

# 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 2021**

*Pastor Mark Liscom*

## Should We Forget 2020?

Something that has interested me in listening to people talk about this last “covid” year is this idea that we should just forget it. Sort of pretend it didn’t happen. 2020 is a kind of throw away, a sort of odd blip on the stat sheet, that shouldn’t really count for anything. Let’s move on. If yesterday was bad, just let it go and focus on a better tomorrow.

I certainly understand the sentiment and have said it myself. But I would caution you to not just “forget” 2020 or pretend it didn’t happen, especially during this Christmas and New Year season. From a biblical perspective this is why. Just about all of the events that we now understand to be filled with God’s presence in the Scripture were at the time as uncomfortable and crazy as 2020 has ever been.

What if we were to “just forget” the difficult and crazy events that surrounded Jesus birth? That he was born in a stable, that his parents became refugees in another country? Just about every detail of the Christmas story created fear and uncertainty in those who experienced it. And yet hidden in all these crazy and unsettling details, God was being born in our world!

But it’s not just the Christmas story. It’s the whole story of Jesus. Isn’t that the message of the cross? That in what looked like something to forget as soon as possible God was actually present in the most amazing way possible? That hidden in the negative, was the greatest positive?

Like you I’m looking forward to a little better 2021. No problem. But let’s not just “forget” 2020. For hidden in these uncomfortable circumstances, God just may have been present in a way we should never forget.

*Pastor Mark*

# NEWS LET TER

*starts*

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Assembly: Kendra K. Weers

## **Newscaster Reporters**

Church Council – Tyler Wolken      Financial Secretary – David Henrichs

WELCA – Peggy Hemphill      Eunice Circle – Irene Gibson

Work Day – Carolyn Schultis

Christian Education and VBS – Kristen Hennerberg, Kristen Heidemann  
and Sheri Schultis

Youth News – Jady Schultis, Skylar Pretzer and Brianna Weers

Worship Committee – Council    Mutual Ministry Committee - Council  
Birthdays & Anniversaries – Jane Pretzer

## *Sponsors*

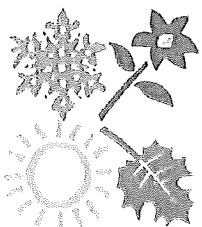
*Our January Newscaster sponsors are:*

*Dean and Beth Roelfs  
for the Promise of the New Year*

*We thank you for your sponsorship and support.*

*Please note that the sign-up sheet for 2021 sponsorships is  
up and **SPONSORS ARE URGENTLY NEEDED** for  
February and other spring months  
and many other months all year.*

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



**ANNUAL  
MEETING**

**Sunday, January 31, 2021** 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 17<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.



Thank you to all who voiced and sent messages during our recent move. We consider St. Paul as our church family and will truly miss worshipping with you.

"Happy New Year" and may God's work show forth in the year 2021.

~ Jim & Donna Damrow



## St. Paul Lutheran Church Council Minutes for December 16, 2020

Members present were Pastor Mark Liscom, Jamie Schultis, Gary Bergmeier, Darin Weers, David Henrichs, and Tyler Wolken. Not present was Melvin Beran. Pastor Mark began the meeting by everyone sharing life and faith stories. The council reviewed the minutes from November's meeting. Jamie moved to accept the minutes and Gary seconded. Minutes were approved.

### Treasurer's Report

Gary reported that the balance in the account was \$5,020.34. This is after Norris, Solution One, and Portico are paid. David moved to accept the report and Darin seconded. The treasurer's report was approved.

### Memorial Treasurer's Report

Darin reported that the account had \$0.42 in interest. Brining the balance to \$7,105.03. Jamie moved to accept the report and Tyler seconded. The memorial treasurer's report was passed.

### Pastor's Report

1 youth meeting, 3 confirmation classes, 3 confirmation make up classes, 2 text studies, installed the FM transmitter, 1 cluster meeting, 1 Thanksgiving service, 4 worship services (2 online), and 10 days of quarantine.

### Vice Chairman's Report

Jamie wanted to send out a thank you to the entire congregation that has showed up and been so supportive during this time of Covid. We appreciate everyone that has come and followed the guidelines.

### Committee Reports

**Christian Education-** The committee has been working on putting together a virtual Christmas program to be showed during the service. The program can be viewed on the church's Facebook page as well.

**Memorial -** Darin received some estimates to have the wall knocked down between the two Sunday school rooms. Hajek Construction- \$435.12 (general tear down) Drywall \$550.00 Electrical \$150.00 est. Approximate total cost \$1135.12

### New Business

- David agreed to go ahead and get candy for the kids who attend the Christmas Eve program.
- Council will be present to help usher and keep visitors/congregation members with social distancing at the Christmas Eve program. Masks will be required. The service will be available on Facebook to watch live and from the parking lot via the FM transmitter if you would like to listen from your car.
- Jamie spoke with Stacy Roelfs and she agree to help with the church audit. This is a three year term. Jamie made the motion to have Stacy be a church auditor for a three year term. Gary seconded. Motion passed.
- Church council also discussed more about having a paid financial secretary for the church. Council will be reaching out to members to gauge interest. This will also be brought up at the annual meeting to discuss whether this is something that we should pursue.
- There will not be any Christmas caroling this year due to Covid-19.
- If you have a special prayer requests for anyone or anything, please contact Pastor Mark or any other council member. We will pray for them during our Sunday services.

### Annual Meeting

- Gary made the motion that we increase Pastor Mark's annual salary by \$1200/year which would be an additional \$100/mo. For the 2021 fiscal year. Gary made the motion and David seconded. Motion passed. This motion will have to be approved by the congregation at the annual meeting.
- Annual reports need to be sent to Jane Pretzer ASAP.

The annual meeting will be held Sunday, January 31<sup>st</sup>. The next council meeting will be held January 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:30PM. Gary made the motion to adjourn the meeting and Jamie seconded. Motion passed. The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

~ Tyler Wolken, Council Secretary

# Eunice Circle Women's Bible Study



Eunice Circle met on December 14, 2020 at 1:30pm. Our Bible Study was led by Irene Gibson.

Singing, Writing, Moving, Connecting: Advent Rituals for Uncertain Times. As we journey through Advent, these four spiritual practices can help to ground and steady us.

Our study texts were from Luke 1:26 thru 55.

We opened with prayer and Hymn, "Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth." We closed with prayer and Hymn, "Unexpected and Mysterious" 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 \$29.00.

Old Business: Work Day on Nov. 24<sup>th</sup>.

New Business: We are planning on baby care kits and school kits and personal care kits. NO Work Day in December. Next Work Day will be January 26<sup>th</sup>.

After Grace, Marla Weichel served refreshments.

Next Eunice Circle will be January 11, 2021 at 1:30pm, Jan/Feb Book. Norma Banahan will lead Bible Study.

~ Irene Gibson, Recorder

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

*Jim Boyer, brother-in-law of Charlie and Ardith Barber, passed away on December 3<sup>rd</sup> and whose services were held on December 7<sup>th</sup> in Fairbury.*

*We keep the family of Matt Nippert in our prayers after the passing of his grandfather, Raymond Thomsen, on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. There was a Celebration of Life service on December 15<sup>th</sup> in Beatrice.*

*May God's Healing Peace be with all of you.*



*In Our Thoughts and Prayers*

*Some of our congregational members have been in the hospital recently.*

*Sondra Germer has been in the hospital.*

*Linda Behrends for a continued recovery following her accident.*

*Rev. Dr. Delmar Wiemers has been in the hospital, but is improving.*

*Darlene Balderson and Jean Weers continue to improve at home following their accidents.*

*Matt Nippert and family after the passing of his grandfather, Raymond Thomsen.*

*Ardith Barber and family after the passing of her Brother-In-Law, Jim Boyer.*

**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.**

**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:*

*Betty and Franklin Damrow, Margery Keefover, Linda Behrends, Jean Weers,*

*Darlene Balderson, Jamie Hennerberg and Eden Lottman.*



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

Learning of a great need for pantry items, our WELCA decided to have a Food Drive for our local pantries this Christmas season. St. Paul members and Diller community, you rock!

We reached out to our members and the community with a goal of 100 items, you crushed that by donating approximately 370 items and \$550 cash!

Having received so many donations, we decided to divide the items between the Blue Valley Food Pantry and the Wymore Food Pantry, both were extremely grateful for our donations.

Remember, that there has always been an ongoing food collection here at St. Paul's that goes to the local pantries. There is a gray tote inside of church where you can leave your donations.

Thank you for giving from your hearts and blessing many families with your generosity.

### EBELING FAMILY HELPS OTHERS ONE TAB AT A TIME

Your aluminum can tabs go a long way with Ronald McDonald House Charities in Omaha.

Lily Ebeling and her family donated 23 pounds of aluminum can tabs to support the Ronald McDonald House of Omaha. This would be about 34,500 tabs WOW! Way to go Ebeling family. Everyone is encouraged to support this cause. A collection container sits near the door in the fellowship area.

These tabs, when recycled, help cover some of the operational costs at the house. Thanks to schools, business, community organizations, and families, the Omaha home recycled approximately 35 million pop tabs last year, and the money from those donations paid for their electric bill each month.



**Why pop tabs and not the entire can?** Because pop tabs are smaller and easier to store. The tabs are also paint free and pure aluminum, which increases their value and profit when recycled. So pull your tabs for the Ronald McDonald House, but be sure to recycle the cans.

Here are some fun facts about tabs:

- ◆ One pound of tabs is about 1,500 tabs.
- ◆ Each tab measures about 1 inch, so there are 12 tabs in one foot.
- ◆ To reach a mile, when placing tabs end to end, would take 63,360 tabs.
- ◆ 1 million tabs end to end would stretch 16.75 miles.



### CROSSWALK KIDS RECEIVE THANK YOU

As one of the fall Caring Projects the Crosswalk Kids created LifeSaver treats for the healthcare workers in Fairbury and the Diller Fire and Rescue volunteers. They recently received the following thank you from the staff of Jefferson Community Health and Life.

Dear Crosswalk Kids at St. Pauls,

Thank you so much for the lifesaver treats! All of our staff really enjoyed the pick-me-up and appreciate your thankfulness!

It has been a long and stressful year for healthcare workers and we so appreciate the kindness of so many in the community. Seeing your message and the treats you sent brought smiles to our staff's faces.

Keep yourselves healthy! Thanks Again-  
*All of us at Jefferson Community Health and Life*

# HANGING OF THE GREENS

St. Paul Lutheran had a different “Hanging Of The Greens” service this year. It was recorded and then uploaded to our Facebook Page for anyone to watch when they could, as COVID was surging in our area and we wanted to ensure everyone’s safety.

It was a program written by a Pastor and used with permission of Good Shepherd Lutheran and Zion State Line Lutheran Church that gave the background of all the greens that are used at Christmas and during Advent. The program was led by the Youth, and several traditional carols were sung that associated with the greens that were featured.

The first and second readings were about why we use the greens to decorate our church and about the different colors and meanings of the paraments we use for worship. Esdon Weers presented the Advent banner and placed it at the front of the church while the hymn “Joy To the World” was sung.

The Advent candles were lit by Brianna Weers while there were readings about the Advent candles and the Hymn, “This Little Light Of Mine” was sung. Scriptures were then read. Verses from the hymn, “Go Tell It On The Mountain” was sung between the scriptures.



There was a reading about evergreens because they do not die; through all the seasons they remain ever-green, and the youth hung the greens while the Hymn, “Deck The Halls” was sung.

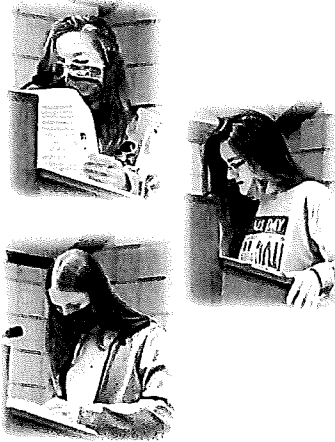
During the reading about the Christmas Tree in Scripture, the youth placed ornaments on the tree and then the lights were lit and “O Christmas Tree” was sung and “Go Tell It On The Mountain.”

Pastor Mark then read the Gospel lesson and had a short message. All sang the final hymn, “O Come, O Come Emmanuel.”

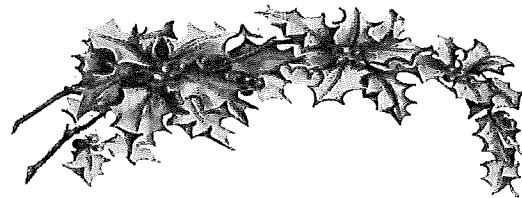
This program has become a favorite tradition to begin the season of Advent.



Youth that participated were Jady Schultis, Brianna Weers, Esdon Weers, Mallory Denner, Zachary Warren, Keira Hennerberg and Kellan Schlichtman.



Readers were Jady Schultis, Zachary Warren, Brianna Weers, Keira Hennerberg, Kellan Schlichtman and Esdon Weers





### VIRTUAL PROGRAM SHARES THE MESSAGE OF CHRISTMAS

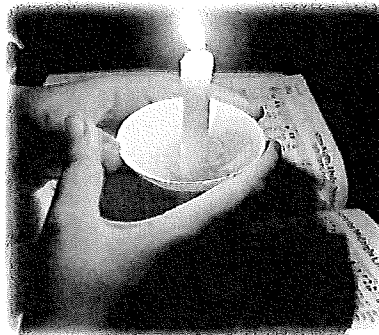
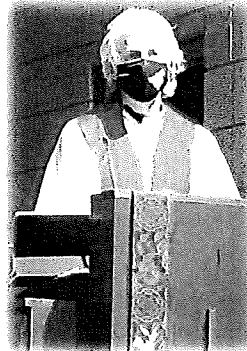
The traditional Christmas Eve children's program took on a different look in 2020. The Crosswalk kids donned costumes and shared the story of Jesus' birth through pictures. "Jesus Is Born" included images of the Holy Family, shepherds and their loyal sheep, angels galore, star holders with huge smiles, 3 handsome wisemen and a faithful donkey and curious cow. All pictures were taken on Dec. 3 in case COVID forced a closure of Crosswalk. The beautiful 65 degree day allowed the shepherds and sheep to be greeted by the angels 'Out In the Fields'.

Confirmation students opened the program by singing 'Oh Little Town of Bethlehem' while accompanied by Pastor Mark on his guitar. As pictures of the nativity shared the Christmas story, the 8th grade confirmation students read accompanying scripture from the Gospel of Luke. A spirited medley of Christmas songs, which included Joy to the World, The First Noel and Away In the Manger, concluded with We Wish You a Merry Christmas.

Jadyn Schultis shared her talents and time to produce the video. Brennan Schultis and Myleigh Weers took all the pictures for the program. A BIG thanks to these volunteers for their help

The story was shared during the Christmas Eve service at St. Paul and also posted on the St. Paul Facebook page and viewed by many. Thank you kids for this wonderful message!!! *Submitted by Beth Roelfs*

Below are pictures from the Candlelight Service. Jadyn Schultis provided a solo, and after a beautiful message from Pastor Mark, A quartet with Gary Bergmeier, Tyler Wolken, Jamie Schultis and Jadyn Schultis 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". The adjusted service from COVID still provided the beautiful message of the joy of Christ's birth, whether attended in person or virtually.





Youth will have a meeting the evening of January 14 at the church and the evening of January 31, time and location TBA.

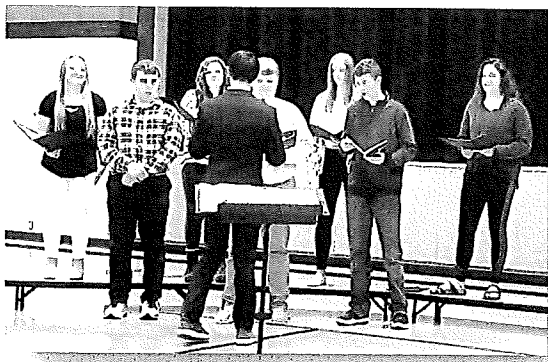
Confirmation will have their parents' night on Wednesday, January 6 at 7pm and classes on January 13<sup>rd</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>.



## Elementary December 10

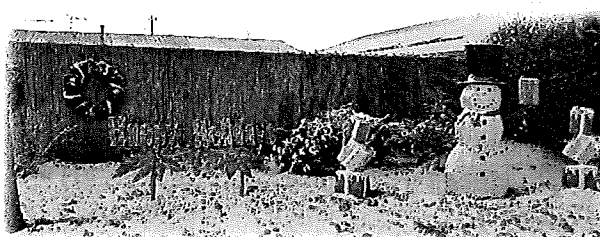
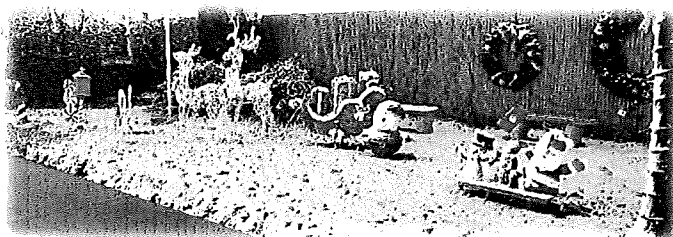
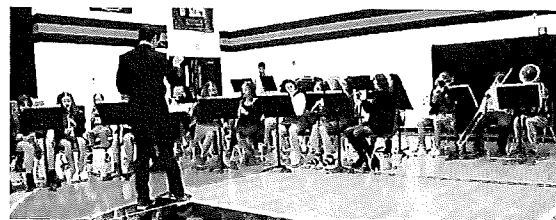


## Secondary December 17



Pictures were not available for the elementary program which was held on Thursday, December 10. Jan Liscom directed the K-4<sup>th</sup> grades music program and Garrett Easley directed the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grades.

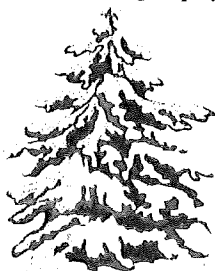
Directed by Garrett Easley, at left, the small but mighty high school choir put on a great performance. At top right, the sizeable Junior High Band sounded very good, only being together for a semester. At bottom right, the High School band perform in their program.



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.

## Happy Birthday

### January Birthdays



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

# 8



## January Wedding Anniversaries

January 8, 2011  
Mr. & Mrs. Patrick & BriAnne Hemphill



# January 2021



[www.stpauldiller.com](http://www.stpauldiller.com)

\*

Facebook – St. Paul’s Lutheran Church Diller Nebraska

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 <i>Happy New Year</i>	2
<i>Red Hymnal</i> <b>3</b> Worship Service Holy Communion 9:30 AM	4	5	<i>Epiphany</i> <b>6</b> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 5px auto;">                         CROSS WALK                          Christian Ed                          4:00pm                     </div> Confirmation Parents' Night 7:00pm	7	8	9
<i>Red Hymnal</i> <b>10</b> Worship Service <i>Epiphany Sunday</i> 9:30 AM	11 <i>Eunice Circle</i> 1:30pm	12	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 5px auto;">                         CROSS WALK                          Christian Ed                          4:00pm                     </div> CONFIRMATION 7:00pm	13	14	15
<i>Red Hymnal</i> <b>17</b> Worship Service 9:30 AM <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 5px auto;">                         ANNUAL REPORTS DUE                     </div> Youth Meeting 6:30 @ Church	18	19	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 5px auto;">                         CROSS WALK                          Christian Ed                          4:00pm                     </div> NO Confirmation NEWSCASTER ITEMS DUE	20	21 Council Meeting 6:30pm	22
<i>Red Hymnal</i> <b>24</b> Worship Service 9:30 AM	25	26 <i>Work Day</i> All Day	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 5px auto;">                         CROSS WALK                          Christian Ed                          4:00pm                     </div> CONFIRMATION 7:00pm	27	28	29
<i>Red Hymnal</i> <b>31</b> 9:30 AM Worship Service <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 5px auto;">                         ANNUAL MEETING                          Following Worship                     </div> Youth Meeting TBA						30

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