



ST. PAUL NEWS

Monona, IA 52159

OCTOBER 2025

Office 563-539-2230

Kitchen/School 563-539-2050

*Pastor:
Erika Lenth*

*Parish Administrator:
Danielle Friedlein*

*President:
Crystal Thurn*

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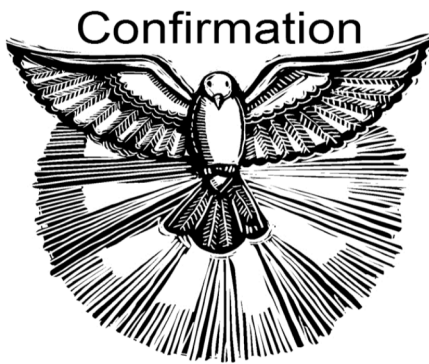
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From Pastor Erika

What are your fears? What are you most afraid of? It's a fitting question with Halloween at the end of the month. I was watching a Halloween show with my daughters and Elsie said she was afraid the witches were going to get her, we talked how Mom and Dad are here and witches aren't real but for her at this time it's a real fear. Halloween is the time of the year where we intentionally scare ourselves and each other with spooky pumpkins, witches, masks and of course haunted houses. Our fears at Halloween are controlled because we know that none of this is real, it is all for show, when we get to the end of the haunted house we know we're okay. But what about the fears that last past Halloween- the fear of bugs, snakes, heights, cancer, death and the list goes on. I believe fear and faith go hand in hand. Many people will think that they are polar opposites, in fact a theologian Paul Tillich said, "Fear is the absence of faith." But isn't it more true that faith conquers fear? Faith is ultimate trust, giving up your fears and control to God knowing God has you, that God will provide and respond to your fears. Throughout the Bible there are people who have a strong faith in God, in the Psalms, "The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?" (Psalm 27) God speaks to God's people, "Do not lose heart, or be afraid or panic; for it is the Lord your God who goes with you." (Deuteronomy 20:3) The angel to the shepherds, "Do not be afraid; for see- I am bring you good news of great joy for all the people." (Luke 2:10) And Jesus consistently told his disciples not to be afraid for he is with him and us, he will bear our burdens and our fears. Faith is giving our fears to God. Think about a time when you conquered a fear- was it a fear of speaking in front of people, heights? Remember the feeling of being able to do what you thought was impossible? It can be a rush or an 'aha' moment when you don't understand why you've been holding onto that fear for so long. When you realize that fear does not hold you captive, rather you are in control of it, that, sisters and brothers, is faith, letting go and realizing who God has created you to be. We aren't going to go through life without being afraid but always remember fear does not have the final say, God does.

In Christ's peace,
Pastor Erika

October 26th, 2025



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:***

Lukas Friedlein
Nora Rasmussen
Briella Schutte
Marcus Stoddard

Parents: Aaron & Danielle Friedlein
Parents: Paul & Paula Rasmussen
Parents: Lance & Jonna Shutte
Parents: Heidi Mohs & Jason Stoddard



Rally Day & God's Work, Our Hands Day

This year's Confirmation Students joined some adult parishioners to help spread mulch at the Gardenview Park as part of St. Paul's Rally Day/God's Work Our Hands projects.





OCTOBER

Mission Action:

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

Bible Study:

Money, Stewardship & Generosity
Session 1: Money: What do we treasure?

Focus Verse: Matthew 6:19-21

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."



OCTOBER CALENDAR

Wednesday, October 1

9:15 am WELCA Bible Study

Sunday, October 5

SOTH Hog Roast, St. Olaf

October 23 & 24

Doing Days

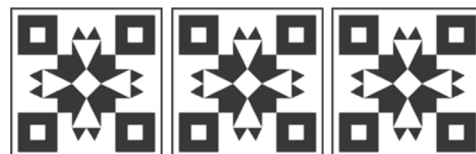
Saturday, October 25

Little Flock Fall Gathering
Zion Lutheran, Oelwein
RSVP by October 15th

LOOKING AHEAD

Saturday, November 1

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 Fall Gathering
Saturday, October 25th
Zion Lutheran Church, 402 E. Charles St.
Oelwein, IA**

Refreshments: 9:00 - 9:30 am

This year's theme: "I am a Little Button with a Big Story to tell" -Exodus 36:13

Guest Speakers:

Dianne Peterson & Jan Hankins from the
Blackhawk Button Club.

*Lunch can be purchased for \$10.00. **Please
RSVP by October 15th.**

**Everyone is asked to bring In-Kind gifts
(non-perishable products) to be split
between Kitchen Cupboard &
Plentiful Pantry*

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

St. Paul Lutheran Church

Council Meeting September 10, 2025

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

Present: Crystal Thurn, Pastor Erika Lenth, Danielle Friedlein, Steve Johnson, Justin Birdnow, Kevin Brainard, Barbara Horns, Beth Foels, Andy Meyer, Craig Watson
Absent: Ashley Blietz-Camp, Tiffany Torkelson, Lois Garms, Rein Kregel

Meeting called to order by Crystal Thurn

Devotions were led by Kevin Brainard. Next month is Ashley Blietz-Camp.

Minutes of Council Meeting: Minutes from the August 13th council meeting were reviewed. Motion by Barbara Horns, Steve Johnson seconded, to approve the minutes as printed. Motion carried.

Treasurer Reports & Bills: Danielle shared in August we spent \$268.13 more than we brought in. Our Current Fund balance is Getting a bit low. We have spent \$3,784.32 more than we have brought in. Memorial Fund brought in \$753.74. Expenses from the memorial fund was \$500.00 from EPIC Fund to Luther College for 1st semester - Addison Buchheit. Additional exterior security cameras have been purchased for the west and south entrances. Budget papers were handed out to the committee reps. These are due in the office by November 1st.

Correspondence: We received a thank you card from Avery Lamborn for the Scholarship she received.

Pastor's Report: Pastor reported 146 miles totaling \$102.50 for August. Steve Johnson motioned to approve mileage. Kevin Brainard seconded. Motion carried. The Churchwide Assembly in Phoenix was amazing and long at times. Our tables were 3 rows back from the stage so felt more a part of everything. Business & worship really do take up all day. Some days things went until 8 or 9. Election of the presiding bishop and secretary took all 5 ballots. Bishop Yahiel Curry from the Metro Chicago Synod and Pastor CeeCee Mills of North Carolina. We approved a social statement on Faith and Civil Life. I am considering doing this as an adult Bible Study. 802 voting members, probably 1000 people in attendance. During the lunch break the humane society brought in puppies to cuddle. It was a Spirit filled experience and I'd go again. I loved learning more about the church and being part of something bigger.

We had a lovely spur of the moment vacation to North and South Dakotas- Jared, Elsie and I. 1 funeral for Leila Kilcher and 2 baptisms for Shae & Jordan Frederick's children. (Routt)

Lots of visits and last week went to the Synod Office for the Deans and Chaplains meeting. Learned that the ELCA has resources about property and help with insurance issues. Also learned that the NALC is targeting congregations that do not have pastors in our synod and there is a new group the Lutheran Congregational Support Network that is stirring up anxieties- not affiliated supposedly with anyone.

I will be gone on Sunday night into Monday, September 14th and 15th. I have been asked to be a facilitator for pastor training in November. So I will be trained in Middleton, WI on Monday. The topic is gender justice.

Sept 28-30 I will be in Des Moines for the Tri-Synodical Theological Conference.

Education and Youth: There will be a meeting on September 25th.

Fellowship & Evangelism: Fellowship schedule has been sent out. If you did not receive one, let Danielle know.

Council Minutes Continued . .

Mission & Social Ministry: They will be meeting on October 5th.

Property & Grounds: We will have the parking lot vote on September 21st. All of the red tile flooring has had the wax removed. A bit of spot cleaning to do in some of the grout lines. Starting putting the concrete sealer on. All bathrooms and the south stairway are done.

Stewardship & Finance: We met and discussed Pastor's health insurance coverage. Started discussing the budget. We decided to discontinue the Advent Soup Supper. If any other committee would like to do it, let Danielle know. The next meeting will be held to continue budget discussions.

Worship and Music: There will be some changes to the Liturgy starting September 21st. There is a wedding on October 25th. We will celebrate All Saints Day at our November 2nd service.

Interchurch Council: Meeting scheduled for September 29th @ Giard.

Old Business: Signs and Posts have been ordered and will be installed on the west entrance road and B45 on the east side of Monona.

Cleaning and sorting of items around the church has started. Items that are sellable will be kept for an "in church" auction sometime in February.

New Business: Pastor's Health Insurance plan was discussed. Plans have changed a bit since last year. It was voted on to go with one that had the same Copays however, the deductibles were a bit higher. The cost for this coverage was \$0.10 higher than the current one.

Ryan Martindale and Pastor have designed a web page for the church. It is up and running. Web address is <https://stpaulmonona.org/>.

Headstart approached us about having their classes in our church. After some discussion it was decided not to. Reasons are lack of space and not being entirely handicap accessible to the basement area.

Danielle announced that she is resigning as Parish Administrator. She is going back into healthcare. It wasn't an easy decision to make however; after discussion with her family it was felt this was best for her and her family. She has enjoyed working here and wants everyone to know she enjoyed working with all of us and the congregation. Her last day will be October 2nd. She has volunteered to help with training a new person past that date. We all thanked her for her service and wished her best of luck in her new venture. We will immediately put out the word both internally and externally to find a replacement.

Next Meeting will be Wednesday October 8th, 6:00 p.m..

Kevin Brainard motioned to adjourn at 7:00pm. Andy Meyer seconded.

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Kevin Brainard

Parish Administrator Position is Open

St. Paul is looking for a new Parish Administrator. Duties include managing church finances; bookkeeping; secretarial work, including creating bulletins and newsletters; and providing administrative assistance to the Pastor and Council/Committees. Efficient computer skills and experience with QuickBooks and Microsoft Publisher, Excel & Word preferred.

Shepherd of the Hills Ministries

NEWSLETTER – OCTOBER 2025



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 5 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. Beautiful quilts will be up for silent bidding online now until September 4 at midnight. We will continue the bidding in person at the Hog Roast from 4-6. There will be other great items to bid on at the Hog Roast as well. (No online bidding for those items) We even have a 2011 Chevy Cruise compact car that will be at the Hog Roast for bidding. Please check out our Facebook page for your opportunity to bid on those beautiful quilts!

I appreciate all the support I have received during my health struggles. One day at a time! October 11 there will be a benefit to help offset the cost of my medical expenses. I welcome all of you to attend. UTV ride begins at 10 am. Meal will start at noon. Cornhole (Bags) starts at 1:30pm. Games, music and fun all at St. John's Lutheran Church in Farmersburg.

See you there!

Clothing Center Updates:

The thrift store is looking amazing. We have transitioned from summer to fall/winter. If you would like to donate, please schedule a day for the drop off. We will not be accepting spring/summer stuff until March. My volunteers have been a wonderful asset to Shepherd of the Hills. They come not only to work, but we have a blast and laughter fills the room. If you would like to volunteer, please contact me. We are very flexible and appreciate whatever time you are willing to give us.

Shepherd Conference News:

If your church would like to hear more about what Shepherd of the Hills is and what we do, please let me know. I am willing to come and talk during your church service. I love to spread the news of the great things we do for the community, those in need and our youth. We have helped families for decades and continue our mission with pride and compassion.

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:

Hog Rost Fundraiser
October 5th, 4pm-7pm
St. Olaf Auditorium
(In-person dining and take outs available)

Christmas for Kids
December 17-18

***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 4: Carol Marting
 October 5: Linda Staff
 October 6: Marlyn Nuehring
 October 7: Dave Kalkwarf
 October 25: Barb Kalkwarf
 October 31: Marcine Nelson
 October 31: Verna Johanningmeier

OCTOBER GOLDEN ANNIVERSARYS

October 12: Marsha & Duane Gerleman

NO OFFICIAL ACTS IN SEPTEMBER

THANK YOU, ST. PAUL!

I would like to thank the St. Paul congregation for donating money to this year's Noisy Can recipient, the Driftless Area Wetland Centre (DAWC). Because of your generosity, I was able to purchase materials to make 4 wheelchair accessible picnic tables for my Eagle Scout Project. This will help DAWC visitors with mobility challenges. The remaining money raised will go directly to the DAWC. Please continue to support them for the last few months of the year.

Thank you!

Hannah Friedlein
 Scouts BSA Troop 138



ST PAUL EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH DATA

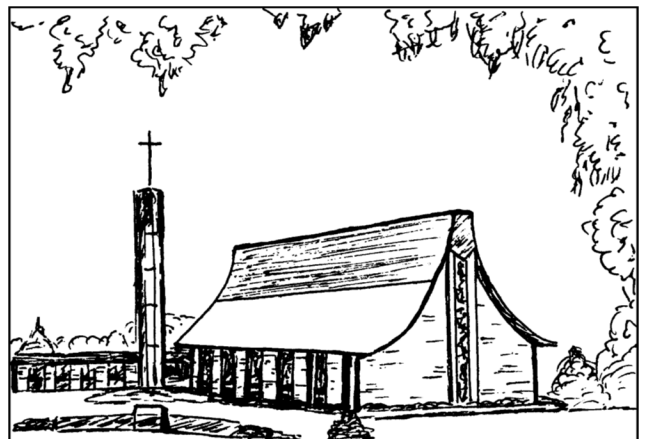
Total 420

Total Family Units 174

Average Sunday Attendance for 2023
 94 (In Person) 45 (Virtual)

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

Average Attendance for 2025 through September 14
 93 (In Person) 45 (Virtual)



August Financials



***Giving	Cash/Check
August 3	\$1,086.00
August 10	\$2,369.00
August 17	\$4,046.00
August 24	\$4,287.50
August 31	\$1,803.00
ILM Memorial Fund	\$155.00
**Total Simply Giving for August	\$3,834.00

*** 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	\$14,793.30		\$132,907.53	
Disbursements	\$15,061.13	\$18,171.87	\$136,691.85	\$145,374.96

Can't make it to church in person?

Find our services on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/@stpaulmononaia>

Also, check out our Facebook Page to find out what's going on at St. Paul!

<https://www.facebook.com/stpaulmononaia/>

Items to be included in the November St. Paul News need to be turned into the office by Oct. 15th.

St. Paul Parish Office Hours

Mon/Tues./Thurs. 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Wed./Fri Closed

Outside of Office Hours, please feel free to leave a voicemail at the church phone number (539-2230) or leave a note in Pr. Erika'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.
stpauluth@neitel.net***

October 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 9:15 am WELCA Bible Study 6:30 pm Confirmation	2	3	4
5 8:00 am Vocal Choir Practice 9:00 am Worship/Eucharist 10:00 am Fellowship (EPIC) 10:15 am Sunday School Mission & Social 4 - 7 pm SOTH Hog Roast 6:30 pm Troop 138	6	7	8 6:00 pm Council Mtg	9	10	11
12 Jr. Bells 9:00 am Worship/Eucharist 10:00 am Fellowship 10:15 am Sunday School 5:00 pm GEH 4-H 6:30 pm Troop 138	13	14	15 6:30 pm Confirmation 7:30 pm Stole Workshop	16	17	18
19 Noisy Can 8:40 am Men's Choir Practice 9:00 am Worship/Eucharist <i>Pr. Margaret Yakel-Juleen</i> 10:00 am Fellowship (LL) 10:15 am Sunday School 5:00 pm Troop 138	20	21	22 6:30 pm Confirmation 7:30 pm Stole Workshop	23 Doing Days	24 Doing Days	25 Gillitzer/Lamborn Wedding 9:00 am Little Flock Fall Gathering
26 Reformation & Confirmation 8:00 am Bell Choir Practice 9:00 am Worship/Eucharist 10:00 am Fellowship 10:15 am Sunday School 5:00 pm Troop 138	27	28	29 6:30 pm Confirmation	30	31 <i>Halloween</i>	

**St. Paul Evangelical
Lutheran Church**

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Email: stpaluth@neitel.net

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<u>DATE</u>	<u>COUNCIL</u>	OCTOBER SCHEDULES		<u>ALTAR GUILD</u>
October 5 9:00 am	Steve Johnson Beth Foels	Come & Worship <u>LECTORS</u> October 5: Dave Kalkwarf October 12: Heidi Meyer October 19: Randee Koenig October 26: Mary Ann Koehn <u>ACOLYTES</u> Oct. 5 Clayton Henkes Kyler Nuehring Blake Schutte Oct. 12 Hailey Bouzek Jaxon Lamborn Kase Paulus Oct. 19 Taylor Rasmussen Grace Palas Brodyn Blietz Oct. 26 Gage Paulus Kashton Decker Veda Torkelson		Oct. 5 Barb Kalkwarf
October 12 9:00 am	Justin Birdnow Ashley Blietz-Camp			Oct. 12 Lorna Jones
October 19 9:00 am	Andy Meyer Rein Kregel			Oct. 19 Heidi Meyer
October 26 9:00 am	Kevin Brainard Crystal Thurn Andy Meyer			Oct. 26 Teresa Sass (Check Robes/Confirmation)
<u>DATE</u>	<u>USHERS</u>			<u>FLOWER ASSISTANTS</u>
October 5 9:00 am	Linette Langhus Jim Langhus			Oct. 5 Lois Garms
October 12 9:00 am	Penny Brainard Kevin Brainard			Oct. 12 Lorna Jones
October 19 9:00 am	Lindsay Krambeer Bailey Engen			Oct. 19 Beth Henkes
October 26 9:00 am	Barb Tieskoetter Mary Jo Sexton			Oct. 26 Confirmation/Pam
				<u>FELLOWSHIP</u>
				Oct. 5 Sexton / Malanaphy /Thurn
				Oct. 12 Meyer / A. Torkelson / Birdnow
				Oct. 19 Luther League
				Oct. 26 Confirmation Fellowship/Evangelism