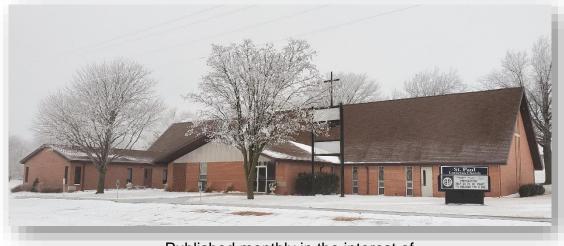
St. Paul Newscaster



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 2023

Pastor Mark Liscom

The Power of No Answer

"Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus said, "You say so". But when he was accused by the chief priest and the elders, he did not answer. Then Pilate said to him, "do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?" But Jesus gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed. (Matthew 27:11-14)

We live in a world where we want to know the answer. I suppose 3 or 4 times a day I type in a question to google about something, just to see what the answer is. As I remember my pre-college days, the whole point was to know the answer. Getting the answer right was the means to good grades and a good job. I remember driving home on the freeway from work when I lived in Seattle and going by a church on the side of the road. In big red neon lights were these words: Christ is the answer!

But there is a huge problem with answers. And the problem of course is that once you know the answer, you just move on to something else. I have had three experiences in my ministry of people coming up to me and thanking me for something I said in a sermon that gave them the answer they were looking for. Soon after, they were absent, never to return. Getting the answer, I guess, is like finding that item at the grocery store, that's hard to find. Once you find it, you're out of there. Problem solved, so now it's time to move on.

Beware of a religion that is primarily about answers. The real issue is what happens when there aren't any. What Pilate discovered when Jesus went silent was something amazing. Jesus wasn't the answer, and didn't come to bring the answers. He just stood there, silently. And it seems that in the silence, Pilate connected. Not to an answer, but to a person. A real person.

The power of no answer is a healing power. Now you can just be there.

PAPERLESS NEWSCASTER OPTION AVAILABLE!!



The Newscaster is now available electronically for those that would like to receive it in this form rather than through the mail. If you would like to NOT receive a physical copy of the Newscaster, please email Jane Pretzer at dpretz@diodecom.net and let her know you want to be removed from the physical mailing list. You can always access the online version of the Newscaster at the Church website, www.stpauldiller.com, and click on the Newscaster tab for whatever publication you need. Another option is to be put on the email list that will include a link. If you would like the Newscaster emailed to you, email Sheri Schultis at jschultis@diodecom.net to be put on the list.

Editor: Kendra K. Weers

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Newscaster Reporters

Church Council – Brian Weers

WELCA – Peggy Hemphill

Work Day – Carolyn Schultis

Treasurer's Report – Allen Roelfs

Eunice Circle – Irene Gibson

Christian Education and VBS – Elizabeth Roelfs, Sheri Schultis, Kristen Hennerberg and Kristen Heidemann,

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





Sponsors for the February Newscaster are

Eldean and Norma Banahan in Memory of Jeanette's February Birthday

Thank you very much to our sponsors and the memory of your loved one.

Please note that the sign-up sheet for 2023 sponsorships is up and some sponsorships are still available.

There is one each available for May, June/July, August, September, October and December.

Both sponsorships are available for 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 19

\$30 per couple

Seating times are 5:30 and 6:30pm

Contact a member of our Youth or Kendra S Weers for a reservation



St. Paul Lutheran Church Council Minutes for January 18, 2023

Council members present were Pastor Mark, Brian Weers, Diane Wellsandt, Dave Henrichs and Gary Bergmeier. Jeanette Bures and Peg Hemphill were absent. Pastor Mark started the meeting with an opening prayer. Brian read the minutes from the previous meeting. Dave moved to accept the minutes and Diane seconded. Motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Gary presented the Treasurer's Report. Gary reported that there was a total available cash of \$8,108.49 in the account. Still needing to be paid are Stanton Propane and Portico leaving an (estimated) ending balance of \$4,541.88. Brian moved to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented and Diane seconded. The Treasurer's Report was approved.

MEMORIAL TREASURER'S REPORT

No report available.

PASTOR'S REPORT

Pastor reported that he had 3 worship services, 1 Confirmation class, 1 pre-baptism meeting, 5 hospital calls, 1 funeral, 1 women's bible study, 3 text studies, 3 home communions, 2 other calls, 1 Bishop's retreat.

VICE CHAIR'S REPORT

Dave and Sherry found some information about growth fund beneficiaries. Naming beneficiaries – we can't name a beneficiary now while still operating the fund; it would come down to naming a younger couple or two that can distribute funds upon the church closing or ending.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Nominating – A slate of nominees was presented. Gary moved and Diane seconded to approve the slate of nominees for annual meeting, motion carried. Ballot for food stand and distribution of funds was also approved.

Christian Education – N/A

Property – Gary called Schoen Roofing, did not get a reply about the roof.

Communication & Outreach – N/A

Music & Worship – N/A

Food Stand – N/A

OLD BUSINESS

The donation of Sunday School tables and chairs will be made soon. Bathroom doors have been looked at for self-openers. A welcome ceremony is still planned for Ervin and Betty Hennerberg. The Defibrilator has been repaired. No news yet about the furnace heat exchange.

NEW BUSINESS

Diane will be gone from February 17th to March 8th or 9th on a trip. Confirmation has started with new books and curriculum. Youth Group sponsors may not be able to fulfill full role, will need help to work it out. Pastor Mark would like to try "engage the text" question and answer trial to get feedback about the sermons. Ash Wednesday will be on February 22nd; Pastor's goal is to have Confirmation students here during Lent. Lenten meals before services are planned to begin again on March 1st. The services will not be Round-Robin this year, so Pastor can interact with Confirmation students.

The next council meeting was set for February 15 at 7 p.m., committees to meet at 6:30 p.m. Gary moved to adjourn the meeting and Diane seconded. The meeting was adjourned and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

~ Brian Weers, Council Secretary

	RT							
Current Balances		Operating Expense	es					
General Fund	\$ 8,108.49	Available Casl	h \$ 8,108.49					
Benevolence	\$ 162.00	Remaining Bil	lls					
<u>Designations</u>	\$19,946.03	Stanto	n Propane \$ 1,770.00 (est.)					
Total	\$28,216.52	<u>Portico</u>	\$ 1,796.61 (est.)					
		Remain	ning Bal \$ 4,541.88					
Offering Summary								
	November	December	January					
Current	\$ 7,346.20	\$ 10,374.00	\$ 6,629.87					
Benevolence	\$ 1,255.05	\$ 1,608.50	\$ 162.00					
Designated Funds	<u>\$ 157.00</u>	\$ 601.00	<u>\$ 135.00</u>					
Totals	\$ 8,758.25	\$ 12,583.50	\$ 6,926.87					
	(partial month)							
We need to receive \$10,002.96 in CURRENT each month in order to meet our budget for 2022.								

Minutes for the Annual Meeting of St. Paul Lutheran Church, ELCA, January 23, 2022

The 2021 Annual Meeting was called to order by president David Henrichs. Pastor Mark Liscom opened the meeting with a prayer. The minutes from the 2021 annual meeting were reviewed. Gary Bergmeier moved to approve the minutes and Peggy Hemphill seconded. The minutes were approved.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE AND BALLOT REPORTS

 David presented the church council ballot. On the nominating committee were Darin Weers, Scott Pretzer, Dennis Nippert, David Henrichs and Gary Bergmeier. On the ballot for Church Council were Jeanette Bures and Brian Weers. Nominations were opened for other names. No other names were nominated. Diane Wellsandt moved to cease nominations and Allen Roelfs seconded. Nominations were ceased.

BALLOT RESULTS FROM RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED BY CHURCH COUNCIL

- 1st Resolution to run the Diller Picnic Foodstand 36 votes
- 2nd Resolution Picnic Fund Distribution 80% to General Fund (automatic); 20% to Benevolence 13 votes; 20% to World Hunger 9 votes; 20% to BVCA 13 votes. ** with a tie for the 20%, the congregation voted again with two options of Benevolence and BVCA. Results were: Benevolence 18 votes; BVCA 19 votes.

PASTOR'S REPORT

Pastor Mark gave a review and gave thanks to all those involved in CrossWalk. A summary was given of happenings in Confirmation and Youth Group. At the time, there was a total of 10 Confirmands with 7 being from non-member families. He gave thanks to Kendra Weers for being the Youth Group sponsor as it will be her last year. Pastor Mark concluded by sharing his thoughts on all that had passed and looking into the future. Pastor gave numerous thank-yous to groups and individuals who helped keep St. Paul running.

BUDGET

- Allen Roelfs gave a summary of the budget report.
- Allen and Stacy Roelfs decided to keep the budget electronically on Excel.
- It was mentioned to lower the Benevolence budget but the church passed its goal in 2021.
- Gary and Allen both commended the congregation on their giving the past year.
- Pastor Mark will be receiving a 3% salary increase.
- Portico health insurance went up slightly.
- Continuing Education there is no budget due to the generous donation by Mike Pralle. The Council will not plan a budget until those funds are gone.
- Darin moved to accept the proposed budget and Charlie Barber seconded. The budget was accepted.

AUDITOR'S REPORT

Chris Clifford, a committee member of the church auditors, reported the books were found to be in order.

CONGREGATIONAL REPORT

President David Henrichs gave his report by thanking the congregation for stepping up and helping when needed in the transition year from COVID. Not only did the church move its services back inside but still managed to keep bills paid. He mentioned CrossWalk as being a bright spot for the church to hang its hat on. Some of the Memorial funds will be used to update Sunday service on Facebook both on video and audio quality. In his final remarks, he mentioned the survivability of small churches and how important it is to answer "HIS" call with "yes I can."

Outgoing Council member, Darin Weers, gave some closing remarks.

OLD BUSINESS

David Henrichs has mentioned that there were some shingles deteriorating on the West side of the church and will be in contact with Schoen Roofing.

NEW BUSINESS

- Gary Bergmeier gave thanks to the Memorial committee and donors who helped purchase an AED for the church. It has been placed by the sound board cabinet.
- Sheri Schultis gave an update on CrossWalk. Highlights were placing bibles in all kids hands, advent calendars, and giving thanks to everyone who helped with CrossWalk. CrossWalk gives back to the community in many ways. A few include food drives, cards and gifts.
- Beth Roelfs talked about doing a one day VBS at Camp Jefferson for 2022.
- Kendra K Weers talked about the newsletter and the outreach it has. If there are any pictures or articles make sure to submit to Kendra. Please try getting the material to her by the 20th of each month to make it for the monthly newsletter.

Pastor Mark gave a final prayer for those who have passed at St. Paul. Gary Bergmeier moved to adjourn the meeting and Allen Roelfs seconded. The meeting was adjourned and closed with The Lord's Prayer.

~ Tyler Wolken, Council Secretary

Minutes for the Annual Meeting of St. Paul Lutheran Church, ELCA, January 22, 2023

The 2023 Annual Meeting was called to order and opened by Council Chair David Henrichs. It was requested that all sign the register for those present. There were 29 congregational members present. Pastor Mark Liscom offered an opening prayer. The minutes from the 2022 annual meeting were read. Darin Weers moved to approve the minutes and Gary Bergmeier seconded. The minutes were approved.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE AND BALLOT REPORT

- Darin presented the ballot in the Committee report. He thanked those willing to come forward.
- Dave asked for nominations for Council from the floor, none brought forward. Floor nominations were requested for Nominating committee, none were given.
- Joely Weers moved to cease nominations and was seconded by Beth Roelfs.
- Dave asked for volunteers for ballot count. Counters were Kendra K Weers, Beth Roelfs, Deb Nippert and Charlie Barber.
- Ballots were handed out and votes collected.

PASTOR'S REPORT

Pastor talked about dreams – how they can be dangerous, but they also open up imagination. He then discussed his dream for St. Paul – engagement in the church at all levels. He talked about his interest in feedback from the congregation about the sermons/message and how we feel about them. He discussed happenings in CrossWalk, Confirmation and the Youth Group. He then thanked the many people and groups that make this church work and the ministries they are a part of, and that he is thankful to the congregation for its support.

AUDITOR'S REPORT

Committee members Ardie Barber and Sherry Henrichs reported all books to be in order. Allen Roelfs moved to accept the report and was seconded by Joely Weers. The Auditor's Report was approved.

BUDGET DISCUSSION

Allen Roelfs presented recommended Budget. Post-COVID, people have responded well the past 2 years – great job. Biggest change is that Pastor goes on Medicare, so benefits drop \$9,200. Salary is up 5%. Benevolence commitment stays the same. In 2022, we surpassed the budgeted amount and paid whatever is received. Dave explained how that works. We need to receive \$9,754 per month in Current to operate, lower than in the past. Angie Clifford mentioned clarifying undesignated offering – 80% goes to Current, 20% to Benevolence on any undesignated funds that are received. Ash Wednesday and Lenten services offering all goes to Benevolence. Dave asked for other discussion on the Budget. Beth Roelfs moved to accept the proposed budget for the ballot and Charlie Barber seconded.

Charlie asked about the Picnic Food Stand receipts for 2022. Dave said total profit was \$1,408 to Current, \$351 to WELCA and BVCA received \$300ish in donations.

While ballots were being counted for the Budget, Dave announced the results of the election (see below).

VOTING RESULTS

- Elected to church council: Allen Roelfs 28; Gary Bergmeier 28
- Elected to Nominating committee: Darin Weers, 27; Scott Pretzer, 28; Dennis Nippert, 28; Dave Henrichs, 28; Steve Hemphill, 1.
- If asked to operate the Diller Picnic Food Stand: yes 28, no 0.
- Funds from the Diller Picnic Food Stand would go to:

80% General Fund (mandantory) 5 – 20% Benevolence 4 – 20% World Hunger 19 – 20% Blue Valley

• Approve the recommended budget - yes - 28; no - 0

COMMENTS AND THANK YOUS

Retiring Council members were recognized. As Gary was re-elected to another term, Dave is the only one retiring. Dave mentioned how good it is not fighting money needs and what a good move it was to have permanent treasurers so now no one is overwhelmed. He mentioned that a job for one Council member will be added to report on the Growth Fund for Thrivent. Dave and Sherry will continue to keep the books for this fund. He also discussed a future beneficiary for the Growth Fund and the need for some younger members to be signees. Allen and Stacy Roelfs and Scott and Holli Pretzer will have people who donate to the fund to designate where they would like it to go. Discussion was held on how Thrivent works if you have Thrivent insurance. Beth Roelfs shared thoughts on planned gifts being designated.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Dave discussed South furnace issue
- Audio/Visual issues were discussed, they are being worked through
- New camera from a Memorial for Facebook Live is now being used
- Shotgun microphone issues were discussed

CONCLUSION OF MEETING

Pastor Mark offered prayers in memory of those that have passed in 2022 – Cleo Perkins, Jean Weers, Rick Whittemire and Greg Dowling. Peg Hemphill moved to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Joely Weers. Meeting was adjourned.

~ Brian Weers, Council Secretary



Eunice Circle

Eunice Circle met on January 17, 2023 at 1:30pm. Norma Banahan led the Bible Study.

The Ten Commandments: Reviving the Soul - Dancing the Decalogue (Commandments 1 and 2).

Our study texts from Exodus 2:23–25; Exodus 3:1-6 and 13–15; Exodus 20:1–17; Exodus 24:15–18; Exodus 31:18 through Exodus 32:10; Psalm 1:1–2; Psalm 19:7; Psalm 119:(a large number of verses); Matthew 5:14–16; Romans 2:19–24. Also, passages from Martin Luther's Large Catechism. Our focus verses: Then God spoke all these words. "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery: you shall have no other gods before me." (Exodus 20:1–30)

We opened with prayer and Hymn, "Open Your Ears, O Faithful People." We closed with prayer and Hymn, "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God", verse 4 and The Lord's Prayer.

Norma called our meeting to order. Minutes were read and approved. Six (6) members answered roll call with two (2) guests and Pastor Mark also attending. Our offering was \$72.00.

Old Business: No Work Days until after the first of the year.

New Business: Norma Banahan will continue as Leader and Irene Gibson will continue as Recorder. The other ladies will decide as to who will be hostess each month. Work Days Jan. 24th and 31st.

Next Eunice Circle Meeting will be February 13th, 2023 at 1:30pm, Jan/Feb book. Irene Gibson will lead Bible Study.

~ Irene Gibson, Recorder



St. Paul Women ELCA

St. Paul Women of the ELCA will have a short informational meeting Sunday, February 5, 2023 Following Worship

We encourage all women of the congregation to stay after the worship service and learn more about WELCA

CrossWalk and Community Collaborate to "Fill the Manger"

The Mother to Mother Ministries of Beatrice received a generous donation because of the loving gifts gathered by CrossWalk kids, families and the community. The manger was overflowing with 278 diapers, 13 blankets, 12 packages of wipes, food, formula, a large sack of socks, bibs and accessories, a box and 2 big bags of children's clothes, along with books and a game. It gave everyone a chance to share their hearts with Jesus to benefit others.



~ Submitted by Beth Roelfs

CrossWalk Christmas Pizza Party a Huge Success



The church was filled with joy, music and laughter when the CrossWalk Kids and families celebrated Christmas on January 11.

Students started at 4 to prepare their songs, frost cookies and create a beaded snowflake gift.

Families gathered in the sanctuary at 5 and were treated to a slide show highlighting the key fall CW events along with 2 beautiful Christmas songs. Everyone then joined in the fun of devouring 15 large pizzas and dozens of kid decorated sugar cookies.

Thank you to the volunteers who helped in the kitchen, with clean up, program presentation and event planning. Through our joint efforts we are spreading God's love and learning.

~ Submitted by Beth Roelfs



JOYS AND CONCERNS WITH OUR CROSSWALK KIDS

◆ **CONGRATULATIONS** to Tatum Goeking, CrossWalk Kid, for claiming first place in her age group at the Fairbury Elks Annual Hoop Shoot. Good luck at the district competition in York on February 4th. We'll be cheering for you!!!

CARING AND PRAYERS

- ♦ We pray for continued healing for Griffin Zabokrtsky who suffered a leg injury that required surgery.
- ♦ CrossWalk kid, Emma Ideus had her tonsils out in December and all went well. We celebrate her healing and are thankful for the skilled hands and caring hearts of medical providers.
- ♦ Ashton Engelman is healing from surgery. Our caring thoughts for a complete recovery go out to her.



BAPTIZED INTO OUR CHURCH

Beau Raleigh Roelfs, son of Isaac and Emily Roelfs, was baptized and welcomed into the Lord's family on January 29.

His sponsors are Josh Roelfs and Ashley Schott.

We give thanks to God for the unconditional love that is the foundation of life! *Welcome to our church family!*

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:

Franklin Damrow, Eldean Banahan, Robert Weers, Darlene Balderson, Toni Landenberger, Allison Lottman and Rebecca Chavez





We mourn the passing of our friend Rick Whittemire on January 6 following a long battle with health issues.

Our prayers of support and love go out to Marla and family members at this time of loss.



Youth will host the Sweetheart Supper on Sunday, February 19th with seating times at 5:30 and 6:30. Please see a youth member, Kendra S. Weers or Shawn and/or Jill Zabokrtsky for reservations and tickets.

Confirmation classes will be February 1st and February 8th. Please check the church calendar for Acolyte schedule and please also note Ash Wednesday is February 22. The confirmation classes will be during Lent services on Wednesdays. Please check the church website for more information.





Congratulations, Pioneer Conference Honor Band!!





On Monday, January 23, ten members of the Diller-Odell Band were selected for and participated in the Pioneer Conference Honor Band at Southern High School. The entire Honor Band performed five selections under the direction of Rex J. Barker, long-time band director at Millard South High School in Omaha and Director of Instrumental Music at Midland University in Fremont. The five selections performed were "The Star-Spangled Banner", "Velocity", "Cumberland Cross", "Poor Wayfaring Stranger" and a medley of familiar tunes in "Disney Favorites" to close the concert. In the middle of the concert was a special presentation of "The Sound of Silence" performed by the directors of participating schools. Youth from our church that were selected were David Parde, Joely Weers and Peyton Denner.

Schools that were represented were Diller-Odell, Friend, Lewiston, Sterling, Wymore Southern and Tri-County with a total of 73 students. Practicing only that day together, it was a wonderful concert. Good job, Griffins!



Butthist of

- 4 Leyton Speth
- 4 Addison Stein
- 5 Rick Garton
- 5 Kristen Heidemann
- 6 Keira Hennerberg
- 8 Tara Sasse
- 9 Creyton Heidemann
- 10 Joel Holtmeier
- 11 Joyce Lahodny
- 11 Tanner Parde
- 12 Jill Bergmeier

- 14 Steve Hemphill
- 16 Matt Wiegand
- 17 Charles Whitehead
- 17 Chris Schlichtman
- 18 Shawn Weers
- 18 Elliot Sasse
- 19 Ardith Barber
- 20 Toni Landenberger
- 23 Shyla Goldsberry
- 24 Blair Whitehead
- 27 Chris Clifford



happy anniversary

February 14, 1965

Mr. & Mrs. Dean & Sharon Lottman

February 18, 1984

Mr. & Mrs. Kevin & Barb Sasse

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!



February 5 Sunday Worship Service With Holy Communion

Worship Assistant – Sherry Henrichs Greeter – Jim Bures Acolyte – Xavier Zabokrtsky Coffee – Kendra S Weers, Kalli Roelfs

February 12 Sunday Worship Service

Worship Assistant – Diane Wellsandt Greeter – Dennis Nippert Acolyte – Ryan Hicok Coffee – Kendra K Weers, Deb Nippert

February 19 Sunday Worship Service Transfiguration

Worship Assistant – Gary Bergmeier Greeter – Dean Pretzer Acolyte – Mason Schlichtman Coffee Service – Ardith Barber, Kristen Heidemann

February 26 Sunday Worship Service

Worship Assistant – Sherry Henrichs Greeter – Charles Barber Acolyte – Josie Hennerberg Coffee Service – Jeanette Bures, Jill Scheele



March 5 Sunday Worship Service With Holy Communion

Worship Assistant – Jamie Schultis Greeter – Gary Bergmeier Acolyte – Xavier Zabokrtsky Coffee Service – Robbyn Roelfs, Jean Schmidt

February 2023



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SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			CROSS WALK Christian Ed 4:00pm Confirmation 7pm	2	3	4
Red Hymnal Worship Service Holy Communion 9:30 AM Women of the ELCA Meeting Following Worship	6	7	CROSS WALK Christian Ed 4:00pm Confirmation 7pm	9	10	11
Blue Hymnal 12 Worship Service 9:30 AM	Eunice Circle 1:30pm	14 Valentine's Day	CROSS WALK Christian Ed 4:00pm Committees and Council Meetings 6:30/7:30pm	16	17	18
Red Hymnal 19 Worship Service 9:30 AM Sweetheart Supper 5:30 - 7:30pm	20 PREDEUS DAY Newscaster items due	21 Work Day All Day	CROSS WALK Christian Ed 4:00pm Ash Wednesday Service 7:30 pm	23	24	25
Blue Hymnal 26 Worship Service 9:30 AM	27	28	CROSS WALK Christian Ed 4:00pm Lenten Meal 6:00 pm Lenten Service 7:00 pm			



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