



ST. PAUL NEWS

Monona, IA 52159

OCTOBER 2026

Office 563-539-2230

Kitchen/School 563-539-2050

*Pastor:
Erika Lenth*

*Parish Bookkeeper:
Ashley Blietz-Camp*

*President:
Kevin Brainard*

Inside this issue:

Pastor Erika	1
Confirmation	2
Rally Day	
WELCA	3
Council Minutes	4- 5
Council Minutes Cont.	5
Shepherd of the Hills	6
Birthdays & Anniversaries	7
Financial Report	8
Calendar	9
Schedules	10

From Pastor Erika

Reformation Sunday is right around the corner, October 25th . The actual Reformation was October 31st, 1517, the day that Martin Luther changed the face of religion forever. In Martin Luther's time there was only 1 Christian church- the Catholic Church. His thoughts and ideas led to a Reformation where we now have many different Christian churches. The Reformation may have happened 509 years ago but it was not a one-time event, we are still reforming. There are some who believe the church is dying but I say to you the church is reforming. Our society is so different than it was at Luther's time when everything revolved around the church. Today the church is a message among messages. But that doesn't mean God is any less present. On September 20th our congregation gave out 20 Bibles to 3rd & 4th graders and on that day, 155 people attended worship, 81 students were in Sunday School. People are still coming to hear about God's grace and to learn about our forgiving, loving, generous God. Yet people around us say the church is irrelevant. As Luther says in the Small Catechism- what does this mean? Do we throw up our hands and not do anything? Or do we remember that God is active in this world of upheaval, tension, violence, political battles and of the unchurched? Martin Luther struggled with the reformation in his time and we continue to struggle with reformation of the church in our time because change is hard. People are longing to hear what we the church have to say, people need what we have to offer. God in Jesus Christ gives us health, healing, wholeness, love and forgiveness. So many in the world do not see that and we are God's messengers. The church is in community together, we care for each other's needs, as we pray in the Lord's Prayer, give us this day our daily bread. Together we give each other our daily bread, we are God's hands in this world. The church probably will never look like the church of our childhoods again but as we are reminded in our baptisms we are always being made new by God every day. The rock on which we stand is the new life in Jesus Christ. Our lives are rooted in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, while the church and society around us is continuing to be reformed, we keep our lives centered in the gospel. This is most certainly true!

In Christ's Peace,
Pastor Erika

October 25th, 2026

Confirmation



Confirmation or Affirmation of Baptism

is a pastoral and educational ministry of the whole congregation, through which the baptized young person is helped to identify with the Christian community and to participate more fully in the church's mission. It is a place of beginning as the person voluntarily affirms the entire Christian faith, the faith in which he or she was baptized. The stoles placed upon the shoulders of these young people have been made by them, using Christian symbols of their own choosing. The stoles symbolically represent the greater responsibility which each of them now has, as a servant of God and a visible member of the body of Christ in witness to the world.

***The following students are eligible for Confirmation
upon fulfillment of their requirements:***

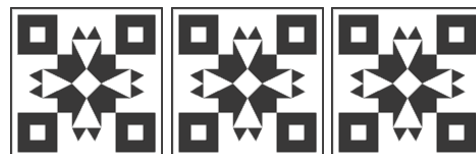
Mackenzie Birdnow
Natalie Kregel

Parents: Justin & Meghan Birdnow
Parents: Wade & Katie Kregel

Rally Day & God's Work, Our Hands Day



Many projects were completed on God's Work, Our Hands Day. Church bushes were trimmed, the sanctuary was cleaned, kits and quilts were made, mulching was done at the Butterfly Garden and other projects! Many hands make for light work!



OCTOBER

Mission Action:

Bath Soap, 4-5oz bar in original wrap.

Bible Study:

Bold faith on an unexpected journey
Session one "Encountering God in the Wilderness"
Gather by Tiffany Channey

OCTOBER CALENDAR

Wednesday, October 7

9:15 am WELCA Bible Study

Sunday, October 4

SOTH Hog Roast, St. Olaf
2 pies in disposable pan needed-
can be delivered notify office or Arleta

October 22 & 23

Doing Days

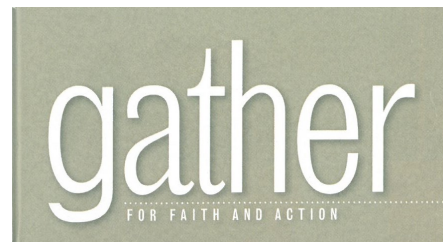
Saturday, October 25

Little Flock Fall Gathering
West Clermont
RSVP by October 18th

LOOKING AHEAD

Saturday, November 7

LWR Truck at Decorah



All are Welcome to come to
any Bible Study
Studies are held the 1st
Wednesday of the month
at 9:15 a.m.
in the church library.

Note: copies of the
Bible study are
available in the library.

MONTHLY MISSION ACTION PROGRAM

The Monthly Mission Action Emphasis is a program St. Paul WELCA has been active with. Each month a different item is specified and that is the item we collect that month. All items will be used in our Lutheran World Relief kits or given to Shepherd of the Hills. Everyone is invited and encouraged to participate!

*Place your gifts in the basket on the table in the entryway by the church office. Watch the St. Paul News each month for the item. Thank you!



The item for October
is Bath Soap,
4-5 oz bar in
original wrapper

Little Flock Cluster B
Women of the ELCA, Fall Gathering

Saturday, October 24, 2026
9am- Registration (cinnamon rolls)
9:30am-Noon (Lunch)
West Clermont Lutheran Church
221 Larrabee St.
Clermont, IA 52135

You're Invited

Hope

Romans 12:12
¹² Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer.

Guest Speaker: Sarah Updegraff-Murray

In-Kind Offering: Diapers (all sizes) for Hope Resource Center in West Union.

Lunch \$10 @ noon.
Serving: tater-tot casserole, salads, pumpkin bars, beverage.
(Checks payable to WCLC WELCA)
Please RSVP by October 18th to Deb Jacobsen @ West Clermont Lutheran Church 563-423-7170.

**On the day of the Gathering, please use the south parking lot entrance to the church.*

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

St. Paul Lutheran Church

Council Meeting September 9th, 2026

(September Minutes are printed but pending approval at the October Council Meeting)

Present: Kevin Brainard, Tracy Decker, Stephanie Larson, Celia Brown, Craig Watson, Barb Horns, Beth Foels, Mike Rood, Crystal Thurn (present for Treasurer's report, left after), Andy Meyer, Niki Palas, Pastor Erika

Absent: Justin Birdnow, Rein Kregel

Meeting called to order at 6:02pm by Kevin Brainard

Devotions led by Pastor Erika. Next month Craig Watson

Minutes from August meeting reviewed, motion to approve by Andy, second by Barb. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: given by Crystal. August monthly offering \$11,851.00. August expenses \$15,673.65 leaving a deficit of \$3,822.65. August expenses included Cintas, which is set to auto pay on the 5th of each month and August's invoice was generated before that date so July and August were paid. Because of this no balance is due in September. Worship and altar supplies that were purchased in July were paid. This should be the last large purchase for the year. In August, the Memorial Fund brought in \$51,733.54 with \$430 being In Loving Memory Memorials. Our three month CD matured so \$40,349.04 went back into the Memorial Fund with the interest going to the Parking Lot Fund. Kevin also took some materials to CCR with \$140.11 also going to the Parking Lot Fund. As of 8/31/26, the Parking Lot Fund is at \$68,674.55. Expenses from the Memorial Fund were \$114.18 to the MFLMM Caring Closet for August Noisy Can, \$320 transferred from the Luther League fund to their savings account, and \$500 to Luther College for Addison Buchheit's Fall Epic Scholarship. We received a policy credit of \$179 from Church Mutual for our Worker's Compensation policy audit that will be applied to our September bill. Paint and stripping machine purchased for the parking lot will be paid on September's credit card payment.

A motion was made by Mike to approve \$508.25 to be paid for annual preventative maintenance and safety test for Access Elevator and Lift, second by Tracy, motion carried. This will be paid from the Committee Choice Memorial Fund.

Parking lot project invoices have been received. MB Construction had 2 invoices, one for \$5550 to remove sidewalk and another for \$625 to bring in dirt to fill. Kluesner Construction invoice for \$79,840. Kevin commented that these amounts were exactly what was quoted to us when the project was initiated. Total cost for the parking lot came to \$86,015.00. Discussion was held on how to pay this amount. A motion was made by Stephanie to use the \$68,694.55 from the Parking Lot Fund and take the remainder due (\$17,320.45) from Current Funds Holding account to pay everything off now. This would avoid any loans. This would leave \$34,495.77 in Current Funds Holding. Motion was seconded by Celia, motion carried.

There was concern voiced about the General Fund being low right now. Current amount \$3893.07 with some upcoming expenses anticipated. Ashley would prefer a little more "cushion" in this account. Motion made by Barb to move \$10,000 from Holding fund to General Fund, second by Tracy. Motion carried. This now leaves \$24,495.77 in the Holding account with the plan to replace funds once able.

Motion to approve Treasurer's report made by Niki, second by Mike. Motion carried.

Pastor's Mileage: Pastor reported 466 miles. At \$0.76 per mile the amount would be \$354.16. Motion to approve Pastor's mileage made by Niki, second by Andy, motion carried.

Correspondence: None

Pastor's Report: Pastor reported that the Moses Project that she is involved in is continuing with some Zoom meetings, she is really enjoying this project. Pastor has had some text studies with Pastors from Garnavillo and Elkader/Strawberry Point. Confirmation started last week with 16 kids. They had to move back to the Fellowship Hall due to the larger number of kids. They are studying the Bible this year. Two Baptisms have been done since our last meeting, one being during outdoor worship. Sunday School starts this coming Sunday Sept 13th, final preparations have been done and everyone is ready.

Education and Youth: Next meeting Oct 13th

Council Minutes Continued . .

Fellowship and Evangelism: Met August 31st. Continued work on Fellowship schedule, September and October have been filled. It was mentioned that messages may be sent home with Sunday School kids in the future if the schedule has problems getting filled with the hope that some of those parents can help.

Mission and Social: No report, no meeting scheduled.

Property and Grounds: No meeting scheduled.

Stewardship and Finance: Met Sept 9th (before council meeting), discussed Pastor's health insurance, starting budget worksheet process. Next meeting Oct 14th before council meeting.

Worship and Music: Will have 2 confirmands in October, Bibles being handed out this month. Looking ahead to Advent schedule in December. Thanksgiving service will be at Faith. The committee did discuss budget change for Ryan's salary. Looking to remove from Worship and Music committee since he is a church employee.

Interchurch Council: No report

Old Business: Church signage outside of town still needs installing. Andy and Crystal will get this done soon. Parking lot is nearly completed (and looks great) just need to finish painting some lines.

New Business: Rally Day this Sunday, Pastor Erika will not be there. Visiting Pastor from the Synod will lead worship. Plenty of work to be done after worship and before potluck. Budget process is starting, worksheets and instructions will be coming soon.

The church received a letter from the Betty Brownson Estate. She has left money to multiple organizations in Monona. St. Paul was notified that we will receive around \$11,000, but we have not received this yet. Discussion was held on where to put this money, decision was made to wait until we have it and then decide.

Next meeting Wednesday October 14th at 6pm

Motion to adjourn meeting was made at 6:41pm by Craig, second by Stephanie. Motion carried and meeting was adjourned.

Meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted by Beth Foels

Volunteer Opportunities

Help Serve Fellowship

We are looking for volunteers to host fellowship from September through May. If you have never done it before, don't worry! Our committee is happy to guide you and answer any questions. If you prefer to provide food without hosting, we would love your help with that too! Please visit the sign-up sheet on the back table in the sanctuary or contact the office to sign up. Thank you for your wonderful contribution to our church community!

Volunteers: Ushers (October-December)

We are still looking for some volunteers to serve as ushers for the upcoming months! Whether you are a regular or looking to join the team for the first time, we would love to have you. Please sign up in the back of the sanctuary for the October-December dates. Thank you for helping our services run smoothly!

Shepherd of the Hills Ministries

NEWSLETTER – OCTOBER 2026



Fall is upon us and farmers will be harvesting their crops... so getting a take out to thank those hard working farmers from the Hog Roast is just what they need. October 4th from 4 pm to 7 pm we will be serving pulled pork sandwiches, cheesy potatoes, baked beans, salads, delicious desserts and beverages.

FREE WILL DONATION. We are also having a silent auction from 4-6.

If you are a Thrivent member, you could apply for a charitable card that will provide \$250.00 towards projects for non-profits, like Shepherd of the Hills. If you would like to apply, I can help you get started. If you have questions, please give me a call.

Also, as a Thrivent member with investments, you can allocate your yearly Choice Dollars to Shepherd of the Hills. Last year, gracious members collectively donated \$2,898 through Choice Dollars. We are so blessed to have generous people with big hearts that help us help others. It is tough doing it alone, but if we come together, great things can be possible.

Clothing Center Updates:

We have switched the store to fall and winter items. We will no longer accept items that are not within the current season. Please wait till March to donate spring and summer items.

We are still looking for a couple volunteers that would like to join our volunteer team. Only 1 day a week and you get to pick your own schedule. Hours are from 9am to noon and 1pm-4pm.

Responsibilities would be sorting through donations, hanging up clothing and assisting shoppers when they visit. We value all of our volunteers and thrive to make our Thrift Store an organized, clean and respectable place to visit. Our volunteers are the heart of helping people in need and helping the public shoppers find some great deals.

Everyone is welcome to shop as we are open to the public.

Shepherd Conference News:

We have 2 ordination anniversaries to recognize this month. Pastor Lyn Noel of St. Paul Lutheran in Postville celebrating 13 years on 10/20/2013. Pastor Kate Johnson at Bethany Lutheran in Elkader and Emanuel Lutheran in Strawberry Point, celebrating 12 years on 10/19/2014. Congratulations and God's Blessings to Pastor Lyn and Pastor Kate.

The **Operating Fund** pays the utilities, insurance on the building, supplies, salaries and Lawn/Snow Care.

The **Crisis Fund** is used to help families with emergency rent or utilities and our sponsored events throughout the year

Please utilize the **MEMO LINE** on your check to specify **Crisis** or **Operating Fund**!

Please indicate what church you are from as well to provide better bookkeeping.

IMPORTANT EVENTS/DATES:

Annual Hog Roast Fundraiser
October 4th, 4:00 pm-7:00 pm
Silent Auction ends at 6:00 pm
St. Olaf Auditorium
(Dine-in or take outs available)

Christmas for Kids
December 16-17

A Formal Affair-
Formal Consignment Sale
January 14-17

**Any event may be subject to change*

Shepherd of the Hills:

Heather Hageman
100 W. Hill Street, PO Box 36,
St. Olaf, IA 52072

Telephone: 563-783-2409

Fax: 563-783-2428

E-mail: shephill@neitel.net

Business Hours: Monday-Friday
9am-12pm and 1pm-4 pm

OCTOBER BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES

Oct 4: Carlie Donlon	Oct 15: Maverick Wright	Oct 18: Holden Kregel
Oct 6: Suttyn Schultz	Oct 15: Parker Muras	Oct 19: Vincent Torkelson
Oct 6: Maliyah Picha	Oct 15: Peyton Muras	Oct 20: Elizabeth Marmann
Oct 10: Calvin Marmann	Oct 16: Baylor Doeppke	Oct 20: Aiden Mickelson
Oct 11: Oliver Titel	Oct 18: Layton Camp	Oct 21: Mason Brainard
Oct 15: McCoy Rodas	Oct 18: Everlee Koenig	

OCTOBER GOLDEN BIRTHDAYS

October 5: Linda Staff
 October 7: Celia Brown
 October 25: Barb Kalkwarf
 October 31: Marcine Nelson
 October 31: Verna Johanningmeier

OCTOBER GOLDEN ANNIVERSARYS

October 12: Marsha & Duane Gerleman



OFFICIAL ACTS IN SEPTEMBER

Baptism: September 6, 2026
 Lauren Aubrey Hasty
 Born: April 26, 2026 in Warrensburg, MO
 Parents: Chloe & Mason Hasty
 Sponsor: Chelbe Dunn, Wren Feuerhelm,
 Karter Marcum

The ELCA Youth Gathering will be held in Minneapolis, MN is June 28-July 2nd. All youth 8th grade through 12th grade are eligible to go. Please let Pastor Erika know you want to go by October 15th.

ST PAUL EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH DATA

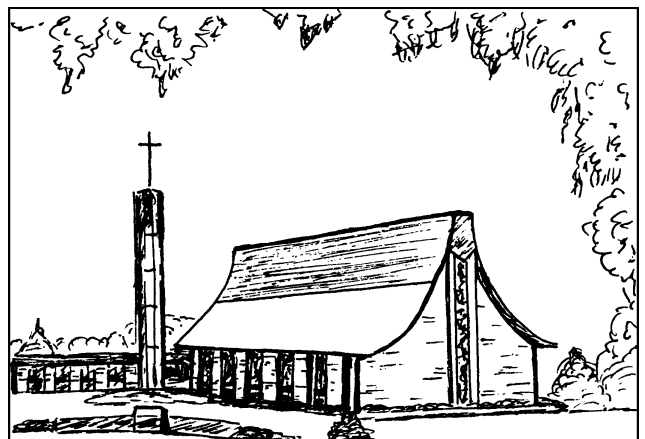
Total 420

Total Family Units 174

Average Sunday Attendance for 2024
 105 (In Person) 40 (Virtual)

Average Sunday Attendance for 2025
 105 (In Person) 50 (Virtual)

Average Attendance for 2026 through September 27
 93 (In Person) 47 (Virtual)



August Financials



***Giving	Cash/Check
August 2	\$1,251.00
August 9	\$2,171.00
August 16	\$11,828.00
August 23	\$1,263.18
August 30	\$2,005.00
ILM Memorial Fund	\$430.00
**Total Simply Giving for August	\$4,904.00

*** The chart above shows weekly income from the offering plate, money that has been sent in, Simply Giving, as well as fundraisers (Coffee Hour, Fall Dinner, etc.) which include: Current Fund Offering and Designated Funds (Mission Offering and Memorial Funds, such as the Boiler and Solar Funds).

** Simply Giving Donations are reported once a month due to posting issues at the beginning/end of month.

* The receipts below reflect money that is available for the operating budget AFTER deducting designated giving.

General Fund	August Actual	August Budget	August YTD Actual	August YTD Budget
*Receipts	\$11,851.00		\$124,902.35	
Disbursements	\$15,673.65	\$18,514.81	\$127,034.16	\$148,118.49

Can't make it to church in person?

Find our services on YouTube:
<https://www.youtube.com/@stpaulmononaia>

**Also, check out our Facebook Page
or website stpaulmononaia.org
to see what's happening at
St. Paul**

**Items to be included in the
November
St. Paul News need to be turned
into the office by Oct 20th**

St. Paul Parish Office Hours

Monday	9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Tuesday	9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday	9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Thursday	Closed (Pastor Erika available by appointment)
Friday	Closed

Outside of Office Hours, please feel free to leave a voicemail at the church phone number (539-2230) or leave a note in Pastor Erika or Ashley's mailbox located next to the library door.

October 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 8:00 am Vocal Choir Practice 9:00 am Worship/Eucharist 10:00 am Fellowship (EPIC) 10:15 am Sunday School 4 - 7 pm SOTH Hog Roast Pastor Erika gone to Fall	5 Theological Conf.	6 In Cedar Falls	7 9:15 am WELCA Bible Study 6:15 pm Confirmation	8	9	10
11 Jr. Bells 9:00 am Worship/Eucharist 10:00 am Fellowship 10:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Mission & Social Mtg 5:00 pm GEH 4-H	12	13 6:00 pm Education & Youth Mtg @ Center Street	14 5:00 pm Stewardship & Finance Mtg 6:00 pm Council Mtg	15	16	17
18 Noisy Can 8:40 am Men's Choir Practice 9:00 am Worship/Eucharist 10:00 am Fellowship (LL) 10:15 am Sunday School 5:30-8pm Troop 38 Eagle Scout	19	20	21 6:15 pm Confirmation 7:15 pm Stole Workshop	22 Doing Days	23 Doing Days	24 9:00 am Little Flock Fall Gathering @ Clermont
25 Reformation & Confirmation 8:00 am Bell Choir Practice 9:00 am Worship/Eucharist 10:00 am Fellowship 10:15 am Sunday School	26	27	28 6:15 pm Confirmation	29	30	31 <i>Halloween</i>

**St. Paul Evangelical
Lutheran Church**

401 South Egbert Street
P O Box 1968
Monona, IA 52159-0561

Phone: 563-539-2230
Email: stpaluth@neitel.net

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 6
MONONA, IOWA



DATE COUNCIL

October 4 9:00 am	Mike Rood Beth Foels
October 11 9:00 am	Tracy Decker Andrew Meyer
October 18 9:00 am	Craig Watson Beth Foels
October 25 9:00 am	Kevin Brainard Stephanie Larson Andrew Meyer

DATE USHERS

October 4 9:00 am	Celia Brown Crystal Thurn
October 11 9:00 am	Mark Birdnow June Birdnow
October 18 9:00 am	Deb Moose Amber Hendricks
October 25 9:00 am	Rein Kregel Mike Rood

OCTOBER SCHEDULES

Come & Worship

LECTORS

October 4: Melissa Haberichter
October 14: Diane Fisk
October 18: Crystal Thurn
October 25: Sara Wagner

ACOLYTES

Oct. 4 Kashton Decker
Gage Paulus
Kase Paulus
Oct. 11 Taylor Rasmussen
Nora Rasmussen
Veda Torkelson
Oct. 18 Blake Schutte
Jaxon Lamborn
Briella Schutte
Oct. 25 Kashton Decker
Blake Schutte
Jaxon Lamborn

ALTAR GUILD

Oct. 4	Lorna Jones
Oct. 11	Barb Kalkwarf
Oct. 18	Mary Ann Koehn
Oct. 25	Teresa Sass (Check Robes/Confirmation)

FLOWER ASSISTANTS

Oct. 4	Lois Garms
Oct. 11	Lorna Jones
Oct. 18	Beth Henkes
Oct. 25	Confirmation/Pam

FELLOWSHIP

Oct. 4	Garms
Oct. 11	Meyer/Camp
Oct. 18	Luther League
Oct. 25	Confirmation Fellowship/Evangelism