



ST. PAUL NEWS

Monona, IA 52159

August 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
St. Paul Events	2
Confirmation Camp	
WELCA	3
Council Minutes	4
Council Minutes cont.	5
Meeting Notice	
Shepherd of the Hills	6
Birthdays & Anniversaries	7
Financial Report	8
Calendar	9
Schedules	10

From Pastor Erika

This past month our country was hit by many storms, some of which were devastating so many. I'm thinking specifically about the flooding in Texas. It was on my mind when I went to camp, and the question is how can we help? Jesus says "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another." (John 13:34) In Martin Luther's explanation to the Ten Commandments in the Small Catechism, he points out in commandments 5-10 that we should "help and support our neighbors in all of life's needs." The short mission statement of the ELCA is God's Work, Our Hands. Every year for many years we have lived out that saying in participating in God's Work, Our Hands day. We go out into our community and work for the betterment of Monona. We work on God's Work, Our Hands Day, we ask the question "How can we help?" We do many things to help our neighbors near and far because we are called by God to be God's hands and feet in this world, that because of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ and the love of God shown to us through this loving sacrifice, we want to share this love with all those around us. We by no means can totally take away the devastation that people have experienced this past month but we can walk with them in their suffering as Christ walks with us. We can listen to their stories, pray for and with them and we can ask "how can we help?" Giving to Lutheran Disaster Response is a great way to give to those affected by natural disasters throughout our country. Please consider giving to Lutheran Disaster Response and mark your calendars for our God's Work, Our Hands Day September 7th where we will work in our community and at our church. Thank you for being God's hands in the world!

In Christ's Peace,
Pastor Erika

Chair Lift to Church Balcony

A chair lift to enhance accessibility to the church balcony has been purchased and installed. The chair lift was paid for with Memorial Funds from the Bell Choir Fund, Music/Choir Fund and Committee Choice. Jeremy & Traci Musil also generously made a payment toward our bill which covered additional tax charges beyond the original estimate. Their support is much appreciated.



BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

Sunday, August 24th at the 9:00 a.m. service, we will be blessing Backpacks and Students. Parents, please have your student(s) bring their backpacks to church so that we may ask for God's Blessing for a great school year!



CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Confirmation Classes will start **Wednesday August 27th at 6:30 p.m.**

****Parents and Confirmands meeting will be Sunday, August 17th at 10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall**

LUTHER LEAGUE ICE CREAM SOCIAL

August 24th, 4:30-7 p.m.

Dine In or Carry Out!

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

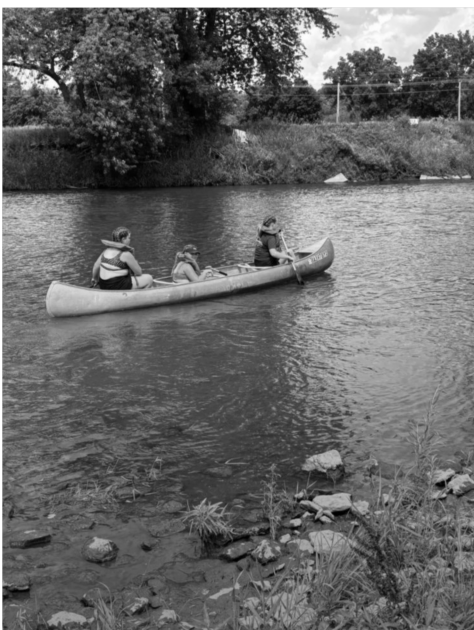
MENU: Sloppy Joes, Ham Sandwiches, Sides, Desserts and Ice Cream!

Free Will Donation

For carry out call the kitchen 539-2050



EWALU CONFIRMATION CAMP 2025



The week of July 6th, 4 St. Paul Confirmation students and Pr. Erika attended Confirmation Camp at Camp EWALU.



**AUGUST****Mission Action:**

Spools of Thread
Coats & Clark brand preferred

Bible Study:

No Bible Study in August.

**AUGUST CALENDAR**

No Bible Study In August



*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. 13~Sugar Creek Annual Auction & Fall Festival**

The day includes a 5k Trail Run & Fun Walk, Silent Auction Baskets, Country Store with purchasable items, and a LIVE Quilt Auction! Pony Rides, Crafts, Yard Games and more activities will be featured for the fall festival. Lunch will be available for purchase and will feature BBQ and fresh pies! 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 - Sept. 21st

Live Auction @ 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!

AUGUST 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!



Spools of Thread
Prefer Coats & Clark Brand

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

St. Paul Lutheran Church

Council Meeting July 16, 2025

(The July Minutes are printed but pending approval at the August 13th Council Meeting)

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

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

Minutes of Council Meeting: Minutes from the June 11th council meeting were reviewed and one correction was noted. Lois Garms motioned to approve the minutes with the correction. Barb Horns seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report & Bills: Danielle shared that although we spent a lot of money in June, we brought in \$240.58 more than we spent. June expenditures included part of our Church Mutual insurance premiums, paid in full for the year, electrical inspection and repairs, rerouting the gutter pipes, repair of the automatic opener for the east door for \$1,299.84, and the church's share for the new parsonage door. Memorials received totaled \$4,184.82 with \$20.00 being In Loving Memory memorials and \$3,659.90 for interest paid out from our Endowment CD. Expenses from Memorial accounts included \$1,370.00 for the Sunday School's Mission Project, God's Global Barnyard, \$1,102.73 from the Parsonage Fund for the parsonage door, \$1,812.50 from Committee Choice for the balance due for the balcony chair lift, \$146.00 from the SS fund for stamps for the Nursery Room's Special Friends Project, and \$2,441.60 transferred from CF Holding for the parsonage door and electrical repairs. We received some special offering designated toward the solar loan that has been applied to the principal balance. As of July 8th, our principal balance is \$77,407.16. A big thank you to Jeremy and Traci Musil who paid \$500 toward the chair lift. This covered the sales tax that was not included in the original estimate. A thank you has been sent on behalf of the church. Pastor Erika will be gone the week of July 28th and it's also Clayton County Fair week so the office will be closed on Tuesday and Thursday. Steve Johnson motioned to approve the treasurer's report. Ashley Blietz-Camp seconded. Motion carried.

Correspondence: None

Pastor's Report: Pastor reported mileage of 236 totaling \$165.20 for June. Justin Birdnow motioned to approve Pastor's mileage. Kevin Brainard seconded. Motion carried. Pastor shared she has made numerous visits to Garden View and nursing homes. She recently attended confirmation camp at EWALU with 4 students. Confirmation camp had 21 campers and all together, 160 campers spent the week at EWALU. She will fly out to Arizona on July 28th for Churchwide assembly.

Education & Youth: Next meeting with Sunday School teachers is set for Sunday, August 10th.

Fellowship & Evangelism: Meeting will be set soon.

Mission & Social Ministry: Game and movie night will be Sunday, July 20th with games starting at 4:00, light meal at 5:00, and movie at 5:30 in the fellowship hall. SOTH school supply bus is now out and we will be collecting supplies through August 3rd. The Fall Dinner will be held November 9th and the next meeting will be October 5th.

Property & Grounds: Kevin has started stripping the red tile and his goal is to finish before Sunday School starts.

Stewardship & Finance: Met on July 14th. Discussion included the parking lot and chair lift maintenance plan. Budget vs actual income and expenses were reviewed.

Council Minutes, continued . . .

Worship & Music: Met on July 15th. We have two outdoor services left, August 3rd with Diane Fisk leading worship, and September 7th which is also God's Work Our Hands. Fourth graders will receive their bibles on September 14th, Pastor will be gone on October 19th, and Confirmation/Reformation Sunday is October 26th. There is an upcoming private baptism in August and wedding on October 25th.

Interchurch Council: The Methodist church is hosting Vacation Bible School on July 23rd from 9-4 for children leaving grades K-6. The Goodwill truck will be in Monona on September 27th and we will host this year's Thanksgiving Eve service.

Old Business: Signage on the display entering Monona: the signs have been placed. Discussion was also held on updating three signs in various locations in town. Justin Birdnow motioned to have Schultz Sign Company create three new signs. Steve Johnson seconded. Motion carried.

Balcony Chair Lift: Has been installed and information was provided on the maintenance plan. Craig Watson motioned to approve purchasing the Maintenance Plan that includes an annual inspection for \$475.00. Kevin Brainard seconded. Motion carried. Parking Lot Resurfacing: Special congregation meeting will be held on September 21st. Notice of this meeting will be given on September 7th and September 14th, and will also be shared in the September St. Paul News. Basement Cleaning/Sorting: Justin, Andy, Kevin, and Crystal will meet in August to organize items for auction. Office Air Conditioner: has been installed and works great.

New Business: None

Next Meeting will be Wednesday, August 13th at 6:00 pm

Kevin Brainard motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:19 pm. Andy Meyer seconded. Motion carried.

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted by Ashley Blietz-Camp

Resurfacing The Parking Lot—Meeting Notice

It has been decided to look into resurfacing or blacktopping the parking lot. Reasons are to make it safer by eliminating trip hazards and easier to maintain.

We would remove the sidewalks on the south and east sides of the parking in order to make it a level surface. We received bids from Kluesner Construction from Farely, IA and Strub Blacktopping from Lansing, IA to do the blacktopping. Kluesner had the lower bid of \$79,840.00. We are waiting for bids from Mark Bries Construction and Nathan Welch Excavating to remove the present sidewalk and prepare for blacktopping. The estimate from both parties to do the sidewalk is \$10,000.00. We will get firm bids from them at a later date. Total cost, 90,000.00.

How will we pay for this? There are several options that have been brought up..

1. We'll finance the entire amount using the endowment CD as collateral. On a 10 year loan the payments would be \$976.00/month and on a 5 year loan payments would be \$1,719.00
2. We currently have about \$20,000.00 in our holding account we could use and finance \$70,000.00. On a ten year loan payments would be \$760.00 and a five year loan would be \$1,528.00.
3. Raise 50% of the money before having it done.
4. Raise 100% of the money before having it done.

Council will continue to discuss and look at options.

We'll have a Congregation Meeting on September 21st after service in the fellowship hall. Notice of this meeting will be given on the two preceding Sundays (the 7th and 14th) and by mail in the September church newsletter.

Shepherd of the Hills Ministries

NEWSLETTER – AUGUST 2025



It's that time of year... our Back to School event is in full swing. We are in need of school supplies. Some supplies like backpacks, are ALWAYS in need...all year long. If you are out and about and see supplies on sale, please think of us. (Even if it is after our event, we will put them in storage.) This is a great way to help the children in need.

Our Dollar General event was held on July 12. Thank you to all who donated those school supplies and monetary donations. We are expecting 350 children at our event, which will take A LOT of supplies. Any and all help is appreciated!

Clothing Center Updates:

We sure have had some warm days lately, but thanks to all the generous donations, it is cool in here. Our central air is installed and feeling great! There will be a few additional projects at the clothing center that will require us to be closed to the public for a couple days. I will post on Facebook and on our answering machine when I know those dates.

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:

*Please help me congratulate Pastor Adam Starrett,
(Elgin Lutheran and Highland Lutheran) on his anniversary of his ordination on 08/08/2010.*

I was able to attend the 2025 Synod Assembly on June 7th in Cedar Falls. If you have not attended, I urge you to go. The presentations were uplifting and interesting. It is always nice to see familiar faces and meet new people. The new "tech" way of voting was very helpful once everyone got registered. Over-all, it was a great event.

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:

Back to School Event
August 6th from 9am-5pm
(Referral required to participate)

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

***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

AUGUST BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES

Aug 6: Andrew Torkelson

Aug 20: Knox Cahoon

Aug 22: Bray Andreae

Aug 11: Maysen Doeppke

Mabel Cahoon

Aug 25: Bennett Hertrampf

Luke Zabel

Aug 21: Oaklee Wachter

Aug 29: Veda Torkelson



AUGUST GOLDEN BIRTHDAYS

August 11 Jim Fox

August 23 Marilyn Baade

AUGUST GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

August 4 Mark & June Birdnow

August 9 Marvin & Pat Brainard

August 27 Craig & Mary Jo Sexton

August 30 Pat & Pam Malanaphy

SUMMER OUTDOOR WORSHIP

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

(Weather permitting)

August 3rd**September 7th**

*Thank you to everyone who filled the
St. Paul school bus with school supplies
for the SOTH Back to School 4 Kids
project! Your donations to support our
local kids are greatly appreciated!*

OFFICIAL ACTS IN LATE JULY

Baptism: July 12, 2025**Abella Scarlett Flores**

Parents: Jeff & Jessie Stangeland

Sponsors: Chris Colsch & Maya Harvey

**Benjamin Scot Stangeland**

Parents: Jeff & Jessie Stangeland

Sponsors: David Stangeland & Tara Breuer



COFFEE HOUR

will be starting in the Fall!
Fellowship & Evangelism
will be working on a new
Coffee Hour schedule.

If you would like to volunteer, or request a
special Sunday, there's a Sign up sheet on
the usher table in church.

ST PAUL EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH DATA

Total 420

Total Family Units 174

Average Sunday Attendance for 2023

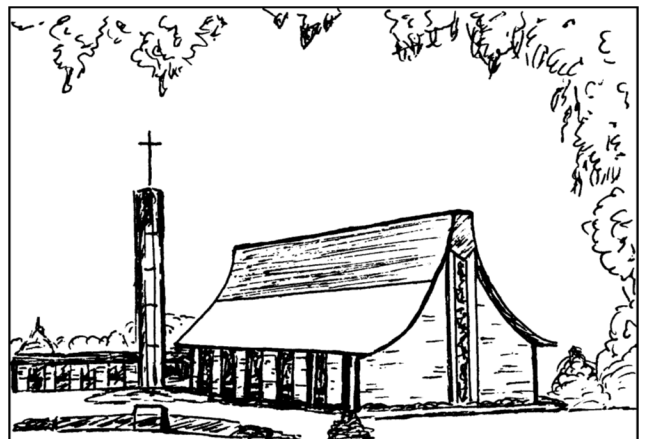
94 (In Person) 45 (Virtual)

Average Sunday Attendance for 2024

105 (In Person) 40 (Virtual)

Average Attendance for 2025 through July 20

97 (In Person) 47 (Virtual)



June Financials



***Giving	Cash/Check
June 1	\$6,043.00
June 8	\$1,730.00
June 15	\$6,048.00
June 22	\$1,292.00
June 29	\$3,083.66
ILM Memorials	\$20.00
**Total Simply Giving for June	\$3,925.00

*** 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	June Actual	June Budget	June YTD Actual	June YTD Budget
*Receipts	\$21,181.01		\$107,925.53	
Disbursements	\$20,940.43	\$18,171.87	\$103,263.49	\$109,031.22

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 September St. Paul News need to be turned into the office by Aug. 18th.

St. Paul Parish Office Summer Hours

Monday - Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Friday

Office Closed, but Pastor Erika available by appointment

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.*

AUGUST 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Outdoor Worship 9:00 Lay Worship *Outdoor, weather permitting	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 9:00 Worship & Eucharist 10:00 SS Teacher Meeting	11	12	13 6:00 pm Council	14	15	16
17 9:00 Worship & Eucharist 10:00 Confirmation Meeting 12:00 Friederick Baptism	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 Noisy Can 9:00 Worship & Eucharist Blessing of the Backpacks 4:30-7:00 Luther League Ice Cream Social	25 1st Day of School	26	27 6:30 Confirmation	28	29	30
31 9:00 Worship & Eucharist						

**St. Paul Evangelical
Lutheran Church**

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Email: stpaluth@neitel.net

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



COUNCIL

August 3 <i>Outdoor Lay Service</i> Sunday 9:00 am	Steve Johnson Lois Garms
August 10 Sunday 9:00 am	Andy Meyer Crystal Thurn
August 17 Sunday 9:00 am	Kevin Brainard Craig Watson
August 24 Sunday 9:00 am	Andy Meyer Ashley Blietz-Camp Beth Foels
August 31 Sunday 9:00 am	Justin Birdnow Craig Watson

USHERS

Aug 3	Outdoor Worship
Aug 10	Crystal Thurn Celia Brown
Aug 17	Rich & Teresa Sass
Aug 24	Amber Hendricks Deb Moose
Aug 31	Jim & Linette Langhus

AUGUST SCHEDULES

Come & Worship

ACOLYTES

Aug 3:	Outdoor
Aug 10:	Brodyn Blietz Clayton Henkes Kase Paulus
Aug 17:	Kashton Decker Blake Schutte Veda Torkelson
Aug 24:	Grace Palas Gage Paulus Evelyn Birdnow
Aug 31:	Kyler Nuehring Jaxon Lamborn Kase Paulus

FLOWER ASSISTANTS

Aug 3	Lois Garms (Outdoor)
Aug 10	Teresa Sass
Aug 17	Dyane Schutte
Aug 24	Lois Garms
Aug 31	Pam Malanaphy

ALTAR GUILD

Aug 3	Mary Ann Koehn <i>Outdoor Lay Service</i>
Aug 10	Linette Langhus
Aug 17	Heidi Meyer
Aug 24	Teresa Sass
Aug 31	Lorna Jones *check robes

LECTORS

Aug 3	Heidi Landt
Aug 10	Barb Kalkwarf
Aug 17	Dave Kalkwarf
Aug 24	Randee Koenig
Aug 31	Diane Fisk