

ST. PAUL NEWS

Monona, IA 52159

September 2025

Office 563-539-2230

Kitchen/School 563-539-2050

*Pastor:
Erika Lenth*

*Parish Administrator:
Danielle Friedlein*

*President:
Crystal Thurn*

Inside this issue:

Pastor Erika	1
Rally Day	2
4th Grade Bibles	
WELCA	3
Council Minutes	4
Council Minutes cont.	5
Congregation Meeting Notice	
Shepherd of the Hills	6
Birthdays & Anniversaries	7
Financial Report	8
Calendar	9
Schedules	10

From Pastor Erika

I had the honor and privilege of attending the 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly in Phoenix, AZ as a voting member. There were 802 voting members and many visitors that totaled around 1,000 people from all over the United States and Puerto Rico. The meetings lasted 2-4 hours at a time all day long with breaks for worship and meals. There was much work to be done because the Churchwide Assembly only convenes every 3 years. We elected a new presiding bishop and a new secretary which have 6 year terms. Both of these positions took all 5 ballots each. Our new presiding bishop is Bishop Yehiel Curry of the Chicago Metropolitan Synod and our new secretary is Pastor Lucille Mills of the North Carolina synod. Bishop Curry will be installed on October 4th in Minneapolis. A couple of other important business actions of the assembly was to pass a new social statement "Faith and Civic Life: Seeking the Well-Being of All;" to approve edits to the social statement "Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust;" and many memorials including Indian Boarding School Remembrance, Stand of Palestinian Rights and an end to the occupation of Palestine and many edits to the Constitution. I was amazed by the sheer amount of work that was to be done and how long it takes because so many people have different opinions and thoughts. I also loved watching Bishop Eaton lead the meetings because she did it so efficiently- she stuck to the rules, she didn't let her emotions show when people were at the microphone with some really different viewpoints and she was funny. When there was a question about Robert's Rules or about voting and the people in charge needed to talk they would play a video on an ELCA ministry or we would sing. We always prayed before a vote. It was amazing to worship with that many people and hear all those voices sing familiar and unfamiliar hymns. There were definitely points of contention and times when people's feelings got hurt but that is the messiness and brokenness of the church and it's going to happen at every level but you could also feel the Holy Spirit and the grace of God in that place. Thank you for allowing me to go and represent Northeast Iowa Synod and this congregation. The next churchwide assembly will be in 2028 in Des Moines, please consider being a voting member or even a volunteer! ELCA churches do not look the same throughout the United States but we all are connected because of the Triune God. Bishop Eaton had 4 emphasis of her time as presiding bishop: We are church. We are Lutheran. We are church together. We are church for the sake of the world.

In Christ's Peace,
Pastor Erika

RALLY DAY / GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS SUNDAY



Rally Day, the official beginning of Sunday School, is September 7, 2025. 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. Please bring a favorite dish to share.

Sunday School Staff

Superintendent:	Heidi Meyer	Music:	Judy Walter
Nursery Dept. 3 PS:	Kristen Zabel	Helpers:	Rachel Wagner
Nursery Dept. 4 PS:	Bailey Engen		Andy Meyer
Nursery Dept. K:	Jonna Schutte		Danny Torkelson
1st Grade:	Danielle Friedlein		Hannah Friedlein
2nd Grade	Abby Burns		Briella Schutte
3rd & 4th Grade :	Diane Fisk		Lukas Friedlein
5th & 6th Grade :	Denise Schutte		Nora Rasmussen
7th & 8th Grade :	Rein Kregel		

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2025 4TH GRADE BIBLE RECIPIENTS!

On September 14th, as part of an ongoing tradition at St. Paul, the members of the 4th Grade Sunday School Class will be presented their own New Revised Standard Version Bible (NRSV) 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 4th graders & their parents:

STUDENTS

Brooklyn Bissell
Maddyn Brainard
Brooklyn Headlee
Bo Henkes
Ryker Larson
Lennox Palas
Oaklee Wachter

PARENTS

Wade Bissell & Julia Zwiebohrer
Tyler & Jordan Brainard
Mike & Pam Headlee
Nick & Tasha Henkes
Jared & Stephanie Larson
Nicole & Garrett Palas
Dan & Marissah Wachter





SEPTEMBER

Mission Action:

Personal Care Items
Shampoo or Deodorant, etc.

Bible Study:

Mary of Bethany - Mary Magdalene
led by LeAnn Watson

Shepherd of the Hills Hog Roast

Sunday, Oct. 5th 4-7

St. Olaf Auditorium.

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

See SOTH newsletter for quilt auction information.



SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

Wednesday, September 3

9:15 am WELCA Bible Study

Sunday, September 7th

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

Saturday, September 13

Sugar Creek Auction & Fall Festival

EWALU Fall Festival Sept. 20

Fall Festival & Quilt Auction

Thurs & Fri, Sept 25 & 26

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

Sept. 13~Sugar Creek Annual Auction & Fall Festival

Quilt & Antique Auction day, and Outdoors Crafters Fair featuring the finest of our local artisans. Your support helps Sugar Creek to be the valuable ministry and beautiful place you know and love.

Sept. 20 ~EWALU Fall Festival & Quilt Auction

Online Auction: Begins Sept. 15th thru Sept. 21st

Live Auction at EWALU: Saturday Sept. 20th

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.



**Personal
Care
Product**

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

St. Paul Lutheran Church

Council Meeting August 13, 2025

(The August Minutes are printed but pending approval at the September 10th Council Meeting)

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

Meeting called to order by council President, Crystal Thurn, at 6:02 pm.
Devotions were led by Justin Birdnow. Next month is Ashley Blietz-Camp

Minutes of Council Meeting: Minutes from the July 16th council meeting were reviewed. Justin Birdnow motioned to approve the minutes as printed. Kevin Brainard seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report & Bills: Danielle shared that offering and attendance were down in July. We spent \$8,178.23 more than was brought in. The office air conditioning bill of \$3,531.00 was paid, with the money being moved from the Current Fund holding account. In July, the Memorial Fund brought in \$1,835.85 with \$20.00 being In Loving Memory memorials. July expenses from the Memorial Fund were \$1,550.00 from the Solar Fund towards the principal balance and \$3,351.00 from CF Holding for the office air conditioner. The current principal balance on the solar loan is \$77,114.68. Black Hills Energy monthly payment will be increasing from \$776.00 to \$1,012.00 per month. Ashley Blietz-Camp motioned to approve the treasurer's report. Barbara Horns seconded. Motion carried.

Correspondence: Crystal received a thank you from AEL Inc, the company that installed the balcony chair lift.

Pastor's Report: Pastor is currently on vacation in North Dakota and will give a full report in September on the Churchwide Assembly. She will officiate Leila Kilcher's funeral on August 21st.

Education & Youth: Heidi, Pastor, and the Sunday School teachers met on August 10th. A backup date was selected for the Christmas Program, which would take place the following Wednesday night. Confirmation classes begin on August 27th, and the Luther League will be hosting their Ice Cream Social on Sunday, August 24th with a meeting afterwards to plan their yearly events.

Fellowship & Evangelism: No report

Mission & Social Ministry: School supplies were taken down to SOTH by Celia Brown. The next meeting is October 5th at 10:15 a.m..

Property & Grounds: No report. Kevin is still working on stripping the red tiles and hopes to have that done before the Ice Cream Social. Kevin and Lois are in the process of discussing landscaping around the parsonage.

Cemetery: Met recently and finances were discussed. The arch is in the process of being painted.

Stewardship & Finance: No report

Worship & Music: No report. Next meeting is September 9th.

Interchurch Council: No report. Next meeting is September 29th.

Council Minutes, continued . . .

Old Business: Signage on the display entering Monona: Crystal and Andy are meeting next week. Kevin will be presenting the City Council on Monday night for approval on placement of the new signs.

Parking Lot Resurfacing: A sample ballot for the Special meeting was shared and revised.

Basement Cleaning/Sorting: Justin, Andy, Kevin, and Crystal will meet later this month to organize items for auction.

New Business: Office Schedule: Danielle asked the council if they would be opposed to a change in her weekly in-office hours to Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday, with all other work being completed from home. Justin Birdnow motioned to approve Danielle's new schedule. Lois Garm seconded. Motion carried. Danielle also shared that her and Aaron are 4-H leaders for Giard Eager Hands and their current meeting place isn't always available so they are looking elsewhere. Barbara Horns motioned to allow Giard Eager Hands use of the fellowship hall on the second Sunday evening of each month for their meetings. Steve Johnson seconded. Motion carried.

Next Meeting will be Wednesday, September 10th at 6:00 pm

Ashley Blietz-Camp motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:46 pm. Kevin Brainard seconded. Motion carried.

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted by Ashley Blietz-Camp

Resurfacing The Parking Lot—Meeting Notice

In further discussion regarding the blacktopping of the parking lot, Kluesner Construction will honor their bid of \$79,840.00 until next spring if we or they decide to wait until next year to do it. If there is a sharp increase in raw materials, the price will be adjusted and we will be given the option to accept or deny the bid at that time. Mark Bries came in with a bid of \$5,550.00 to tear out the old sidewalk and prepare for blacktopping. He will honor his pricing until next year unless there is a sharp increase in materials at which time he will rebid and we can accept or deny.

Total cost, \$85,390.00

How will we pay for this?

Raise money until work is complete and finance the rest using the Endowment CD as collateral.

We will have a Congregation Meeting on September 21st after service in the fellowship hall.

Notice of this meeting will be given on the two proceeding Sundays (the 7th and 14th).

Per the St. Paul Constitution, C8.02, a Voting Member is defined as:

Voting Members are Confirmed Members (baptized persons who have been confirmed in this congregation, those who have been received by adult baptism, or by transfer as confirmed members from other Lutheran congregations, or baptized persons received by affirmation of faith). Such Confirmed Members, during the current or preceding calendar year, shall have communed in this congregation and shall have made a contribution of record to this congregation. Members of this congregation who have satisfied these basic standards shall have the privilege of voice and vote at every regular and special meeting of the congregation.

St. Paul Prayer Chain

We have reactivated the prayer chain at St. Paul. If you would like to receive prayers from the prayer chain, call Crystal at 563-880-0843 to activate the chain. Your request for prayers will be shared with those on the list. No specific reason needs to be given for prayer needs.

Shepherd of the Hills Ministries

NEWSLETTER – SEPTEMBER 2025



WOW... Where did the summer go? We just completed our Back to School event. We had over 300 referrals. That is a lot of kids! If you missed the event and wanted to donate, you still can. Also, if you happen to see any backpacks on clearance, those are **MOST NEEDED!** **The children just loved the character ones.** Check out our Facebook page or our website for pictures from the event. It was a great day. Again, we could not do this with out the help from our volunteers and donors.

Thank you!

October 5th is our annual Hog Roast Fundraiser. In-person dining will be at the auditorium and take-outs will be at the civic center across the street. Serving times are 4 pm until 7pm. We are serving pulled pork sandwiches, cheesy potatoes, baked beans, salads, delicious desserts (provided by the WELCA groups in our conference) and beverages. Our ladies in the conference churches will be donating their hand- crafted beautiful quilts for auction. Online viewing/bidding will be available on Facebook by September 15! In-person bidding will end at 6:00pm the day of the Hog Roast.

Clothing Center Updates:

Our renovations are complete. We have new lights in the thrift store and 2 new fans. We have some cement that was replaced and the central air. We truly are blessed to have people who support us to keep it safe and comfortable for me and our shoppers!

We will be accepting summer clothing through August. September we will be doing our change over to fall and winter. Please continue to schedule a day to drop your donations off so I can staff accordingly.

If you have any "grandma handkerchiefs" that you are not using, I have a customer who is looking for a bunch for a craft project. Let me know if you have any to donate.

Shepherd Conference News:

Dr. Deborah Tidwell and I will be traveling to Cleveland, Ohio to represent our Synod at the ELCA World Hunger Leaders' Event. This event will be September 18-21. We will share all the great things we learned along with pictures. We are looking forward to this event and are proud to represent NE Iowa Synod.

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 Roast Fundraiser
October 5th, 4pm-7pm
St. Olaf Auditorium
(Take-outs available)

Christmas for Kids
December 17-18
(more information will be made available soon)

*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
		Sept 30	Clayton Henkes



SEPTEMBER GOLDEN BIRTHDAYS

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

OFFICIAL ACTS IN AUGUST

Funeral: July 28, 2025
Sheron Trappe, Age 84

Funeral: August 21, 2025
Leila Kilcher, Age 91



SEPTEMBER GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

September 12 - Dick & Pat Niel

THANK YOU

Thank You to all who helped with and
 attended the Luther League
 Ice Cream Social.
 Good food and good Fellowship!



Baptism: Aug. 17: Mila Lou Friederick
 Parents: Jordan & Shae Friederick
 Sponsors: Alexis Walker
 Cody Friederick

Baptism: Aug. 17: Lyla Jane Friederick
 Parents: Jordan & Shae Friederick
 Sponsors: Kiel Reichenbacker
 Alisha Friederick

ST PAUL EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH DATA

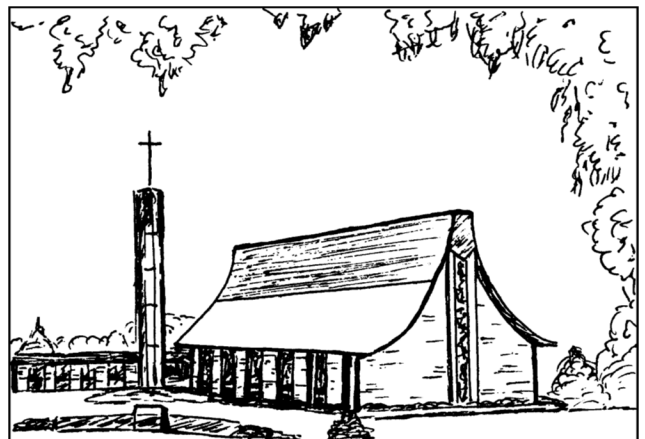
Total 420

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 August 24
 94 (In Person) 45 (Virtual)



July Financials



***Giving	Cash/Check
July 6	\$2,382.00
July 13	\$2,503.00
July 20	\$1,548.00
July 27	\$2,206.50
ILM Memorial Fund	\$20.00
**Total Simply Giving for July	\$3,674.00

*** 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	\$10,189.00		\$118,114.53	
Disbursements	\$18,367.23	\$18,171.87	\$121,630.72	\$127,203.09

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 October St. Paul News need to be turned into the office by Sept. 15th.

St. Paul Parish Office Hours

Mon/Wed/Thurs.

9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Tuesday

Pr. 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 Danielle'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.

stpaulth@neitel.net

SEPTEMBER 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Labor Day <i>Office Closed</i>	2	3 9:15 WELCA Bible Study	4	5	6
7 Rally Day 9:00 Worship/ Eucharist <i>*Outdoor, weather permitting</i> SS Teacher Installation 10:15 Sunday School/Rally Day Projects 11:30 Potluck 6:30 Troop 138	8	9 6:15 Worship & Music	10 6:00 Council	11	12	13 Sugar Creek Quilt Day
14 8:00 Choir Practice 9:00 Worship/ Eucharist <i>4th Grade Bibles</i> <i>Head Acolyte Installation</i> 10:00 Fellowship 10:15 Sunday School Acolyte Training 5:00 Giard Eager Hands 4-H 6:30 Troop 138	15	16	17 6:30 Confirmation	18	19	20 EWALU Fall Festival
21 8:40 Men's Choir Practice 9:00 Worship/ Eucharist 10:00 Fellowship Congregation Meeting 10:15 Sunday School 6:30 Troop 138	22	23	24 6:30 Confirmation	25	26	27 Goodwill Truck
28 <i>Noisy Can</i> 8:00 Bell Choir Practice 9:00 Worship/Eucharist 10:00 Fellowship 10:15 Sunday School 6:30 Troop 138	29 7:00 Interchurch Council @ Giard Pr. @ Conference	30 in Des Moines				

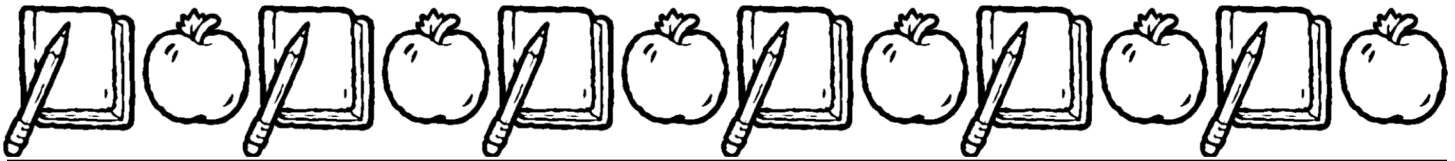
**St. Paul Evangelical
Lutheran Church**

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 SCHEDULES

FLOWER ASSISTANTS

September 7 (*Outdoor*) Andy Meyer
Sunday 9:00 am Steve Johnson

Sept. 14 Justin Birdnow
Sunday 9:00 am Kevin Brainard

Sept. 21 Andy Meyer
Sunday 9:00 am Ashley Blietz-Camp

September 28 Rein Kregel
Sunday 9:00 am Crystal Thurn
Lois Garms

Come & Worship

LECTORS

Sept. 7 Melissa Haberichter
Sept. 14 Crystal Thurn
Sept. 21 Heidi Landt
Sept. 28 Barb Kalkwarf

Sept. 7 Outdoor Worship
Sept. 14 Beth Henkes
Sept. 21 Teresa Sass
Sept. 28 Dyane Schutte

ALTAR GUILD

Sept. 7 Crystal Thurn
Sept. 14 Kris Christen
Sept. 21 Linette Langhus
Sept. 28 Mary Ann Koehn
*check robes

USHERS

Sept. 7 Outdoor Worship
Sept. 14 Brad Kiesau
Jim Langhus
Sept. 21 Tim & Diane Fisk
Sept. 28 Marsha Gerleman
Barbara Horns

ACOLYTES

Sept. 7: Outdoor
Sept. 14: Brodyn Blietz
Veda Torkelson
Gage Paulus
Sept. 21: Grace Palas
Kashton Decker
Evelyn Birdnow
Sept. 28: Clayton Henkes
Kase Paulus
Jaxon Lamborn

FELLOWSHIP

Sept. 7 Rally Day Potluck
Sept. 14 Bailey E. / Macey K. /
Whitney M.
Sept. 21 Langhus / Kalkwarf
Sept. 28 Garms / B. Horns