

# 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 2021**

*Pastor Mark Liscom*

## Where We Are With COVID-19

As we continue to live through this pandemic, perhaps it is important once in a while to gain at least a little clarity on how we are currently approaching this as a congregation.

When the pandemic first hit, we basically closed the church building and moved outside, shutting down almost anything that was in the building. As fall came however, we began to “open up” somewhat. Our kids went back to school, and we brought worship back into the building with masks, social distancing and Facebook Live. Communion, Confirmation, Youth group, and Crosswalk went back to a “sort of” normal.

Where are we now? The consensus seems to be that it’s time to a get little more fully back to normal. What that means practically is (with masks and some effort at social distancing) that we will go back to our full worship service, get worship assistants and acolytes again, and all of our committees meeting again. Certain large group gatherings like the Sweetheart supper won’t work. A normal Coffee hour after church isn’t in the picture yet. But it’s time it seems for our basic structure to get back to a more normal state. A “new normal” maybe.

It’s important to remember that many people feel the risk associated with these meetings is still too great. That’s totally understandable and appropriate. Some of us are more at risk than others so that makes total sense. But I want to let everyone know that we continue to “open up” a bit, especially regarding worship and committees.

Thanks to everyone for their flexibility and creativity during this time as we continue to walk through this pandemic together.

*Pastor Mark*

**Editor: Kendra K. Weers**

**Typist: Kendra K. Weers    Calendar: Kendra K. Weers**

**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,  
Beth Roelfs and Sheri Schultis

Youth News – Jady Schultis, Skylar Pretzer and Brianna Weers

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



*Sponsors for the February Newscaster are  
Eldean and Norman Banahan  
in Honor of Jeanette Banahan's Birthday  
and  
an Anonymous Donor  
in Honor of Teachers and Helpers of Cross Walk  
who both had February Birthdays*

*We thank you for your sponsorship and support.*

*Please note that the sign-up sheet for 2021 sponsorships is up and all months are still available.*

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

**LENT SCHEDULE**



**Ash  
Wednesday  
Service**

**Ash Wednesday Service**  
February 17, 7:30pm

**Lenten Services**  
Wednesdays, 7:30pm  
February 24, March 3,  
March 10, March 17,  
March 24, March 31



**Volunteers  
Needed!**



**SOME COVID  
RESTRICTIONS  
LIFTED!!**

Things are finally a-changing! We are returning to regular worship with communion, singing, acolytes and Worship Assistants.

We still will not have ushers, greeters or coffee hour yet, but anticipate it will resume very soon.

If you would like to be a Worship Assistant or are a Confirmation student and would like to be an Acolyte, please contact Pastor Mark. These people will be scheduled starting in March.

# St. Paul Lutheran Church Council Minutes for January 20, 2021

Members present were Jamie Schultis, Pastor Mark Liscom, Tyler Wolken, David Henrichs, Gary Bergmeier, and Darin Weers. Not present was Melvin Beran. Pastor Mark opened the meeting by opening it up for everyone to share life and faith stories. The minutes from December were reviewed. David moved to accept the minutes and Jamie seconded. The minutes were approved.

## Treasurer's Report

The current balance in the account is \$558.22. Still needing to be paid are Norris and Protico. As well as World Hunger and our Benevolence donations. After these are to be paid it would leave a balance of (-\$3,214.46). Darin moved to accept the treasurer's report and Jamie seconded. The treasurer's report was approved.

## Memorial Treasurer's Report

Darin reported that the account had an interest of \$0.42. The new balance is \$7,105.45. The Thrivent account had 4<sup>th</sup> quarter gain of \$1,937.07. 2020 had a total gain of \$2,762.38. Balance in the account stands at \$23,554.22

David moved to accept the Memorial treasurer's report and Gary seconded. The report was approved.

## Pastor's Report

2 confirmation classes, 1 confirmation make up day, 1 youth meeting, 4 worship services, 1 Christmas Eve service, 1 cluster meeting, 1 text study, 3 hospital call, 7 other calls.

Pastor has reached out to several congregation members throughout the month. Pastor has been working on the Lent services. He is looking into the topic of, if God is all powerful, why is there so much suffering? He will diving into theodicy of it all and what it means. Pastor Mark has been communicating with the new confirmation families and is trying to get them on board with acolyte duties and 1<sup>st</sup> communion.

## Vice Chairman Report

Jamie wanted to send a thank you to everyone who participated and put on the Christmas program that made it a great success. Lastly, he wanted to send a thank you to all the Crosswalk volunteers for keeping the program growing and thriving.

## Committee Reports

**Property-** Darin spoke with Ed Hajek about the construction project of the two Sunday school rooms and has received approval from the memorial donors to proceed with the renovation project. Doug Schmidt has also installed a couple carbon monoxide detectors throughout the church. We appreciate his help in keeping the church safe and up-to-date.

**Nominating-** The committee was able to find two members who volunteered to be on council in place of Jamie and Melvin. Those two are Diane Wellsandt and Peggy Hemphill. There are also two nominations from the floor. Those two are Dennis Nippert and Scott Pretzer. At the annual meeting, nominations from the floor can accept the nomination or decline. Once nominations are finalized, members will vote for two people to service on council for a three year term.

## Old Business- N/A

## New Business

- The auditing committee reviewed the accounts and made their suggestions and corrections.
- After reviewing the budget 2020 budget and making a prediction for 2021, Darin made the motion to decrease the annual benevolence donation from \$9000 to \$7000. Gary seconded the motion. 4-Yes 1-No (David H.) The motion passed.
  - The council reviewed the ballot and made corrections to the council member ballot. All other items on the ballots stayed the same. Items that will be voted on will be whether to have a Diller Picnic food stand, how to distribute the funds afterwards, and 2021 budget approval.
  - The council is encouraging everyone that is willing and able to attend the meeting. Pastor and council will take all the precautions necessary to make sure everyone is safe and social distanced. IF you don't feel comfortable sitting in the pews, we can arrange chairs in the fellowship area to keep your distance. Masks are still required. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Pastor Mark or any other council member for assistance.
  - The annual meeting will not be livestreamed on Facebook, just the Sunday service.
  - The annual meeting will be held January 31<sup>st</sup> right after the service is complete.

The next church council meeting will be held February 10 at 7PM. Committees are being asked to meet if they feel comfortable at 6:30Pm. Jamie moved to adjourn the meeting and Darin seconded. The meeting was adjourned and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

- Tyler Wolken, Council Secretary

## Eunice Circle

Eunice Circle met on January 11, 2021 at 1:30pm. Norma Banahan led our Bible study.

Journeys With Angels – Looking Up. What can we notice and learn from God's Messengers?

Our focus verse – "Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth...when morning stars sang together and all the heavenly beings shouted for joy? (Job 38:4a and Job 38:7). Our study texts were from Genesis 1:1; Exodus 25:17-22, Exodus 26:1; 2 Chronicles 3:10-14; Job 38:1-7; Psalm 8; Isaiah 6:1-8; Ezekiel 1:5-14, Ezekiel 10:15-20; Matthew 13:39b-43, Matthew 13:47-50; Luke 1:11-12 and Luke 2:8-11; 1 Corinthians 6:3; Revelation 1:16 and Revelation 1:20.

We opened with prayer and Hymn, "Angels From the Realms of Glory." We closed with prayer and Hymn, "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" 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 \$11.00.

Old Business: We are planning on Baby Care Kits, School Kits, Personal Care Kits. No Work Day in December. Work Day is January 26<sup>th</sup>.

New Business: Work Day is on January 26<sup>th</sup>.

After Grace, Cleo Perkins served refreshments.

Next Eunice Circle meeting will be February 8, 2021 at 1:30pm, January/February book. Irene Gibson will lead Bible study.

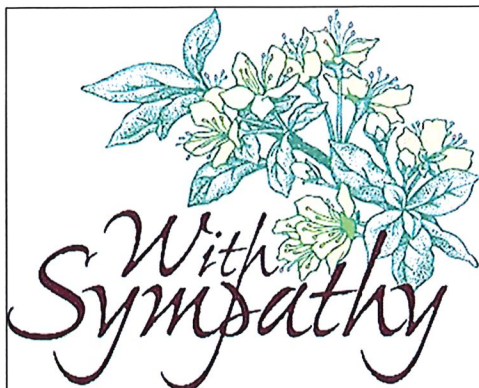
- Irene Gibson, Recorder

## St. Paul Women of the ELCA Unit Meeting

February Unit Meeting of the St. Paul WELCA  
Wednesday February 3, 2021  
7:00pm

Discussion will include our 2021 activities

All women of the church welcome to come



*Please keep the family of Stacy Roelfs in your prayers. Her father, Jerry Anderson, passed away on January 31<sup>st</sup> in Beatrice. His Memorial Service was held on January 6, as cremation had taken place.*

*May God's Healing Grace be with your family as you mourn your loss.*



# CrossWalk Christian Education

The learning focus for Crosswalk this year is to help the children learn about prayer practices and the Lord's Prayer. The first session in January was all about prayer. Each child created their own prayer bead necklace or bracelet to help guide them in their prayers to God.

Red: Pray for teacher at school

Yellow: Pray for someone in your family

Blue: Pray for a friend

Green: Pray for a neighbor

Orange: Pray for yourself

Purple: Pray for someone at Crosswalk

Brown: Pray for someone in another country

The kid's also watched a video about the Lord's Prayer and it's meaning as well as playing games that helped to practice the words to the Lord's Prayer. The following week they were introduced to the 5 finger prayer.

Other lesson themes were: Following God and standing up for your faith even when it is hard and What does Holy mean. Students learned why the church is a holy place. They designed their own churches and toured the sanctuary where they learned about the baptismal font, alter, and got to stand in the pulpit. The stained glass windows and the statue of Jesus received a lot of the kids attention.

Each week the group enjoys wonderful snacks, high energy music and a chance to reflect on the week through highs and lows prayers. If you would like to help provide snacks you can make a donation designated for Crosswalk snacks with your offering.

~ Submitted by Beth Roelfs

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION PROGRAMMING RECEIVES GRANT

The Diller Community Foundation Fund has awarded a \$500 grant to St. Paul in support of their community wide children's programs being offered in 2021. The money will be used to provide materials for the Crosswalk program that currently serves approximately 40 children each week as well as the Rocky Railway Vacation Bible School planned for the summer.



*Some of our congregational members have been in the hospital recently. **Glenda Spilker** had an aneurysm and stroke, but it was caught quickly and is recovering very well.*

***Franklin Damrow** is in the hospital and stable.*

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

***Rev. Dr. Delmar Wiemers** is home and continues to recover.*

**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. There are many divisions in our society, and 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:*

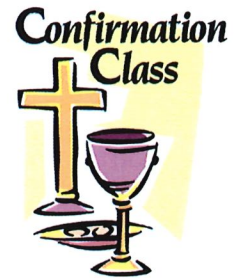
*Franklin and Betty Damrow, Margery Keefover, Linda Behrends and Eden Lottman.*

## UPCOMING FOR YOUTH AND CONFIRMATION



Youth will have a meeting and Mexican Potluck on February 21 at the church immediately after church. Immediate household family only is invited to attend. Please let Darin and/or Kendra Weers know what you intend to bring. This is in place of the usual progressive supper.

Confirmation will begin an adjusted schedule starting on Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. All Confirmation students are encouraged to attend Lenten worship services on Wednesday evenings at 7:30, and classes will take place at the church throughout Lent on Sunday Evenings at 7pm. Acolytes will be scheduled starting in March, please let Pastor Mark know if you are comfortable being an acolyte.



## School NEWS



Diller Odell Public Schools

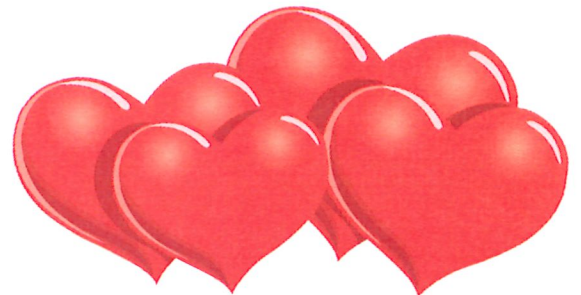
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2021 Diller Odell Student Council Food Drive - brought in over 2,100 pounds of food for the Wymore Food Pantry. We cannot thank the student body, parents, teachers, administration and community enough for their support. We couldn't be prouder of your efforts!

#griffinpride



Student Council Members from our church are Addison and Karli Heidemann and Skylar Pretzer



happy anniversary

February 14, 1965

☞ Mr. & Mrs. Dean & Sharon Lottman

February 18, 1984

☞ Mr. & Mrs. Kevin & Barb Sasse

- |    |                   |    |                   |
|----|-------------------|----|-------------------|
| 4  | Leyton Speth      | 16 | Hayley Jones      |
| 4  | Addison Stein     | 17 | Charles Whitehead |
| 5  | Rick Garton       | 17 | Chris Schlichtman |
| 5  | Kristin Heidemann | 18 | Shawn Weers       |
| 6  | Margery Keefover  | 18 | Elliot Sasse      |
| 6  | Keira Hennerberg  | 19 | Ardith Barber     |
| 8  | Tara Sasse        | 20 | Toni Landenberger |
| 9  | Creyton Heidemann | 21 | Ezekial Jones     |
| 10 | Joel Holtmeier    | 23 | Shyla Goldsberry  |
| 10 | Tybor Smith       | 24 | Brandy Dial       |
| 11 | Joyce Lahodny     | 24 | Blair Whitehead   |
| 11 | Tanner Parde      | 25 | Jerry Holtmeier   |
| 12 | Jill Bergmeier    | 27 | Chris Clifford    |
| 14 | Steve Hemphill    | 28 | Jeanette Banahan  |
| 16 | Matt Wiegand      |    |                   |


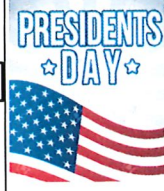
# February 2021



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

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Facebook – St. Paul’s Lutheran Church Diller Nebraska

| SUN   | MON   | TUE   | WED  | THU       | FRI       | SAT       |
|---|---|---|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|
|   | <b>1</b>  | <b>2</b>                                    | <b>3</b><br><div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 5px auto;">CROSS WALK<br/>Christian Ed<br/>4:00pm</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 5px auto;">Confirmation<br/>Parents' Night<br/>7:00-8:30pm</div> | <b>4</b>  | <b>5</b>  | <b>6</b>  |
| <i>Red Hymnal</i> <b>7</b><br>Worship Service<br>9:30 AM<br>   | <b>8</b><br><i>Eunice Circle</i><br>1:30pm  | <b>9</b>                                    | <b>10</b><br><div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 5px auto;">CROSS WALK<br/>Christian Ed<br/>4:00pm</div> NO Confirmation<br><br>Council Meeting<br>7pm  | <b>11</b> | <b>12</b> | <b>13</b> |
| <i>Red Hymnal</i> <b>14</b><br>Worship Service<br>9:30 AM<br>TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY<br><br>Valentine's Day   | <b>15</b><br><br>PRESIDENTS DAY  | <b>16</b>                                   | <b>17</b><br><div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 5px auto;">CROSS WALK<br/>Christian Ed<br/>4:00pm</div><br>Ash Wednesday Service<br>7:30 pm                         | <b>18</b> | <b>19</b> | <b>20</b> |
| <i>Red Hymnal</i> <b>21</b><br>Worship Service<br>9:30 AM<br><div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 5px auto;">Youth Meeting<br/>and Mexican Potluck<br/>Following Worship</div> Confirmation 7pm<br>At Church<br><i>Newscaster items due</i> | <b>22</b>   | <b>23</b><br><i>Work Day</i><br><br>All Day | <b>24</b><br><div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 5px auto;">CROSS WALK<br/>Christian Ed<br/>4:00pm</div><br>Lenten Service<br>7:30PM  | <b>25</b> | <b>26</b> | <b>27</b> |
| <i>Red Hymnal</i> <b>28</b><br>Worship Service<br>9:30 AM<br><br>Confirmation 7pm<br>At Church  | <p>♦ Please note that the “duties” schedule will return next month with Worship Assistants, Acolytes and Children’s Sermon. The look will be a little different, as we will not be having post-worship coffee or ushers just yet, until restrictions and mask mandates are lifted.</p> <p>Also, remember that there may be some events missing from this calendar. Please check the church website or call a member of the Council for any updates.</p> |   |  |           |           |           |

St. Paul Lutheran Church  
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Website  
[www.stpauldiller.com](http://www.stpauldiller.com)

Facebook  
St. Paul's Lutheran Church Diller Nebraska