

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.*

December 2020

Pastor Mark Liscom

The Fuss Over Rulers

"In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Ceasar—when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Traconitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene—during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas.....

.....the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness." (Luke 3: 1-2)

Simple question. Why do we make such a fuss over our rulers? Here in this country, the amount of emotional energy that is spent on our president is simply astonishing. But if it's not our president, it's the queen of England, or Prince Harry that people seem fascinated with. People glue themselves to these leaders hanging on their every move, willing to believe anything they say, defending them no matter how ridiculous.

It was the same in Jesus day. Caesar, Pontius Pilate, Herod, Philip, all seemed to hold in their hands the hopes of the people. They were worshipped and fussed over, just like our leaders are today. Everybody thought they were the vital pieces in the foundation of the future, and argued and fought over who would rule next.

The opening of Luke's Christmas story makes a simple point. God isn't found in any of that. Instead, God shows up somewhere else. Out in the wilderness. Stop investing so much of your time and attention fussing and fuming over rulers. God is somewhere else.

This Christmas season, make sure you spend some time in the wilderness. Refuse to get caught up in all the stress over our leaders if you can. If Luke is right, your answer isn't there, and will never set you right. Turn down the yelling and the accusation and the rumors and the crowds with signs.

Head to the wilderness. For it is there where God shows up. As we will hear sung in the Christmas story again this year.....How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given.

Pastor Mark

Editor: Kendra K. Weers

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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
and Sheri Schultis

Youth News – Jadyne Schultis, Skylar Pretzer and Brianna Weers

Worship Committee – Council Mutual Ministry Committee - Council

Birthdays & Anniversaries – Jane Pretzer



Sponsors

Our December Newscaster sponsors are:

John Hemphill, Steve Hemphill, Janet Whitehead and

Jean Bunger Families

*In Loving Memory of Clark & Leona Hemphill's Anniversary
and*

Irene Gibson in Loving Memory of

Karl and Eleanora Bunting

on their December 27th Wedding Anniversary

We thank you all for your sponsorship and support.

Please note that the sign-up sheet for 2021 sponsorships is up and many sponsorships are available.

*Please consider sponsoring a Newscaster to continue providing this communication tool
to the members of the congregation, especially now during COVID.*

JANUARY, FEBRUARY AND MARCH SPONSORS ARE URGENTLY NEEDED.



**Christmas
Worship
Schedule**

Sunday, December 6

Hanging of the Greens Service by our Youth
Available online for viewing

Thursday, December 24

Congregational Christmas Eve Program
and Candlelight Service 7pm

Friday, December 25

Christmas Day Worship Service
9:30am

St. Paul Lutheran Church Council Minutes for November 18, 2020

Members present were Jamie Schultis, Darin Weers, David Henrichs, Gary Bergmeier, Pastor Mark Liscom, and Tyler Wolken. Not present was Melvin Beran. The meeting was started by sharing life and faith stories with each other. The minutes from October were reviewed. David moved to approve the minutes and Gary seconded. The minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report

Gary reported that the balance in the treasurer's account was \$8,093.71. Still needing to be paid are Norris, Solution One and Portico. After these bills are paid, it would leave an estimated balance of \$6,693.71. David moved to accept the report and Darin seconded. The motion to approve was passed.

Memorial Treasurer's Report

Darin reported that there was \$0.39 in interest. Bringing the balance to \$7,104.61. Jamie moved to accept the report and David seconded. The report was approved.

Pastor's Report

2 funerals, 1 wedding and rehearsal, 4 worship services, 8 hospital calls, 3 confirmation classes, 2 confirmation make up classes, 3 other calls, 1 youth meeting, 2 text studies, 1 theological conference(on-line).

Vice Chairman's Report

Jamie wanted to give a thank you to Pastor Mark for his work of revamping the church's website. There has been some great additions that people should go check out! Crosswalk has been canceled for 2 weeks due to a rise in COVID-19 cases in the community and church.

Committee Reports

Christian Education- Crosswalk has been canceled for 2 weeks. (Nov. 18 and 25) due to the rise in COVID cases in the community and for the safety of the kids and helpers.

Property- Discussed cleaning the gutters of the church.

Memorial- N/a **Nominating-** N/a **Food Stand-** N/a **Music and Worship-** N/a **Communication/Outreach-** N/a

Old Business- N/A

New Business

- Pastor Mark was not able to join us in person at the council meeting, but was present with us on ZOOM. He had not been feeling well and had not received his results back from the COVID test. Council decided and Pastor Mark agreed that he would have church service but only online via Facebook live for two weeks. No one will be allowed in the church during service. This would include Thanksgiving service.
- Jamie is going to continue to search for an auditor for the church before the next annual meeting.
- Council decided and is planning on having an outdoor Christmas service this year weather permitting. There will not be a live children's program. The Christian Education committee is looking into creating a virtual program that can be shown the night of the Christmas program and shared online to view later as well. The final decision on where and how the program will be held will be made at the December council meeting.
- The council is preparing for the annual meeting and will be monitoring closely on how to proceed during the current COVID restrictions. Stayed tuned for updates and information regarding the annual meeting.
- Gary brought up the idea of hiring someone to do the finances for the church or collectively doing it together as a council. This responsibility can be difficult at times and will be discussed more at the next meeting and possibly brought up at the annual meeting.
- Pastor Mark will be looking in to getting an FM transmitter so that church services or the Christmas program can be broadcasted through the radio.

The next church council meeting is scheduled for December 16, 2020 at 6:30PM. Darin moved to adjourn the meeting and Gary seconded. Meeting was adjourned.

- Tyler Wolken,, Council Secretary

Eunice Circle Women's Bible Study

Bible Study



Eunice Circle met on November 9, 2020 at 1:30pm. Norma Banahan led our Bible Study. Holy Time: The Holy Future – reimagining the time to come. God's promises point us where we need to go.

Our study texts were from Isaiah 55, Luke 1:46-55, Psalm 119:105, 1 Corinthians 13:8-13, Revelation 21:1-6. "And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age" -Matthew 28:20b.

We opened with prayer and Hymn, "Borning Cry." We closed with Hymn, "Canticle of the Turning," 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 \$10.00.

Old Business: WELCA Unit Meeting on Nov. 4, 2020 at 7pm. Work Day – Oct. 27, 2020 – All are welcome. Lutheran World Relief – shipping point is Omaha, NE.

New Business: Work Day is on the 24th.

After Grace, Cleo Perkins served refreshments.

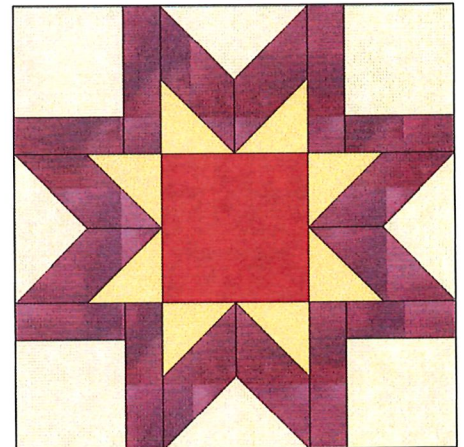
Next Eunice Circle will be Dec. 14, 2020 at 1:30pm, December book. Irene Gibson will lead the Bible Study.

~ Irene Gibson, Recorder

Mission Quilts & Kits

For 75 years, Lutheran World Relief Quilts and Kits has worked with partners like you to remind families around the world that they are not alone. Thanks to you, who donated fabrics, drapes, blankets, sheets, time and talent, St. Paul's will provide 50 Baby Care Kits, 47 School Kits, 12 Personal Care Kits and 45 Quilts.

Your Quilt is God's love wrapped around a refugee's shoulders. Your School Kits go with a child into the classroom with the message, "There is hope and a future." Your Personal Care Kits tell its recipient, "You are precious and cared for." The Baby Care Kits provide the essentials to keep a new baby healthy, clean and comfortable, and to introduce them with pride to the world.



God, may these Quilts/Kits wrap our neighbors in love and fill them with the hope and peace that is only found in you. Amen.



Some of our congregational members have been in the hospital recently.

Darin Weers recently had surgery, but is recovering and doing well.

Linda Behrends remains in the hospital following her accident, but continues to improve.

Jody Roelfs had hip replacement surgery and is recovering.

Darlene Balderson and Jean Weers continue to improve at home following their accidents.

We also pray for those in Colorado and California and all families that are suffering from the fires and devastation for the losses of their lives, homes and property. Please remember all those who are affected by COVID and other illnesses.

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, Margery Keefover, Linda Behrends, Jean Weers,

Darlene Balderson, Jamie Hennerberg and Eden Lottman.

St. Paul Women of the ELCA November Unit Meeting

A Unit Meeting of the Women of the ELCA was held Wednesday, November 4, at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was attended by five women.

Ardith Barber shared a reading "The Legend of the Five Kernels" with us. This legend told about the Pilgrims only having five kernels of corn to eat some days during the first bitterly cold winter in their new home. The next year their harvest was good and they celebrated Thanksgiving with their Indian friends. From then on, when they celebrated Thanksgiving, the Pilgrims laid out five kernels of corn on each plate to remind themselves of their blessings. Let us remember:

The 1st kernel reminds us of the autumn beauty all around us.

The 2nd kernel reminds us of our love for one another.

The 3rd kernel reminds us of God's love and care for us.

The 4th kernel reminds us of all our friends, especially our Indian brothers.

The 5th kernel reminds us that we are a free people.



We then read together the words to "Now Thank We All Our God" and read the history behind the hymn.

The business meeting followed. Minutes of the August 5th meeting were read and approved. It was reported that the balance in our treasury is \$709.25

A thank-you was read from Doug and Kathy Schnuelle on behalf of the Richard Schnuelle family, a thank-you from the Virginia Lottman family, a thank-you from Ruby Hardin on behalf of the Wymore (Southern Gage) Food Pantry and a thank-you receipt from World Day of Prayer. Thank-you's were also received from Samantha Clifford and Hayley Denner for the college care packages they received.

It was reported that 50 baby care kits, 48 quilts, 48 school kits, and 12 personal care kits had been completed. We thank Carolyn Schultis who graciously delivered them to Omaha. College care packages were sent to 15 students.

A reminder of those who have signed up for the card project for the upcoming months are Donna Damrow, November; Beth Roelfs, December, Norma Banahan, January 2021 and Linda Behrends, February 2021.

Old business: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic we decided to continue with the policy of not serving funeral luncheons until further notice. We will also cease the Psalm reading on Wednesdays at 1 p.m.



New business: It was moved and seconded that our Christmas project this year will be to collect food and monetary donations for an area food pantry. A Christmas decorated box will be placed in the Narthex of the church for those wishing to drop off items. Food items must be brought to the church by December 13, 2020. Monetary donations should be mailed to Jeanette Bures, 8408 W. Sage Rd., Odell, NE 68415.

Offering for the evening was \$55. Refreshments were served by Peggy Hemphill.

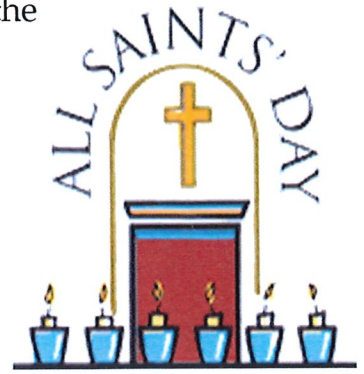
~ Submitted by Peggy Hemphill



St. Paul's Congregation observed All Saints Sunday during the November 1st Worship Service.



We remembered several members who have passed this year. We remembered Betty Lawrence, Virginia Lottman, Richard Schnuelle, Kay Taylor, Melvin Weers, Ray Landenberger, Judy DeBoer, Ardyce Wiemers and Howard Behrends.



Two memorials were given this year. For the sanctuary lighting project, memorials from Irene Pretzer, Edwin Schmidt, Faye Schmidt and Angie Weers were used, and memorials from Charles Barber, Sr. and Verneal Barber were used for the Fellowship area remodeling.

We give thanks to God today for all their lives and for the love of God that is stronger and more enduring than death.

Community Thanksgiving Service

On November 25, St. Paul Lutheran held a virtual Thanksgiving Service. Since COVID became more persistent in our area, the service was strictly virtual to keep people as safe as possible.

Pastor's message was about the meaning of Thanksgiving itself, how the thanksgiving and praise we want, our great abundance, happens because of what we cannot have,

Many times, what we would like to have, we cannot, creating the desire to HAVE. It can become very frustrating, learning to live with what we cannot have. This becomes the dilemma - the more we have, the more we WANT to have. So, how do we deal with this?

Secularism tells us you can do whatever you put your mind to – no such thing as “you cannot have”, and if you can't have something or get what you want, that is a character flaw in yourself.

But, it doesn't matter how much we have, it still is not enough - the desire we have for that eternity that we cannot have – there is a hope that one day we will have it. Despite all the obstacles, there is still that fire of hope – that longing for what we want but cannot have. Instead of tearing each other down, let's build each other up. That common hope, the desire for a better world.

“God, give us the wisdom to act in the best interest of others.”



Pastor Mark giving the Thanksgiving message

*Thank
you*



Appreciate the services being streamed so I can watch on the computer.

We hope and pray this virus is soon conquered.

~ Franklin Damrow

On November 6, 2020, Sarah Henrichs was married to Rob Crabtree at St. Paul Lutheran Church and was officiated by Pastor Mark Liscom.

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

Just Married




Trunk - Or - Treating at St. Paul

Princesses, Super Heroes and Unicorns, Oh My!!

Children and grown-ups alike donned costumes and enjoyed the fun at the first-ever Trunk - Or - Treat hosted by St. Paul Lutheran Church in Diller

On Halloween, October 31st.

Around 70 children enjoyed the offerings of eight decorated vehicles.

~ Photos by Beth Roelfs and Sheri Schultis ~



COLLEGE STUDENTS 2020-2021

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 Mgmt.
Hollie Crawford – SCC Lincoln, Early Childhood Ed.
Hayley Denner - Concordia Univ., Art Education
Mahaila Engelman – SCC Online
Nicolaus Engelman – SCC Lincoln, Welding
Armando Jones - SCC Lincoln, EMT Training
Reese Hennerberg – Nebraska Wesleyan University
Armando Jones – SCC Lincoln, EMT Training
Haley Jones – Midwestern St. Univ, Nursing
Tyson Landenberger – Doane Univ., Health & Human Perf.
Christian McCown – Doane Univ., Business Admin.

Reed Pretzer – UNL, Agri-Business
Jesse Scheele – NWMSU, Farm Operations
Kelsay Schlichtman – UNL, Animal Science/Pre-Vet
Christopher Schmidt – SCC Beatrice, Precision Agriculture
Jonathan Schmidt – SCC Milford, Farm Diesel Ag Service
Spencer Schmidt - UNL
Caleb Schultis – Kansas State Univ., Agri-Business
Ashlen Vanover – SCC Online, Business
Bryston Warren – Kansas State Univ., Ag Economics
Neleigh Weers – Bryan College of Health Sciences, Nursing





HIGH SCHOOL

NEWS

The Griffins Volleyball team did well again this year by winning the D-2 District Tournament and the State Championships in back-to-back victories. They were undefeated in the state tournament. Team members from St. Paul Lutheran were Addison Heidemann, Karli Heidemann and Keira Hennerberg. Karli was Second Team Super State (all classes) and D-2 First Team All State, and Addison was Third Team Super State (all classes) and D-2 First Team All State and Honorary Team Captain for the D-2 All State Team. Congratulations, Griffins, on another exceptional season!



Our FFA Livestock judging team did a great job at their competition in York on November 4. In the left picture, Senior team members from our church were Esdon Weers and Mallory Denner. In the middle, our Junior team, who qualified for the state competition by receiving a 4th place overall. Junior team members from our church are David Parde, Zachary Warren and Kellan Schlichtman. Our Junior High team performed very well, finishing in 3rd place overall, and Morgan Kapke receiving 8th place individually. Junior High Team members from our church are Joely Weers, Madeline Parde and Morgan Kapke. Congratulations to all team members!!



Our Children are performing their winter/Christmas concerts this month, despite the damper that COVID has placed on the events. Attendance will be limited to immediate family only, but they will be broadcast on the school's STRIV channel for all to see. The elementary concert will take place on Thursday, December 10 at 7pm at the Elementary School in Diller, and the Junior High – High School concert will be on Thursday, December 17 at 7pm at the High School. Grandparents will also be allowed for the Junior High – High School concert.

If you would like to watch the musical offerings of our youth, you can go to: <https://striv.tv/channel/diller-odell/> and watch. They are archived on striv.tv, so if you miss it, you should still be able to watch.



December Birthdays



December Wedding Anniversaries

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 Adam Roelfs | 16 Jady Schultis |
| 1 Hayley Denner | 18 Sarah Crabtree |
| 4 Andrew Liscom | 19 Carolyn Schultis |
| 5 Harry Kisling | 21 Kristen Helmerichs |
| 5 Lacey Sasse | 22 Joe Novotny |
| 8 Esdon Weers | 25 Carol Barber |
| 9 Jeanette Hennerberg | 26 Kelly Gold |
| 9 Kellan Schlichtman | 26 RiLynn Sasse |
| 10 Jason Wellsandt | 29 BethLee Beran |
| 11 Jarrod Heidemann | 29 Allen Roelfs |
| 11 Eden Lottman | 30 Diane Kisling |
| 16 Jan Gold | 31 Kendra (Schmidt) Weers |
| 16 Stacy Schlichtman | |

- December 8, 1973
 ☞ Mr. & Mrs. Charles & Ardith Barber
- December 10, 2005
 ☞ Mr. & Mrs. Tanner & Ann Parde
- December 30, 2006
 ☞ Mr. & Mrs. Allen & Stacy Roelfs

December 2020



www.stpauldiller.com

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Facebook – St. Paul’s Lutheran Church Diller Nebraska

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>*** CHECK THE WEBSITE OR FACEBOOK PAGE *** for Calendar updates. Some events were not available at press time.</p>		1	2	3	4	5
			<p>CROSS WALK Christian Ed 4:00pm</p> <p>Confirmation 7:00pm</p>			
<p>Red Hymnal 6 Worship Service 9:30 AM Holy Communion Hanging of the Greens After Worship</p>  <p>Second Sunday of Advent</p>	7	8	9	10	11	12
			<p>CROSS WALK Christian Ed 4:00pm</p> <p>Confirmation 7:00pm</p>			
<p>Red Hymnal 13 Worship Service 9:30 AM</p>  <p>Third Sunday of Advent</p>	14	15	16	17	18	19
	<p>Eunice Circle 1:30pm</p>		<p>Council Meeting 6:30pm</p> <p>CROSS WALK Christian Ed 4:00pm</p> <p>NO Confirmation</p>			
<p>Red Hymnal 20 Worship Service 9:30 AM</p>  <p>Fourth Sunday of Advent</p> <p><i>Newscaster items due</i></p>	21	22	23	24	25	26
	 <p>First Day of Winter</p>		<p>NO Confirmation</p>	 <p>Children's Christmas Program and Candlelight Service 7:00 pm</p>	<p>Worship Service 9:30 AM</p> 	
<p>Red Hymnal 27 Worship Service 9:30 AM Youth Bowling Afternoon</p> 	28	29	30	31		
			<p>NO Confirmation</p>	 <p>NEW YEAR'S EVE</p>		

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