

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.*

November 2024

Pastor Mark Liscom

Good Theology

Theology is the study of God and God's ways. In practice, it usually comes out in terms of what we believe about God. There is Catholic theology, Baptist theology, Evangelical theology, and of course Lutheran theology. And then we have Islamic theology, and Jewish theology. Eastern religions, Buddhism and Hinduism etc. tend to be more philosophical traditions.

We usually argue of course over who is right. But today I would like to ask a different question. Rather than "right" theology can we say something about what "good" theology is? Is there a "good" way to study God and his ways? I think this is a better way to think about it. And there is, I think, a fairly simple way to tell whether we are dealing with "good" theology.

Good theology will communicate that it is not "right" theology. There is no "right" theology, there is only imperfect people studying God and God's ways. Being a good theologian is a lot like being a good farmer, or teacher, or a good musician. You're working at it. Good theology, then, will be humble.

And then "Good" theology will have another defining feature. It will be a way to begin a conversation, not end it. Too often we offer our beliefs to end the discussion. As if we "have" the truth. But good theology is not a way to settle things, but open things up. The reason is simple, I think. The God we seek is found in the engagement. In the encounter, the relationships with one another that we make as we continue to grow and learn.

So, here is to "good" theology and continuing to work at it.

Pastor Mark

Editor, Typist, Calendar and Assembly of the Newscaster:
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



Sponsoring the November Newscaster are

Dean Roelfs Family
In Thanks for Many Blessings
and
Keith and Colby Bartlett
in Loving Memory of Cindy Bartlett

Thank You for sponsoring this Newscaster in honor of our blessings and in Memory of your Loved One.

Sponsors for 2024 have been fulfilled, we thank you!

There is a bright yellow sign-up sheet on the announcements bulletin board in the back of the Narthex for 2025, and remember, postage has increased, so sponsorship has increased to \$40/sponsor. Please consider sponsoring this important communication tool for our congregation.

November/December WELCA Activities

November 24, 2024 (Sunday)
ThankOffering Service during the
Morning Worship Hour

Women of the ELCA Thank Offering Service

St. Paul Women of the ELCA will conduct their annual Thank Offering service during the morning worship hour on Sunday, November 24. ThankOfferings are given to support the life-changing ministries of Women of the ELCA.
Together, we do more than we could ever do apart.



December 1, 2024 (Sunday)
Hanging of the Greens during
Morning Worship Hour
Advent Begins



St. Paul Lutheran Church Council Minutes for October 16, 2024

Council members present were Gary Bergmeier, Doug Schmidt, Allen Roelfs, Pastor Mark, Scott Pretzer, Brian Weers and Jeanette Bures. "God Sightings" were shared and Pastor Mark offered an opening prayer. The minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed. Allen moved to accept the minutes and Gary seconded. The minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report

Allen Roelfs reported that giving has been a little light with harvest. Fairbury Glass has been paid, all window improvements have been paid. The Garage Sale went ok, but was a little light in sales. Allen thanked those who helped with the sale. All bills have been paid. The balance in the account is \$5,864.54. Brian moved to accept the report and Gary seconded. Motion passed.

Memorial Treasurer's Report

The account balance is \$11,680.12. It was moved and seconded to accept the report. Motion passed.

Pastor's Report

Council meeting at St. John's for Cluster spent a day reviewing the community and outreach topics. 4 worship services, 3 Confirmation classes, 1 text study, 1 Cluster meeting, 1 Pre-Marital session, 2 Difficult Conversations online meetings, 1 Worship and Ministry committee meeting, 2 Communion visits, 3 hospital calls, 1 Gracious Conversations online class.

Vice Chairman's Report

NLOM wanted to give a presentation.

Committee Reports

Worship and Music – Met on the 16th and selected a Christmas Program from 3 that were reviewed and already have ideas. Pastor called a meeting previously to prod us along with the selection.

Christian Education – Met and discussed Pastor doing a Bible Study on short books of the Bible, he doesn't need any prep for the class. First Communion will be November 3.

Food Stand – No report.

Property – Fire extinguishers – the grade school uses the same outfit as general fire called summit. May move Sachristy extinguisher next to AED for more visibility, and a quick tutorial should be given to the congregation for awareness of location of fire extinguishers in the church. The strip in the Sunday School room carpet is down. Looking for a volunteer to paint the room. The Etched Window project is tabled for now.

Communication and Outreach – will meet on Sunday the 20th. Trunk-or-Treat is October 27th, with setup from 2-4pm and the event to take place 4-6pm.

Memorial – No report.

Old Business

None discussed.

New Business

Pastor got a call from American Lutheran in Fairbury, they have a couple shut-ins that want a pastor to visit them since they don't have a pastor right now. Pastor Mark is not comfortable doing this without knowing what the Synod says about it. Our Cluster Dean is asking the existing pastors of the Cluster to do a rotation at the Daykin church to do a service periodically, possibly on Sunday afternoons. The Council doesn't have a problem with it, as long as Pastor feels that it's not a burden. St. Paul church would be compensated.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 20, 2023 at 7:30pm, committees meet at 6:30pm. Allen moved to adjourn the meeting and Jeanette seconded. The meeting was adjourned and closed with The Lord's Prayer.

~ Brian Weers, Council Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT			
As of 10/13/2024			
Current Balances		Operating Expenses	
General Fund	\$ 7,720.73	Available Cash	\$7,720.73
Benevolence	\$ 90.75	Remaining Bills	
Designations	<u>\$ 3,130.40</u>	Portico	<u>\$1,856.19</u> (bill not posted)
Total	\$10,941.88	Remaining Bal	\$5,864.54
Offering Summary			
	August	September	October
Current	\$ 9,584.85	\$ 7,897.40	\$ 3,453.00
Benevolence	\$ 320.65	\$ 309.60	\$ 90.75
Designated Funds	<u>\$ 0.00</u>	<u>\$ 25.00</u>	<u>\$ 65.00</u>
Totals	\$ 9,905.50	\$ 8,232.00	\$ 3,608.75
			(partial month)
We need to receive \$10,325.39 in CURRENT each month in order to meet our budget for 2024.			





September Eunice Circle

Eunice Circle meeting on September 9, 2024 had the lesson, "After Certainty – Lesson Focusing on Compassion," which was led by Norma. Bible verses were from Matthew, Philippians and 1 Corinthians.

Norma Banahan conducted out business meeting. For Roll Call, there were five (5) members present of Norma Banahan, Ardith Barber, Marla Weichel, Wilma Saathoff and Jane Pretzer. Our offering was \$35.00.

There was no Secretary's Report or Old Business.

New Business: St. Paul will be having a Garage Sale on October 4-5, with the proceeds going to church maintenance updates. *WELCA news:* Sherry Henrichs will be chairperson of our Food Drive, and Kendra K Weers will be chairperson for the coat drive. CrossWalk will reconvene Wednesday, September 11. Work Day is scheduled for Tuesday, September 24 from 9am to Noon.

After Grace, lunch was served by hostess Ardith Barber. Jane Pretzer will be hostess in October.

Next Eunice Circle meeting will be October 14th.

~ Submitted by Jane Pretzer

October Eunice Circle

Eunice Circle met on October 14, 2024 at 1:30pm. The Bible Study was led by Irene Gibson. September Lesson. "Receiving Grace: A Study of Ephesians. Is Grace Real?"

Our study texts were from: Ephesians 1:1-23; Ephesians 2:1-22. Focus Verse: "For by Grace, you have been saved through Faith, and this is not your own doing: it is the gift of God." (Ephesians 2:8)

We opened with prayer and Hymn, "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing" verses 1&2. We closed with prayer and Hymn, "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing" verse 3 and The Lord's Prayer.

Norma called our meeting to order. Minutes were read and approved. Six (6) members, one (1) guest and Pastor Mark answered roll call. Our offering was \$63.00.

Old Business: St. Paul is having a Garage Sale October 4-5 with proceeds going to church maintenance updates. Sherry Henrichs will be chairperson for the Food Drive. Kendra K Weers will be chairperson for our Coat Drive. CrossWalk will reconvene on Wednesday, September 11th.

New Business: Baby Care Kits are put together and boxed. School Kits will be bagged on Wednesday, October 16th. ThankOffering service will be in November.

After Grace, Jane Pretzer served refreshments. November hostess is Marla Weichel.

Next Eunice Circle meeting will be November 11th, 2024 at 1:30pm, September/October book. Norma Banahan will lead the Bible study, October lesson.

~ Irene Gibson, Recorder

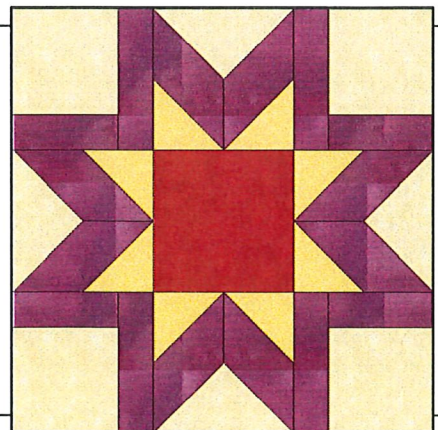
Mission Work Day

Once again it is time to box our quilts and kit ministry for Lutheran World Relief. Quilts were boxed on Oct. 28, and will be taken to Omaha in November.

Our quilts and kits are urgently needed to care for neighbors in need and show them that even in their most trying times, they are not alone.

Our next work day will be November 28.

Thanks Be To God



BLESSINGS IN YOUR MARRIAGE



We joyfully announce the marriage of Danny and Vanessa Beran on October 25th. May God bless them with many happy years together. Congratulations to you as well as your parents, Dale and Radene Beran.

Our hearts grieve the passing of Larry Germer. Larry was a caring, giving and dedicated presence in the Diller community and will be deeply missed. We hold Sondra and all of their family in our prayers as they face the reality of this loss. May God hold you in his loving arms and hold you up in the darkest moments.



Some of our congregational members have been in the hospital and/or suffered losses recently.



We pray that **Lakeyn Sasse**, CrossWalk kid, continues to heal quickly from a hand injury. She is only using a finger splint now. We celebrate the skills of those who bring God's love to our world through the medical care they provide.

God's watchful eye and the loving care of nurses and doctors have aided in the recuperation of **Jonathan Schmidt**. Jonathan is rehabilitating at Madonna Health Center in Lincoln. He is hopeful to have his next surgery and to be going home soon. Continue to hold Jonathan and his family in your prayers. Thanks be to God.

We continue to pray for **Zachary Warren** who recently had surgery, but is doing fine 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, Jonathan Schmidt and Ervin Hennerberg

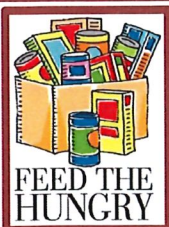


The impromptu choir sang "Hear, O Lord, I Raise My Voice" from the Other Song Book during our October 13th Worship service.

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

COAT DRIVE is HAPPENING NOW

October is the time to clean out those closets and share any cold weather gear that may not be needed by your family. Items being collected include: coats, snow boots, gloves, mittens, snow pants, coveralls, and scarves for children, men and women. Donations can be hung on the hallway coat rack or in the collection basket. **ONLY SHARE GOOD QUALITY, CLEAN ITEMS PLEASE.** The campaign concludes on the 1st Sunday of December.



FALL FOOD DRIVE

Our Fall Food Drive begins in November. As you shop, please consider donating items each week of November to be shared with the needy.

Items can be placed in the gray collection tub outside the sanctuary and will be donated early in December.

CROSSWALK OFFERS LEARNING AND SERVICE

The month of October was a time of learning and service for everyone at CrossWalk.

Through the lessons of Esther, Job, Jeremiah and the Fiery Furnace we learned that God puts us where we need to be, God doesn't always take away sad times, God knows who we really are and that God will stand beside us in hard times.

One week, the students focused on serving others. Under the guidance of Irene Gibson, the kids packed 36 school kits. Everyone lent their talents to decorate and make 50 reflective journals that were taken to the Nebraska Cancer Center to uplift patients receiving infusion treatments. CrossWalk kids also made time in the day to prepare Halloween treats for friends at Gardenside and Cedarwood.

The children participated in a blessing of their school kits, the quilts, and baby layette items at the October 30 session. They learned who may receive these gifts, how they may be used and that these items are a manifestation of God's love through our hands.

An average of 45 students and helpers participate in CrossWalk each week. A team of dedicated adults volunteer their time to prepare snacks, teach or supervise the groups. It is truly a place where God is present. What a joyful discipleship.

~ Submitted by Beth Roelfs



On Wednesday evening, October 30th, the Confirmation students from St. Paul Lutheran in Diller attended a Halloween party at MOSAIC in Beatrice.

The party was attended by MOSAIC residents along with Confirmation classes from other area Homestead Cluster ELCA congregations.

On Saturday, November 30th, there will be the First Communion Class (6th Graders) from 10:00 to 11:30am to learn about Communion and being an Acolyte. First Communion will take place the next day on December 1st.



On Saturday, November 23rd, the Youth met at the church and then went to a Haunted House at Eagle Raceway near Lincoln. Fun scares and fellowship were enjoyed by the Youth that attended.

WOMEN ARE INVITED CELEBRATE GRATITUDE



All Women of St. Paul's are invited to bring their Thank Offering gifts to the Thank Offering Service to be held during worship on November 24.

The Thank Offering is a practice of Gratitude that the women of our church are invited to embrace, during the ordinary and extraordinary moments in their everyday lives. The purpose is to heighten their awareness of the many small and large blessings they receive. To see a beautiful colored tree, hear the laughter of children, or experience the miracle of healing and recognize they are all God's gifts to us. Some take those moments to drop a few coins in a container in thanks. Others say a thank you prayer and offer one monetary gift in appreciation during the Thank Offering Service.

A Reflection of Gratitude will be shared during the service which will also include an invitation for all women to bring their gifts forward. The gifts are then united as one and blessed as a means for the needs of others to be served.

If you are unable to attend on the 24th you may ask Beth Roelfs or Diane Wellsandt to present your donation on your behalf. Please plan to attend.

CHURCH GARAGE SALE

St. Paul held a "Garage Sale" during the Hwy 136 "Trail of Treasures" garage sales in the area to raise funds for property improvement projects, like the window coverings, painting and remodeling in the former classrooms on October 4-5.

Sales were not what we had hoped, but still had a decent return with the wonderful items given by members of the congregation.

A BIG Thank You goes to everyone who worked, donated, cooked and organized this event for our church.



Trunk-or-Treat at St. Paul's

October 27, 2024

HALLOWEEN TRUNK OR TREAT
INDOOR and OUTDOOR

The Trunk or Treat fun went indoors AND outdoors this year, enjoying perfect weather with many children and parents joining in on the fun. All were greeted by many trunks, tables and face painting from around the community, and inside or outside, they had their choice of trunks or tempting tables/booths to get a treat and play some games. Witches, bull riders, dinosaurs, athletes, superheroes and many more could also relax and enjoy a hotdog, grilled s'mores and a cup of hot cocoa while Halloween tunes played.

A huge thank you to everyone who made this fun-packed fellowship happen!



THANKSGIVING SERVICE



St. Paul Lutheran will once again host its annual Community Thanksgiving Worship Service on Wednesday evening, November 27 at 7pm. All are welcome and encouraged to attend this special service.



Christmas Poinsettias

If you would like to bring a poinsettia for Christmas, there will be a sign-up sheet for whoever wishes to bring one. More information will be in the December Newscaster.



CAROLING

Christmas Caroling is anticipated to be in early December. More details will be on the Facebook page, website, or call a member of the Council and please check the updated calendar.

HOMECOMING



The Diller-Odell Homecoming game vs. the Sterling Jets was on Friday, October 4. It was an exciting game with high scoring since our move to 6-man football.

Congratulations to Madeline Parde of St. Paul Lutheran for being crowned Homecoming Queen and Homecoming King was Cooper Morgan of Odell.

Also in the Homecoming Court from St. Paul were Brennan Schultis, Joely Weers and Myleigh Weers.

Congratulations to all our church members of the Homecoming Court and to the Griffins for winning the game.



November Birthdays

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Judy Landenberger | 13 Donna Damrow |
| 1 Jordan Langenberg | 13 Katelin White |
| 2 Myleigh Weers | 18 Michael Wellsandt |
| 5 Danielle Reeson | 22 Leana Lottman |
| 6 Neil Meyer | 23 Brenda Engelman |
| 6 Brianna Weers | 25 Dennis Schmidt |
| 8 Linda Garcia | 25 Colby Bartlett |
| 8 Rhonda Balderson | 26 Diane Wellsandt |
| 9 Leatha Christ | 28 Deborah Nippert |
| 9 Brady Helton | 28 Jacob Langenberg |
| 10 Sharon Lottman | 30 Kelsey Engelman |
| 11 Susan Lawton | 30 Spencer Weers |

November Wedding Anniversaries

- November 1, 1980
 ☞ Mr. & Mrs. Dennis & Deborah Nippert
- November 16, 1988
 ☞ Mr. & Mrs. Gary & Jill Bergmeier
- November 28, 2015
 ☞ Mr. & Mrs. Joseph & McKenzie Henrichs

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!



**November 3 Sunday Worship Service
With Holy Communion
All Saints Sunday and Memorial Dedication**

Worship Assistant, Sherry Henrichs

Greeter, Dennis Nippert

Coffee Service – Jane Pretzer, Jill Zabokrtsky



November 10 Sunday Worship Service

Worship Assistant, Jamie Schultis

Greeter, Dean Pretzer

Coffee Service – Radene Beran, Sue Meyer

November 17 Sunday Worship Service

Worship Assistant, Brian Weers

Greeter, Charles Barber

Coffee Service – Marcy Barber, Sondra Germer



**November 24 Sunday Worship Service
Christ the King Sunday**

Worship Assistant, Kendra K Weers

Greeter, Gary Bergmeier

Coffee Service – Leatha Christ, Diane Wellsandt



**December 1 Sunday Worship Service
With Holy Communion
First Communion
Hanging of the Greens Service
First Sunday in Advent**

Worship Assistant, Jamie Schultis

Greeter, Jim Bures

Coffee Service – Holli Pretzer, Marla Weichel



November 2024



www.stpauldiller.com

*

Facebook – St. Paul’s Lutheran Church Diller Nebraska

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>First Communion Sunday, December 1</p>		<p>☼ Please check the Facebook page or website for schedule changes or additions. Some information was not available at press time. ☼</p>			<p>1</p>	<p>2</p>
<p>Red Hymnal Worship Service 3 9:30 AM Holy Communion</p> <p>ALL SAINTS SUNDAY</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>	<p style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">CROSS WALK Christian Ed 4:00pm</p> <p>Confirmation 7pm</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>
<p>Blue Hymnal 10 Worship Service 9:30 AM Veterans Recognition</p>	<p>11 Eunice Circle 1:30pm</p> <p>VETERAN'S DAY</p>	<p>12</p>	<p style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">CROSS WALK Christian Ed 4:00pm</p> <p>Confirmation 6:30pm Service project</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>
<p>Red Hymnal 17 Worship Service 9:30 AM</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Youth Meeting 6:30pm</p>	<p>19</p>	<p style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">CROSS WALK Christian Ed 4:00pm</p> <p>Committees/ Council Meetings 6:30/7 pm</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>Blue Hymnal 24 Worship Service 9:30 AM</p> <p>Christ the King SUNDAY</p> <p>WELCA ThankOffering Service</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Newscaster items due</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Work Day All Day</p>	<p style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">NO CROSS WALK</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Thanksgiving Service</i></p> <p>AND Confirmation 7pm</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Thanksgiving Office Closed</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p> <p>First Communion and Acolyte Class 10 - 11:30am</p>



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