

# 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.*

**February 2024**  
*Pastor Mark Liscom*

## **Taylor Swift?**

As I sit down, to write this article, for some reason she is on my mind. And I find that very troubling. Something is going on that I am not aware of, there is a huge controversy in the public, and I keep seeing her picture on my Facebook feed. The experience I'm having is a bit like watching the fire trucks race by to a fire. And it has to do with Taylor Swift. I couldn't name a single song...but there she is sort of swimming in my thoughts.

Such is the power of our celebrity culture, and our leader obsessed minds. I'm ignoring it as best I can, but still, there she is, beckoning me to be a part of her reality. She sings, in the pictures she is stunningly beautiful, and she likes Travis Kelce but...why is she in my head?

What's the fire about?

Paul's first letter to the Corinthians addresses the issue...a church obsessed with it's leaders. Some people liked them, others didn't and the firestorm was ruining the church. The problem wasn't the leaders, it was something in the people. Something like this needs to be associated with success and glory.

Today Paul would write about our obsession with celebrities. Nothing against Taylor Swift. But even though today I'm in my office alone, and the lights of success and glory seem somewhere else...if I collect my thoughts, and can just be alone for a while...

Hmm. I have all I need. What a relief. I'm sure Taylor doesn't need my interest!

*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



*Sponsors for the February Newscaster are*

*Eldean and Norma Banahan*

*in Memory of Jeanette's February Birthday*

*and*

*Steve and Peg Hemphill*

*in Honor of Arnold and Eunice's Birthdays*

*Thank you very much to our sponsors and the memory of your loved ones.*

*All sponsorships for 2024 have been fulfilled, THANK YOU to all our sponsors!*

*Sponsorships for 2025 will be available for sign-up starting in August. Please note that due to increases in postage costs, sponsorships (starting in 2025) will be \$40 per sponsorship, or \$80 per issue.*

*Sweetheart Supper*

Take your sweetheart out for a lovely evening  
Brought to you by our Youth  
on Sunday, February 25

\$30 per couple

Seating times are 5:30 and 6:30pm

Contact a member of our Youth or  
Jamie or Sheri Schultis for a reservation



# St. Paul Lutheran Church Council Minutes for January 17, 2024

Council members present were Pastor Mark, Brian Weers, Gary Bergmeier, Peg Hemphill, Allen Roelfs and Diane Wellsandt. Jeanette Bures was absent. Pastor Mark started the meeting with an opening prayer and God Sightings were shared. Brian read the minutes from the previous meeting. Peg moved to accept the minutes and Diane seconded. Motion passed.

## TREASURER’S REPORT

Allen presented the Treasurer’s Report. He reported that December offering was good. Portico bill has not been received yet, need Pastor’s vision insurance information. Mission Share has been paid \$8,167, which is over our commitment. Diane moved to accept the Treasurer’s Report as presented and Brian seconded. The Treasurer’s Report was approved.

## MEMORIAL TREASURER’S REPORT

The bill for the doors has been paid. Kraft endowment gift of \$6,000 has been received, but is not included in the total balance of the report. Interest of \$4.86 has been received to make a total balance of \$5,677.22, after \$19,083 was paid for the doors.

## PASTOR’S REPORT

Pastor reported 4 worship services, 1 Youth meeting, 1 Christmas Eve service, 1 Confirmation class, 2 rest home visits, 2 Cluster meetings and 1 pre-marital meeting. Pastor was reminded to ask for Synod Assembly delegates.

## VICE CHAIR’S REPORT

Major projects completed this year are that we have new doors at the entry for the church; replaced the furnace and took unused tables and chairs to the Sudanese Nile Lutheran Church in Omaha. Is trying to think of everyone to thank for all their efforts throughout the year. Allen volunteered to make the ballots for the Annual Meeting.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

*Christian Education* – meeting canceled due to the weather, next meeting will focus on Adult Education.

*Property* – Gutters were cleaned, a crack in the corner of the church was grouted, Doug Schmidt tacked tiles to the ceiling, hinges on the Conference Room door have been replaced. Thank you to everyone who helped clear snow

*Communication & Outreach* – N/A

*Music & Worship* – did not meet, but do need to discuss Lent; Holden evening prayer is being discussed

*Food Stand* – Allen was able to procure 3 new picnic tables from Exmark

## OLD BUSINESS

Highway 8 sign – we can get a decal for \$40 using the ELCA standard; will do both Hwy 8 and PWF signs. We feel it is just a good reminder to people passing the signs. Odell Bank merger with Heartland Bank is going ok so far, it will not change for statements.

## NEW BUSINESS

We are looking into painting the East Sanctuary door and maybe window frames to a darker color. Allen moved to have meals before Lenten services again this year, seconded by Peg. Motion passed. Council will do the first meal on February 21<sup>st</sup>. Ash Wednesday on February 14<sup>th</sup>. Before weekly Lenten services, meal will be at 6pm with services to start at 7pm. We will post a sign-up sheet for the remainder of the Lenten meals. Pastor may do Lenten series on Lutheran Doctrine and Theology as he has been doing in Confirmation and use Holden prayer for liturgy.

The next council meeting was set for February 19 at 7 p.m., committees to meet at 6:30 p.m. Allen moved to adjourn the meeting and Diane seconded. The meeting was adjourned and closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

~ Brian Weers, Council Secretary

| <b>TREASURER’S REPORT</b>  |                    |                                  |  |
|--|--------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| As of 1/16/2024  |                    |                                  |  |
| <b><u>Current Balances</u></b>   |                    | <b><u>Operating Expenses</u></b> |  |
| General Fund   | \$ 9,049.46        | Available Cash                   | \$ 9,049.46                                |
| Benevolence  | \$ 79.00           | Remaining Bills                  |  |
| <u>Designations</u>  | <u>\$ 3,701.24</u> | Portico                          | \$ 1,851.21 <i>(bill not ready)</i>        |
| Total  | \$12,829.70        | <u>Pastor’s Salary</u>           | <u>\$ 4,391.15</u> <i>(pending Portico</i> |
|  |                    | Remaining Bal                    | \$ 2,807.10 <i>bill with updated</i>       |
|  |                    |                                  | <i>vision benefit cost)</i>                |
| <b><u>Offering Summary</u></b>   |                    |                                  |  |
|  | November           | December                         | January                                    |
| Current  | \$ 5,388.00        | \$ 11,949.61                     | \$ 2,741.00                                |
| Benevolence  | \$ 694.75          | \$ 1,428.90                      | \$ 79.00                                   |
| Designated Funds   | <u>\$ 25.00</u>    | <u>\$ 0.00</u>                   | <u>\$ 25.00</u>                            |
| Totals   | \$ 6,107.75        | \$ 13,378.51                     | \$ 2,845.00                                |
|  |                    |                                  | (partial month)                            |
| <b>We need to receive <span style="color: red;">\$10,325.39</span> in CURRENT each month in order to meet our budget for 2024.</b> |                    |                                  |  |



# Minutes for the Annual Meeting of St. Paul Lutheran Church, ELCA, January 21, 2024

The 2024 Annual Meeting was called to order and opened by Council Chair Gary Bergmeier. It was requested that all sign the register for those present for voting. There were 32 congregational members present. Pastor Mark Liscom offered an opening prayer. The minutes from the 2023 annual meeting were read with one correction; Marcy Barber, not Ardie Barber, was one of the auditors for 2023. Allen Roelfs moved to approve the minutes as corrected and Joely Weers seconded. The minutes were approved as corrected.

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE AND BALLOT REPORT

- Darin presented the ballot in the Committee report. He thanked those willing to come forward, and stated that it was nice to see some younger members involved with the church business.
- Gary asked for nominations for Council from the floor, none brought forward. Ballots were distributed. Gary asked for Nominating Committee nominations from the floor, none received.
- Allen asked for volunteers for ballot count. Counters were Kendra K Weers, Beth Roelfs and Marcy Barber.
- Ballots were handed out and votes collected for Council, Nominating Committee and Food Stand. Voting results listed below.

## AUDITOR'S REPORT

Committee members Charlie Barber, Holli Pretzer and Jarrod Heidemann reported all books to be in order.

## BUDGET DISCUSSION

Allen Roelfs presented the recommended Budget and thanked everyone for their support. He stated that he is proud of this congregation. The biggest change to the budget is really the property insurance. Pastor's benefits are down because of Medicare, utilities are a little high, total budget is up \$6,800 with Pastor's salary increased 3%. There are other minor changes. Total needed in current per month is \$10,325.39 to meet this budget. Ballots for the budget were distributed and votes collected. No other discussion about the budget..

While ballots were being counted for the Budget, Gary announced the results of the election (see below).

## PASTOR'S REPORT

Pastor talked about being at ease – how the year started out very stressful and took almost all of his time just to keep up. Then, when the second half of the year started, everything calmed down and basically fell into a routine – a routine with an ease to it. The past few years were difficult and stressful personally, and the ease he was now experiencing was somewhat unfamiliar. The current world and culture tries to keep everyone on edge and “uneasy”; divided, manipulated, angry and feeling used – reminding us that “at ease” doesn't mean “easy” – but does mean that if someone “lights a match”, we don't have to be the kindling to start the fire. “When you are at ease, it's easier to think, solve problems, be creative, and be with people in a difficult circumstance. It is harder to say things that you might later regret.” God will guard our hearts and minds. He then discussed the Lenten series based on the five chapters of Dietrich Bonhoeffer's book “Life Together” and what it means to live together as a Christian Community. This year was not a “round robin” series, so Pastor could focus on the message of the book. He reported on the happenings in CrossWalk, Confirmation and the Youth Group, and discussed the “Adult Forum Lite”, which is a type of Adult Education where discussion was held after worship about the sermon and the different perspectives from people. He then thanked the many people and groups that make this church work and the ministries they are a part of, and that he is thankful to the congregation for its support.

## VOTING RESULTS

- Elected to church council: Scott Pretzer – 32; Doug Schmidt – 32
- Elected to Nominating committee: Reid Pretzer, 32; Dave Henrichs, 32; Dennis Nippert, 32.
- If asked to operate the Diller Picnic Food Stand: yes – 31, no – 0.
- Funds from the Diller Picnic Food Stand would go to:  
80% General Fund (mandatory)    6 – 20% Benevolence    4 – 20% World Hunger    19 – 20% Blue Valley  
\*\* 2 ballots were invalid on this issue due to voting for multiple funds distribution options
- Approve the recommended budget – yes – 31; no – 0

## COMMENTS AND THANK YOU'S

Retiring Council members Peg and Diane were recognized. Gary also recognized all who do the many jobs around the church. Gary also thanked Pastor Mark for what he has done this past year, and noted major projects completed this year with the automated front door and furnace replacement projects.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Brian thanked the Memorial Committee and donors of the Memorial Fund for their patience in implementing projects for the funds and the major benefits these memorials provide for the church.
- Kendra K talked about the Newscaster and sponsorships for 2024 are almost filled. Also noted was that Sponsorships for 2025 will increase to \$40 per sponsorship (two sponsors per issue) due to the rapid rise in postage costs and that current sponsorship levels do not cover the amount of postage per issue. Kendra also thanked the many contributors, reporters and those who provide photos for the Newscaster and those who submit articles for their efforts and cooperation in the production of the Newscaster.

## CONCLUSION OF MEETING

Pastor Mark offered prayers in memory of those that have passed in 2023 – Rick Whittemire, Franklin Damrow, Dave Lottman, Jean Schmidt, Russell Schultis and Isaiah Weers. Pastor thanked Gary for serving as Council Chair this past year.

Beth Roelfs moved to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Joely Weers. Motion passed and meeting was adjourned.



# Eunice Circle

Eunice Circle was to meet January 8, 2024, but bad weather and extenuating circumstances canceled the January Bible Study. Please look in future Newscasters for upcoming meetings and annual report.

~ Irene Gibson, Recorder

## St. Paul Women of the ELCA

St. Paul Women of the ELCA plan to have their first Unit Meeting of 2024 on **Sunday, February 4, 2024** Following Worship

We encourage all women of the congregation to remain after worship and be a part of this important ministry



### NEW ARRIVAL



Congratulations to Kyle and Krista Bergmeier as they welcome their daughter Halle Ann into their family. This wonderful little angel warmed the hearts of many by entering the world during a very cold time.

*God's Blessing you all.*

Lent at St. Paul Lutheran begins with Ash Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup> with the service beginning at 7pm. Lenten services on Wednesdays starting February 21<sup>st</sup> through March 20<sup>th</sup> will have a meal at 6pm with Lenten service at 7pm. These services will also serve as Confirmation classes.

Holy Week will begin March 24<sup>th</sup> and conclude with Easter Sunday on March 31<sup>st</sup>. Please check the March Newscaster for the full Holy Week schedule.



### IN OUR PRAYERS



We say a prayer of thanks for the skilled hands that helped **Jeanette Bures** to health. We celebrate the full recovery of **Leatha Christ** from her earlier surgery. Thanks to God. We pray for the continued healing of **Morgan Kapke** after her recent hip surgery.

*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, Tyler Wolken, Mike Balderson, Norm Balderson and Betty and Ervin Hennerberg*

# PIZZA AND THE POOL, A PERFECT WINTER EVENING



On Jan. 3, an enthusiastic group of CrossWalk students and parents gathered at the Beatrice YMCA for a pool and pizza party to celebrate the holiday season. The crowd of 25 + enjoyed the warm water, a bounce house, the gym, and pizza along with snacks.

With the extended holiday vacation period, the kids had a chance to reconnect with friends before returning to school. The evening closed with prayer. Thanks to members of the Christian Education Committee and CrossWalk staff for organizing the event.

*~ Submitted by Beth Roelfs*



## **CROSSWALK Reaches the Promised Land**

During the January lessons, students have learned of the plight of the Israelites as they entered the Promised Land without Moses. Josiah, Rahab, Joshua, Deborah and Gideon had to call on bravery and faith to make their home in a land of enemies. Students talked about their own faith and strengths.

We have filled the 4th jar of pop tabs and we are past the halfway mark on number 5.

The students received 2 thank yous for the Veteran's Day greetings they shared in November.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR ACCOMPLISHED CHURCH MEMBERS!

**Katlyn Scheele** has proudly earned her degree as an LPN. What a joyful accomplishment. We celebrate this wonderful milestone with you and wish you a meaningful career. May God be with you as you lovingly care for the needs of others.

We want to honor **Neleigh Weers** for being named to the Fall Dean's List at the Bryan College of Health Sciences. These accomplishments are only attained by dedication and hard work. Congratulations.



**Joely Weers** auditioned for and was selected to the Hastings College Honor Band while making First Chair, who after two days of rehearsals performed a concert of a wide range of music styles with high school students from all over the country. Congratulations on your achievement!



*Joely with the Hastings College  
Director of Bands, Dr. Louie Eckhardt*

## ST. PAUL'S REACHES FOOD DRIVE GOAL



During the months of November and December the members of St. Paul and CrossWalk students joined efforts to reach a goal of 750 food and personal care items. Week by week the red in the thermometer inched to the top until it BLEW THROUGH and reached the final total of 833. FANTASTIC!

Monetary donations were calculated as 3 items per \$5 given. The cash total was \$890. The items were delivered to Blue Valley Community Action in Fairbury by Dennis Nippert. The cash gifts have been divided between Blue Valley (\$290) and Wymore Food Pantry (\$600). Thank you to everyone who helped make this a successful campaign.

*~ Submitted by Beth Roelfs*



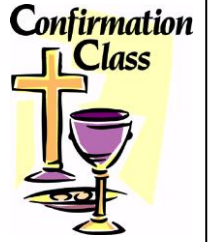
On January 28<sup>TH</sup>, the Diller Community Foundation held their annual Granting Ceremony where they awarded grants to our CrossWalk program and to members of our church, organizations and community, totaling over \$42,000!

The CrossWalk program received a \$500 grant for the service they provide for the church and the entire community, learning about God and caring for each other while building community bonds. THANK YOU to the Diller Community Foundation, and to the volunteers and people of our church who make our CrossWalk program happen for our children. CONGRATULATIONS on being awarded this grant!



Youth will host the Sweetheart Supper on Sunday, February 25<sup>th</sup> with seating times at 5:30 and 6:30. Please see a Youth member after Worship or Jamie or Sheri Schultis for reservations and tickets.

Confirmation classes will be February 7<sup>th</sup> with Ash Wednesday on February 14<sup>th</sup>, Valentine's Day. The confirmation classes will be during Lent services on Wednesdays until Holy Week, starting March 25<sup>th</sup>. Please check the church website for more information.



## Congratulations, Pioneer Conference Honor Band!!



On Monday, January 22, four members of the Diller-Odell Band were selected for and participated in the Pioneer Conference Honor Band at Lewiston Consolidated High School. The entire Honor Band performed six selections under the direction of Brian Vuu, band director at Standing Bear High School. He had previously been the Instrumental Instructor at Norris School District, Lincoln Northeast High School and Lincoln East High School. The six selections performed were "The Star-Spangled Banner", "Aggressivo", "Knights of Destiny", "Chasing Sunlight", "Creed" and a medley of tunes from Disney's "Pirates of the Caribbean" to close the concert. In the middle of the concert was a special presentation of "Hallelujah" performed by the directors of participating schools.

Schools that were represented were Diller-Odell, Friend, Lewiston, Sterling, Wymore Southern and Tri-County. Practicing only that day together, it was a wonderful concert. Good job, Griffins!



happy anniversary

February 14, 1965

☞ Mr. & Mrs. Dean & Sharon Lottman

February 18, 1984

☞ Mr. & Mrs. Kevin & Barb Sasse

- |    |                   |    |                   |
|----|-------------------|----|-------------------|
| 4  | Leyton Speth      | 16 | Matt Wiegand      |
| 4  | Addison Stein     | 17 | Charles Whitehead |
| 5  | Rick Garton       | 17 | Chris Schlichtman |
| 5  | Kristen Heidemann | 18 | Shawn Weers       |
| 6  | Keira Hennerberg  | 18 | Elliot Sasse      |
| 8  | Tara Sasse        | 19 | Ardith Barber     |
| 9  | Creyton Heidemann | 20 | Toni Landenberger |
| 10 | Joel Holtmeier    | 23 | Shyla Goldsberry  |
| 11 | Joyce Lahodny     | 24 | Blair Whitehead   |
| 12 | Jill Bergmeier    | 27 | Chris Clifford    |
| 14 | Steve 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!



**February 4 Sunday Worship Service  
With Holy Communion**

*Worship Assistant – Diane Wellsandt  
Greeter – Charles Barber  
Coffee – Kendra S Weers, Kalli Roelfs*

**February 11 Sunday Worship Service  
Transfiguration**

*Worship Assistant – Sherry Henrichs  
Greeter – Gary Bergmeier  
Coffee – Kendra K Weers, Deb Nippert*

**February 18 Sunday Worship Service**

*Worship Assistant – Jamie Schultis  
Greeter – Jim Bures  
Coffee Service – Ardith Barber, Kristen Heidemann*

**February 25 Sunday Worship Service**

*Worship Assistant – Brian Weers  
Greeter – Dennis Nippert  
Coffee Service – Jeanette Bures, Jill Scheele,  
Kaitlyn Scheele*



**March 5 Sunday Worship Service  
With Holy Communion**

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

# February 2024



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

| SUN  | MON   | TUE   | WED  | THU  | FRI       | SAT       |
|--|---|---|--|--|-----------|-----------|
|  |   |   |  | 1  | 2         | 3         |
| <p><i>Red Hymnal</i> <b>4</b><br/> <b>Worship Service</b><br/>                     Holy Communion<br/>                     9:30 AM</p> <p><i>Women of the ELCA</i><br/> <b>Unit Meeting **</b><br/>                     Following Worship</p>              | <b>5</b>  | <b>6</b>  | <p><b>7</b></p> <p><b>CROSS WALK</b><br/>                     Christian Ed<br/>                     4:00pm</p> <p><b>Confirmation</b><br/>                     7pm</p>   | <b>8</b>   | <b>9</b>  | <b>10</b> |
| <p><i>Blue Hymnal</i> <b>11</b><br/> <b>Worship Service</b><br/>                     9:30 AM</p>  <p>TRANSFIGURATION<br/>of the Lord</p>                                | <b>12</b><br><i>Eunice Circle</i><br>1:30pm   | <b>13</b>   | <p> <b>14</b></p> <p><b>CROSS WALK</b><br/>                     Christian Ed<br/>                     4:00pm</p> <p><i>Ash Wednesday</i><br/>                     Service <br/>                     7 pm</p> | <b>15</b>  | <b>16</b> | <b>17</b> |
| <p><i>Red Hymnal</i> <b>18</b><br/> <b>Worship Service</b><br/>                     9:30 AM</p>  | <p><b>19</b></p>  <p><b>PRESIDENTS DAY</b></p> <p>Committees and Council Meetings<br/>                     6:00/7:00pm</p> | <p><b>20</b></p> <p><b>Work Day</b><br/>                     All Day</p> <p><i>Newscafter items due</i></p> | <p><b>21</b></p> <p><b>CROSS WALK</b><br/>                     Christian Ed<br/>                     4:00pm</p> <p>Lenten Meal<br/>                     6:00 pm<br/>                     Lenten Service<br/>                     7:00 pm</p>   | <b>22</b>  | <b>23</b> | <b>24</b> |
| <p><i>Blue Hymnal</i> <b>25</b><br/> <b>Worship Service</b><br/>                     9:30 AM</p> <p> <i>Sweetheart Supper</i><br/>                     5:30 – 7:30pm</p> | <b>26</b>   | <b>27</b>   | <p><b>28</b></p> <p><b>CROSS WALK</b><br/>                     Christian Ed<br/>                     4:00pm</p> <p>Lenten Meal<br/>                     6:00 pm<br/>                     Lenten Service<br/>                     7:00 pm</p>   | <p><b>29</b></p>  |           |           |

St. Paul Lutheran Church  
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