



# ST. PAUL NEWS

Monona, IA 52159

June 2026

Office 563-539-2230

Kitchen/School 563-539-2050

*Pastor:  
Erika Lentz*

*Parish Bookkeeper:  
Ashley Blietz-Camp*

*President:  
Kevin Brainard*

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## From Pastor Erika

“School’s out for summer...” is a famous song that many students and teachers are now singing as they get a much deserved break. Many of us are not on summer break but we still do have a summer schedule. Summer is the time when many people go camping, go to the cabin, take vacations, visit family, and take in some baseball games, to name a few things.

Summer is a time when church attendance goes down because so many are traveling, working extra or doing summer activities. This summer I will be taking 5 confirmation students to Camp EWALU for a week and will help the Luther League work the Men’s Club food booth at the Clayton County Fair. I’m also planning to take the girls to the pool, the library for the Summer Reading program, go to the National Mississippi River Museum and visit with friends. God never leaves you, wherever you are God is there, so when you are away how do you worship and praise God? Do you worship at the church nearest you? Talk with God while you are fishing or driving? Maybe you sing songs around the campfire. I have some devotional suggestions: you can pick up a Christ in Our Home devotional book at church on the tables near the entrances; d365.org has a daily devotion of an opening thought, Scripture, reflection and prayer- it is also an app for iphones or ipads.

God is our rock, our constant who is with us no matter where we go. We worship God at the same time, 9am and will have a few outdoor worship services, there will also be a family game and movie night. No matter where we are we are still Church together because the God through the Holy Spirit has brought us to St. Paul Lutheran Church. We are the church together even when we are far apart and wherever we are God in Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit is there loving us, strengthening us and holding us. “The Lord said: I am going to send an angel in front of you, to guard you on the way and to bring you to the place that I have prepared.” (Exodus 23:20)

In Christ’s peace,  
Pastor Erika

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NURSERY ROOM GRADUATES!



During Worship on Sunday, May 3rd, ten students graduated from the Sunday School Nursery Room. Worship was followed by special Fellowship and the last day of Sunday School for the 2025-26 school year.

*Graduates: Haven Martins, Matthew Burns, Layton Camp, Dawson Bouzek, Skyler Engen, Harper Berns, Maxine Henkes, Grace Marmann, Carlie Donlon, Everlee Koenig Not pictured Porter Martins*

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2026 ST. PAUL GRADUATES!



**Graduate**

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

**Parents**

Ashley & Tyler Camp & the late Brent Blietz  
Sarah & Jamie Welsh  
Kilyn & Sarah Nuehring  
Daryl & Beth Henkes  
Beth & Karsten Foels  
Bill & Sheena Bouzek  
Garett & Nicole Palas  
Amber Jones & Ryan Hilgersen



## JUNE

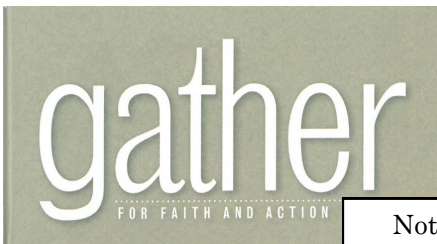
### Mission Action:

Toothbrush, adult size in package

### Bible Study:

Paul's Letters and Ours

Welcome to the spiritual practice of letter writing



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

## JUNE CALENDAR

### June 3rd

9:15 am Bible Study

### June 20

Synod Women's Organization-North East Iowa—  
Our Savior's Lutheran Mason City, IA

### July 16-19

Triennial Gathering Des Moines, IA "I am Worthy"  
To register & see schedule [welca.org](http://welca.org) by June 1

### Looking ahead: Wednesday, July 15

10:30am Bible Study & Salad Luncheon

## **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!

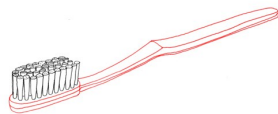
\*Place your gifts in the basket on the table in the entryway by the church office.

Watch the St. Paul News each month for the item.

### **June Item:**

Toothbrush

Adult size in package



## **Scholarships For EWALU**

*WELCA will donate \$40 to any St. Paul Sunday School student who would like to attend Summer Camp @ EWALU. If interested, contact the church office.*

## **WELCA QUILTS & KITS**

The many Quilts and Kits are on their way to Lutheran World Relief.

A lot of work went into sewing these quilts and kits!

Totals are: 106 Quilts,  
and 12 Baby Care Kits.

Thanks to Jim & Linette Langhus who loaded and took the packed boxes to Decorah on May 2nd to meet the LWR Semi, and to all who donated fabric for quilts & supplies for kits.

## **FABRIC DONATIONS NEEDED**

Are you downsizing or cleaning out a house?

Doing Days Ladies can use:

- leftover material from projects or Unfinished Projects
- Bed Sheets FLAT & FITTED ; SIZE: TWIN—KING (can be used for backs or inside of quilts)

**Items can be left @ St. Paul by the folding door in back of Fellowship Hall**

Our monthly Mission Action Items go to making Personal, Sewing, School and Baby Care Kits

Arleta Henkes 539-4439 for questions

## REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

St. Paul Lutheran Church

Council Meeting May 11, 2026

*(The May Minutes are printed but pending approval at the June 10th Council Meeting )*

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

**Absent:** Andy Meyer, Rein Kregel

Meeting called to order at 6:01pm by Kevin Brainard

Devotions led by Celia Brown, Next month Andy Meyer

Minutes from April meeting reviewed, motion to approve by Niki, second by Mike. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** given by Crystal. April monthly offering \$21,555.80. April expenses \$14,873.72 which give a surplus of \$6805.08. April expenses include worship/altar supplies of \$90.78 for communion supplies, \$147.66 for new automatic paper towel dispensers and \$42.52 for office supplies. These will all be reflected in the May credit card payment. Memorial Fund for April brought in \$30,869.70 with \$20,737.00 of that being In Loving Memory memorials along with \$748 for Easter grass and \$6689.50 from the church auction. Expense from the Memorial Fund was \$105.43 to the MFLMM Caring Closet for April's Noisy Can offering. Noted upcoming expenses include renewal of Church Mutual insurance policy on June 11th. Our premium will increase 8.4% to \$15,889 for the year, approximately \$1,324.92 a month. Our Worker's Compensation premium will be increasing 17% to \$1411 for the year. It is unknown if our umbrella policy premium will be changing. Kevin also mentioned that the parking lot fund is currently at \$57,125 which is fantastic. It was mentioned that perhaps we should discuss using holding fund money to cover the remainder at some point. This may be discussed later if needed. Motion to approve Treasurer's Report was made by Craig, second by Barb. Motion carried.

**Pastor's Mileage:** Pastor reported 302 miles for a total of \$217.44. Motion to approve by Tracy, second by Justin, motion carried.

**Correspondence:** None

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor reported going to Waverly and to the Synod office twice this month. First for the Day of Renewal where time was spent for study and worship at Redeemer Lutheran. There was a presentation about a program with the Methodist church called Fresh Expressions. The second trip was for training for Behavioral Impaired Clergy, it was a good reminder that even clergy struggle with alcoholism and mental health issues at times. Pastor reported it was time well spent learning ways to talk and help manage these peers. There were two funerals this month - Carol Marting and Dave Kalkwarf. Also a burial for Betty Breitsprecher who had a Celebration of Life earlier this year. She reports Cradle Roll and Graduation Recognition Sundays went very well, lots of extra families present. Pastor also participated in the MFLMM Awards/Scholarship Program recently, presenting scholarships to St. Paul's seniors and also Speech cords. Planning for MFLMM Baccalaureate service Wednesday May 13th at 7pm at St. Paul's. The office copier was having issues recently, the tech came and it seems to be better.

**Education and Youth:** Next meeting in July, recently provided fellowship for Cradle Roll

**Fellowship and Evangelism:** Provided fellowship for Graduation Recognition, reports having just enough cake for everyone

**Mission and Social:** Progressive Supper was in April and was well attended. Everyone enjoys the bus ride to the meal locations. A comment was also made that it was wonderful to start and end at the church. Next event will be the Movie Night, will have a meeting sometime prior.

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## Council Minutes, continued . . .

**Property and Grounds:** Parsonage landscaping is coming along, compost was done and hostas and lilies were planted. Still working on making sure the concrete in the church parking lot stays level.

**Stewardship and Finance:** Next meeting in July

**Worship and Music:** Next meeting May 12th

**Interchurch Council:** St. Paul's managed the Goodwill truck last Saturday. There were many things going on that morning so Thank You to those who helped. MFLMM Baccalaureate Wednesday May 13th at St. Paul's.

**Old Business:** Church signage, will follow up with Andy. Kevin reported that St. Paul's was not selected for the Mae Reusser Community Betterment Trust Grant, they felt that the parking lot was more of a maintenance project.

**New Business:** Discussion was held about moving some money from our Holding Fund into a short term CD. There is approximately \$50,000 in the holding fund right now. FreedomBank 90 day CD rate per their website is 3.5%. Motion was made by Justin to move \$40,000 from Holding Fund into a 90 day CD at Freedom Bank, second by Tracy. Motion carried.

Next meeting will be Wednesday June 10th at 6pm

Motion to adjourn meeting at 6:41pm by Craig, second by Niki. Motion carried.

Meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted by Beth Foels

## Interchurch Council VBS

VBS will be held Friday, June 12th at St. John Lutheran Church in Farmersburg 8:30am-3:30pm. All children are welcome! Registration forms are available at church or there's a link on our Facebook page.

**JONAH'S JOURNEY**  
A One-Day VBS Adventure!

EXPLORE THE STORIES OF JONAH, NOAH'S ARK, AND THE DEPTH OF GOD'S LOVE FOR YOU.

**ALL KIDS WELCOME**

**FRIDAY, JUNE 12<sup>TH</sup> 2026**  
8:30 AM TO 3:30 PM

**ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH, FARMERSBURG**  
LUNCH & SNACK PROVIDED

**COST: \$10.00 PER KID, \$20.00 PER FAMILY**

Sponsored by the Interchurch Council  
Contact Pastor Jeremy Wolfe at [pastorjeremywolfe@gmail.com](mailto:pastorjeremywolfe@gmail.com) or 563.258.2936

# Shepherd of the Hills Ministries

## NEWSLETTER – JUNE 2026



*Our Back to School event is planned for August 12 th . Referrals are required to participate. We need your help in getting the necessary items to make this a success. Character backpacks are always a great way to support us. The young children enjoy selecting their favorite bag and it provides a sense of excitement for school to start. Most common donated items are: colored pencils, pencils, pens, crayons, blunt scissors, pencil pouches, permanent markers, glue sticks, composition tablets (wide and college) ruled spiral notebooks (wide and college), ruled notebooks (wide and college), loose leaf paper (college and wide), pocket folders, Kleenex and big pink erasers. Needed items low on inventory are: classic broad colored markers(washable), thin markers, dry erase markers, pointed tip scissors, pencil boxes, 1 inch binders, highlighters and index cards. If you would rather donate money, that works too. I can order things in bulk with the funds raised. We are planning on 300 children this year to participate. Thank you for always thinking of our youth in need especially when it comes to their education.*

### **Clothing Center Updates:**

*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 contact SOTH. We are accepting spring and summer season items currently. Garage sales are happening all the time, so an appointment is best for large donations. Appointments are necessary so we can control the flow and have the ability to staff accordingly. Follow us on Facebook for all half off announcements/dates. We will also announce the sales on KCTN. As always, most of our items are only \$1.00 each unless it is on sale then it's 50 cents.*

### **Shepherd Conference News:**

Don't forget the Northeast Iowa Synod's C3 event is June 6th from 9am-3pm at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Waverly, Iowa. Registration is required and will cost \$50 per person. Lunch is provided

and can be selected at the time of registering.

Ordination anniversaries this month are; Pastor Erika Lenth (6/1/2013) St. Paul Lutheran in Monona and Pastor Ron Roberts (6/23/1996) East Clermont, Clermont. Congratulations!

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:**

**Dollar General Fundraiser for  
Back to  
School August 1 9am-**

**Back to School Event  
August 12 th 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

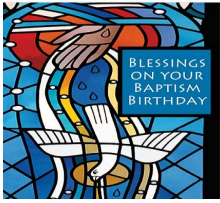
**Telephone: 563-783-2409**

Fax: 563-783-2428

E-mail: [shephill@neitel.net](mailto:shephill@neitel.net)

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

### JUNE BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES



- |                     |                      |                     |
|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Atticus Kwilinski | 16 Camden Lamborn    | 23 Theodore Tayek   |
| Miles Hertrampf     | 18 Rayanne Marmann   | 26 Harper Berns     |
| 2 Oliver Torkelson  | 19 Lacey Wachter     | Landry Rodas        |
| 8 Jenna Wolff       | 20 Payton Schultz    | 30 Maelyn Rosenbaum |
| 9 Caysen Schoulte   | Evelyn Birdnow       | Oakland Sauer       |
| Knox Martins        | 21 Quentin Torkelson |                     |

### JUNE GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES:

- June 15 David & Delpha Trappe
- June 16 Wayne & Lois Garms
- June 22 Kenny & Linda Staff
- June 23 Rich & Teresa Sass
- June 29 Larry & Diane Geisler

### JUNE GOLDEN BIRTHDAYS

- June 10 Pat Niel
- June 19 Ralph Bacon
- June 24 Celia Brown

### OFFICIAL ACTS IN MAY

**Funeral:** May 9, 2026  
*Dave Orville Kalkwarf, Age 77*

#### Baptism

May 24th: **Vince William Martins**  
 DOB: 2/24/2026  
 Parents: Drew & Whitney Martins  
 Sponsors: Cody & Becky Schlueter

**Funeral:** May 27, 2026  
*Bradley Dean Christianson, Age 71*

### ST PAUL EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH DATA

Total 420  
 Total Family Units 174

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

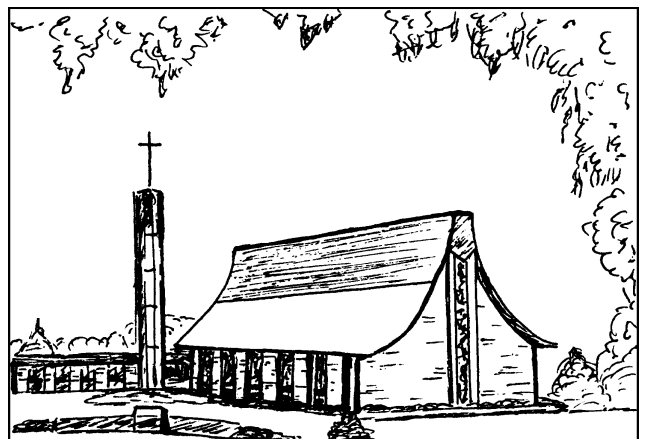
Average Sunday Attendance for 2025  
 104 (In Person) 50 (Virtual)

Average Attendance for 2026 through May 24th  
 105 (In Person) 51 (Virtual)

### SUMMER OUTDOOR WORSHIP

Bring a lawn chair and join us for  
 Worship Service on the  
 church lawn.

- June 21st**
- July 19th**
- August 16th**
- September 6th**



# April Financials



***Giving	Cash/Check
April 5	\$6,987.85
April 12	\$14,164.50
April 19	\$4,825.00
April 26	\$2,253.98
ILM Memorials	\$20,737.00
<b>**Total Simply Giving for April</b>	<b>\$3,979.00</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	April Actual	April Budget	April YTD Actual	April YTD Budget
*Receipts	\$21,678.80		\$73,322.28	
Disbursements	\$14,873.72	\$18,514.82	\$63,373.43	\$74,059.28

### 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 July St. Paul News need to be turned into the office by July 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  
**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.

# JUNE 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 9:15 WELCA Bible Study	4	5	6 C3 Event at St Paul's in Waverly
7 9:00 Worship/ Eucharist	8	9	10 6:00 Council	11	12	13 Monona Hay Days
14 <i>Father's Day</i> 9:00 Worship/ Eucharist 5:00 Giard Eager Hands 4H	15	16	17	18	19	20 SWO NEIA Our Savior's Mason City
21 <i>Outdoor Worship</i> 9:00 Worship/ Eucharist <i>*Outdoor, weather permitting</i>	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 <i>Noisy Can</i> 9:00 Worship/Eucharist	29 6:00 pm Inter-Church Council St Patrick's Monona	30				

**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

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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



**COUNCIL**

June 7 Sunday 9:00 am	Niki Palas Beth Foels
June 14 Sunday 9:00 am	Craig Watson
June 21 ( <i>Outdoor</i> ) Sunday 9:00 am	Justin Birdnow Kevin Brainard
June 28 Sunday 9:00 am	Mike Rood Andy Meyer Stephanie Larson

**USHERS**

June 7	Celia Brown & Crystal Thurn
June 14	Lindsay Krambeer & Bailey Engen
June 21	Outdoor Worship
June 28	Amber Hendricks & Deb Moose

**JUNE SCHEDULES**

**Come & Worship**

**ACOLYTES**

June 7:	Kashton Decker Evelyn Birdnow
June 14:	Brodyn Blietz Grace Palas
June 21: <i>Outdoor</i>	Briella Schutte
June 28:	Jaxon Lamborn Veda Torkelson

**FLOWER ASSISTANTS**

June 7	Pam Malanaphy
June 14	Lorna Jones
June 21	Beth Henkes ( <i>Outdoor</i> )
June 28	Teresa Sass

**ALTAR GUILD**

June 7	Kris Christen
June 14	Lorna Jones
June 21	Barb Kalkwarf
June 28	Heidi Meyer-check robes

**LECTORS**

June 7	Randee Koenig
June 14	Lukas Friedlein
June 21	Mary Ann Koehn
June 28	Rein Kregel