



# ST. PAUL NEWS

Monona, IA 52159

April 2026

Office 563-539-2230

Kitchen/School 563-539-2050

*Pastor:  
Erika Lenth*

*Parish Bookkeeper:  
Ashley Blietz-Camp*

*President:  
Kevin Brainard*

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## From Pastor Erika

Alleluia! Christ is Risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! We are through our 40 day journey of Lent to the cross and live in the hope of the resurrection, we live knowing that all who are in Christ are a new creation. I know I'm a little early but the majority of the month we will be in Easter ☺ We are given new life. The resurrection changes us, the resurrection means we don't have to look over our shoulder for what might be coming, the resurrection means that we are freed- freed to serve others, free to testify to the resurrection, free to stand up for what is right, knowing that we are made worthy, loved and forgiven by God in Jesus Christ. The resurrection is surprising, joyful and transformative. Every day we are made new in Jesus Christ, our sins are washed away.

Easter turns the world upside down. God through Jesus Christ proved that love is stronger than hate, goodness is stronger than evil, light is stronger than darkness, life is stronger than death. We are a resurrection people- hope filled people living in a Good Friday world. The world around us is filled with death, violence, disease, hate, brokenness. But God through Jesus Christ shows us love and compassion and gives us hope. In baptism we were washed in the water and given new life through Christ, and salvation forever. We are part of Christ's story, we are members of Christ's body- the church. Christ's story did not end with his resurrection but continues with us, the baptized, believers, witnesses, disciples of Christ.

In Easter, the alleluias come back, there is joy in the air. Does that mean we forget everything we went through in Lent, turning and repenting to God, giving something up to focus on our relationship with God? No, this is not business as usual, we are a changed people, resurrection changes us. In these 50 days of Easter, ponder and witness to how Jesus' resurrection has changed you. We live in the awe and wonderment of God who loves us more than we understand, loves us more than we deserve to give God's only Son to death to destroy the power that death has over us that we may live. Christ lives; he lives in each one of us and gives us the strength and peace to face the brokenness of the world.

In Christ's Peace,  
Pastor Erika

### Progressive Supper April 26th

The Mission and Social Ministry Committee is happy to offer the Progressive Supper again! The event is scheduled for Sunday, April 26th.

If you wish to attend or host a course, please sign up on the sheet in the Fellowship Hall!



## HOLY WEEK

Maundy Thursday 7:00 pm April 2  
 Good Friday 1:30 pm April 3

## EASTER APRIL 5

6:30 am Sunrise Service  
 Luther League Breakfast  
 9:00 am Easter Worship



## SUNDAY SCHOOL/HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

The Sunday School Students will have Easter Grass Gardens available by Easter Sunday. Free-will donations will go toward the parking lot fund.

Luther League will have Butter Lambs available on Easter Sunday to make your Easter Dinner table a little more festive. Free-will donation to support Luther League.

St. Paul's High School Youth will lead the 6:30 a.m. Easter Sunrise Service on April 5th, with Luther League Breakfast to follow.

## UPCOMING MAY EVENTS

### Cradle Roll Recognition & Nursery Room Graduation ~ May 3rd

Cradle Roll is all children from birth to the end of kindergarten who are baptized members of St. Paul and anyone attending Sunday School. New members and children baptized this year will be introduced. The graduates from the Nursery Department will wear caps and gowns. Parents, Grandparents, Family, Friends and Members of St. Paul are all invited to attend.

### Senior Recognition ~ May 10th

The following St. Paul Seniors will be honored:

***Brodyn Blietz, Hailey Bouzek, Jackson Foels, Clayton Henkes, Kyler Nuehring, Grace Palas, Brady Welsh***

St. Paul Lutheran has a long tradition of honoring our confirmed senior graduates at a worship service during the month of May. This year we will honor the graduates Sunday, May 10 at 9:00 am. A special gift created by the women of the congregation will be presented to them on behalf will be presented to them on behalf of all the members of St. Paul.

*These services will be livestreamed on our YouTube channel.*



## APRIL

### Mission Action:

Hand Towel

*\*Dark color recommended*

### Bible Study:

God's name, God's promise

Session two: God the protector: Gate and shepherd

### Focus Verses:

John 10:14-15

I am the good shepherd. I know my own, and my own know me, just as the Father knows me, and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep.

## APRIL CALENDAR

### April 1st

9:15 am Bible Study

### April 23rd & 24th

Doing Days

### April 25th

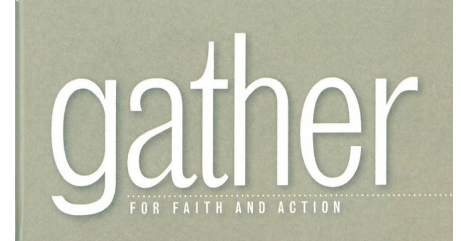
9am-noon WELCA Spring Gathering

St. Paul, Postville

### May 2nd

LWR Truck, Decorah

7:00-10:30 am



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.

## 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 collected 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 April is a Hand Towel ~ dark color recommended**

## WELCA Little Flock Cluster B Spring Gathering

Saturday, April 25th

St. Paul Lutheran Church, Postville

Registration is from 9:00– 9:30 am. Lunch will be served at a cost of \$10.00.

Please RSVP by April 10th. (Sharon Dean 563-380-4784)

**Guest Speaker:** “Vietnam After the War” Steve Saunders

**Bring in-kind donations for:** St. Paul Little Food Pantry and Postville Food Pantry (*nonperishable products*)

**Offering:** Make checks payable to Women of the NEIA Synod with “Cluster B” on memo line.

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
**St. Paul Lutheran Church**  
**Council Meeting March 10, 2026**

*(The March Minutes are printed but pending approval at the April 8th Council Meeting )*

**Present:** Stephanie Larson, Barb Horns, Craig Watson, Celia Brown, Kevin Brainard, Niki Palas, Justin Birdnow, Pastor Erika, Beth Foels, Crystal Thurn (for Treasurer's Report, left after)  
**Absent:** Mike Rood, Andy Meyer, Rein Kregel, Tracy Decker

Meeting called to order at 6:03pm by Kevin Brainard

Devotions led by Kevin Brainard. Next month is Justin Birdnow

Minutes from February meeting reviewed, motion to approve made by Justin, second by Barb. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's report** given by Crystal. February monthly offering \$13,035.95, expenses \$16,925.83. Expenses included worship supplies (gf wafers, prefilled communion cups, candles and holders, candle oil) \$748.33, Postage permit for SPN \$370, confirmation camp deposit \$500, and office supplies (paper, W2/1099 expenses, new router) \$313.70. Memorial fund brought in \$1549.21. No In Loving Memory. Expenses Included \$109.50 for Feb noisy can to MFLMM Caring Closet. It was reported that this expense is issued right away and has been very much appreciated. \$22.44 for stained glass window repair, \$500 for EPIC scholarship to Luther College for Addison Buchheit. \$24,461.75 was transferred into Current Fund Holdings on 3/2. It was also noted that a new vacuum was purchased but will be reflected in March's credit card statement. Pastor's mileage was reported and paid. Motion to approve by Stephanie, second by Niki. Motion carried.

**Correspondence:** Pastor Erika shared a letter from the Synod Office regarding the Mission Support Intent form that was sent in.

**Pastor's Report:** EWALU Annual Report was received and is posted. The Cedar Lodge is expected to be done in May. Mileage was from Jan to now. Pastor joined a Text Study with a few other Pastors from the area. They review the gospels, discuss any issues and have lunch. This is very much enjoyed. Garden View visits continue. Pastor and 3 other church members attended the Conference Assembly in Oelwein. Shepherd of the Hills fundraising was discussed. They brought in \$15,000 from the Annual Hog Roast, 311 backpacks were filled for Back to School, 466 children attended the Christmas for Kids. They are having a new event called A Formal Affair that will be held in Volga. The Bishop spoke at the assembly. Of note, 573 churches are currently looking for a pastor. Lenten services continue. Confirmation going well. MFLMM Speech plans for 36 individual events(!) at the State Competition this Saturday at Maquoketa Valley.

**Education and Youth:** Luther League is planning a fun time at Mabe's Pizza and Kingpin on March 22nd.

**Fellowship and Evangelism:** Niki is the chairperson. New member Sunday planned for April 19th with fellowship. Niki and Kristen plan to change table decor. Nursery graduation will be May 3rd. Senior Recognition will be May 10th.

**Mission and Social:** next meeting April 12th after worship

**Property and Grounds:** An area of cement was noticed to be uneven. This was just repaired recently. Kevin will reach out to the company that worked on this area.

**Stewardship and Finance:** Have not met

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## Council Minutes, continued . . .

**Worship and Music:** Meeting was last night. Plan to change Prayer of the Day (the first prayer) to everyone instead of just Pastor. Church will be very busy with Lent and Easter services.

**Interchurch Council:** Have not met. Pastor did mention that MFLMM Baccalaureate Service will be at St. Paul this year on May 13th.

**Old Business:** Auction is planned for Saturday March 21st. Will be planning to set up Thurs March 19th. Lunch will be served by Luther League. The bill of sale has been completed but more items will be added. Look for information on KCTN, The Outlook and social media. Taco Supper was well attended, more than last year. Brought in \$888

**New Business:** Discussion was held regarding applying for Mae Reusser Community Betterment Trust Grant to help with parking lot expense. Kevin reports we do qualify. He has completed the application and will turn in this week.

Next meeting will be Wednesday April 8th at 6:00pm

Craig motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:44pm, second by Justin, motion carried.  
Meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Beth Foels

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## NEW MEMBER RECEPTION

The Fellowship and Evangelism Committee will be holding a New Member Welcome Reception during Fellowship at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, April 19th to welcome our newest members of our church family. New members that have joined St. Paul since Fall 2024 include:

*Justin & Amanda Hansel, Bodyn & Sloan  
Betsy Hudson, Jace & Beau  
Lan & Brenda Kleinow  
Josie Doepcke  
Austin & Heather Schoulte & Iyla  
Logan & Tessa Domeyer*



# Shepherd of the Hills Ministries

## NEWSLETTER - APRIL 2026



Shepherd of the Hills will be hosting our annual Ascension Day service on May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026. The service will take place at Ceres Church (on Hwy 52 between Garnavillo and Guttenberg) @ 5:30 pm. After the service, there will be a potluck supper at St. Peter Lutheran Church in Garnavillo. Please bring meat, salad, dessert or snack to share.

We are looking for more volunteers in the thrift store. Our plan is to be open more Saturdays but we need more help to ensure this can happen. If you are interested, please reach out to Heather at 563-783-2409. A huge thank you to everyone for your continued support. We truly appreciate each and every one of you. Your kindness inspires me to do more.

### Clothing Center Updates:

*We have made some renovations in the thrift store. This update has given us more room and a bit more organized. As of April 1st, we will no longer accept winter clothing. The season switch over starts April 6th - 8th. We will be closed to the public during the switch over.*

*Please remember to check your donated items before you bring them here. All electrical items must be in good working condition. Clothing must be free of holes, stains and tares. (Unless they are factory distressed). All donations must be scheduled so we can ensure room for your donation. This also allows me to staff accordingly. Thank you for supporting our thrift store where most everything is only \$1.00*

### Shepherd Conference News:

There are so many wonderful things happening around in our conference churches. We would be happy to help advertise your events to create more community involvement. Please send me a poster or event details and I will help with social media.

\*\*\* I will not advertise unless I am directed to do so.

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:

**Ascension Day Service May 14<sup>th</sup> @ 5:30 pm**

**Dollar General Fundraiser for Back to School (TBA)**

**Back to School Event August 12<sup>th</sup> 9am-5pm**

**\*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](mailto:shephill@neitel.net)

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

### APRIL BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES

- |                    |                     |                      |
|--------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| 3 Cash Burke       | 12 Emery Paulus     | 22 Beckett Jones     |
| Miles Burke        | 15 Kinley Schulte   | 25 Tristan Foels     |
| 7 Harlow Martins   | 15 Avery Lamborn    | 28 Breklyn Schutte   |
| 8 Emilia Pendleton | 16 Riley Titel      | Reyna Lopez-Troester |
| 10 Beckett Andreae | 21 Bennet Torkelson |                      |



### APRIL BIRTHDAYS

April 18 Dick Niel

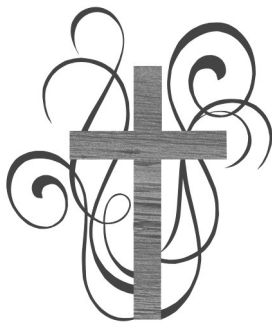
### OFFICIAL ACTS IN MARCH

#### Baptism

Mar. 8th: Codie Jade Snitker  
 DOB: 10/22/25  
 Parents: Jasmine & Carter Snitker  
 Sponsors: Ava Kishman,  
 Mason Kishman  
 Kaden Stocker  
 Khloe Schutte

### APRIL GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

April 3 Jim & Barb Fox



**Wedding:** March 28 Kyleigh & Landon Schultz

**Funeral: March 24, 2026**  
*Mary Ann Fuelling, Age 92*

### ST PAUL EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH DATA

Total 420

Total Family Units 174

Average Sunday Attendance for 2024

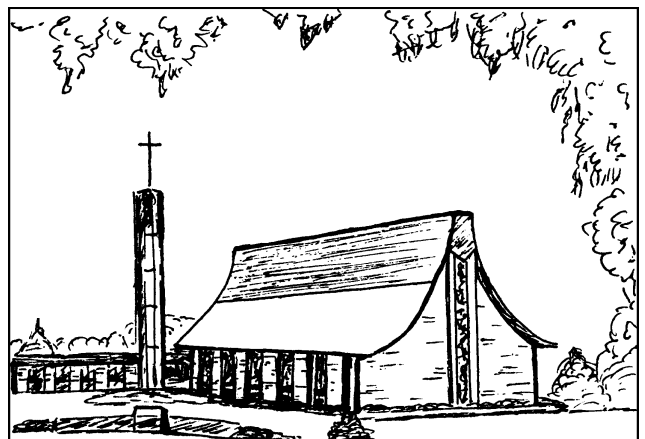
105 (In Person) 40 (Virtual)

Average Sunday Attendance for 2025

104 (In Person) 50 (Virtual)

Average Attendance for 2025 through March 22nd

93 (In Person) 77 (Virtual)



# February Financials



***Giving	Cash/Check
February 1	\$2,175.00
February 8	\$2,877.00
February 15	\$2,110.40
February 22	\$5,504.50
<b>**Total Simply Giving for February</b>	<b>\$3,934.00</b>

\*\*\* 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	February Actual	February Budget	February YTD Actual	February YTD Budget
*Receipts	\$13,035.95		\$37,300.59	
Disbursements	\$16,925.83	\$18,514.81	\$32,393.81	\$37,029.62

### 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](http://stpaulmononaia.org) to see what's happening at St. Paul**

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

### St. Paul Parish Office Hours

**Monday** 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.  
**Tuesday** 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. & 2-3:30 p.m.  
**Wednesday** 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.  
**Thursday** 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.  
**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.

*Would you like to receive the St. Paul News via email? Please let us know by emailing the church office [stpalth@neitel.net](mailto:stpalth@neitel.net)*

# APRIL 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 9:15 Bible Study	2 <i>Maunder Thurs.</i>	3 <i>Good Friday</i>	4
5 <i>Easter Sunday</i> 6:30 Sunrise Service Luther League Breakfast 9:00 Worship/Eucharist	6	7	8 6:00 Council	9 6:00 Vocal Choir 7:00 Worsh./Euch <i>1st Communion</i>	10	11
12 8am Bell Choir practice 9:00 Worship/Eucharist 10:00 Fellowship 10:15 Sunday School 5:00 Giard EH 4H	13	14	15 6:30pm Confirmation	16	17	18 Funeral for Carol Marting Visitation 12-1 Funeral 1pm
19 8:00 Choir practice 8:40 Men's Choir 9:00 Worship/Eucharist 10:00 New Member Fellowship 10:15 Sunday School 6:30 Troop 38	20	21	22 6:30pm Confirmation	23	24	25 Little Flock Spring Gath St. Paul, Postville
26 <i>Noisy Can</i> 8:00 Bell Choir 9:00 Worship/Eucharist 10:00 Fellowship 10:15 Sunday School 4:00 Progressive Supper	27	28	29 6:30pm Confirmation	30	Doing Days	Doing Days

**St. Paul Evangelical  
Lutheran Church**

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P O Box 1968  
Monona, IA 52159-0561

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

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

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



**COUNCIL**

April 2 Maundy Thurs	Kevin Brainard 2 Volunteers
April 3 Good Friday	Andy Meyer
April 5 Easter Sunday 6:30am	Celia Brown
April 5 Easter 9:00am	Andy Meyer Rein Kregel
April 12 9:00 am	Beth Foels Stephanie Larson
April 19 9:00am	Justin Birdnow Kevin Brainard
April 26 9:00 am	Kevin Brainard Niki Palas Volunteer

**FELLOWSHIP**

April 5	Luther League Breakfast
April 12	Andy & Heidi Meyer
April 19	New Member Fellowship
April 26	Fellowship / Evangelism

**APRIL SCHEDULES**

**LECTORS**

April 3	Diane Fisk
April 5	Lukas Friedlein
April 12	Crystal Thurn
April 19	Barb Kalkwarf
April 26	Randee Koenig

**ACOLYTES**

**April 5th Easter 9am**

Gage Paulus  
Briella Schutte  
Kase Paulus

**April 12th**

Evelyn Birdnow  
Kashton Decker  
Clayton Henkes

**April 19th**

Brodyn Blietz  
Jaxon Lamborn  
Kyler Nuehring

**April 26th**

Grace Palas  
Nora Rasmussen  
Taylor Rasmussen

**FLOWER ASSISTANTS**

April 5	Teresa Sass
April 12	Dyane Schutte
April 19	Lois Garms
April 26	Pam Malanaphy

**ALTAR GUILD**

April 2	Teresa Sass
April 5	Heidi Meyer set up Crystal Thurn clean up
April 12	Kris Christen
April 19	Lorna Jones
April 26	Barb Kalkwarf - Check Robes

**USHERS**

April 2	Lorna Jones & Linnette Langhus
April 3	Crystal Thurn & Barb Tieskoetter
April 5	Jim & Linette Langhus
April 12	Andy & Heidi Meyer
April 19	Kenny & Linda Staff
April 26	Celia Brown & Marsha Gerleman