

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.*

April 2024

Pastor Mark Liscom

You Shouldn't Feel That Way...But What If You Do?

You shouldn't feel that way, it is often said. I hear it most of the time when I express feelings of failure. Don't be so hard on yourself, I hear once in a while. It's sound advice really. It doesn't help much to feel like that I suppose, it really doesn't get me anywhere.

But what if I still do?

Jesus gave us some pretty strict advice about how to feel at times. Jesus said that if you are angry with a brother or sister, and if you call someone a fool you are on your way to hell. It's probably pretty sound advice. We shouldn't feel that way.

But what if we do?

This is important. Because what we usually do, it seems, is to be told, or to tell ourselves that we "shouldn't feel that" way. And then we try not to feel that way anymore.

But of course, it doesn't work does it?

In general, how we should feel doesn't really seem to matter much before God. The real issue is how we do feel. The freedom of the Gospel is to be who we are, not who we should be. As hard as that might be.

When I really see myself in the mirror, that's when the good stuff starts with God.

Pastor Mark

Editor, Typist, Calendar and Assembly of the Newscaster:
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 April Newscaster are

Irene Gibson

in Honor of Eleanora Bunting's Birthday

and

David and Sherry Henrichs

in Celebration of their 45th Anniversary

on April 21st



We celebrate your loved one's birthday and milestone anniversary.

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.

Easter Lilies

Easter Lilies beautifully decorated our church sanctuary for Easter services. A BIG Thank You goes to all who provided an Easter Lily. There were a few plants left at church that have since been donated.

Easter Lilies were donated by:

Dean and Beth Roelfs

Bill Cummins, Brian and Kendra K. Weers,

Brianna and Joely

Shawn and Jill Zabokrtsky and Boys

Larry and Sondra Germer

Larry and Susan Lawton

Eldean and Norma Banahan

Robert, Brian, Kendra, Brianna & Joely Weers

Melvin and Beth Lee Beran

Amy Breeden and Family

Naomi and Jeff Harlan and Family

Rick and Annette Garton and Family

Dennis and Deb Nippert

For the Joy of Christ's Gift to Us

In Loving Memory of Imogene Cummins

In Loving Memory of Jill's Dad, Jim Morehead

In Honor of Our Family

In Loving Memory of Family

In Loving Memory of Jeanette

In Loving Memory of Angie Weers

In Memory of Our Family and Friends

In Loving Memory of Virgil and Judy Garton

For the Glory of God



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St. Paul Lutheran Church Council Minutes for March 18, 2024

Council members present were Pastor Mark, Gary Bergmeier, Scott Pretzer, Doug Schmidt, Brian Weers and Jeanette Bures. Allen Roelfs arrived later in the meeting. Pastor Mark opened with a prayer and God sightings were shared by council members. Minutes were read and Scott moved to approve and seconded by Doug. Minutes approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Allen reported that all bills have been paid except for Portico. We are 20% of the way to our Benevolence pledge. February giving was good. Brian moved to approve the report and it was seconded by Jeanette. Motion passed.

MEMORIAL TREASURER'S REPORT

Jeanette reported that the account balance is \$11,680.12. Scott is going to talk to Heartland Bank about the interest account. Allen moved to accept the report and Scott seconded. Motion passed.

PASTOR'S REPORT

4 worship services, 4 Lenten services, met with Confirmation students, 4 Cluster meetings, 1 Sweetheart Supper, 1 pre-marital meeting, 1 Christian Education committee meeting, 1 ELCA restructuring meeting. Has been meeting with Cluster about churches with no pastor and what to do about lay preaching, etc. Of the 14 churches in the Cluster, half are vacant, sort of a support group if you will. There is 1 interim pastor.

VICE CHAIRMAN REPORT

Gary reported that things are going ok. Maintenance on the hedges is done, Allen cut the North ones.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Christian Education – Had a great conversation about Adult Christian Education. The Chosen series will be revived in April by Jill Zabokrtsky. Jill Bergmeier will do an 8-week Bible study, discussed how we could hold sessions to discuss social topics. Beth will investigate resources through the Synod; Micah 6:8 program. "Think it Through" would be the title. Pastor says 'how does faith interface with it?'

Property – Facia trim on South peak blew off, Doug is going to replace it. Thank you to Allen and Gary for taking care of the bushes.

Communication & Outreach – N/A

Music & Worship – Seder Meal will take place on Maundy-Thursday, Good Friday service will simply be a Hymn sing, the choir will practice for Easter Sunday worship service after the Seder Meal. During Synod Convention weekend on June 2nd, Pastor will be gone for that Sunday service, so we may have to move the communion service. Confirmation will take place on May 5th.

Food Stand – Allen and Doug have done some maintenance on the Picnic Food Stand.

OLD BUSINESS

Bank account email – Allen says he doesn't want the account. Our tax-exempt status has been accepted from the County.

NEW BUSINESS

The CRLC Zoom meeting about the ELCA restructuring was discussed. Pastor asked about Lenten services feedback. Pastor requested May 17-19 off, Arden Dorn from St. John's Lutheran in Beatrice may send a Lay person to cover the May 19th worship service.

The next council meeting was set for Wednesday, April 17th at 7:30pm and committees to meet at 7pm. Allen moved to adjourn the meeting and Jeanette seconded. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned and closed with The Lord's Prayer.

~ Brian Weers, Council Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT

As of 3/16/2024



Current Balances

General Fund	\$ 8,018.65
Benevolence	\$ 1,590.25
<u>Designations</u>	<u>\$ 3,890.04</u>
Total	\$13,498.94

Operating Expenses

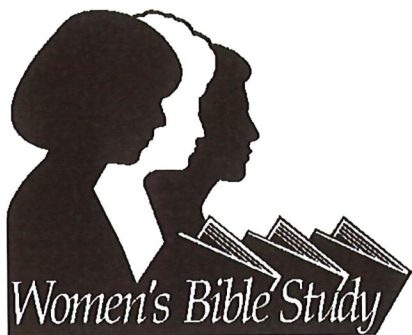
Available Cash	\$ 8,018.65
Remaining Bills	
<u>Portico</u>	<u>1,856.19</u>
Remaining Bal	\$ 6,162.46

Waiting for bill

Offering Summary

	January	February	March
Current	\$ 6,903.42	\$ 10,054.00	\$ 7,064.00
Benevolence	\$ 134.00	\$ 1,193.25	\$ 263.00
Designated Funds	<u>\$ 255.00</u>	<u>\$ 165.00</u>	<u>\$ 25.00</u>
Totals	\$ 7,292.42	\$ 11,412.25	\$ 7,352.00
			(partial month)

We need to receive \$10,325.39 in CURRENT each month in order to meet our budget for 2024.



Eunice Circle

Eunice Circle met on March 11, 2024 at 1:30pm. Irene Gibson led the Bible Study – February lesson.

Scripture and nature: Teachers of faith – Creatures.

Our study texts from: Genesis 3:1-8; Genesis 7:1-16; 1 Kings 17:1-6; Psalm 104:24-28; Isaiah 11:1-9; Jonah 1:17-Jonah 2:10 and Jonah 4:1-11. The focus verse: “They went into the ark with Noah, two by two of all flesh in which there was the breath of life.” (Genesis 17:15). We opened with prayer and Hymn, “God of the Sparrow.” We closed with prayer and verse from “God of the Sparrow” and The Lord’s Prayer.

Norma called our meeting to order. Minutes were read and approved. Five (5) members answered roll call and one guest. Our offering was \$41.00.

Old Business: World Day of Prayer was on Friday, March 1st at Ellis Methodist Church. WELCA meeting after church on March 3rd. Work Day was on February 27th. Ardith baked pretzels in the form of folded arms and read what it represented. We all received a pretzel.

New Business: ELCA used money donated for World Relief and other projects. Work Day will be on March 26th and April 23rd and 30th.

After Grace, Jane Pretzer served refreshments. April hostess will be Linda Behrends.

Next Eunice Circle Meeting will be April 8th, 2024 at 1:30pm, March/April book. Norma Banahan will lead the Bible Study using March Lesson.

~ Irene Gibson, Recorder

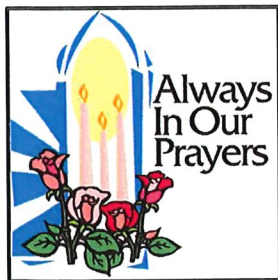
Four ladies from St. Paul Lutheran attended World Day of Prayer on March 1st hosted by Ellis United Methodist Church.

The theme of the worship service was about Palestinian Christian Women. We heard the stories of three women with different perspectives; A Story of Resilience, A Story of Truth Telling and A Story of Flourishing. These were very poignant stories of how these women lived a real minority faith in a country with so much turmoil. These stories were gathered before the October invasion and war that followed, yet they suffered very similar circumstances before and after the beginning of the war.

We sang hymns throughout the service and the closing reading encapsulated the theme very well. “May we commit to working for peace as we stand with all women, particularly those in Oppression, Violence or Discrimination. May we be faithful advocates in all levels of society and church life. May we bear with another in love.” After the service, we saw pictures of the original territory of Palestine and how it has changed in a very short amount of time. We then enjoyed a delicious dessert bar and fellowship with ladies from the four churches.



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:



It is with deep sadness and loving care that we remember the family of Kolin Kotas. May God walk beside them during this difficult time. Kolin was baptized and confirmed at St. Paul and became an involved member of Our Savior Lutheran of Odell.

Please remember our Homebound and Shut-ins and all who are in need of God's healing Grace:

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

St. Paul Lutheran Church

Women of the ELCA

A Unit Meeting of the Women of the ELCA was held following the church service on Sunday, March 3, 2024, with 11 members present.

We opened with an inspiration by Marla Weichel and Ardie Barber about taking an absolute worst day ever and turning it around into a good day.

The meeting was led by President, Ardie Barber.

Minutes of the October 29, 2023, unit meeting were read by Secretary, Peggy Hemphill, and were approved as read.

Diane Wellsandt gave the Treasurer's report. The balance on hand is \$4,126.83. There was one outstanding bill for pizza for the Lenten service meal in the amount of \$117.16 which was approved to be paid. \$250 was paid to Lutheran World Relief and Thank Offering was \$413.52. The Treasurer's report was approved.

Correspondence – a Thank You was received from Ruby Hardin from the Southern Gage County Food Pantry in Wymore for the monetary donation. We had also received an Invitation to World Day of Prayer from the Ellis United Methodist Church Women.

Committee reports were given: **Work Group** – nothing new to report. **Monthly Card Project** volunteers for the next several months are: March - Peg Hemphill; April – Ardie Barber. **Work Day** – It was reported that 6 quilts had been made since the first of this year. They meet on the 4th and 5th Tuesdays of each month from 9 a.m. until noon and any help would be greatly appreciated—come join the fun! **Baby Care Kits** – nothing new to report. **School Kits** – nothing new to report. **College Students** – nothing new to report. **Eunice Circle** – meets on the second Monday of each month. **Kitchen** – nothing new to report.

Old Business: Food Drive – 800 items of food were collected. The food and partial cash donations were delivered to Blue Valley Community Action in Fairbury and \$600 was sent to the Southern Gage County Food Pantry in Wymore. We thank Dennis Nippert for delivering the food items for us.

World Day of Prayer was held March 1 at the Ellis United Methodist Church with Country of Palestine being the focus of the service this year. Several of our members attended.

New Business: Discussion was held on how to disburse some of our money. Quite a few ideas were discussed. It was voted to set a budget up to \$400 for Dennis and Deb Nippert for flowers, mulch and supplies for the landscaping of the church; purchase one water system and one herd of animals both through Gifts of Love-Lutheran World Relief.

Spring Gathering will be held April 6, 2024, at Luther Memorial Church in Syracuse, Nebraska.

Graduation Recognition Sunday will be held April 28, 2024, with Beth Roelfs in charge.

Offering for the day was \$70. The next meeting will be held following church service on Sunday, April 28, 2024. (Subject to change)

The meeting was closed with a prayer by Ardie Barber.

~Peggy Hemphill, Secretary

The WELCA organization served the second Lenten meal with numerous ladies serving the meal of pizza, bread and salads with delicious desserts.



Confirmation students have had a busy year and attended Maundy-Thursdays (March 28th) and Good Friday (March 29th) worship services. April classes will be on the 3rd and 10th with the last class being a party for all Confirmation students on Wednesday, April 24th.

The Confirmation students provided the last Lenten meal on March 20th, a taco bar. (see below)

Affirmation of Baptism (Confirmation) will take place on Sunday, May 5th during the Worship Service.

It's been a great year!

Confirmation Class



Celebration and Easter Take Center Stage at CrossWalk



CrossWalk

David the shepherd boy, David and Goliath, and David the King were the learning themes for this month. Through these stories we discovered that God knows what is in our hearts, that he stands beside us in hard times and that he can bring peace to angry hearts.

On March 20 the kids reached their pop tab goal for a 2nd time. They filled the big jar 5 times to overflowing and celebrated their success with a play day in the park and ice cream from Sunny's.

During the March 27 session everyone watched a movie and made Easter cards for Heritage Care Center in Fairbury. Students visited the sanctuary to look at the figure of Jesus and noted the marks on his hands, side and feet. They also looked at the 2 windows that depict this time in Jesus' life. The day ended with a joyous palm parade along with each child receiving a small personal cross.



~ Submitted by Beth Roelfs



CrossWalk kids learned about the meaning of Palm Sunday and enjoyed a Palm Parade around the church on a beautiful day



The CrossWalk kids really enjoyed making Easter cards for Heritage Care Center residents as part of their Holy Week class



The Youth served an Easter Breakfast this year with pancakes, sausage and fruit cups. Pictures below are from the Youth breakfast. THANK YOU to our Youth and leaders!

The Youth will also have a meeting in the coming weeks to organize and plan upcoming activities.



Holy Week at St Paul Lutheran

Holy Week services were held
Sunday, March 24 through
Easter, March 31.

THANK YOU to all who participated
and/or organized Holy Week Services!

Palm Sunday began with the congregation waving the Palms while singing, "All Glory, Laud and Honor". It truly was joyous to see so many from the congregation participate.

Maundy-Thursday service saw the return of the Seder Meal, the Passover as Christ experienced it with the explanation of what each part of the meal symbolizes. Many thanks to all the people who contributed to making the meal and setting up and to Pastor Mark for coordinating the many parts to this ritual and providing the music.

This Holy ritual symbolizing the Passover for the Hebrews in Egypt and it's connection to the Last Supper of Christ is a wonderful tradition with so much meaning to so many around the world.

After the meal, the altar was stripped in preparation for Good Friday.

For **Good Friday**, Pastor Mark did a meditation on Christ's Passion with Hymns that spoke to the meaning of each passage. It was a meaningful and poignant message about God and Christ's love for us, the gift of our salvation.

Easter, March 31 – We did not have a sunrise service, but we did have a wonderful Youth-sponsored breakfast from 8 to 9am with Easter Worship service following at the regular time. The incredible message of our risen Christ was celebrated.

Pastor Mark gave an insightful sermon about the meaning of resurrection; that in order to be resurrected, something has to die; "Easter doesn't happen until you're out of options." Special Music was a big part of the service with Joely Weers performing on her saxophone and our joyful choir shared a beautiful Easter song during the offering. We had many donated Easter Lilies (listed on page 2) and large attendance, so many people grateful to attend and hear the message of our risen Lord.



Our church's "Impromptu Choir" sang at the March 10th service with a good-sized group. The choir will sing for service every 2nd Sunday of the month and practice 30 minutes prior to worship. Everyone is invited to come sing in the choir. Please Join Us!



Congratulations to a number of students who have experienced success over this past month

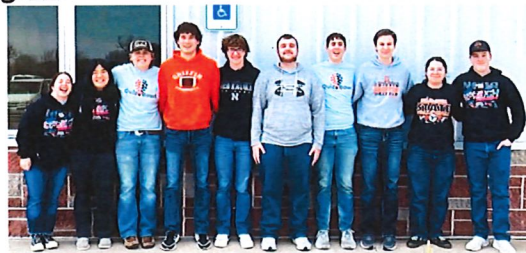


The Griffins High School Quiz Bowl Team A achieved second place in the silver division of the Pioneer Conference Tournament. St. Paul Youth Team A member was **Joely Weers**. Team B achieved fourth place in the silver division of the Pioneer Conference Tournament. Youth members on Team B were **Zachary Warren, Cole Ebeling** and **Peyton Denner**. Congratulations, Griffins!

The Speech team had an amazing year with 10 Griffins qualifying for the State Championships in 9 events. Our Youth that qualified for state were **Joely Weers** and **Brennan Schultis**. **Cale Clifford** also competed with the speech team. The team placed high in all meets and were District runner-up champions. Congratulations, Griffins, on a job well done!



Joely Weers was selected for the All-State Wind Ensemble and chosen as First Chair and a Medalist.



ATTENTION GRADUATES!!!!

Are You, your Child, or Grandchild graduating in May or June?
We want them on our Graduation Board!

Pictures and information for the board are being accepted until **May 22** (if you want your picture and info in the Newscaster), and the information needed is the name (First, Middle, Last) of the graduate, parents' and/or grandparents' names, name of school, school colors, degree earned and future plans. Please submit wallet-sized pictures or email to kweers10@gmail.com. Thanks!!

Happy Birthday

April Birthdays

- 3 Tyler Wolken
- 5 Bob Wellsandt
- 5 Larry Lawton
- 5 Scott Beran
- 7 Kalli Roelfs
- 12 Jeff Barber
- 17 Neleigh Weers
- 18 Shawna Barnts
- 24 Larry Germer
- 23 Xavier Zabokrtsky
- 26 Daniel Beran
- 26 Kendall Graves
- 27 Mykal Folkers
- 29 David Henrichs



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- April 6, 2001
☞ Mr. & Mrs. Brian & Kendra K Weers
- April 12, 2014
☞ Mr. & Mrs. Tyler & Crystal Snyder
- April 16, 1994
☞ Mr. & Mrs. Chad & Courtney Lottman
- April 18, 1998
☞ Mr. & Mrs. Jamie & Sheri Schultis
- April 21, 1979
☞ Mr. & Mrs. David & Sherry Henrichs
- April 26, 2008
☞ Mr. & Mrs. Brad & Megan Langenberg



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!



**April 7 Sunday Worship Service
With Holy Communion**

*Worship Assistant – Sherry Henrichs
Greeter – Dean Pretzer*

Coffee Service – Beth Roelfs, Marlene Wolken

April 14 Sunday Worship Service

*Worship Assistant – David Henrichs
Greeter – Charles Barber
Coffee – Holli Pretzer, Marla Weichel*

April 21 Sunday Worship Service

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

April 28 Sunday Worship Service

*Worship Assistant – Jamie Schultis
Greeter – Jim Bures
Coffee Service – Cheryl Denner,
Kristen Hennerberg*



**May 5 Sunday Worship Service
With Holy Communion
Confirmation Sunday**

*Worship Assistant – Jamie Schultis
Greeter – Dennis Nippert
Coffee – Jill Bergmeier, Julie Schmidt*



April 2024



www.stpauldiller.com

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

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 5px auto;"> CROSS WALK Christian Ed 4:00pm </div> CONFIRMATION 7pm Parents’ Night	4	5	6
Red Hymnal 7 Worship Service With Holy Communion 9:30 AM Adult Forum Lite following Worship	8 <i>Eunice Circle 1:30pm</i>	9	10 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 5px auto;"> CROSS WALK Christian Ed 4:00pm </div> CONFIRMATION 7:00pm	11	12	13
Blue Hymnal 14 Worship Service 9:30 AM Adult Forum Lite following Worship	15	16	17 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 5px auto;"> CROSS WALK Christian Ed 4:00pm </div> Committees and Council Meetings 7pm / 7:30pm	18	19	20
Red Hymnal 21 Worship Service 9:30 AM Adult Forum Lite following Worship	22	23	24 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 5px auto;"> CROSS WALK Christian Ed 4:00pm </div> CONFIRMATION PARTY	25 <i>Newscaster items due</i>	26	27
Blue Hymnal 28 Worship Service 9:30 AM Recognition of Graduates <div style="border: 1px solid purple; padding: 2px; width: fit-content;"> WELCA Unit Meeting Following Worship </div>	29	30 <i>Work Day All Day</i>	Confirmation Sunday May 5			



St. Paul Lutheran Church
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