

# 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 2020**

*Pastor Mark Liscom*

## Confinement

Confinement is not a word that most of the time we view in a very positive way. It's associated with small spaces with not much room. You can feel it sometimes when getting on an elevator or walking onto a packed airplane. To be confined is to be stuck in a box, and unable to do the things that you might like to do.

The opposite of confinement is usually understood as something like freedom. If you're confined on the airplane, you can take your seatbelt off and "move about the cabin". It's getting out of the hospital. It's the freedom that the kids feel on the last day of school. If it's one thing that we celebrate in our culture it's that kind of freedom.

But during the season of Christmas, we are asked to think more deeply about this. For at Christmas we celebrate that God, who was completely free, was willing to confine himself. Jesus took on the confining nature of a human form. Jesus gave up his freedom, to be with us. So confinement, in the context of Christmas isn't bad...it's a gift.

In Galatians 5:1 Paul writes, "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free". Christmas asks us to understand that maybe what true freedom is about involves confining yourself. Take getting married or having children. They all involve giving up your freedom, confining yourself, for the sake of someone else.

And so it's a strange paradox. Sometimes "doing whatever we want" doesn't bring much freedom. But being willing to give up our freedom, to "confine ourselves" brings great freedom. It's worth thinking about at least, and maybe even learning to live.

*Pastor Mark*

# NEWS LETTER

starts

## 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

## Sponsors

Our January Newscaster sponsors are:

*David and Sherry Henrichs*

*In honor of their Grandson Zander's first birthday  
and*

*Brian & Kendra K Weers, Brianna & Joely*

*In honor of Kendra's Dad's (Bill Cummins) 9<sup>th</sup> Birthday on January 8.*



**We thank you for your sponsorship and support.**

Please note that the sign-up sheet for 2020 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 19, 2020** 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 12<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.



## New Member Welcome December 8, 2019

On December 8, 2019, our church welcomed some new members to the congregation. Although two of the new members could not attend the service, They were welcomed to our church with a lovely ceremony during worship.

Our new members are (pictured) Kristen Hennerberg and (not pictured) Amber and Skylar Folkers. Welcome to our church family!!

## St. Paul Lutheran Church Council Minutes for December 18, 2019

Jamie called the meeting to order. Members present were Jamie Schultis, Pastor Mark, Charles Barber, Allen Roelfs, Darin Weers, and Tyler Wolken. Doug Schmidt asked to join the meeting to discuss the proposed lighting situation. Doug shared with the Council a few lighting options and price points. Diller Electric has agreed to help with the installation of the lights at minimal cost. The Council agreed to move forward with this project, but will wait until everyone on the Memorial committee and donors have been contacted. Pastor Mark gave a prayer to begin the meeting. The Council reviewed the minutes. Allen moved to accept the minutes and Charles seconded. Minutes were approved.

### Financial Treasurer's Report

Allen reported that current balance in the account was \$3261.09. Norris, Solution One, and annual organist salaries still need to be paid. Darin moved to accept the treasurer's report. Charles seconded. Motion passed.

### Memorial Treasurer's Report

Darin reported that the account had accrued \$2.12 in interest. This brought this balance to \$13,326.98. Jamie moved to accept the memorial treasurer's report. Allen seconded. Motion passed.

### Pastor's Report

4 worship services, 3 confirmation classes, 2 confirmation make up classes, 1 youth meeting, 2 faith formation meetings, 2 choir rehearsals, 1 cluster meeting, 2 hospital calls, 5 communions, 5 other calls, 1 spiritual direction meetings, 1 drinking form the well webinar, 1 baptism/pre-baptism meeting, and 1 new member Sunday.

### Vice Chairman's Report

Jamie reported that the Crosswalk program had an afternoon of fun with some of the older members of the congregation. 14 members, 22 Crosswalk kids, and numerous helpers were in attendance. They shared what Crosswalk has been up to, snacks/drinks, as well as a gifts the members. The youth performed a song that they do each week and was wrapped up with a group prayer. Thanks to all who made the day possible and a great success. Lastly, Jamie wanted to thank the volunteers who have helped coordinate and prepare the kids for the Christmas program coming up Dec. 24.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Christian Education** - N/A

**Memorial** - They met and discussed the lighting project.

**Property** - N/A

**Communication/Outreach** - The committee looked in to developing/revamping a system to welcome and thank new members and visitors to St. Paul Church. Jill Bergmeier will make an announcement at annual meeting in January about the women's bible study group, which will begin in January. Watch for updates.

**Music and Worship** - N/A

**Nominating** - The group has been coming up with names for people to run in 2020. Gary Bergmeier has agreed to run. Council is still looking for a couple more willing to serve. If you would like to run, please contact any council member.

**Food Stand** - N/A

### Old Business

- Chris Clifford has agreed to be an auditor for St. Paul. Jamie moved to accept his nomination for auditor. Allen seconded. Motion passed. Chris will serve for a 3 year term.
- Schoen Roofing will be repairing the hail damage to the parsonage roof and gutters. Schoen's has agreed to do all the repairs for \$23,795.38. The insurance company paid out a total of \$25,152.70. Thus, having a surplus of \$1357.32.
- Jamie has purchased the candy for the Christmas Eve youth concert and will assemble them. Council members will be ushers for the evening as usual.

### New Business

- The Council is considering meeting with an adjuster to reconfigure the value or worth on the church and property at St. Paul. This is for insurance purposes only.
- Allen gave the Council a proposed budget sheet for 2020. It also included the actual budgets from 2018 and 2019. Darin made the motion to send the proposed budget to the January annual meeting. Jamie seconded. Motion passed.
- Council worked on setting the agenda for the annual meeting and Jamie agreed to write it up.
- Allen moved to have the annual meeting set for January 19, 2020 at 11AM. Darin seconded. Motion passed.

The next church council meeting will be January 15. Committee's meet at 6:30PM and Council will meet at 7:30PM. Charles moved to adjourn the meeting. Tyler seconded. Motion passed. The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

*Tyler Wolken, Council Secretary*



*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:*  
**Betty and Franklin Damrow, Richard Schnuelle, Margery Keefover,  
Betty Lawrence, Skylar Folkers and Eden Lottman.**

## TREASURER'S REPORT

**General Fund Balance as of 12/24/2019** **\$ 5,106.18**

Bills Due by end of December:	Solution One	\$160.00
	Thrivent	100.00
	Organist Salaries	<u>1,500.00</u>
	<b>Total Due</b>	<b>\$ 1,760.00</b>



### November/December

<i>Last Month: November</i>		<i>Current Month: December</i>	
Current	\$ 5,779.60	Current	\$ 9,696.69
Benevolence	344.40	Benevolence	832.40
World Hunger	235.00	World Hunger	75.00
Special Designations	<u>137.00</u>	Special Designations	<u>158.00</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 6,496.00</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 10,762.09</b>

We need **\$10,111.21** in **CURRENT** per month to meet the 2019 budget.

## Eunice Circle Women's Bible Study



Eunice Circle met on December 9, 2019 at 1:30pm. Norma Banahan led the bible study. "Watch, Wait, Create" a creative Advent devotional with Isaiah. Just as God spoke through Isaiah, the imago Dei (image of God) in you awaits expression.

Our study texts were from Isaiah 2:1-15; 11:1-10; 35:1-10 and 7:10-16.

We opened with prayer and Hymn, "Come to Us Creative Spirit." We closed with prayer and Hymn, "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" and The Lord's Prayer.

Norma called our meeting to order. Minutes were read and approved. Members answered roll call. Our offering was \$7.00.

Old Business: LWR items taken to Lincoln. Mission Festival, Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> with speaker on human trafficking. ThankOffering boxes will be at Nov. 24 church service. Norma will continue as Chairperson, Irene will continue as Recorder. Work Day on Nov. 26<sup>th</sup>.

New Business: No Work Day in December.

After Grace, Marla Weichel served refreshments.

Next Eunice Circle will be January 13, 2020 at 1:30pm, Jan/Feb Book. Irene Gibson will lead Bible Study..

*Irene Gibson, Recorder*



Newly Married

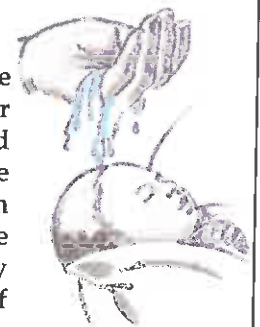
Calvin Hennerberg and Hannah Jean Elliott were married on December 7, 2019 at American Lutheran Church in Fairbury. Calvin is the son of Brian Hennerberg and the grandson of Ervin and Betty Hennerberg.

Congratulations to the couple as they begin their married life together.

### BAPTIZED INTO OUR CHURCH

On Sunday, December 15, 2019, we welcomed to our church family Kutter Deen Nutsch, the son of Hayden and Kolt Nutsch. Sponsors were Brooke Engelman, Patrick Hemphill and John and Mary Simons. Kutter is the grandson of Steve and Peggy Hemphill and the great-grandson of Franklin and Betty Damrow.

Welcome to our church family!





# HANGING OF THE GREENS

St. Paul Lutheran had a "Hanging of the Greens" worship service to begin Advent on Sunday, December 1.

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 first reading was about why we use the greens to decorate our church and the congregation sang, "Soon And Very Soon." The second reading was 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 hymns "Joy To the World" and "Silent Night" were sung.

The Advent candles were lit while there were readings about the Advent candles and the congregation sang "This Little Light of Mine." Scriptures were then read. Verses from the hymns, "Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus" and "Go Tell It On The Mountain" were 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 congregation sang "Deck The Halls".

During the reading about the Christmas Tree in Scripture, the youth placed ornaments on the tree and then the lights were lit and the congregation sang "O Christmas Tree."

Pastor Mark then read the Gospel lesson and had a short message. The youth then received the offering. All sang the final hymn, "O Come, O Come Emmanuel."

After the Benediction, the Youth served refreshments. This program is becoming a favorite tradition to begin the season of Advent.



Readers were Neleigh Weers, Samantha Clifford and Jady Schultis



Other Youth that participated were Mallory Denner, Haley Jones, Xavier Jones, Zeke Jones, Skylar Pretzer, Brianna Weers and Esdon Weers





# Christmas Caroling

Christmas Caroling and Soup Supper Fellowship was held on Sunday, December 8 at 5pm with very decent weather.

Caroling was a little different this year in that the Youth joined the rest of the congregation in caroling. Starting out of town, we went to Melvin and Jean Weers, Robert Weers, Judy DeBoer, Cleo Perkins, Melvin and BethLee Beran, Eldean and Norma Banahan and finished with Irene Gibson.

Then in town, we split into two groups and we saw Betty Lawrence, Kay Taylor, Carol Barber, Norris and Jan Gold, Virginia Lottman, Margery Keefover, Betty Hubka, Virgil and Judy Garton, Cindy Bartlett and Judy Weers.

Below, the Family Night Committee members served soup and carolers provided finger foods for all to enjoy.

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



*A special "Thank You" to the children of Cross Walk for their care gift and cheerful program. Also to the carolers who came to give of their time. Many thanks to all.*

*~ Virginia Lottman*

*To everyone at St. Paul Lutheran, I want to say "Hello" and that I think of you often. I wish I could be there sometime. I hope everyone has a happy and blessed Christmas.*

*~ Franklin Damrow*







### 'THE SYMBOLS OF CHRISTMAS'

*Shared on Christmas Eve*

The children's Christmas Eve Program and Candlelight Service was filled with the amazing stories about the meaning of the many symbols of Christmas and lots of music. Our "Sunday School" children portrayed a family decorating for Christmas and reading a story about all the symbols. Our Confirmation students did readings about the history and meaning of the symbols while the "family" decorated with the symbols. Many songs were sung with the congregation and on their own with one in sign language. It was a lovely program rich with history and meaning.

Below are pictures from the Candlelight Service, filled with many musical gifts from members of our congregation. Reed Pretzer played his trumpet accompanied by Peggy Hemphill on the piano to begin worship. A quintet of our choir members sang a beautiful song offering as well as Jadyn Schultis and Tyler Wolken with a duet. After a beautiful message from Pastor Mark, A quartet with Brian Weers, Gary Bergmeier, Tyler Wolken and 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". It was a beautiful service of the glorious message of the joy of Christ's birth.



## Christmas Poinsettias



- Given by Irene Gibson in Loving Memory of Karl Bunting*
- Given by Brian, Kendra, Brianna and Joely Weers in Loving Memory of Imogene Cummins and Angie Weers*
- Given by Dean & Jane Pretzer in Honor of Our Family*
- Given by Irene Gibson and Family in Loving Memory of Eleanora Bunting*
- Given by Melvin & BethLee Beran and Family in Memory of Loved Ones*
- Given by Charles & Ardith Barber in Thanks for Our Family*
- Given by Larry, Susan and Lance Lawton in Memory of John, Martha, David and Jerry Kujath*
- Given by Dean & Beth Roelfs to Celebrate Family, Past and Present*

*Merry Christmas*







Youth will have a meeting the evening of January 12 at the parsonage at 6:30 and a progressive supper on January 26 beginning with appetizers at 5pm. Mark Your Calendar!

Confirmation will have their parents' night on Wednesday, January 8 at 7pm and classes on January 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>.



On December 29<sup>th</sup>, the Confirmation class held a "Fun Day" where they delivered the care packages the Cross Walk students put together to residents in Beatrice and to spend some time with Franklin and Betty Damrow and Richard Schnuelle.

After delivering the care packages, the Confirmation students went to the YMCA for a few hours to swim and enjoy some fun and fellowship.



## Elementary December 12



Pictures were not available for the elementary program which was held on Thursday, December 12. 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 top left, the Junior High Band plays. At below left, special music by the High School Brass Quintet. At top right, the High School Choir and at bottom right, the High School band perform in their program.

## Secondary December 19



## 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

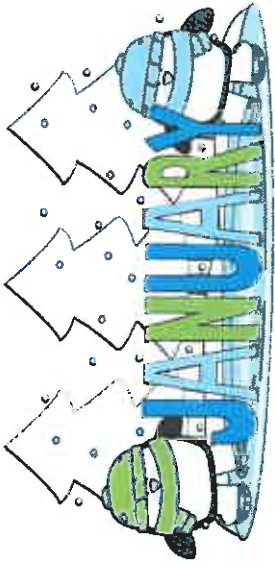


## January Wedding Anniversaries

January 8, 2011

Mr. & Mrs. Patrick & BriAnne Hemphill



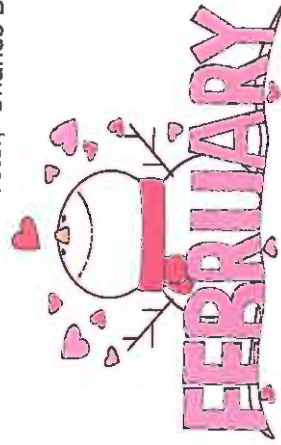


**January 5 Sunday Worship Service**  
**With Holy Communion**  
Worship Assistant, Kendra K Weers  
Greeter, Dennis Nippert

**January 12 Sunday Worship Service**  
Worship Assistant, Kendra K. Weers  
Greeter, Jim Bures

**January 19 Sunday Worship Service**  
**Annual Congregational Meeting**  
Worship Assistant, Diane Wellsandt  
Greeter, Dean Pretzer

**January 26 Sunday Worship Service**  
Worship Assistant, Jim Damrow  
Greeter, Charles Barber



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



Kevin Sasse Karter Sasse  
Riley Sasse Tim Scheele

Jonathan Schmidt Doug Schmidt  
Christopher Schmidt  
Jamie Schultis

Russell Schultis Brian Weers  
Darin Weers Robert Weers

Melvin Weers Bob Wellsandt  
Doyle Wolken Tyler Wolken

Charles Barber Dale Beran  
Melvin Beran Scott Beran



Zachary Warren

Morgan Kapke

Brennan Schultis

Cole Ebeling

David Parde



**Children's  
Sermon**

Pastor Mark

Kristen  
Heidemann

Cheryl  
Denner

David/Sherry  
Henrichs

Pastor Mark



Beth Roelfs  
Stacy Roelfs

Sheri Schultis  
Stacy Schlichtman

Joyce Lahodny  
Jean Schmidt

Robbyn Roelfs  
Shannon Stein

Marlene Wolken  
Cheryl Denner

# January 2020



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SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 <b>Happy New Year</b> NO Confirmation	2	3	4
5 <i>Red Hymnal</i> Faith Formation Group Adult Ed 8:45 - 9:15am Worship Service Holy Communion 9:30 AM	6 <i>Epiphany</i>	7	8 <b>CROSS WALK</b> Christian Ed 4:00pm Confirmation Parents' Night 7:00pm	9	10	11
12 <i>Blue Hymnal</i> Faith Formation Group Adult Ed 8:45 - 9:15am <i>Epiphany Sunday</i> Worship Service 9:30 AM <b>ANNUAL REPORTS DUE</b> Youth Meeting 6:30 @ Parsonage	13 <i>Eunice Circle</i> 1:30pm	14	15 <b>CROSS WALK</b> Christian Ed 4:00pm Committee and Council Meetings 6:30/7:30pm	16	17	18
19 <i>Red Hymnal</i> Faith Formation 8:45-9:15 Worship Service 9:30 AM <b>ANNUAL MEETING</b> Following Worship Sunday School Activity During Meeting	20 <b>NEWSCASTER ITEMS DUE</b>	21	22 <b>CROSS WALK</b> Christian Ed 4:00pm CONFIRMATION 7:00pm	23	24	25
26 <i>Blue Hymnal</i> Faith Formation Group Adult Ed 8:45 - 9:15am Worship Service 9:30 AM Youth Progressive Dinner 5:30	27	28 <b>Work Day</b> All Day	29 <b>CROSS WALK</b> Christian Ed 4:00pm CONFIRMATION 7:00pm	30	31	



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