

The Messenger

MAY 2026



St. Paul United Methodist Church
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TO HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

St. Paul United Methodist Church will be honoring our three high school students who will be graduating from Elmwood/Murdock High School on Saturday, May 9th.

A reception will be held for them on Sunday, May 3rd at 10:00 a.m. at the church. The three students are Marissa Oehlerking, Brooklyn Dowding and Jacob Stewart.

Everyone is invited to come early that day to support our students as they step into the next phase of their life journey.

SAVE THE DATE

St. Paul UMC, Ebenezer UMC and Elmwood Christian Church are organizing the upcoming Vacation Bible Study for July 20th through the 23rd from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. It will be held at the Elmwood Christian Church.

More details will be announced later.



UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

Cass County Food Pantry Distribution

Saturday, May 16, 2026, 9:00–11:00 a.m.
Location: Old Village Town Hall Building
113 West E Street, Elmwood

Elmwood Community Center

The Center is open for meals at noon or the weekday lunches can be delivered upon request or can be picked up at the center. Call 402-994-2145 to make a request. Grab 'N Go Meals are still happening every Friday of the month from 4:30 – 6:00 p.m. Please call to make reservations for these meals or just stop in.

The Breakfast Buffet will not be offered during the summer months. It will start again in September.

Activities: Low-Impact Exercises at 10:00 a.m.
Tuesdays and Thursdays
Pitch Card Games, Fridays, 2:00 p.m.
Pinochle Card Game, 3rd Monday/ Month, 12:30 p.m.

On Monday, May 25th, the Center will host a Memorial Day luncheon from 11:00 a.m. to 1 p.m. after the program at the Elmwood Cemetery. Sloppy Joes, hot dogs and brats will be offered plus salads, desserts and a drink for a free will offering. Hope to see you there!

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH CORNER

The Elmwood UWIF will meet on Wednesday, May 6, 2026 at 1:30 p.m. We will be meeting at Donna Clements' home.

The Murdock UWIF will meet on Wednesday, May 6, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. at the church for their usual meal and lesson.

The Mat Weaving session will be only on Wednesday, May 13th at 1:30 p.m. We will be starting on our third mat. You can come late and leave early, depending on your schedule. We will not have any sessions during the summer months. See you again in September.

Upcoming Bloodmobile Date Time is 12:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, June 25th, Elmwood Fire Hall



May Birthdays-Elmwood



Addelyn Vogt – May 4
Aaron Tummons – May 4
Dalton Baer – May 5
Janet Medcalf – May 7
Jacob Blunt – May 9
Nate Kollars – May 9
Tod Jones – May 11

Susan Russell – May 11
Laura Marsh – May 17
James McReynolds – May 19
Mick Bornemeier – May 21
Laurel McReynolds – May 22
Max Wynegar – May 23
Otto Vogt – May 23

Brady Bornemeier – May 25
Nathan Brettmann – May 26
Lori Spohr – May 26
Vicki Fleischman – May 27
Carae Oehlerking – May 31
Brody Baer – May 31



May Birthdays-Murdock



Easton/Emmett Chesnut – May 2
Morgan Mills – May 9
Benjamin Stock – May 15

Bo Backemeyer – May 21
Tony Snyder – May 22

PASTOR'S PEN



Nine years ago, Nick and I were doing last minute preparations to become parents of 4 little boys. It certainly was not something we were planning for 9 years before that but 9 years later could not imagine anything different. Emerson asked me this evening if I would rather be a parent of boys or girls. I laughed at him and said well I have boys. He looked at me like I was silly, not really understanding his question, coming back asking if I would have rather had girls. I told him I had boys and I could not imagine not having them. This seemed to satisfy his question and we moved on with the show we were watching. The answer I gave Emerson was the truth to the situation. I really cannot imagine my life different than it is. I mean I certainly try. I have dreams where my life is different. Even when things feel crazy and like I might have made a wrong choice somewhere along the way, the feeling never sticks. Once I really start thinking about what would happen if I had gone in a different direction, I think about the people I would have met, or the experiences that I loved so much that I would not have gotten to experience.

We can certainly play the regret game or try to rewind our lives and think about what we would have done differently but what good does that really do? We are where we are, and even if it is not a place that we would have imagined ourselves or a place that we are really happy about, there is no time machine (that we know of) that will allow us to go back and change it. Living in that place of fantasy or the past is not healthy. This is different than simply remembering, but it is good to remember where we have come from, what we have accomplished or overcome. It is good to reflect on the choices we have made, as it can serve as a road map for where to go and the choices we make as to whether we want to experience certain things again. However, even if we make the exact decisions now that we made before, the experience will not be the same because we are not the same, the world is not the same. We cannot go back; we can only move forward.

May is a great month to reflect on where we have been. Another school year is ending, seniors are graduating and preparing for what comes next. It is fun to take a moment to think about where you were in your own life when this accomplishment came up in your life. What choices did you make, what advice you might give the seniors that are just beginning this next phase. At the same time, it is a great time for us to think about where we are going next. What is the next chapter for us? What were we hoping for in our life? What is still within reach and what needs to be adjusted for where we are? When Nick and I found out we were having twins less than 18 months after having Earl, there was a great deal of adjustment and tears that had to happen.

This is not what we had planned, however the longer I live this life, the more I find myself saying that statement. This is not what I had planned...but yet here we are and I am not mad about it. I can't really imagine my life any different. And the plan was not mine, it was God's. Long ago I put my trust and life into His hands, and although there certainly have been times that I have not trusted Him, there are times that I went kicking and screaming and there are times that I have surrendered and given in to His will. I believe fully that I am where I am supposed to be and that God will use me in the place that I am, sometimes whether I want to or not. 😊 God has had a plan for as long as time has existed. He tells Jeremiah, "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope." May we lean into the hope that God has for us this month.

Until Next Time,
Pastor Michelle

You are invited to Marissa's Graduation Celebration!
Graduation: Saturday, May 9th at 3:00 PM - EM High School



Celebration: Saturday, May 16th at 6:00 PM - Oehlerking Shed

The church family has been and continues to be an important part of my life. Your support, love, and prayers have helped me along my journey. I ask that you continue to send your prayers my way as I graduate high school and start the next chapter of my life at Bryan School of Nursing.

Thank you for everything! ~Marissa



MIDWEST MISSION

SENDING HOPE AND EMPOWERMENT

Turning Leftover School Supplies into Lasting Impact!

While visiting Honduras last year, we saw firsthand the significant need for school supplies across public schools. Teachers often lack even basic materials to distribute to their students, and many families cannot afford to provide the proper tools for learning. As a result, students begin the school year without the notebooks, pencils, and supplies they need to succeed.

By collecting gently used school supplies at the end of the school year, we can redirect valuable resources and send them in bulk to Honduras, where teachers can distribute them directly to students who need them most. The following is a list of items that you can donate.

SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

Most needed items to donate, Used items should be in good usable condition.

New items are also accepted. •

Backpacks, Pencil Cases, Glue, Scissors, Markers (Color Dry Erase Permanent), Spiral or Composition Notebooks, Highlighters, Construction Paper, Pencils, Sharpeners, Erasers, Colored Pencils, Crayons, Pens (Red Black & Blue), Rulers, Compass Sets, Geometry kits

Please do not donate broken or worn-out items, items with missing pieces or 3-ring binders.

Please bring the items to the church during the month of May
and there will be a special box for them.



DECORATE THE ELMWOOD CEMETERY

Do you have some unwanted artificial flowers that could be used to decorate the Elmwood Cemetery for Memorial Day? We can put them to good use by making the Cemetery look extra beautiful. Please drop off any donations at St. Paul's church office by May 16th. Thank you for your generous contributions.

UPCOMING PIE RIDES

THIS SUMMER



Everyone loves pies made with fresh fruit. Since St. Paul will be sponsoring the Pie Ride on June 4th and July 16th, our pie makers would like to receive some delicious fresh fruit to use in the pies that will be offered to the partakers of these pies. If you will have any extra fruit that you can donate for this activity, Linda Blunt would love to hear from you.

May 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 9:00am Worship Service – M 10:35am Worship Service - E	4	5	6 1:30pm UWIF – E 5:30pm UWIF - M	7	8	9
10 <i>Mother's Day</i> 9:00am Worship Service – M 10:35am Worship Service - E	11 7:00pm Church Council - M	12	13 1:30pm Mat Weaving - M	14	15	16 9-11am Food Pantry Distribution
17 9:00am Worship Service – M 10:35am Worship Service - E	18 7:00pm Church Council - E	19	20 1:30pm Sew 'N Sews - M	21	22	23
24 9:00am Worship Service – M 10:35am Worship Service - E	25 Memorial Day 10:00am Program at Elmwood Cemetery	26	27	28	29	30
31 9:00am Worship Service – M 10:35am Worship Service - E						

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Address Service Requested

Memorial Day Services



**Monday
May 25, 2026
10:00 a.m.**

Elmwood Cemetery

**Guest Speaker:
Boyd Yochum
American Legion
Department of Nebraska
Past Department Commander**



**Rain location:
Elmwood Firehall**

**Luncheon:
Elmwood Community Center
11 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

G.A.R. Hall Veterans Museum open until 1 p.m.

For God and Country



**American Legion Post 247
Sons of the American Legion
Squadron 247**