

# The Messenger

MAY 2025



St. Paul United Methodist Church  
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Elmwood, NE 68349-0130  
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## 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

*of St. Paul  
United Methodist Church, Elmwood*

**Sunday, May 4, 2025**

**10:35 a.m.**

400 West G Street, Elmwood

**1975**



**2025**

**All are welcome!** Plan to join us for a day of worship and celebration. Potluck meal and fellowship to follow. Church family members are encouraged to bring a dish from one of the church cookbooks available for viewing on our church website at <https://elmwoodmurdockumc.com>. Guests, please come and enjoy a traditional United Methodist feast with us.

Information: (402) 540-1662



Join us on Sunday May 4, 2025, at St. Paul United Methodist Church as we reminisce and celebrate the last 50 years. We would love to have you to be a part of this special milestone. Help us make this celebration even more meaningful by attending the Church service starting at 10:35am followed by our Potluck Dinner and sharing your favorite dish that can serve 12-15 people.

Would you like to select a recipe honoring a friend, family member or just because you like the recipe. All three UMC Cookbooks have been copied and loaded to the UMC church website: <https://elmwoodmurdockumc.com>. if you don't have a cookbook.

There is a signup sheet at the back of the church. You may also call the church 402-994-6735 and your name can be added to the list. Anyone wishing to:

- volunteer to set up (time not set yet)
- clean up
- other activities

Be sure to invite your family, neighbors and friends. This will be a wonderful time of fellowship and gratitude as we reflect on the blessings and growth of our church community over the past 50 years.

We hope to see you there and look forward to celebrating together.



# Memorial Day Services



**Monday**  
**May 26, 2025**  
10:00 a.m.  
Elmwood Cemetery



Guest Speaker  
**Jim Costello**  
American Legion  
Department of Nebraska  
National Executive Committeeman

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**

## UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

### Cass County Food Pantry Distribution

Saturday, May 17, 2025, 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 for lunch.

Please join us for a Memorial Day luncheon on Monday, May 26, 2025 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. We will have sloppy joes, variety of salads and desserts.  
Free Will Offering

### Vacation Bible School Planning Meeting

VBS Planning Meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 20, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. at the Elmwood Christian Church.

### Teacher Appreciation Day at Aldrich House

Wednesday, May 28, 2025, 9:00 a.m.  
Teachers are invited to come and learn about the short story units of study for Grades 6-9. You will also receive some free resources for studying short stories. Contact [kurkshrader@gmail.com](mailto:kurkshrader@gmail.com) to register for this free event.

## UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH CORNER

The Elmwood UWF will meet on Monday, May 5, 2025 at 1:30 p.m. at Joyce Backemeyer's home. A representative from Fusselman Funeral Home will provide us with some estate and funeral planning information.

The Murdock UWF will meet on Wednesday, May 7, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. at the church for the usual meal and lesson.

Mat Weaving sessions will be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of each month at 1:30 p.m. at Ebenezer UMC. May dates are the 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>.

All are invited to come (men, kids over 12, other churches, friends). Feel free to come when you can and leave early. You don't have to stay the whole two hours. There are several different jobs available so switch to another one when you get tired.

The Elmwood UWF is still collecting UPC codes from Best Choice labels. If you have any to donate, please leave them in the church office or give them to a member of our UWF. Thanks for your contributions.



### May Birthdays-Elmwood



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

Susan Russell – May 11  
Dr. 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



### May Birthdays-Murdock



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

Dorothy Stock – May 20  
Bo Backemeyer – May 21  
Tony Snyder – May 22

## PASTOR'S PEN



This month my babies turn 8. It seems almost impossible that they are that old. When we first came to Ebenezer and St. Paul, they were just little 2 year olds. They weren't even in preschool yet and now here they are about to complete 2nd grade. They are growing up so fast and learning so much every single day. They are funny, smart, and so sweet. They care deeply about their brothers, their friends and their church community. They are growing up to be great kids; ones that I am proud to say are mine and I look forward to seeing what happens next with their life journeys.

When we raise our kids, we have such great hopes and dreams for them. We want them to have the best lives, lives that are easier than ours, with less drama and trauma. We want them to be kind, caring and achieve great things. Ultimately, we really just want the very best for them.

God is the same way. We are born into this world that we know is full of chaos, and God watches over us, wanting the very best for things for us. The problem is that although the world is full of the very best things, it is also filled with the very worst things. There are times where our lives take a turn, sometimes because of decisions we make but also sometimes because the world really is chaos. And there are times where we find ourselves in not a great place. It is in those moments that we have to figure out our next moves. Who are we relying on, how do we find our way out of the darkness. What happens next?

God gave us the gift of free will. We get to choose our own adventures while we are here on Earth. Certainly, we are limited by resources and such but ultimately it is up to us as to how we use this life we have been given. So when we find ourselves lost, it is up to us to choose where we go, and what we do.

As a parent I pray that I have given my children the right tools to help them along the way. I know that bad decisions will be made, that there will almost certainly be a time or twelve when they find themselves in a tight spot and will have to figure out what to do next. But, I pray that when they find themselves in such a place that they can remember that there is a benevolent God out there that is ready to help. That when asked, the right people will surround them, help them, and guide them. That we as a church community have shown them what a loving community looks like so that when they are on their own that they seek such a community themselves.

God has given us all the tools to bring Heaven here to Earth. He strives to make sure we know what those tools are, so that when we are in a tough spot we will remember that He is always there. This month we are discussing the coming of the Kingdom of God. We don't know when it will happen, but we are charged to be always prepared and to make sure that those around us also are prepared. Luke 21:36 says "But watch, pray continually in your heart, for the life of God is nearby. He will deliver those who would perish in the final days to the coming of the Son of Man." Jesus was here to show us the way, but then God allowed us once again to be grown up and to make these choices on our own. May we strive to be the community that God hopes and dreams us to be, just as we hope and dream for the kids.

Until Next Time,  
Pastor Michelle



Dear Elmwood and Murdock United Methodist Church Members,

We would like to thank you for your generous donation to our family after our setback with the house fire. It is reassuring to know that our communities are present to provide both emotional and financial support during difficult times. We were able to devise a new plan and are truly grateful for your efforts to help us in our next chapter. Once again, your thoughtfulness is truly appreciated and may God bless you!

Joel, Brenna, Peter, and Lucy Bittner  
Curt and Cindy Backemeyer

# May 2025

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

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**Address Service Requested**



Monday, May 26, 2025