



ST. PAUL NEWS

Monona, IA 52159

September 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

It is hard to believe that it is September already- it is my favorite month: it's my birthday month, the weather starts changing, kids are back in school, confirmation starts, Sunday School starts and this year I'm adding something new- dance class for Elsie. September reminds us of all the change that happens and that life keep moving forward even if sometimes we wish it would just slow down. Our lives change, our church building changes, our country changes but we can always count on God's love *never* changing. "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, God's mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness" Lamentations 3:22-23. Bob Dylan wrote a song in 1963 called "Times They are a Changin'" about the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s and that song I believe can still be applied today- times are changing, people are changing, technology is changing and sometimes it feels like we can't keep up with it all but we can go back to this Lamentations verse and be grounded in the steadfast love of God who is the rock of our salvation. As we watch the leaves change color and fall to the ground and the crops turn colors and be harvested we know that is how the world works, change happens – sometimes it is beautiful and needed and sometimes it is hard but God in Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit walks with us through all of it.

In Christ's Peace,
Pastor Erika



LUTHER LEAGUE ICE CREAM SOCIAL
ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH, MONONA
September 20th, 4:30-7:00 p.m.

Dine In or Carry Out

Join us for an Ice Cream Social served by our
Luther League!

**MENU: Sloppy Joes, Ham Sandwiches, Sides and
Desserts with Ice Cream!**

Free Will Donation

RALLY DAY / GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS SUNDAY

Rally Day, the official beginning of Sunday School, is September 13, 2026. We will begin our Sunday School year with service to our neighbors and community by joining in the ELCA, "God's Work, Our Hands" day of service. We will be doing projects after worship during our normal Sunday School time from 10:15—11:15 a.m. The congregation will also have other projects underway that morning. We hope that everyone will get involved. There is no age limit - this is an intergenerational day. Please wear your yellow ELCA or St. Paul T- Shirt if you have one. Following the service, Members, Sunday School Students and Teachers will depart to our project areas and then meet back at church for a potluck.

Sunday School Staff

Superintendent:	Heidi Meyer	5th & 6th Grade :	Denise Schutte
Nursery Dept. 3 PS:	Kristen Zabel	7th & 8th Grade :	Rein Kregel
Nursery Dept. 4 PS:	Bailey Engen	Music:	Judy Walter
Nursery Dept. K:	Jonna Schutte	Helpers:	Hannah Friedlein
1st Grade:	Jessica & Connor Soenksen		Briella Schutte
2nd Grade:	Samantha Wagner		Natalie Kregel
3rd & 4th Grade:	Diane Fisk & Abby Burns		Julie Wolff

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2026 3RD & 4TH GRADE BIBLE RECIPIENTS!

On September 20th, as part of an ongoing tradition at St. Paul, the members of the 3rd & 4th Grade Sunday School Class will be presented their own New Revised Standard Version Bible (NRSVue) as a gift from the congregation. Students and their parents are asked to come to the altar rail where Parents fulfill the promise to "place in their child's hands the Holy Scriptures."

The following is a list of our 3rd & 4th graders & their parents:

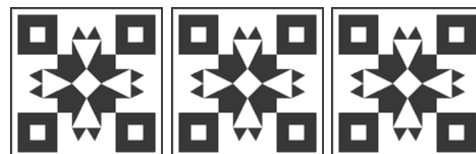
STUDENTS

Maddie Burns
Mitchell Burns
Quebella Cahoon
Bryce Camp
Chandler Donlon
Sloan Hansel
Ava Hendricks
Beau Hudson
Beckett Jones
Aria Koenig
Addyson Kregel
Weston Kregel
Joseph Meyer
Ryleigh Palas
Emilia Pendleton
Amalia Schlueter
Brayton Schutte
Andrew Torkelson
Waverly Wagner

PARENTS

Zach & Abby Burns
Zach & Abby Burns
Matt & Alisha Cahoon
Tyler & Ashley Camp
Cory & Kristi Donlon
Justin & Amanda Hansel
Steve & Amber Hendricks
Betsy Hudson
Adam & Cydney Jones
Eric & Randee Koenig
Wade & Katie Kregel
Cole & Macey Kregel
Andy & Heidi Meyer
Garett & Nicole Palas
Jay & Michelle Pendleton
Cody & Becky Schlueter
Lance & Jonna Schutte
Nicholas & Cynthia Torkelson
Randy & Samantha Wagner





SEPTEMBER

Mission Action:

Personal Care Items
Shampoo or Deodorant, etc.

Bible Study:

Session 3: I am Worthy because you are.

Focus Verse: I Corinthians 12:12
For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.

Shepherd of the Hills Hog Roast

Sunday, Oct. 4th 4-7
St. Olaf Auditorium.

2 pies and 1 large pan of bars or a cake in disposable pans are needed.

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

Wednesday, September 2

9:15 am WELCA Bible Study

Sunday, September 13th

9:00 am Worship followed by service projects. In the fellowship hall there will be quilts to sew or tie and Kits to assemble.

Saturday, September 19

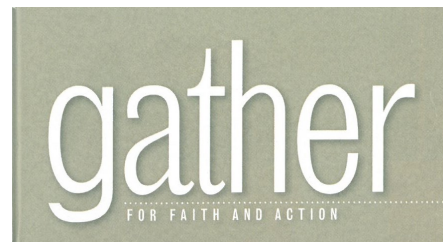
Sugar Creek Auction & Fall Festival

EWALU Fall Festival Sept. 19

Fall Festival & Quilt Auction

Thurs & Fri, Sept 24 & 25

Doing Days



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.

WELCA NEWS & NOTES

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

Sept. 19~Sugar Creek Quilt Auction & 60th Anniversary Weekend

Quilt Auction (10 a.m.-1pm), Country Store, Silent Auction baskets, Pony Rides, Crafts, Yard Games & more! Lunch will be available for purchase and will feature BBQ and fresh pies!

Sept. 19 ~EWALU Fall Festival & Quilt Auction

Online Auction: Begins Sept. 14th - Sept. 20th

Live Auction @ EWALU: Saturday, Sept. 19

Join us for live music, a worship service, and more than 300 quilts and quality hand-crafted items displayed for review. A free-will lunch is served at noon, and the live auction starts at 1:00 p.m. It is a day to celebrate and support the incredible ministry that occurs at Camp EWALU!

SEPTEMBER 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!

September Item
Personal Care
Items: Shampoo,
Deodorant etc.



REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
St. Paul Lutheran Church
Council Meeting August 12, 2026

(The August Minutes are printed but pending approval at the September 9th Council Meeting)

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

Absent: Tracy Decker, Craig Watson

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

Devotions led by Barb Horns. Next month Rein Kregel

Minutes from July meeting reviewed, motion to approve by Mike, second by Barb. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: given by Crystal. July monthly offering \$12,487.00. July expenses \$14,316.74, which leaves a deficit of \$1,829.74. July expenses include extra postage purchased prior to increased price and repair to parsonage AC by Kurt's Plumbing and Heating for \$98.44. Memorial Fund for July brought in \$1476.08. Expenses from the Memorial Fund included \$82.69 to the MFLMM Caring Closet for July's Noisy Can, \$156.00 for stamps for the Nursery Dept and \$1000.00 principal payment to the solar loan. Upcoming expenses for August include worship/altar communion supplies, bibles for 3rd/4th graders and candle oil. Motion to approve Treasurer's Report was made by Andy and second by Niki, motion carried.

Pastor's Mileage: Pastor reported 490 miles for a total of \$372.40. Motion to approve mileage by Justin and second from Stephanie, motion carried.

Correspondence: Crystal reported receiving a letter from Casey Evanson regarding Noisy Can offering to MFLMM Caring Closet. She gave a list of items that ended up being purchased with the funds and was very appreciative. The letter will be printed in the newsletter next month.

Pastor's Report: Pastor reported the IRS made a mid-year adjustment in mileage reimbursement. It went from 72 cents to 76 cents. This was reflected in mileage for July. A large amount of time was spent at EWALU for July. Pastor participated in the counselor mentoring program for 5 weeks, this gave the counselors an opportunity to discuss anything and everything with someone outside of camp. The program was well received by everyone. Pastor took 5 students to Confirmation Camp, they had great weather (for the most part) and had a fantastic time. Clayton County Fair was last week, Luther League helped at the MFL Men's Club food stand. Pastor reported on the Moses Project that she has been involved in. She spent a few days in Des Moines for this program. The Moses Project is funded through a grant from Grandview University and focuses on rural Pastors and the different challenges they face. The program continues in January and May of next year. Sunday School enrollment forms will now be emailed via a Google doc, this will save on stamps.

Education and Youth: Met July 14th, gearing up for the start of Sunday School. Bibles were ordered. Teacher meeting is Aug 17th, with next committee meeting Oct 13th.

Fellowship and Evangelism: Next meeting Aug 30th. Will review Fellowship schedule. It was announced during worship that there will be a sign up sheet for those willing to help serve fellowship as Luther League is scaling back. It was also mentioned that there is opportunity to make/bring food items without being there to serve.

Mission and Social: Movie Night was July 26th, attendance was okay.

Property and Grounds: Parking lot work has been started and plans to continue and be completed in the next few weeks (weather permitting). Discussion was held on the kneelers attached to the pews in the sanctuary. They are difficult to clean, not used enough, and can cause injury and distraction. Motion was made

Council Minutes, continued . . .

to remove kneelers from all pews by Justin, second by Celia, motion carried. The 3 month CD that was started is up now. This was a \$40,000 CD now worth over \$40,300. Motion made by Niki to transfer this money from the CD into the Memorial Fund and use to pay for parking lot expense, second by Stephanie. Motion carried.

Stewardship and Finance: No report

Worship and Music: Met July 14th. Two more outdoor services this summer. Upcoming special events include Blessing of the Backpacks, Bibles for 3rd/4th grade (due to class being combined), a Baptism and Sunday School starting.

Interchurch Council: no report

Old Business: Discussion on church signage on edges of town. Crystal and Andy will get this completed very soon.

New Business: none

Next meeting will be Wednesday Sept 9th at 6pm

Motion to adjourn meeting at 6:39pm by Mike, second by Andy. Motion carried and meeting adjourned.

Meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted by Beth Foels

Thank You From the Caring Closet

Hi, St. Paul Lutheran Church! I wanted to touch base and let you know that the contributions are much appreciated! They have helped supply a few meals for a student whose family couldn't afford food; a young man who needed winter clothes and new shoes and underwear; a young girl who was going through puberty and her family couldn't afford feminine care items, underwear and training bras and has helped purchase deodorant and body wash for students in elementary, middle and high school.

Thank you,

Casey Evanson

FALL-DER-ALL 2026

Sept 26 & 27 AT FROELICH, IOWA



Saturday 9:00am—5:00pm

SATURDAY: Froelich Tractor Ride

~ Sign in Begins at 9:00am ~

Ride starts at 9:30am from Froelich and will return around 12:30pm

FOOD served SATURDAY in the Barn:
Pork loin sandwiches, Turkey-dressing sandwiches,
Beans, Chips, and Hot dogs, Pies & Ice-cream

★ FREE FUN KIDS ACTIVITIES ALL WEEKEND !!
Bouncy House, Corn Dig, Barrel Rides, Mini Semis & Jeep, games and many other fun activities !!!!!

★ Threshing Plowing Tilling
★ Dislays both days approx 1:30pm

Step back in time and enjoy demonstrations from days gone by of: Blacksmithing, Hit & Miss Engines, Rope Making & Monona Wood Carvers, Kerr's mini steam engine, FROELICH TRACTOR & Cowell Semis & Jeep Lil' Oil Pull, Apple Cider Press, Farmers Market Goods, Kids Barrel Rides, Train History, A full Lineup of Tractors on Saturday Kids Fun Activities And Many VENDORS Demonstrations vary each year & subject to Change

MANY VENDORS & Farmer's Market Goods

Froelich Foundation & Museum
24397 Froelich Rd, (Froelich) McGregor, Iowa
ZIP: 52157 Located 4 miles east of Monona
On Hwy 18 & 52 or
11 miles west of PrairieduChien on Hwy 18
www.froelichtractor.com
Museum: #563-536-2841 Denise#563-880-1525 cell
Email: froelichtractor1892@yahoo.com
Find Us on Facebook: "Froelich Foundation"

Sunday 8am—3:30pm

BREAKFAST IN THE BARN ★

SUNDAY: SERVING FROM 8 AM—1 PM:
Pancakes & Sausage, Scrambled Eggs,
Applesauce & Beverage,
Maple Syrup by Froelich Sugar Bush ★

SUNDAY 12:30pm KIDS PEDAL PULL
(Please sign-in prior/non-sanctioned just for fun)

TOUR FROELICH'S 1890s VILLAGE MUSEUM
Museum open: SAT 9:30-5pm/SUN 9-3:00pm
1891 General Store & Post Office,
Froelich Tractor Replicas, Freight Warehouse,
Educational DVD, Blacksmith Shop,
Railroad Depot, Cowell Semi Building,
1903 Barn and One Room School



BIG RAFFLE DRAWING: Sunday 3pm
John Deere Pedal Tractor
by Bodensteiner Implement
★ Cash Prizes \$200, \$100, \$50.
Freedom Bank & Luana Savings Bank,
Meyer's Auto Service, Vorwald Enterprises,
and Sincerely Yours by Kay
And other sponsors yet to be designated.
Many other prizes
donated by many local Businesses ★
Need not be present to win.

Shepherd of the Hills Ministries

NEWSLETTER – SEPTEMBER 2026



Thank you all for supporting our Back to School event. We packed school bags for 132 families/328 children. This number may go up as we still are packing bags.

I had amazing volunteers that did a terrific job. I could not do any of this without them. 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.

If you would like to donate a quilt for our Annual Hog Roast Silent Auction, please have them delivered to the office by September 11th .

Clothing Center Updates:

We had a lot of items go out the day of our backpack give away. Many families in need were able to find clothing for their children to go back to school. Some of you are probably wondering if we are seeing an influx of families from Postville. We are! We are happy to help families in need as long as we have a referral. It is a tough time for all of us and that is why we have the best prices around....most everything is \$1.00 for each item.

We will be transitioning to fall/winter in September so if you are wanting some summer clothes, now is the time to shop.

Shepherd Conference News:

If you would like to help families that were affected by the fire in Postville at Agri Star Meat Packing Plant, here is some basic needs... diapers size 6-7, baby wipes, hygiene products, laundry and dish soap. Monetary donations are also accepted and will be used to help pay for utilities and rent. Drop off location is St. Paul Lutheran Church in Postville. For more information call (563) 864-7643

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 4pm-7pm

Christmas for Kids

December 16th -17th

***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**

SEPTEMBER BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES

Sept 1	Barron Ferguson	Sept 21	Blake Schutte
Sept 2	Tyson Wagner		Braxton Schoulte
Sept 4	Layne Snitker	Sept 22	Callan Donlon
Sept 8	Kolson Snitker	Sept 27	Brooklynn Bissell
Sept 19	Garrett Zabel		Maxine Henkes

SEPTEMBER GOLDEN BIRTHDAYS

September 4: Shirley Seitz
 September 15: Mary Jo Sexton
 September 29: Arleta Henkes

SEPTEMBER GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

September 12: Dick & Pat Niel



OFFICIAL ACTS IN AUGUST



Help Us 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!

Baptism: Aug. 30: Gracie Mae Domeyer
 Parents: Logan & Tessa Domeyer
 Sponsors: Savannah Zarr
 Vincent Reynolds

ST PAUL EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH DATA

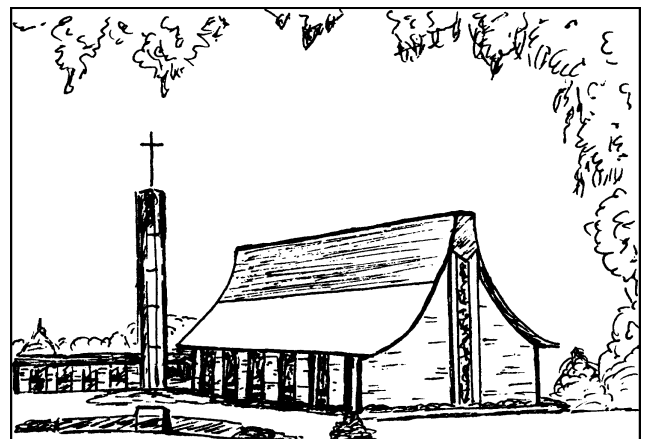
Total 420

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 August 23
 94 (In Person) 47 (Virtual)



July Financials



***Giving	Cash/Check
July 5	\$1,164.00
July 12	\$2,082.00
July 19	\$2,531.00
July 26	\$4,056.69
ILM Memorial Fund	\$0.00
**Total Simply Giving for July	\$4,305.00

*** 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	July Actual	July Budget	July YTD Actual	July YTD Budget
*Receipts	\$12,487.00		\$11,051.35	
Disbursements	\$14,316.74	\$18,514.81	\$111,360.51	\$129,603.68

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 Oct. St. Paul News need to be turned into the office by Sept. 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.

SEPTEMBER 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 9:15 WELCA Bible Study	3	4	5
6 9:00 Worship/ Eucharist *Outdoor, weather permitting Baptism	7 Labor Day Office Closed	8 6:15 Worship & Music	9 6:00 Council	10	11	12
13 Rally Day 9:00 Worship/ Eucharist 10:15 Sunday School/Rally Day Projects 11:15 Potluck	14	15	16 6:15 Confirmation	17	18	19 EWALU Fall Festival Sugar Creek Quilt Day
20 8:40 Men's Choir Practice 9:00 Worship/ Eucharist 3rd & 4th Grade Bibles Head Acolyte Installation 10:00 Fellowship 10:15 Sunday School 4:30-7:00 LL Ice Cream Social	21	22	23 6:15 Confirmation	24 Doing Days	25 Doing Days	26 Goodwill Truck
27 Noisy Can 8:00 Bell Choir Practice Head Acolyte Installation 9:00 Worship/Eucharist 10:00 Fellowship 10:15 Sunday School Acolyte Training	28	29	30 6:15 Confirmation			

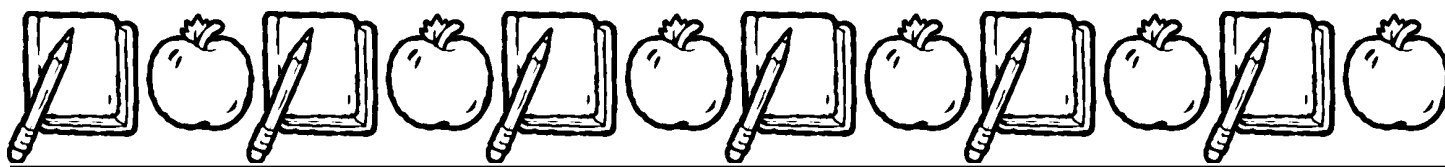
**St. Paul Evangelical
Lutheran Church**

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

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

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



COUNCIL

September 6 (*Outdoor*) Andy Meyer
Sunday 9:00 am Mike Rood

Sept. 13 Celia Brown
Sunday 9:00 am Niki Palas

Sept. 20 Beth Foels
Sunday 9:00 am Justin Birdnow

September 27 Rein Kregel
Sunday 9:00 am Stephanie Larson
Mike Rood

SEPTEMBER SCHEDULES

Come & Worship

LECTORS

Sept. 6 Rein Kregel
Sept. 13 Lukas Friedlein
Sept. 20 Mary Ann Koehn
Sept. 27 Justin Birdnow

ACOLYTES

Not available at time of printing

FLOWER ASSISTANTS

Sept. 6 Outdoor Worship
Sept. 13 Beth Henkes
Sept. 20 Teresa Sass
Sept. 27 Dyane Schutte

ALTAR GUILD

Sept. 6 Heidi Meyer
Sept. 13 Teresa Sass
Sept. 20 Kris Christen
Sept. 27 Crystal Thurn
*check robes

USHERS

Sept. 6 Outdoor Worship
Sept. 13 Dan Miller
Donna Miller
Sept. 20 Celia Brown
Crystal Thurn
Sept. 27 Brad Kiesau
Volunteer

FELLOWSHIP

Sept. 13 Rally Day Potluck
Sept. 20
Sept. 27 Wayne & Lois Garms