: Blankets, towels, washrags, sheets, pillowcases, Black sharpies/pens, Empty Tidy Cat buckets (35-pound size), Empty gallon-size ice cream buckets, Bleach, Paper towels, Laundry soap, Dawn dish soap. A detailed wishlist can be found on the Beatrice Humane Society's website.

Confirmation classes are starting soon! Classes are starting on Wednesday, September 6th, with Parents and Confirmands. Please watch your emails, messages or the church website for details, or contact Pastor Mark for more information. It will be a great year!



The impromptu choir sang traditional Hymns from the OSB during our June 11 and July 9 Worship services. Thank you to those that come and share their music gifts. It truly makes our worship special.

Diller Picnic 2023

JESUS Cares 'FUR' You! was the theme for the 2023 St. Paul parade float. The whimsical entry depicted the VBS theme which included a garden filled with an inviting dog house and four 'PETS'. Thanks to those pets: Beckham and Piper Hemphill, Aubrey Roelfs and Pastor Mark. Many helped on the project. Thanks to Brian and Darin Weers, Adam, Dean, Allen and Stacy Roelfs, Dave and Sherry Henrichs, Diane Wellsandt and Jill and Shawn Zabokrtsky.



Thank you also goes to all the members of our congregation who volunteered time to work in the food stand during the Diller Picnic – this project of service to our community could not happen without you!





Congratulations!

High Achievers at the Jefferson County Fair



Many 4-H competitors from St. Paul shared their talents at the Jefferson and Gage county fairs during July. The skills these young people developed are valuable and will serve as stepping stones. Congratulations on the ribbons and awards they earned. Best of luck to those chosen to enter exhibits at the Nebraska State Fair.



At Left, our Champion Clothing Exhibitors, Aubrey and Joely, and Allen works his shift at the food stand. At right, cousins Kellan and Keira show their cattle. We congratulate ALL of our members on a job well done!!



Pictures by Trimm Photo and Jefferson County 4-H Council



August Birthdays

| | | | |
|----|----------------|----|------------------|
| 3 | Isaac Roelfs | 18 | Mike Banahan |
| 4 | Chad Lottman | 20 | Jessica McCarthy |
| 5 | Armando Jones | 20 | Kyler Lucking |
| 7 | Mike Balderson | 23 | Linda Behrends |
| 7 | Gary Bergmeier | 25 | Joshua Roelfs |
| 9 | John Duis | 26 | Darin Weers |
| 14 | Barb Sasse | 28 | Matt Wellsandt |
| 16 | Nathan Liscom | 29 | Jaris Hennerberg |
| 18 | Keith Bartlett | 29 | Livia Stein |
| 18 | Glenda Spilker | 30 | Joely Weers |



August Wedding Anniversaries

| | |
|--|---|
| August 6, 1994 ☞ Mr. & Mrs. Brett & Toni Landenberger | August 27, 1976 ☞ Mr. & Mrs. Joel & Linda Holtmeier |
| August 8, 1954 ☞ Mr. & Mrs. Pastor Dr. Delmar & Phyllis Wiemers | August 27, 1983 ☞ Mr. & Mrs. Mike & Rhonda Balderson |
| August 10, 1969 ☞ Mr. & Mrs. Dean & Jane Pretzer | August 28, 2010 ☞ Mr. & Mrs. Josh & Kalli Roelfs |
| August 11, 1957 ☞ Mr. & Mrs. Eldean & Norma Banahan | August 29, 2014 ☞ Mr. & Mrs. Tom & Danielle Reeson |
| August 15, 1998 ☞ Mr. & Mrs. Chris & Angie Clifford | August 31, 2013 ☞ Mr. & Mrs. Riley & Sonia Sasse |
| August 21, 1999 ☞ Mr. & Mrs. Darin & Kendra Weers | |



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!



**August 6 Sunday Worship Service
With Holy Communion**

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

August 13 Sunday Worship Service

*Worship Assistant, Kendra K Weers
Greeter, Dean Pretzer
Coffee Service – Cheryl Denner, Marlene Wolken*

August 20 Sunday Worship Service

*Worship Assistant, Diane Wellsandt
Greeter, Charles Barber
Coffee Service – Stacy Schlichtman, Marla Weichel*

August 27 Sunday Worship Service

*Worship Assistant, Sherry Henrichs
Greeter, Gary Bergmeier
Coffee Service – Peg Hemphill, Shannon Stein*



**September 3 Sunday Worship Service
With Holy Communion**

*Worship Assistant, Sherry Henrichs
Greeter, Jim Bures
Coffee Service – Jeanette Hennerberg, Kristen Hennerberg*

August 2023



www.stpauldiller.com

* Facebook – St. Paul’s Lutheran Church Diller Nebraska

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|---|---|----------------------------------|---|--|-----------|-----------|
| <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>*** CHECK THE WEEKLY BULLETIN *** for Calendar updates. Some events were not available at press time.</p> </div> | | 1 | 2 | 3  | 4 | 5 |
| <i>Red Hymnal</i> 6 Worship Service 9:30 AM Holy Communion | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10  | 11 | 12 |
| <i>Blue Hymnal</i> 13 Worship Service 9:30 AM <i>Women of the ELCA</i> Unit Meeting Following Worship | 14 <i>Eunice Circle</i> 1:30pm | 15 | 16 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;"> Committees and Council Meetings 6:30/7:30pm </div> | 17 Pastor on Vacation through 31 st | 18 | 19 |
| <i>Red Hymnal</i> 20 Worship Service 9:30 AM | 21 | 22 Work Day | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| NEWSCASTER ITEMS DUE | | All Day | | | | |
| <i>Blue Hymnal</i> 27 Worship Service 9:30 AM | 28 | 29 Work Day | 30 | 31 Pastor Returns | | |
| | | All Day | | | | |



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