

# 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.*

**January 2022**  
Pastor Mark Liscom

## Taking Up the Cross in 2022

*"If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me" (Matthew 16:24-26)*

We've all probably heard this phrase a few times if we have been in the church for a while. Take up your cross. This is how Jesus defined what it means to be his follower.

There are many ways we might think about this. For some it may mean to bear up under trying to make ends meet, or dealing with an illness. For others it may mean that "life is a cross to bear", that hardship comes our way and we deal with it as best we can.

But for this year, perhaps it would be best to think about taking up the cross in a little different way. Taking up your cross might best be described for our time, as simply learning how to think. Thinking, rethinking, reflecting, relooking.

Our current way of life is discouraging thought. Rather than thought, we now simply "agree" or "disagree" with what comes our way. We simply "like it or don't like it". Done. Do you see how this is a substitute for actual thought and reflection?

It's more difficult of course to think through an issue. To do some research, consider different points of view. But I would argue that for us as we face this new year, this is the cross we are being called to bear. Rather than "I like it, I don't like it" or "I agree, I disagree", to be willing to respond another way. Like, "Hmmm, I'll have to think about that for a while". Something this small would be a welcome breath of fresh air....and perhaps even a chance to open ourselves up to what God might have to say to us.

Blessings to you this New Year, as we together, learn to "take up our cross and follow".

*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.

**Editor: Kendra K. Weers**

**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 – 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      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:*

*Dean and Beth Roelfs  
for the Gifts the New Year Holds*

***We thank you for your sponsorship and support.***

*Please note that the sign-up sheet for 2022 sponsorships is up and **SPONSORS ARE NEEDED**. There are single sponsorships available for April, June/July, August and December. There are no sponsors for September, October and November at this time.*

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



**ANNUAL MEETING**

**Sunday, January 23, 2022** 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 16<sup>th</sup>** 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](mailto: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.



**Your TIMELY cooperation will be greatly appreciated!!**

## St. Paul Lutheran Church Council Minutes for December 15, 2021

Minutes for the December meeting were not available due to the historic weather event that day, and the meeting was canceled. Please check the weekly bulletins, Facebook page (St. Paul's Lutheran Church Diller Nebraska) or church website [www.stpauldiller.com](http://www.stpauldiller.com) to get current scheduling information.

<b>TREASURER'S REPORT</b>			
As of 12/14/2021			
<b><u>Current Balances</u></b>		<b><u>Operating Expenses</u></b>	
General Fund	\$ 2,477.46	Available Cash	\$ 2,477.46
Benevolence	\$ 767.00	Remaining Bills	
Designations	\$ 4,712.92	Norris (est.)	\$ 225.00
Total	\$ 7,957.38	Organist Salaries	1,500.00
		<u>Portico</u>	<u>\$ 2,545.57</u> <i>Due mid-January</i>
		Remaining Bal	<b>\$(1,793.11)</b>
<b><u>Offering Summary</u></b>			
	October	November	December
Current	\$ 8,682.00	\$ 8,831.46	\$ 5,119.00
Benevolence	\$ 639.64	\$ 158.00	\$ 529.00
Designated Funds	<u>\$ 1,142.00</u>	<u>\$ 72.00</u>	<u>\$ 1.00</u>
Totals	\$ 10,463.64	\$ 9,061.46	\$ 5,759.00 (partial month)
<b>We need to receive <span style="color: red;">\$10,000.47</span> in <b>CURRENT</b> each month in order to meet our budget for 2021.</b>			
As of press time, we are short of funds to meet our month's obligations.			



## Eunice Circle Women's Bible Study



Eunice Circle met on December 13, 2021 at 1:30pm. Our Bible Study was led by Irene Gibson.

Women of Advent. We draw strength from our spiritual grandmothers – Hannah, Mary, Elizabeth and Anna.

Our study texts were from 1 Samuel 1:1 – 17; 1 Samuel 2:1–10; Luke 1:8–66; Luke 2:26–40 and 1 Thessalonians 5:18.

We opened with prayer and Hymn, "Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth." We closed with prayer and Hymn, "Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth" and The Lord's Prayer.

Norma called our meeting to order. Minutes were read and approved. Four (4) members answered roll call. Our offering was \$13.00.

Old Business: Quilts packed, baby care kits, school kit bags, personal care kits – all delivered. Work Day on Nov. 28<sup>th</sup>.

New Business: We will continue with Norma Banahan as chairperson and Irene Gibson as Recorder. No Work Day in December.

After Grace, Marla Weichel served refreshments.

Next Eunice Circle Meeting will be January 10, 2022 at 1:30pm, January Book. Norma Banahan will lead Bible Study.

*~ Irene Gibson, Recorder*

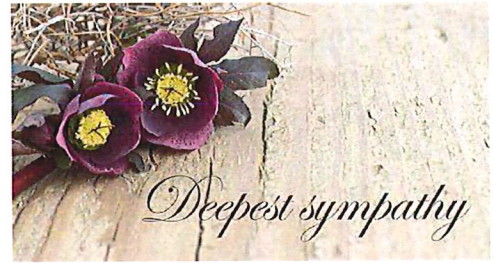
*We remember several families that are mourning recent losses.*

*Cindy Bartlett passed away on November 29 and her services were held at St. Paul Lutheran Church on December 3 with Pastor Mark Liscom officiating. We keep Keith and their family in our prayers.*

*We keep the family of Larry and Susan Lawton in our prayers after the passing of his father, Larry Lawton Sr., on December 22<sup>nd</sup>. His services with military honors were on December 28<sup>th</sup> in Nebraska City with burial at Wyuka Cemetery.*

*We remember the family of Greg Dowling, son of Jan Gold, in our prayers. Greg passed away on December 6 in Beatrice and cremation has taken place. A memorial service will take place at a later date.*

*Our deepest sympathies are with all of the families as they mourn the loss of their loved ones.  
May God's Healing Peace be with all of you.*



*In Our  
Thoughts  
and Prayers*

*Some of our congregational and extended church family members have been in the hospital recently or moved to assisted living:*

*Robert Weers has moved to Cedarwood Assisted Living in Fairbury.*

*Cleo Perkins has moved to Homestead House in Beatrice.*

*William (Bill) Cummins (father of Kendra K Weers) is at Heritage Care Center in Fairbury for recovery and rehab after a fall.*

*We also pray for the hundreds of thousands that have perished from the virus. Please remember all those who are affected by COVID and other illnesses and the front line workers giving their best efforts to save as many as they can, especially during the recent surge in cases.*

*We remember those in Law Enforcement and pray for their safety and compassionate service in a difficult and dangerous job.*

*We also pray for those involved in shootings and that God heals them physically and mentally.*

*We also remember the church as it seems to be in conflict with our society, battling each other over who is right. We pray that we can reconcile our differences and be in harmony with each other.*

*Please also 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 and Rick Whittemire*

## THANK YOU!

Big THANKS goes to Steve Behrends at Diller Electric for his work in the Christian Education area remodel and for supplying the parts for the parking lot lights repair project.

Also, special Thanks to Jeff Barnts and Brett Landenberger for helping with the repairs to the church parking lot lights. Their help made repairs to the lights much easier.

We truly appreciate the gifts of your electrical talents to help care for our church! Thank you!





## Women <sup>of the</sup> ELCA FOOD PANTRY DRIVE

We had another successful Food Drive this fall. We collected 294 items that were taken to the Blue Valley Food Pantry in Fairbury. We also received \$900 where \$400 was given to Blue Valley and \$500 was given to Wymore. Thanks to everyone that contributed to this on going need. Remember, that there is always a box in the fellowship room for food pantry items throughout the year.

~ Submitted by Ardie Barber

## Christmas Poinsettias

*The Poinsettia list was not available at the Christmas Eve Service due to copier issues. The list below is of those that donated live Poinsettias for display at church, and we thank you for your donation.*



*Given by Brian, Kendra, Brianna and Joely Weers  
in Loving Memory of Imogene Cummins*



*Given by Irene Gibson in Loving Memory of Karl Bunting  
Given by the family of Cindy Bartlett in her Loving Memory  
Given by Irene Gibson in Loving Memory of Eleanora Bunting*



*Given by Leatha Christ in Honor of Family*

*Given by Dean Roelfs in Celebration of Family*



*Given by Brian, Kendra, Brianna and Joely Weers  
in Loving Memory of Angie Weers*



*Given by Leatha Christ in Honor of Family*



*Merry Christmas*

## What's in a name?

As the U.S. evacuated thousands from Afghanistan in August 2021, an Afghan woman gave birth on a plane. She named her daughter Reach — the name of the aircraft that brought her family to safety.

Many people name their children after loved ones or special events; a child born on Christmas might be called Noel or Holly. In Bible times, too, names often had meanings: Eve likely means "mother of all living"; Abraham, "father of many"; Isaac, "laughter." Moses is a play on words with the Hebrew for "draw out" because Pharaoh's daughter drew him from the Nile.

Of course, the most important biblical name is Jesus, which means "The Lord saves." As the angel told Joseph, "[Mary] will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21, ESV). The Christian church traditionally celebrates Name of Jesus on January 1. But every day, as we pray in Jesus' name, we remember that what's in *this* name is the salvation God offers to all.

~ The Newsletter Newsletter, January 2022



# Christmas Caroling

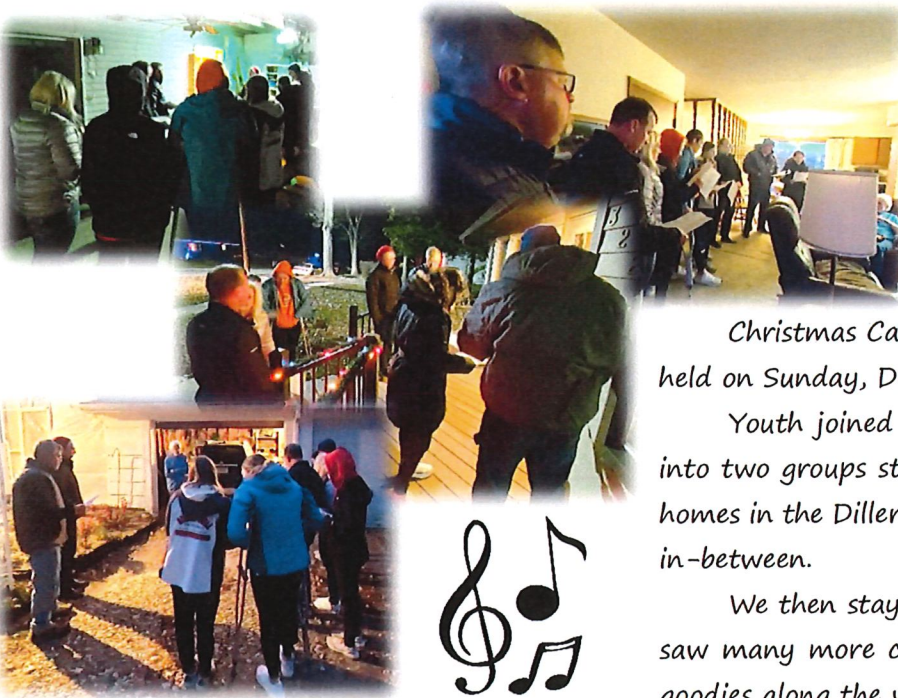
Christmas Caroling and Soup Supper Fellowship was held on Sunday, December 5 at 4pm with chilly weather.

Youth joined the congregation in caroling. We split into two groups starting out of town and went to many homes in the Diller and Steele City areas and many places in-between.

We then stayed in separate groups in town, and we saw many more congregation members, receiving many goodies along the way.

The Family Night Committee members served soup and carolers provided potluck and finger foods for all to enjoy. Many delicious foods and soups were enjoyed by the large group that came caroling after being unable to carol in 2020.

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





## CHRISTMAS STORE WINDOW

### *Children's Christmas Eve Program*

The traditional Christmas Eve children's program had an interesting and new message of the Christmas story. Happy to have a program and candlelight service again, the kids had a great program that showed the differences between the commercialized Christmas and the true meaning of Christmas. If you were unable to join us for the program, you can watch it on our Facebook page – St. Paul's Lutheran Church Diller Nebraska. All past videos can be seen on our page.

Thank you goes to Beth Roelfs for all her work and time in organizing the program, props, costumes and rehearsals. We also appreciate the work of all the directors, helpers and participants that helped to bring this lovely program to our congregation.

Special thanks to our Crosswalk teachers for their work in putting the program together. In many ways, this Christmas season and our chaotic world is much like what was happening during that first Christmas Eve 2,000 years ago. All the characters in the Christmas story were dealing with situations they had never encountered before, not knowing what would happen next. Yet, in that chaos, Christ was born, to walk with us in our broken world, showing that light that shines in the darkness. In a vulnerable and uncertain world, Jesus became that vulnerability and uncertainty on Christmas Eve to be with us in real life. This, of course, is what we mean by love.

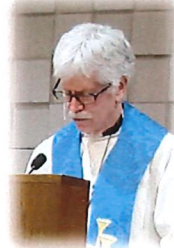
Participants in the program were: **DIRECTORS** – Beth Roelfs, Kristen Hennerberg, Tyler Wolken and Sheri Schultis. **READERS** – Cale Clifford, Xavier Zabokrtsky, Josie Hennerberg and Ryan Hicok. **CAROLERS** – Creyton Heidemann, Griffin Zabokrtsky, Riley Hickey, Valerie Lottman, Madeline Lottman, Jocelyn Nippert, Turner Nippert, Lilly Ebeling and Aubrey Roelfs. **LITTLES** – Wyatt Smith, Lily Smith, Addison Stein, Livia Stein and William Bogart. Thanks again to all involved for a wonderful program.



*Our CrossWalk students*



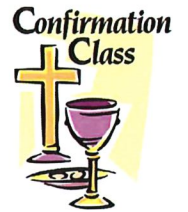
Below are pictures from the Candlelight Service. Jadyn Schultis and Tyler Wolken provided a vocal duet, "Breath of Heaven", and after a beautiful message from Pastor Mark, A trio with Brian Weers, Gary Bergmeier and Tyler Wolken with Pastor Mark sang the Mannheim Steamroller version of "Silent Night" as candles were being lit. Once all candles were lit, the congregation sang "Silent Night". Again, if you would like to watch the service, please see the church's Facebook page. Merry Christmas!





Youth will have a meeting/activity on January 16<sup>th\*\*</sup> (check other sources for more information) and the evening of January 30, times and locations TBA.

Confirmation will have a fun night on Wednesday, January 12<sup>th</sup> at 7pm and class on January 26<sup>th</sup>, with Family Night to be at the February 2<sup>nd</sup> class. Please check the church calendar for Acolyte schedule.



Our Griffin volleyball team won Districts and competed at the state tournament in October. Church members on the team were Karli Heidemann (All-State First Team), Keira Hemmerberg (All State Honorable Mention) and Myleigh Weers.



NHS Inductee Karli Heidemann



## Secondary Christmas Program December 16



Our youth have been busy this fall at school. Above, Karli Heidemann was inducted into the National Honor Society. Mallory Denner is also a member of NHS from our church. At left, the girls sports teams are doing very well. Myleigh Weers has been recognized as a standout by MaxPreps for basketball, and Karli Heidemann made the All-State First Team in Volleyball.



The Griffin girls basketball team has had a very successful season so far, ranked #4 in D-2. Myleigh Weers is ranked #1 in the Nebraska top newcomers of varsity basketball. Church members on the team are Mallory Denner, Karli Heidemann, Keira Hemmerberg, Madeline Parde and Myleigh Weers.

Directed by Garrett Easley, at right, the high school band performed at their Christmas concert on December 16, and the choir members performed at the Pioneer vocal clinic on November 15 at Wymore. Church members in the music programs are Cole Ebeling, Xavier Jones, David Parde, Madeline Parde, Brennan Schultis, Joely Weers and Myleigh Weers.



Beth Roelfs and the Community Club did a beautiful job decorating Diller's Veterans Park for the Holidays. Thank you to all who contributed to this warm and welcoming display.



## January Birthdays

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



## January Wedding Anniversaries



January 8, 2011

Mr. & Mrs. Patrick & BriAnne Hemphill



**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!

# January



## **January 2 Sunday Worship Service With Holy Communion**

*Worship Assistant – Sherry Henrichs  
Greeter – Jim Bures  
Ushers – Tanner Parde, Adam Roelfs  
Coffee – Sheri Schultis, Toni Landenberger*

## **January 9 Sunday Worship Service**

*Worship Assistant – Diane Wellsandt  
Greeter – Dennis Nippert  
Ushers – Allen Roelfs, Dean Roelfs  
Coffee – BethLee Beran, Linda Beran*

## **January 16 Sunday Worship Service Annual Reports Due**

*Worship Assistant – Gary Bergmeier  
Acolyte – Peyton Denner  
Greeter – Dean Pretzer  
Ushers – Chris Schlichtman, Kevin Sasse  
Coffee Service – Kendra S Weers, Kalli Roelfs*

## **January 23 Sunday Worship Service Annual Congregational Meeting**

*Worship Assistant – David Henrichs  
Acolyte – Cale Clifford  
Greeter – Charles Barber  
Ushers – Karter Sasse, Riley Sasse  
Coffee Service – Kendra K Weers, Deb Nippert*

## **January 30 Sunday Worship Service**

*Worship Assistant – Sherry Henrichs  
Acolyte – Xavier Zabokrtsky  
Greeter – Gary Bergmeier  
Ushers – Tim Scheele, Jonathan Schmidt  
Coffee Service – Ardith Barber, Kristen Heidemann*



## **January 16 Sunday Worship Service With Holy Communion**

*Worship Assistant – Jamie Schultis  
Acolyte – Josie Hennerberg  
Greeter – Jim Bures  
Ushers – Christopher Schmidt, Doug Schmidt  
Coffee Service – Jeanette Bures, Jill Scheele*

# January 2022



[www.stpauldiller.com](http://www.stpauldiller.com) \* Facebook – St. Paul’s Lutheran Church Diller Nebraska

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; background-color: yellow;">Please note!</div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>Please check the weekly bulletin, Facebook page or website for schedule changes or additions. A lot of information was not available at press time.</p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; background-color: yellow;">Please note!</div> </div>						<b>1</b>  
<p><i>Red Hymnal</i> <b>2</b> Worship Service 9:30 AM</p>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>  NO Confirmation	<b>6</b>  <i>Epiphany</i>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<p><i>Red Hymnal</i> <b>9</b> Worship Service Holy Communion 9:30 AM <i>Epiphany Sunday</i> <i>Baptism of Our Lord</i></p>	<b>10</b>  <i>Eunice Circle</i> 1:30pm	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>  <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> <b>CROSS WALK</b>                      Christian Ed                      4:00pm                 </div> CONFIRMATION Fun Night 7:00pm	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<p><i>Blue Hymnal</i> <b>16</b> Worship Service 9:30 AM ANNUAL REPORTS DUE</p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;">  <p><b>Youth Activity</b> TBA</p> </div>	<b>17</b>  	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>  <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> <b>CROSS WALK</b>                      Christian Ed                      4:00pm                 </div> NO Confirmation Committees/ Council Meetings 6:30/7pm	<b>20</b>  NEWSCASTER ITEMS DUE	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<p><i>Red Hymnal</i> <b>23</b> Worship Service 9:30 AM ANNUAL MEETING Following Worship</p>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>  <i>Work Day</i> All Day	<b>26</b>  <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> <b>CROSS WALK</b>                      Christian Ed                      4:00pm                 </div> CONFIRMATION 7:00pm	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<p><i>Blue Hymnal</i> <b>30</b> Worship Service 9:30 AM  Youth Meeting TBA</p>	<b>31</b>			St. Paul Lutheran Church * PO Box 37 * Diller, NE * 68342		