

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.*

September 2024

Pastor Mark Liscom

A Political Debate Ground Rule

We are inundated today by political debate surrounding the upcoming election. Facebook, Twitter, social media assaults us with constant partisan opinions and wrangling. Sorry to state the obvious, but it's a big part of our conversation these days.

Are there any ground rules that might help us engage this effectively? Some things are obvious. Using God to support your candidate, as if to say, "God is on our side" is out of bounds. Using God to legitimize your pursuit of political power is probably the source of most of the violence and death dealing in our world today. That should be easy to observe.

But there is another rule that might help orient us that is harder to see. And that rule is this. Never call a Person or a People evil. The reason is simple. When you call a person evil, what you are implying is that you are so good. And this sense of "I'm so good, and you are so evil" is part and parcel of the boastful arrogance that our tradition calls sin.

No one is all evil. No one is all good. That's a basic teaching of our faith. Remembering this simple rule doesn't solve everything, but it would change much of this destructive and childish political debate. And help us remember what we mean by Grace.

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



Those sponsoring the September Newscaster are

The Damrow Family
in memory of
Franklin and Betty Damrow’s
Wedding Anniversary on September 7

We honor the memory of your beloved family. Thank You for sponsoring this Newscaster!

All sponsorships for 2024 have been fulfilled. Thank You!!

There is a 2025 sponsorship sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the back of the Narthex.

Crosswalk will be starting on September 11. It is a joyful outreach to children and families of our community. The program is very well attended with an average of 35 children, preschool - 5th grade per week.

This is a wonderful turnout, but we are facing a problem. We are greatly understaffed and are in need of volunteers who are willing to commit time to help. Volunteers are needed from 3:45–5pm, Wednesdays. **YOU WILL NOT TEACH** but will help the students and teachers during the lessons. **PRAYERFULLY AND SERIOUSLY CONSIDER** volunteering. **MEN**, we are speaking to you too!! We are having trouble doing it on our own.

Volunteers
Needed!



St. Paul Lutheran Church Council Minutes for August 21, 2024

Council members present were Gary Bergmeier, Doug Schmidt, Allen Roelfs, Pastor Mark Liscom, Jeanette Bures, Scott Pretzer and Brian Weers. God sightings were shared by the council. Pastor Mark offered a prayer. Minutes were read and Allen moved to approve the minutes and seconded by Gary. Minutes approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT

We are on track for the month, bills are paid. Benevolence is on track. We paid \$600 to Stanton Propane to lock in the price of 3,000 gallons of propane. Brian moved to accept the report and Scott seconded, motion passed.

MEMORIAL TREASURER'S REPORT

Jeanette reported an account balance of \$11,680.12, interest is no longer received. It was proposed to use a memorial to mount the etched glass entry window that used to be at the front entry of the church, Brian will look in to this. Allen moved to accept the report and Gary seconded. The report was approved.

PASTOR'S REPORT

3 worship services, 1 VBS, 1 pre-marital meeting, 4 home communions, 1 Synod assignment meeting, 1 cluster meeting, 2 text studies.

VICE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Gary stated he was pleased with the success of VBS, and is also pleased with the painting project at the church. Pastor's 2-week vacation was covered well by church members and Pastor Wiemers' message.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Food Stand – Did not meet.

Music & Worship – Did not meet.

Property – Doors are painted, glass is in for stained-glass windows covers, as Jeanie Novotny is making good progress painting the window frames. When she is done, Fairbury Glass will return and caulk everything. Fire extinguishers in the church need to be checked. The carpet in the CrossWalk kids' room needs attention and walls need paint. Doug will ask Jeanie about doing the painting.

Christian Education – Committee was meeting while the Council was having their meeting. CrossWalk will begin on September 11 and end on April 30. Beth would like to step away from running the Christmas Program, but will continue to help. Planning for Trunk or Treat has begun.

Communication & Outreach – The committee will help with Trunk or Treat on October 27th, the Sunday before Halloween. Discussed how to engage CrossWalk families, maybe engage in a "listening post" (a Synod suggestion). The Facilitator depends on topic, someone from Synod would come to do this! Could do this with the congregation as a "test run."

OLD BUSINESS

Doug asked about backing lights for the stained-glass windows. Gary moved to have Doug finish lights on the East side, seconded by Allen. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

- ~ Discussed open enrollment in a health care plan as a contingency, Pastor Mark is on Medicare.
- ~ Allen and Stacy will head up the planning for the Church garage sale, Dave Henrichs already has signs ready. The Trail of Treasures takes place October 4-6, our sale will likely be only on the 4th and 5th. Allen and Stacy are planning to provide food for sale.
- ~ Confirmation Kickoff will be on September 11 at Gary's home, 7pm.
- ~ The defibrillator is beeping. Diane Wellsandt worked with Jeff Nelson and fixed it with a back-up pad. We need a new adult and pediatric pad. They have a 2-year life and a new battery is needed. Allen moved to get it taken care of (cost is just under \$700) and was seconded by Gary. Motion passed.

The next council meeting was set for Wednesday, September 18th at 7:30pm and committees to meet at 6:30pm. Allen moved to adjourn the meeting and Gary seconded. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

~ Brian Weers, Council Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT

As of 8/19/2024

Current Balances

General Fund	\$15,200.87
Benevolence	\$ 702.75
<u>Designations</u>	<u>\$ 3,344.35</u>
Total	\$19,247.97

Operating Expenses

Available Cash	\$15,200.87
Remaining Bills	<u>none</u>
Remaining Bal	\$15,200.87



Offering Summary

	June	July	August
Current	\$ 12,964.60	\$ 8,489.40	\$ 8,958.85
Benevolence	\$ 303.65	\$ 446.10	\$ 256.65
Designated Funds	<u>\$ 35.00</u>	<u>\$ 25.00</u>	<u>\$ 0.00</u>
Totals	\$ 13,303.25	\$ 8,960.50	\$ 9,215.50

(partial month)

We need to receive **\$10,325.39** in CURRENT each month in order to meet our budget for 2024.



Eunice Circle met on August 12, 2024 at 1:30pm. Norma Banahan led the Bible Study. After certainty – Community.

Our study texts were from: Psalm 118; Romans 3:21-28; Romans 4:13-25; Romans 12:4-21; Ephesians 4:1-16; James 2:14-26. Focus verses – “There is one body and one spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all. But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ’s gift.” (Ephesians 4:4-7)

We opened with prayer and Hymn, “What Is This Place”. We closed with prayer and Hymn, “All Are Welcome” and The Lord’s Prayer.

Norma called our meeting to order. Minutes were read and approved. Six (6) members and one (1) guest answered Roll Call. Our Offering was \$49.00.

Old Business: WELCA will have a meeting on August 11th. Work Day on July 23rd and 30th.

New Business: Work Days on August 27th and September 24th.

After Grace, Linda Behrends served refreshments. September hostess – Ardith Barber.

Next Eunice Circle meeting will be September 9, 2024 at 1:30pm, July/August book. Irene Gibson will lead the Bible study using August lesson. ~ Irene Gibson, Recorder

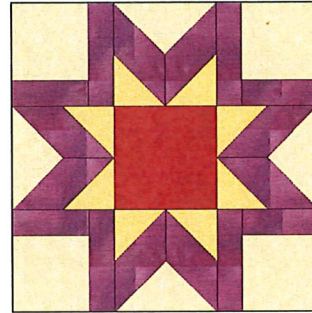
Mission Work Day

The quilters continue to meet every 4th and 5th Tuesdays of each month, except December.

We start at 9:00 and quilt as long as prepared fabrics are available or until coffee at 3:30.

Please come and join us. We will meet September 24th.

WRAP THE WORLD IN LOVE



Marcy Barber had foot surgery recently and is reported to be doing well. Our prayer is that her recovery brings permanent relief and that her step is lighter from here on out.

We remember **Larry Germer** in prayer as he recovers from a recent illness. Our hope is that you feel the caring of others and renewed health soon.

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, Norman Balderson, Mike Balderson and Ervin Hennerberg.*



THE GIFT OF LABOR

Missionary and author Elisabeth Elliot considered work a gift and a blessing. Ponder the following quotes of hers as you celebrate Labor Day. How do they mesh with your own views of work?

“This job has been given to me to do. Therefore, it is a gift. Therefore, it is a privilege. Therefore, it is an offering I may make to God. Therefore, it is to be done gladly, if it is done for him. Here, not somewhere else, I may learn God’s way. In this job, not in some other, God looks for faithfulness.”

“Work is a blessing. God has so arranged the world that work is necessary, and he gives us hands and strength to do it. The enjoyment of leisure would be nothing if we had only leisure. It is the joy of work well done that enables us to enjoy rest, just as it is the experiences of hunger and thirst that make food and drink such pleasures.”



~ The Newsletter Newsletter, September 2024



THE JOY OF LEARNING NEVER ENDS

The **Christian Education Committee** hopes to organize ongoing learning for all ages.

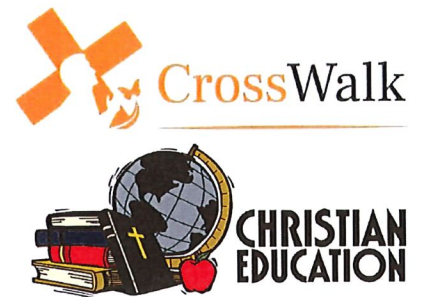
A primary focus is CrossWalk but, we know learning never stops and St. Paul members of all ages are seeking opportunities to grow in faith. As part of this effort, the 3rd season of the Chosen series was facilitated by Jill Zabokrtsky during the summer. We thank her for organizing and leading sessions. They led to meaningful and insightful conversations.

The **Eunice Circle** is a women's Bible study group that meets once per month on Monday afternoon. Their study is from the Gather publication. If you are interested, contact Norma Banahan.

Committee members are seeking others who would accept the calling to facilitate a study group. This might be a one-time study or span a number of sessions. Meeting times and days would be determined by the group members. It can be for blended ages, age specific, men or women specific or blended. Help finding a study topic/series is available. Prayerfully consider serving as a guide in the spiritual growth of your sisters and brothers in Christ. If you are interested, contact Sheri Schultis, Beth Roelfs, Tyler Wolken, Stacy Roelfs or Allen Roelfs.

CrossWalk to Kick Off The Year

The first day of CrossWalk has been set for **September 11**. It will be exciting to welcome former and new students back into the church for a wonderful year of learning and fellowship. Students and staff will journey through familiar Bible stories including Jonah, Daniel and Jesus' arrival in the world. The learning focus for the year is the Books of the Bible. Our key caring project for the year will continue to be collecting pop tabs from aluminum cans in support of the Ronald McDonald House programs. Everyone is encouraged to support the efforts. Leave them at church and the kids will enjoy adding them to the collection. Please hold us in prayer as we begin our journey of growth together.



2024-2025 St. Paul CrossWalk

CrossWalk will include Bible stories, snack time, game time, sharing highs and lows in prayer, and music.

Who is invited: Preschool – 5th grade students. Older students are encouraged to attend as helpers.

When: Wednesdays after school from 3:30-5:00pm, September 11, 2024 to April 30, 2025. *If school is canceled due to weather, CrossWalk will be canceled as well.*

Where: St. Paul Lutheran Church in Diller. Those coming from the elementary school will be escorted by an adult.

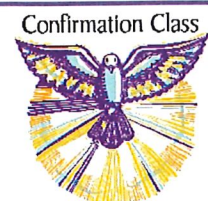
Theme: This year, we will continue with the second half of our *Digging Into The Bible* program. This exciting curriculum takes children on a whirlwind journey from Genesis to Revelation, helping them explore their relationship with God through the eyes of ordinary Bible people. By engaging with these stories, kids will discover that they share similarities with the people God has always loved and worked through.

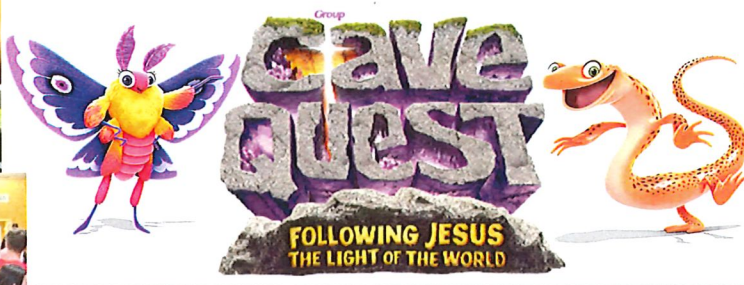
Communication: CrossWalk uses **Remind** for important announcements. You can choose to receive notifications via text or the app. Multiple caregivers can sign up to receive announcements.

For any additional questions or concerns, please email broelfs73@gmail.com or stacy.roelfs@gmail.com with contact name and mobile phone number.

Confirmation begins on **September 11** with **Confirmation Sunday on May 4, 2025**, and we have a great group. Parent nights will be the first Wednesday of the month, and we plan on having a "Church Day" every month.

First communion is planned for November 3. Please see the website for more information.





ST. PAUL AND ELLIS UNITED METHODIST CHURCHES HOST COMMUNITY "CAVE QUEST" VBS AT CAMP JEFFERSON

"CAVE QUEST" – Exploring God With Us

Clark Cavern, (aka Pastor Mark) a bumbling spelunker, joined us at Cave Quest VBS 2024. Clark, Tyler and the kids traveled into "The Cave" to learn important lessons about how Jesus gives us courage and strength.

Thirty-five kids from 6 different communities gathered at Camp Jefferson on Aug. 7 to sing, dance, play, learn and create around the stories of Peter Walking on 'Water and The Gift of the Holy Spirit.

Student spelunkers walked on water, survived a wild storm at sea, felt the holy spirit swell in their hearts and created personal glow in the dark necklaces. The day included lots of water, water balloons and 2 hours in the pool.

As our Caring Project the kids assembled 40 Farmer Support Kits. Each includes a personal message from the creator. These will be distributed this fall by the Youth Group. members.

The collaboration between Ellis Methodist and St. Paul was hugely successful. Staff for the day included: Ann Engelman, games; Jill Zabokrtsky and Joyce Carpenter, crafts; Sheri, Jady and Jamie Schultis, music; story, Beth Roelfs; free time coordinator, Tyler Wolken; snacks and registration, Stacy Roelfs. Crew leaders were: Lily Ebeling, Josiah Barnts, Aubrey Roelfs, Bria Day, Lucy Dorn, KyBri Strouf and Griffin Zabokrtsky. Adult helpers included: Pastor Mark, Peg Hemphill, Jeanette Bures, Jady Schultis, and Alli Engelman. Youth group volunteers lent their support: Myleigh Weers, Cale Clifford, Drake Day, Brennan Schultis, Sidney Engelman, Joely Weers, Xavier Zabokrtsky and Josie Hennerberg.

The event was funded by grants from the Diller Community Foundation Fund and the Thrivent Action Team program, as well as the 2 church families.

The day included lots of great food. The noon meal was coordinated by the Ellis team and St. Paul Family Night committee grilled up an evening cookout for about 150. Laughter filled the building as children shared their day with guests, including the WIND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT and the BANANA SONG.

Thank you to everyone who donated food and items for the day. Thanks to all who helped prepared the cookout. We apologize if we did not mention someone who deserved to be recognized. The team members have voted to hold the 2025 VBS at the Camp in August.

Photos contributed by Tyler Wolken, Stacy Roelfs, Joely Weers and Kendra K Weers.





VBS 2024 CAVE QUEST: EXPLORING GOD WITH US

VBS CARING PROJECT – SUPPORTING OUR LOCAL FARMERS! Each year, our program aims to support a caring project in our community. This year, we are supporting and appreciating our FARMERS!

The kids started the project when they arrived by coloring a harvest scene with bright colors as a Thank You to them. During one of the rotations of activities, the children took their turn filling treat bags with goodies and a colored picture.

This was done for the kids to experience: **Thankfulness** – Farmers work hard to grow the food we eat. By giving them treat bags and colorful pictures, we say ‘Thank You!’ for their hard work; **Kindness** – Showing kindness spreads joy. A simple treat bag and colorful picture can make a farmer’s day brighter; **Community** – Farmers are an important part of our community. Helping them makes our whole community stronger and happier.

How it relates to the Lord: **1. Love Your Neighbor** – Jesus teaches us to “love your neighbor as yourself” (Mark 12:31). By doing something kind for our farmers, we show them love, just like Jesus asks us to. **2. Giving** – The Bible says, “It is more blessed to give than receive” (Acts 20:35). By giving these treat bags, we practice the joy of giving and sharing with others. **3. Gratitude** – We should be grateful for our blessings. Farmers provide us with food, and by showing gratitude, we recognize and appreciate their hard work, just like we thank God for our blessings.

Delivery of Goodie Bags: Our Confirmation and Youth Groups will be delivering these goodie bags to the farmers during harvest. This will allow our older students to participate in this act of kindness and gratitude, further strengthening our community bonds.



Congratulations!

We congratulate **Brianna Weers** for making the Dean’s List for the fourth time for the summer semester session. She has worked very hard in classes and clinicals to reach this achievement. Way to go, Brianna!

Congratulations to **Joely Weers** for being selected to the National FFA Band! She will be performing with the group at the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis in October. We are so happy for you and this achievement!

Three months after the 2001 terrorist attacks, Congress approved a joint resolution designating September 11 as Patriot Day. Every year, we pause to remember the lives lost and changed on that autumn morning.

The resolution requests that each year the president issue a proclamation calling on the American people and state and local governments to observe the day with appropriate activities. Those include remembrance services, candlelight vigils, moments of silence and flying the U.S. flag at half-staff.

In his 2023 proclamation President Biden said, “Together, may we continue to demonstrate that the rights and freedoms that those terrorists sought to destroy on September 11, 2001, remain unwavering — strengthened by generations of Americans who have dared all and risked all to defend, protect and preserve our democracy.”



Happy Retirement, Gary!!

Gary Bergmeier recently concluded his career as a member of the Nebraska State Patrol following years of dedicated service. He marked this milestone by celebrating with family and friends on August 10. Congratulations Gary. We appreciate the time you have given to ensure the safety of others and hope your days include time to enjoy hobbies and rest.



THANK YOU



*Celebrating
70 years
of marriage*



Congratulations to Pastor Delmar and Phyllis Wiemers who recently celebrated their 70th anniversary. Loved ones joined them for worship and many friends gathered at an Open House on August 11 to honor the couple. May God continue to bless your days together.



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY



September Wedding Anniversaries

September 1, 1967

☞ Mr. & Mrs. Jim & Jeanette Bures

September 5, 2010

☞ Mr. & Mrs. Scott & Linda Beran

September 23, 1962

☞ Mr. & Mrs. Ervin & Betty Hennerberg

September 25, 2004

☞ Mr. & Mrs. Shawn & Jill Zabokrtsky

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

September Birthdays



- 1 Gail Engelman
- 1 Cassandra Lottman
- 5 Riley Sasse
- 6 Cathy Lyons
- 7 Jamie Schultis
- 8 Tim Scheele
- 10 Guilford Wiemers
- 10 Andrew Graves
- 11 Shawn Lottman
- 11 Aubrey Roelfs
- 12 Shawn Zabokrtsky

- 12 Clayton Spilker
- 12 Draedyn Sasse
- 14 Norman Balderson
- 14 Ryan Nippert
- 14 Reid Rallis
- 15 Kate Stein
- 16 Charles Barber
- 16 Cheryl Denner
- 17 B.J. Stein
- 17 Shannon Stein

- 18 Robbyn Roelfs
- 19 Kelsay Schlichtman
- 20 Irene Gibson
- 20 Hollie Crawford
- 21 Angie Clifford
- 23 Christopher Schmidt
- 24 Mallory Helton
- 24 Skylar Pretzer
- 26 Kevin Sasse
- 26 Matthew Nippert
- 30 Kristen Hennerberg

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!



**September 1 Sunday Worship Service
With Holy Communion**

*Worship Assistant – Gary Bergmeier
Greeter – Dennis Nippert
Coffee Service – Marlene Wolken, Beth Roelfs*

September 8 Sunday Worship Service

*Worship Assistant – Jamie Schultis
Greeter – Dean Pretzer
Coffee Service – Sheri Schultis, Jennifer Warren*



September 15 Sunday Worship Service

*Worship Assistant – Brian Weers
Greeter – Charles Barber
Coffee Service – Toni Landenberger,
Stacy Schlichtman*

September 22 Sunday Worship Service

*Worship Assistant – Kendra K Weers
Greeter – Gary Bergmeier
Coffee Service – BethLee Beran, Linda Beran*

September 29 Sunday Worship Service

*Worship Assistant – Diane Wellsandt
Greeter – Jim Bures
Coffee Service – Kendra S Weers, Kalli Roelfs*



**October 6 Sunday Worship Service
With Holy Communion**

*Worship Assistant – David Henrichs
Greeter – Dean Pretzer
Coffee Service – Kendra K Weers, Deb Nippert*

September 2024



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

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<i>Red Hymnal</i> 1 Worship Service Holy Communion 9:30 AM	2 	3	4	5	6	7
<i>Blue Hymnal</i> 8 Worship Service 9:30 AM 	9 <i>Eunice Circle</i> 1:30pm	10	11  <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content;"> CROSS WALK Christian Ed 4:00pm </div> Confirmation Cookout & Kickoff 7:00pm	12	13	14
<i>Red Hymnal</i> 15 Worship Service 9:30 AM	16	17	18 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content;"> CROSS WALK Christian Ed 4:00pm </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin-top: 5px;"> Committees and Council Meetings 6:30/7:30pm </div>	19	20	21
<i>Blue Hymnal</i> 22 Worship Service 9:30 AM 	23 <i>Newscaster items due</i>	24 Work Day All Day	25 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content;"> CROSS WALK Christian Ed 4:00pm </div> Confirmation 7:00pm	26	27	28
<i>Red Hymnal</i> 29 Worship Service 9:30 AM	30	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; width: 100%;"> Please check the weekly bulletin at the church or the website for the most current updates to the calendar/schedule </div>				



St. Paul Lutheran Church
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