

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 2024

Pastor Mark Liscom

Don't Talk Religion or Politics

I remember growing up that this was a kind of rule that was used to govern polite conversation. Don't talk religion or politics. It was a kind of an agreement that was made on a cultural level to sort of keep a lid on what could lead to a very destructive evening. And even now it is a rule that often governs our churches. Don't talk politics. Often there isn't much talk about religion either!

But I have to say, this was a very destructive way of thinking. If the road to hell is paved with good intentions, this was surely an example of what that means. For the truth is, that what you cannot talk about, what you cannot bring to speech begins to grow and dominate your way of life. If you cannot talk about a drinking problem, that problem will take over your life. And no where as we begin this New Year do we see this happening more than in religion and politics in our culture. That destruction that we sought to avoid by keeping a lid on it, has now taken over what it means to live our lives in 2024.

As we face a New Year, I have to say that talking about religion and politics is core to the spiritual life. It's a critical dimension of what it means to "take up our cross". The Good News is that all of our views are imperfect and inadequate, often self-serving. And so political discussions are a Great way to experience the power of the Spirit. Learning to humble ourselves at the very least. And there is nothing that is more needed in our discussions of religion and politics than that humility.

So let's get rid of that old bad rule. We need to talk about religion and politics. And learn how to do it in a way that is faithful and characterized by humility. Destructive conversation is taking over. We have a way to begin to heal it. Let's take this power into our New Year.

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

Our January Newscaster sponsors are:

*Dennis and Deb Nippert
who are In Love with Life*

and

Guilford Wiemers

In support of the Newscaster

We thank you for your sponsorship and support.

*Please note that the sign-up sheet for 2024 sponsorships is up and **SPONSORS ARE NEEDED**. There are single sponsorships available for **February** and **December**.*

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



Sunday, January 21, 2024 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 14th** in order to be prepared and published in the annual committee reports.

Please place your reports in the Newscaster's church mailbox or email Kendra at kweers10@gmail.com.

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 20, 2023

Council members present were Brian Weers, Jeanette Bures, Diane Wellsandt, Peg Hemphill, Gary Bergmeier and Allen Roelfs. Pastor Mark was present via Zoom. God sightings were shared. The minutes of the November meeting were read. Allen made the motion to approve the minutes as read and Diane seconded. The minutes were approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Allen reported that November was a little light in giving. Not really concerned, but please prayerfully consider our giving. Mission Share is in good shape, our obligation has been met for 2023. Diane moved to accept the report as presented and Peg seconded. Motion passed.

MEMORIAL TREASURER'S REPORT

There was an interest payment on the account of \$5.02. The balance in the account is now \$24,755.36. The bill for the doors of \$19,083 has been received, paperwork for the \$6,000 Grant has been submitted. Allen moved to accept the report and Peg seconded. The report was approved.

PASTOR'S REPORT

Two Confirmation classes, Thanksgiving service, 4 worship services, communion, caroling with congregation, 1 meeting about Youth, 2 pre-marital sessions, home communions, text studies, Annual Meeting on January 21.

VICE CHAIR REPORT

Doug Lottman said we could get some aggregate.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Christian Education – currently working on the Christmas program

Memorial – see Memorial Treasurer's Report.

Property – hinges for conference room door are in, north conf hall door bottom seal needs looked at, Doug going to tack ceiling tile in sanctuary again.

Communication & Outreach – N/A

Family Night – N/A

Music & Worship – N/A

Food Stand – N/A

OLD BUSINESS

Website has been renewed. Discussed Budget, Allen presented a new budget that is slightly different than the first one presented last month. Allen moved to present this version of the 2024 budget, and was seconded by Jeanette. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

The sign on Highway 8 is faded, the State of Nebraska says it needs to be painted to be in compliance. Allen is going to get a copy made into a decal to freshen the sign. Some details about the transfer of Odell State Bank to Heartland Bank are to be taken care of. Property exemption will be renewed. Diane will be gone over Christmas. Annual Meeting will be held January 21st after worship.

The next council meeting was set for January 17 at 7pm and committees to meet at 6:30pm. Jeanette moved to adjourn the meeting and Allen seconded. The meeting was adjourned and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

- Brian Weers, Council Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT			
As of 12/19/2023			
<u>Current Balances</u>		<u>Operating Expenses</u>	
General Fund	\$ 6,110.08	Available Cash	\$ 6,110.08
Benevolence	\$ 1,952.10	Remaining Bills	
<u>Designations</u>	<u>\$ 4,691.24</u>	Portico	1,851.21 (bill not ready)
Total	\$12,753.42	Remaining Bal.	\$ 4,258.87
<u>Offering Summary</u>			
	October	November	December
Current	\$ 10,622.01	\$ 5,338.00	\$ 4,244.80
Benevolence	\$ 604.90	\$ 694.75	\$ 652.45
Designated Funds	<u>\$ 101.00</u>	<u>\$ 25.00</u>	<u>\$ 75.00</u>
Totals	\$ 11,327.91	\$ 6,107.75	\$ 4,972.25
			(partial month)
We need to receive \$9,754.00 in CURRENT each month in order to meet our budget for 2023.			



Eunice Circle Women's Bible Study



Eunice Circle met on December 11, 2023 at 1:30pm. Our Bible Study was led by Irene Gibson.

God's topsy-turvy Kingdom. God is turning a world torn by conflict, right-side-up.

Our study texts were from Genesis 16:1-16; Exodus 1:1-22; 1 Samuel 2:1-10; Matthew 1:1-17; Luke 1:46-55.

We opened with prayer and Hymn, "Silent Night, Holy Night". We closed with prayer and Hymn, "Joy To The World" and The Lord's Prayer. We also had other Christmas Hymns.

Norma called our meeting to order. Minutes were read and approved. Six (6) members answered roll call with one guest. Our offering was \$29.60.

Old Business: Confirmation children put 55 Baby Care Kits together. Coat Drive coming to an end. Workday on November 28th.

New Business: No Work Days in December. January Work Days January 23rd and 30th.

After Grace, Ardith Barber served refreshments. January Hostess will be Marla Weichel.

Next Eunice Circle Meeting will be January 8, 2024 at 1:30pm, January/February Book. Norma Banahan will lead Bible Study.

~ Irene Gibson, Recorder

THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who remembered us with cards and wishes for our 50th Anniversary, we felt truly blessed.

~ Charles and Ardith Barber



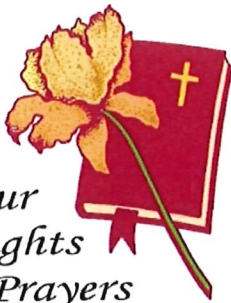
We pray for our members dealing with illness, injury and loss

Brian Weers and **Kendra K Weers** had surgeries recently. They are home and recovering well.

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, Norman Balderson and Betty and Ervin Hennerberg

*In Our
Thoughts
and Prayers*



Christmas Poinsettias

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 Irene Gibson in Loving Memory of Eleanora Bunting

Given by Dean and Beth Roelfs in Celebration of Family Past and Present

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

Given by Amy Breeden, Naomi and Jeff Harlan, Rick and Annette Garton and Family
In Loving Memory of Judy and Virgil Garton

Given by Leana Lottman in Loving Memory of My Family

Given by Melvin and BethLee Beran in Memory of Our Family and Friends

Given by Dennis and Deb Nippert and Family For the Celebration of Our Lord

Merry Christmas



**SING
UNTO THE LORD!**



Our volunteer choir gave a musical offering of a beautiful Anthem during the offering at the December 10th Worship service.



At the December 31st service, Joely Weers, accompanied by Peg Hemphill, performed "Ding Dong Merrily on High" with her violin.

Thank you to those that come and share their music gifts. It truly makes our worship special.



On Sunday, December 3, First Communion was held during the worship service.

Our new Confirmation students and their families came forward to participate in their first sacrament of Holy Communion.

Congratulations to Aubrey Roelfs and Libby Huwidt as they begin their Confirmation journey and give thanks to God who sent his son to bring us into a relationship of love with one another.



HANGING OF THE GREENS

St. Paul Lutheran had a "Hanging of the Greens" worship service to begin Advent on Sunday, December 3.

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 and worship service was led by the Youth, and many traditional carols were sung that associated with the greens that were featured.

The readings were done by several Youth and Pastor Mark. The first reading by Brennan Schultis was about why we use the greens to decorate our church and the congregation sang, "Soon And Very Soon." The second reading, also by Brennan, was about the different colors and meanings of the paraments we use for worship. Cale Clifford and Xavier Zabokrtsky presented the Advent banner and placed it at the front of the church while the hymns "Joy To the World" and "Silent Night" were sung.

Myleigh Weers lit Altar and Advent candles and then readings by Cale Clifford, Xavier Zabokrtsky and Joely Weers about the Advent candles and the meanings were read. The congregation sang "This Little Light of Mine." Scriptures were then read by Myleigh Weers. Verses from the hymns, "Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus" and "Go Tell It On The Mountain" were sung between the scriptures.



Our Youth who did the readings

Keira Hennerberg then did a reading about evergreens because they do not die; through all the seasons they remain ever-green. Youth members Cale Clifford, Keira Hennerberg, Brennan Schultis, Joely Weers, Myleigh Weers and Xavier Zabokrtsky and Confirmation student Josie Hennerberg hung the greens while the congregation sang "Deck The Halls".

Joely Weers did a reading about the Christmas Tree in Scripture from 1 Thessalonians. The youth placed ornaments on the tree and then the lights were lit as the congregation sang "O Christmas Tree."

Joely then did a reading about the meaning of Christmas tree ornaments, lights and the star. Brennan Schultis then lit the Tree. Joely read the Gospel lesson and Pastor Mark read an additional Gospel lesson and delivered the message. The offering was received.

First Communion was given to two new Confirmation students, being the first Sunday of the month.

The Hanging of the Greens service was a beautiful and meaningful way to begin the Advent season.





Christmas Caroling



Christmas Caroling and Soup Supper Fellowship was held on Sunday, December 10 at 4pm with nice 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 and spread Christmas Cheer.

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



WHO WAS IN THE STABLE ON CHRISTMAS NIGHT?

Children's Christmas Eve Program



Twenty-two young voices answered this question for the many guests attending the Christmas Eve service at St. Paul. We learned that Mary, Eddie the Donkey, Star, a Shepherd, an Inn Keeper, the Angel and Happiness were all present that special night and through their reflections the audience was led to discover that the M.E.S.S.I.A.H. was in the Stable on Christmas Night. The youngest performers reenacted the nativity scene as the group sang the Baby Jesus Song. A reading of Luke's account of the Christmas story was presented by three participants. Their voices formed a choir to sing Do You Hear What I Hear? along with Away in a Manger which was accompanied by Pastor Mark on the guitar.

During practices the group enjoyed decorating the tree and setting up the nativity scene in the youth area. Everyone also enjoyed finding their character amongst the outdoor nativity scene during a story and prayer time.



Below are pictures from the Candlelight Service, which followed the Children's Christmas Program. Special music from many members of the church made a truly special service. Jady Schultis, accompanied by Reid Pretzer on guitar, sang "What Child Is This?" Following the duet, the Choir sang, "It Came Upon A Midnight Clear", and after a message of Christmas from Pastor Mark, the Weers family of Brian, Kendra and Joely sang "Angels We Have Heard on High". For the candlelight service, a small group with Brian Weers, Allen Roelfs, Tyler Wolken and Gary Bergmeier, accompanied by 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". A special thank you to Jeanette Bures for accompanying and being organist during the programs. If you would like to watch the service, please see the church's Facebook page.

Merry Christmas!



A big THANK YOU to the cast of our Children's Christmas Eve Program and those that helped during practices!

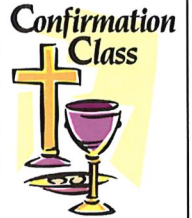
Reader 1 – Lakeyn Sasse
 Reader 2 – Aubrey Roelfs
 Reader 3 – RiLynn Sasse
 Mary – Turner Nippert
 Eddie the Donkey – Hoyt Breeden
 Star – Jocelyn Nippert
 Shepherd – Mason Barnts
 Innkeeper – Trey Breeden

Angel – Tynleigh Sasse
 Happiness – Maci Ellis
 Joseph – Paden Nutsch
 Mary – Lilly Smith
 Angels – Lilly Bergmeier, Livia Stein, Piper Ellis
 Shepherds – Boston Robbins, Kashtyn Sasse, Knox Sasse
 Wisemen – Alex Roelfs, Wyatt Smith, Kasen Sasse
 Director – Beth Roelfs Helpers – Lily Ebeling & Josiah Barnts



Youth will have a meeting/activity some time in January, please check the website, bulletin or Facebook Page for updates.

Confirmation will begin on Wednesday, January 10th at 7pm and will also have class on January 24th and 31st. Families should have received an information letter with upcoming class schedule and Lenten services. Please check the church calendar for Acolyte schedule and arrange for a replacement for the Sundays you will not be able to Acolyte on your scheduled Sunday.



Our Griffin volleyball team had a great year of competition and fought hard in the District final. Church members on the team were Keira Hennerberg (D1 All State Honorable Mention, Conference First Team) and Myleigh Weers (D1 All State Second Team, Conference First Team).

The Griffin football team had a decent season and several earned end-of-year awards. Church members on the team were Zach Warren (All District and All-Conference Honorable Mention), Kellan Schlichtman, Peyton Denner, Cale Clifford, Drake Day and Xavier Zabokrtsky



**Secondary
 Christmas Program
 December 14**



Directed by Garrett Easley, above, the high school band and at right, choir performed at their Christmas concert on December 14. Church Youth members in the music programs are Cale Clifford, Drake Day, Peyton Denner, Cole Ebeling, Kellan Schlichtman, Brennan Schultis, Zach Warren, Joely Weers, Myleigh Weers and Xavier Zabokrtsky.



COLLEGE STUDENTS 2023-2024

Here is a list of St. Paul's College Students, the WELCA is once again remembering these students with cards and prayers throughout the year. Please let Ardie Barber know if there are any changes or corrections.

- | | |
|--|---|
| Samantha Clifford – NWMSU, Business Management | Bryston Warren – Kansas State University, Ag Economics |
| Mallory Denner – Concordia University, Elementary & Special Education | Brianna Weers – SCC Lincoln, Surgical Technologist |
| Mykah Folkers – Wayne State College, Physical Education | Addison Heidemann – Iowa State Univ., Kinesiology & Physical Therapy |
| Karli Heidemann – Montana State Univ., Pediatric Physical Therapy | Skylar Pretzer – UNO, Kinesiology |
| Jadyn Schultis – UNL, Elementary & Special Education | Esdon Weers – SCC Beatrice, Agri-Business, Management Tech |
| | Neleigh Weers – Bryan College of Health Sciences, Nursing |
| | Spencer Weers – SCC Lincoln, Diesel Technology |





ST. PAUL LUTHERAN'S NATIVITY SCENE

The Church's Nativity Scene was completed last year. The set was started when Cleo Perkins' husband Clarence Henrichs passed away. Over the years, additional characters were added to remember other family members at their death, folks like Carl Henrichs, Martha DeBoer, Emily Roelfs, Stan Roelfs, and Faye, Edwin and Donnie Schmidt as well as others. It is a joyful gift to share the birth of Jesus in their honor.



Diller again did a wonderful job decorating Veterans Park and the entire Village for the Holidays. Thank you to all who contributed to this warm and welcoming display.

TABLETOP NATIVITY SCENE ON DISPLAY

Our beautiful tabletop Nativity Scene has returned to the fellowship area for people to enjoy. The scene is a reminder to us all the gift of Jesus to be the Savior to us all. Glory to God in the highest!



YMCA PARTY for CrossWalk, Confirmation and Youth of St. Paul Lutheran!

Pre-back-to-school celebration with food and fun at the Beatrice YMCA will take place on January 3rd, 6-8:30pm.

Check out the February Newscaster for pictures and the complete story of fun!



Happy
Birthday

January Birthdays

5 Steven Behrends
6 Dean Lottman
6 Mary Sasse
8 Donald Meyer
15 Mallory Denner
16 Kinley Speth
19 Taylor Landenberger
21 Dale Beran

21 Douglas Schmidt
24 Sondra Germer
24 Cody Scheele
29 Annette Garton
29 Jill Zabokrtsky
30 Kim Fugett
31 Lisa Gold



HAPPY
ANNIVERSARY



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 7 Sunday Worship Service
With Holy Communion
Epiphany Sunday, Baptism of Our Lord
Worship Assistant – Brian Weers
Greeter – Gary Bergmeier
Coffee – Beth Roelfs, Kristen Hennerberg

January 14 Sunday Worship Service
Annual Reports Due
Worship Assistant – Diane Wellsandt
Greeter – Jim Bures
Coffee Service – Jill Bergmeier, Julie Schmidt

January 21 Sunday Worship Service
Annual Congregational Meeting
Worship Assistant – Gary Bergmeier
Greeter – Dennis Nippert
Coffee Service – Sheri Schultis, Toni Landenberger

January 28 Sunday Worship Service
Worship Assistant – David Henrichs
Greeter – Dean Pretzer
Coffee Service – BethLee Beran, Linda Beran



February 4 Sunday Worship Service
With Holy Communion
Worship Assistant – Diane Wellsandt
Greeter – Charles Barber
Coffee Service – Kendra S. Weers, Kalli Roelfs

January 2024



www.stpauldiller.com * Facebook – St. Paul’s Lutheran Church Diller Nebraska

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 	2	3 <div style="border: 1px solid blue; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">CrossWalk, Confirmation and Youth fun night at Beatrice YMCA</div> NO Confirmation	4	5	6 <i>Epiphany</i>
<p><i>Red Hymnal</i> 7 Worship Service Holy Communion 9:30 AM Epiphany Sunday <i>Baptism</i> "You are my Son." <i>Of our Lord</i></p> 	8 <i>Eunice Circle</i> 1:30pm	9	10 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">CROSS WALK Christian Ed 4:00pm</div> CONFIRMATION PARENTS' NIGHT 7:00pm	11	12	13
<p><i>Blue Hymnal</i> 14 Worship Service 9:30 AM</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">ANNUAL REPORTS DUE</div>	15 	16	17 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">CROSS WALK Christian Ed 4:00pm</div> NO Confirmation <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">Committees/ Council Meetings 6:30pm/7pm</div>	18	19	20 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">Week of Prayer FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY January 18-25</div> NEWSCASTER ITEMS DUE
<p><i>Red Hymnal</i> 21 Worship Service 9:30 AM</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">ANNUAL MEETING Following Worship</div>	22	23 <i>Work Day</i> All Day	24 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">CROSS WALK Christian Ed 4:00pm</div> CONFIRMATION 7:00pm	25	26	27
<p><i>Blue Hymnal</i> 28 Worship Service 9:30 AM</p>	29	30 <i>Work Day</i> All Day	31 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">CROSS WALK Christian Ed 4:00pm</div> CONFIRMATION 7:00pm	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px;">  <p>Please check the weekly bulletin, Facebook page or website for schedule changes or additions. Some information was not available at press time.</p> </div>		



St. Paul Lutheran Church
PO Box 37
Diller, NE 68342