

# 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 2020**  
*Pastor Mark Liscom*

## What A Mess!

Once in a while, these words come out of my mouth. "What a mess!" The emphasis is usually placed on "mess". The other day it was a long extension cord that was hopelessly tangled. It's the reality behind the seat of my pickup or my office at times. *What a mess!*

On a bigger scale, I've spent some time watching the House and Senate impeachment hearings. It's the tent city situation in Seattle. Just about anywhere you go you can find this reality that comes along with life. Well...it's just one big mess.

What do we make of this? On the surface, we sometimes use these words as an expression of hopelessness. It's sort of like throwing up your hands and just giving up. It's such a mess! It's a way of turning your attention to something that might be more worthy of your time.

But before you do that, you might consider this. When Jesus was hanging on the cross, broken and bleeding, my guess is that many looked at what was happening and said exactly this: "What a mess!" What a total disaster! Then they walked away looking for something better.

Didn't get it did they? It turned out that God was at work in that mess doing his best work, revealing his power and love. It's something to think about as we look for God in today's world. God did his best work in what looked to everyone else like one...big...mess. Hmm.

*Pastor Mark*

**Editor: Kendra K. Weers**

**Typists: Kendra K. Weers and Jane Pretzer    Calendar: Kendra K. Weers**

**Assembly: Kendra K. Weers**

**Newscaster Reporters**

Church Council – Tyler Wolken    Treasurer – Allen Roelfs

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, Brianna Weers and Neleigh Weers

Worship Committee – Council    Mutual Ministry Committee - Council

Birthdays & Anniversaries – Judy DeBoer & Jane Pretzer

WELCA Coffee List – Elizabeth Roelfs

**NEWS  
LET  
TER** *starts*

*February*

*Sponsors for the February Newscaster are*

*Jamie and Sheri Schultis*

*in Honor of our Kids*

*and*

*Steve and Peg Hemphill*

*in Memory of Eunice Henrichs and Arnold Henrichs*

*who both had February Birthdays*

*We thank you for your sponsorship and support.*

*Please note that the sign-up sheet for 2019 sponsorships is up and six are still available.*

*There is one of two sponsorships available for the months of April, August and October and November. Please consider sponsoring a Newscaster to continue providing this communication tool to the members of the congregation.*

*Sweetheart Supper*

Take your sweetheart out for a lovely evening

Brought to you by our Youth

On Sunday, February 9

\$30 per couple

Seating times are 5:30, 6:30 and 7:30pm

Contact a member of our Youth or  
Darin & Kendra Weers for a reservation



# St. Paul Lutheran Church Council Minutes for January 15, 2020

The meeting was opened with sharing life and faith stories. Pastor lead with a devotional prayer. Members present were Jamie Schultis, Allen Roelfs, Darin Weers, Melvin Beran, Charles Barber, Pastor Mark, and Tyler Wolken. Minutes from last meeting were reviewed. Allen moved to approve the minutes and Darin seconded. Minutes were approved.

## Treasurer's Report

Allen reported that the total operating cash available was \$3,933.40. Norris, Solution One and Portico still need paid. This would leave a balance of \$1033.40. Charles moved to accept the treasurer's report and Jamie seconded. Treasurer's report was approved.

## Memorial Treasurer's Report

Darin reported that as of 12/31/19 the balance in the account was \$13,329.82. It had an interest of \$2.34. The Thrivent Mutual Fund 4<sup>th</sup> quarter gain was \$910.17. Thus bringing the balance to \$20,791.84. Tyler moved to accept the report and Allen seconded. The memorial treasurer's report was approved.

## Pastor's Report

4 worship services, 1 Christmas Eve service, 1 Christmas day service, 1 wedding/rehearsal, 1 funeral, 8 hospital calls, 1 confirmation fun day, 1 youth meeting, 1 confirmation class, 2 other calls, 1 Crosswalk, 1 cluster meeting, and 1 text study. Pastor Mark is going to be taking vacation from February 10-18<sup>th</sup>. Allen moved to accept the vacation time request and Jamie seconded. Motion passed.

## Vice Chairman Report

Jamie wanted to give a big thank you to everyone who helped organize and performed at the Christmas Eve concert. It was well put together and appreciated all the small groups that performed.

## Committee Reports

**Memorial-** Doug Schmidt is doing more research on the lighting project. He is looking further at lighting options and estimated cost. Diller Electric has still agreed to install the lights.

**Christian Education-** N/A

**Property-** The entire committee met prior to the council meeting. The committee looked at the two rooms that are next to old Sunday school room (Chair/table storage room and Nursery room). The committee agreed to do away with those two rooms to make more room for funerals and other events. Gary Bergmeier agreed to contact three different local construction companies to get an estimated cost and report back. The committee briefly discussed snow removal/sidewalk removal and who would take care of that. The committee also agreed to purchase smoke detectors for the church. Melvin agreed to purchase 6 detectors.

**Communication/Outreach-** In February, there will be a women's bible study group. Jill Bergmeier has agreed to help lead that group. There is a sign-up sheet in the back of the church and updates to come. The committee is looking into the lighting of the sign in front of the church. It may need a guard for the switch or just updating the timer. The group also discussed seeing if the adults of the congregation would like to go as a group and visit the shut-ins and members in the nursing homes. Lastly, they talked about the projector screen and seeing if it can be adjusted to fit all the wording on the screen.

**Music and Worship-** The committee is looking at incorporating modern Christian music into some sermons. The organ may need some maintenance work done in the near future.

**Nominating-** N/A

**Old Business-** N/A

**New Business-**

- Council reviewed the annual meeting schedule and edited the ballots for voting.
- Council went over the annual meeting agenda and the council duties for the annual meeting.

Next Council meeting is scheduled for February 19, 2020 at 7:30PM. Committee groups are still encouraged to meet at 6:30PM prior to Council meeting. Darin moved to adjourn the meeting and Charles seconded. Motion passed. Meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

- Tyler Wolken, Council Secretary

## TREASURER'S REPORT

**General Fund Balance as of 1/19/2020**

**\$ 3,933.40**

Bills Due by end of January (estimated totals)  
Solution One 150.00

Norris Public Power \$ 250.00  
Portico 2,500.00  
**Total Due: \$ 2,900.00**



## December/January

*Last Month: December*

Current \$ 11,209.69  
Benevolence 1,704.40  
World Hunger 145.00  
Special Designations 168.00  
**TOTAL \$ 13,227.09**

*Current Month: January as of 1/19/20*

Current \$ 8,367.40  
Benevolence 1,267.60  
World Hunger 0.00  
Special Designations 3.00  
**TOTAL \$ 9,638.00**

**We need \$10,170.97 in CURRENT per month to meet the 2020 budget.**

# Minutes for the Annual Meeting of St. Paul Lutheran Church, ELCA, January 19, 2020

The 2020 Annual Meeting was called to order by council president Jamie Schultis. Jamie recognized that, even though she was not part of council, Jean Schmidt was in attendance to act as secretary in the absence of council secretary, Tyler Wolken. There were 50 congregation members present. Pastor Mark opened the meeting with prayer. Minutes from the 2019 annual meeting were read and reviewed. Diane Wellsandt moved to accept the minutes, and Beth Roelfs seconded. Motion passed.

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE AND BALLOT REPORT

- Jamie presented the church council ballot. Nominated for council were Gary Bergmeier and Dave Henrichs. Nominations opened for other names. No other names.
- Jamie presented the nominating committee ballot. Nominated for the nominating committee were Jamie Schultis and Melvin Beran. Both are council representatives that will be members. Nominations opened for other names. Charles Barber, Allen Roelfs, and Beth Roelfs volunteered to serve on the nominating committee. Having no more nominations, nominations ceased.
- Jim Damrow moved to accept the council and nominating committee ballots. Darin Weers seconded. Motion passed.
- Jamie explained the Diller Picnic Food Stand ballot. First vote: Should we run the Food Stand at the Diller Picnic if asked? Yes or No vote. Second vote: Disbursement of Diller Picnic Food Stand funds. If operating the food stand, vote for one: 80% to the general fund or 60% to the general fund. If the 80% vote passes, the remaining 20% will be sent to top vote from 1 of 3: Benevolence, Blue Valley, or World Hunger. If the 60% passes, the remaining 40% will be divided between the top 2 votes: Benevolence, Blue Valley, or World Hunger.
- Allen Roelfs explained the 2020 annual budget. Projections came in really close last year and council worked to keep it close again this coming year. Health insurance still remains only for Pastor Mark. Christian Education saw an increase because of the new program Crosswalks. (Angie Clifford commented that a request could be made from the Diller Community Foundation to increase the grant money to help with costs. The contract with the copier has been renewed. Benevolence has been reduced because St. Paul has struggled to meet the obligation; if extra money is designated, it will be sent. Pastor's salary has been increased. Benefits package is health, retirement, and disability. Gary Bergmeier moved to accept the annual budget ballot, and Peggy Hemphill seconded. Motion passed.
- Jamie explained a second ballot. This ballot was needed to amend the legal name of the congregation to meet Constitutional changes and required statutes. Allen stated that all back fees have been paid to bring the reinstatement up-to-date. First vote: Amend Legal Name of Congregation to "St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church of Diller" with a Yes or No vote. Angie Clifford moved to accept the ballot, and Dave Henrichs seconded. Motion passed.
- Also necessary was a vote to update congregation committees. Vote to "Remove Witness and Service Committee" with a Yes or No vote. Vote to "Remove Support (Stewardship) Committee" with a Yes or No vote. Vote to "Add Communication and Outreach Committee" with a Yes or No vote. Allen Roelfs moved to accept the ballot, and Diane Wellsandt seconded. Motion passed.

## PASTOR'S REPORT

- Focus this year has been on a Faith Formation Group.
- "A congregation needs a clear mission and a clear vision as to why it exists, and what it is about".
- "We now live in a new world. The way of life that supported the church changed drastically."
- "A church can no longer be primarily concerned about "survival" or "keeping it going", but participating with God in a walk that will "make all things new."
- "We established an Envision Committee who worked hard to address this issue of "God's way" and to meet clear objectives and goals. Thank you to everyone who worked on the Envision Team and who went through this difficulty and came out on the other side."
- Mission Statement: "Our mission is to open our hearts and doors to share God's promise by transforming lives through commitment to and discipleship to Jesus Christ."
- Vision Statement: "1. Pray regularly. 2. Study scripture. 3. Learn to hear God's voice."
- "So much has happened this year, that has been great change in a new way of life."

## AUDITOR'S REPORT

Stacy Schlichtman, Marcy Barber, and Chris Clifford were the 2019 auditors. The auditors found the books to be in order.

## VOTING RESULTS

- Elected to church council: Gary Bergmeier--46; Dave Henrichs--43.
- Elected to nominating committee: Jamie Schultis--45; Melvin Beran--45; Charles Barber--44; Allen Roelfs--44; Beth Roelfs--44.
- If asked to operate the Diller Picnic Food Stand: yes--46; no--0.
- Funds from the Diller Picnic Food Stand would go to:

45--80% General Fund	3--60% General Fund
12--20% Benevolence	0--20% Benevolence
14--20% World Hunger	0--20% World Hunger
17--20% Blue Valley	0--20% Blue Valley
- Proposed Budget: yes--43; no--4
- Amend Legal Name of Congregation: yes--50; no--0
- Remove Witness and Service Committee and Remove Support (Stewardship) Committee: yes--45; no--4
- Add Communication and Outreach Committee: yes--46; no--2

Dave Henrichs stated that church accounts have been opened with the Odell State Bank. If a group or committee chooses, it can move their accounts or keep them with existing banks.

Many congregation members are owed thanks for everything that gets done in our church. The council members and Pastor for all their hard work. Members of the Vision Team for their dedication to the committee. The congregation for prayers and commitment as St. Paul worked through the mediation and process that followed. All congregation members that do the small things around the church and yard that often go unnoticed!

Membership to St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church of Diller, Nebraska, is defined as any confirmed member that has communed and has contributed within the year. The individual is allowed voting privileges at the annual meeting.

Jill Bergmeier discussed a new Bible Study program that will begin in February 2020. The study guide is available for an 8-week study open to all women in the congregation and community. It will meet once a week and will involve weekly readings and writings to be done during the week. A sign-up sheet is available.

Kendra K. Weers informed the congregation that Newscaster sponsors are still needed for 2020. Also if there is additional church news to be included in the Newscaster, please let her know.

Coats have been delivered to Beatrice. Food donations have been delivered.

Chris Clifford discussed St. Paul working with the Diller Picnic Committee to allow the carnival to park on church grounds when the picnic grounds are too wet. Allen Roelfs stated that the council is checking insurance coverage.

Pastor Mark offered a prayer in remembrance of those that passed away in 2019 and recently: Betty Lawrence. A closing prayer was offered for St. Paul's congregation.

Allen Roelfs made a motion to adjourn, and Gary Bergmeier seconded. Motion passed. Jamie Schultis closed the 2020 St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church of Diller annual meeting.

- Jean Schmidt, Past Secretary  
(in absence of Council Secretary, Tyler Wolken)



## St. Paul Women of the ELCA Unit Meeting

February Unit Meeting of the St. Paul WELCA  
Wednesday February 5, 2020  
7:00pm

Discussion will include our 2020 Activities  
All women of the church welcome to come.

## Work Day

Seven quilts were tied at our January 28 Workday,  
then taken home to be hemmed. After cleanup,  
coffee, cake and fellowship was enjoyed.

We will work again on February 25.

Anyone wishing to help is welcome.

**GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS**



*Virginia Lottman has been in the hospital and is now home and receiving care.*

*Franklin Damrow has been hospitalized recently and we pray for a speedy recovery.*

*Please keep these families and our church in your prayers as people recover.*

*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, Richard Schnuelle,  
Margery Keefover, Eden Lottman and Skylar Folkers.**





## Eunice Circle

Eunice Circle met on January 13, 2020 at 1:30pm. Our Bible study was led by Irene Gibson.

"We Are Called!" – Hearing God's voice. In the Old Testament, God's call comes in many forms. Just as God called our ancestors in faith, God calls us.

Our study texts were from: 1 Samuel 3:1-10; Isaiah 6:1-8; 2 Kings 22:8-20; 2 Chronicles 34:14-28; Judges 4:4-9 and Judges 4:14; Judges 5:1-15 and Jeremiah 1:1-8.

We opened with prayer and Hymn, "We Are Called." We closed with prayer and Hymn, "Here I Am, Lord" and The Lord's Prayer.

Norma called our meeting to order. Minutes were read and approved. Five (5) members answered Roll Call. Our offering was \$15.00.

**Old Business:** No Work Day in December.

**New Business:** If asked, we will give program for WELCA Unit Meeting. Eunice Circle member Marla Weichel will apply for a Thrivent Action Teams grant of \$250. Work Day is on January 28<sup>th</sup>.

After Grace, Linda Behrends served refreshments.

Next Eunice Circle meeting will be February 10, 2020 at 1:30pm, January/February book. Linda Behrends will lead Bible study.

- Irene Gibson, Recorder

*Please keep the family of Betty Lawrence in your prayers. She passed away on January 4 after a long battle with health issues.*

*Her funeral services were held January 9 at St. Paul Lutheran with Pastor Mark Liscom leading the service.*

*May God's Healing Grace be with her family as they mourn her loss.*



On January 4, 2020, Sarah Schmidt was married to Shane Meyer, both of Diller, at St. Paul Lutheran Church and was officiated by Pastor Mark Liscom.

Congratulations to the Schmidt and Meyer families as they become one and may God bless your union as you grow in faith and relationship to God.



The Schmidt Family at the wedding of Sarah to Shane Meyer

# Youth PROGRESSIVE dinner



On the evening of January 26<sup>th</sup>, seven Youth attended a progressive supper. They started at Darin and Kendra Weers' home for Mexican appetizers and then moved to the church for the main entrée of chicken enchiladas with rice and beans hosted by Kendra K Weers. They then ended the meal at Jamie and Sheri Schultis' home for a dessert treat of fried ice cream. Before each course, Pastor Mark accompanied the youth with a couple verses of "The Lord's Been Good To Me" for the table grace. It was a fun evening of food and fellowship. They also had their monthly meeting in the evening of January 12<sup>th</sup> at the Parsonage followed by fun with Karaoke.

Sweetheart Supper will be on Sunday, February 9 at the Church for \$30 per couple and there are seating times available at 5:30, 6:30 and 7:30. Please contact Kendra S Weers or a Youth member after worship services.



On Sunday, January 26 following worship, the Diller Community Foundation Fund held their granting ceremony after a delicious spaghetti dinner.

Our Congregation received a wonderful Grant from the Foundation for \$250 that will go towards the community youth outreach programs of VBS and Cross Walk Christian Education programs for whatever is needed. Thank you to the Foundation and all the donors!

At left, Pastor Mark, volunteers and some of our young attendees to the Christian Education Programs accept the \$250 grant from the Diller Community Foundation Fund at their annual Granting Ceremony



There were 23 coats and jackets and six knit caps (see right) that were donated and were collected in mid-January that were taken to the First Christian Church in Beatrice for distribution to those in need. There was also 51 pounds of food donated to Blue Valley Community Action Food Pantry in Fairbury. Thank you to all who so generously donated these items to our neighbors in need.



**Congratulations, Pioneer Conference Honor Band!!**



On Monday, January 27, eight members of the Diller-Odell Band were selected for and participated in the Pioneer Conference Honor Band at Diller-Odell High School. Sterling High School began the program with "Overture on a Shaker Tune" and the entire Honor Band performed five selections under the direction of Kevin Boesinger, Arts and Education Director at the Salvation Army Kroc Center in Omaha and the Conductor of the Beatrice Regional Orchestra and the Creative Arts Director at Christ Community Church in Beatrice. The five selections performed were "The Star-Spangled Banner", "An American Original", "Machine Age", "The Lion King" medley and "Captain America March" to close the concert.

Youth from our church that were selected were Brianna Weers and Mallory Denner.

Schools that were represented were Diller-Odell, Friend, Lewiston, Sterling, Wymore Southern and Tri-County with a total of 78 students. Practicing only that day together, it was a wonderful concert.



happy anniversary

- |    |                   |    |                   |
|----|-------------------|----|-------------------|
| 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 14, 1965

☞ Mr. & Mrs. Dean & Sharon Lottman

February 18, 1984

☞ Mr. & Mrs. Kevin & Barb Sasse





**February 2 Sunday Worship Service**  
**With Holy Communion**  
 Worship Assistant, Brian Weers  
 Greeter, Dennis Nippert

**February 9 Sunday Worship Service**  
 Worship Assistant, Cheryl Denner  
 Greeter, Jim Bures

**February 16 Sunday Worship Service**  
 Worship Assistant, David Henrichs  
 Greeter, Dean Pretzer

**February 23 Sunday Worship Service**  
 Worship Assistant, Sherry Henrichs  
 Greeter, Charles Barber

**February 26 Ash Wednesday Service**  
 Greeter, Jim Damrow



**March 1 Sunday Worship Service**  
**With Holy Communion**  
 Worship Assistant, Diane Wellsandt  
 Greeter, Gary Bergmeier



Charles Barber Dale Beran  
 Melvin Beran Scott Beran

Gary Bergmeier Jim Bures  
 Chris Clifford Jim Damrow

John Denner Larry Germer  
 Jarrod Heidemann  
 Steve Hemphill

Dennis Hennerberg  
 Jamie Hennerberg  
 David Henrichs Joe Henrichs

Brett Landenberger Chad Lottman  
 Doug Lottman Don Meyer



David Parde

Kellan Schlichtman

Madeline Parde

Joely Weers

Keira Hennerberg



Children's  
 Sermon

Pastor Mark

Jean  
 Schmidt

Beth Roelfs

Sheri  
 Schultis

Pastor Mark



Please furnish your own  
 Styrofoam cups or use the  
 cups in the kitchen  
 cupboard

Marlene Wolken  
 Cheryl Denner

Norma Banahan  
 Diane Wellsandt

Jeanette Hennerberg  
 Kristen Hennerberg


Donna Damrow  
 Beth Roelfs

Leatha Christ  
 Sandra Germer

# February 2019



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SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						<b>1</b>
<i>Red Hymnal</i> <b>2</b> Faith Formation 8:45-9:15 Worship Service 9:30 AM Holy Communion	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> <b>CROSS WALK</b> Christian Ed 4:00pm Confirmation Parents' Night 7:00-8:30pm WELCA Unit Meeting 7pm	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<i>Blue Hymnal</i> <b>9</b> Faith Formation 8:45-9:15 Worship Service 9:30 AM Sweetheart Supper 5:30 - 8:30pm	<b>10</b> <i>Eunice</i> <i>Circle</i> 1:30pm	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> <b>CROSS WALK</b> Christian Ed 4:00pm NO Confirmation	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>  Valentine's Day	<b>15</b>
<i>Red Hymnal</i> <b>16</b> Faith Formation 8:45-9:15 Worship Service 9:30 AM	<b>17</b> PRESIDENTS DAY 	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> <b>CROSS WALK</b> Christian Ed 4:00pm Committees and Council Meetings 6:30/7:30pm	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<i>Blue Hymnal</i> <b>23</b> Faith Formation 8:45-9:15 Worship Service 9:30 AM TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY Youth Meeting 6:30 at Parsonage	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Work Day All Day	<b>26</b> <b>CROSS WALK</b> Christian Ed 4:00pm Ash Wednesday Services 7:30 pm 	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>



St. Paul Lutheran Church  
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