



ST. PAUL NEWS

Monona, IA 52159

JANUARY 2025

Office 563-539-2230

Kitchen/School 563-539-2050

*Pastor:
Erika Lenth*

*Parish Administrator:
Danielle Friedlein*

*President:
Crystal Thurn*

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From Pastor Erika

As I sit in my office, I am praying for an epiphany because I have writer's block. Christmas is such a huge celebration and holiday that I think Epiphany gets pushed to the side. The official date of Epiphany is January 6th and in the church we celebrate it on the date or the Sunday close to it. Epiphany is the day the three wise men, Magi or kings as they are known by all names, arrived to where Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus were. When we think of the Christmas story, Christmas decorations such as the nativity scene, and Christmas carols we put the wise men arriving around the time of the shepherds. But when we look at the birth story in Matthew 2:1-12, the Magi come after Jesus was born and inquire of King Herod where they might find him because they had followed the new star. If you notice the nativity scene that is put in the front by the altar, we do not put the wise men there because they don't arrive until after the birth. It's a reminder that there is still more to celebrate. Epiphany is the day that Jesus is revealed to all nations because the Magi weren't Jewish, Jesus is the Savior of all people. Epiphany is the season for house blessings and the time to take down Christmas decorations as the season of Christmas is over. In many countries this is known as Three Kings Day and is a big festival and children get another present. So while Christmas has come and gone in record time again, a new year has begun- how are we already in 2025? We still are amazed by God's love revealed through Jesus Christ- Emmanuel: God with us. The joy, love and peace we find in Christmas doesn't end there, it continues into Epiphany when Jesus was revealed as Savior, Messiah, Prince of Peace to all the nations and people. The birth story of Jesus was a series of epiphanies for Mary, Joseph, Elizabeth & Zechariah, the shepherds and the Magi, even for King Herod. An epiphany is a moment of sudden realization or revelation, sometimes today we call it an "aha moment" when you have an idea or something sinks into your brain. For all the people surrounding the birth of Jesus they all had moments of clarity that the birth of this baby would change the world which excited most people and scared King Herod. As we begin this new year, we are entering into it with hope, excitement, apprehension & fear, but always remember that Christmas and Epiphany, Easter and Pentecost are not a once a year occurrence- God did and does enter into this world to be with us in our trials and sadness, fear & apprehension, joy and celebrations in Jesus revealing God's love, forgiveness and abundant life. While the decorations are put away and life is back to whatever normal is, God has never and will never leave us, take time to look around and you may have an epiphany!

In Christ's Peace,
Pastor Erika

Children's Christmas Program



On Sunday, December 15th, the St. Paul Sunday School Students performed "A Night In Bethlehem" for their annual Christmas Program. There were 73 Sunday School Students in attendance and they did a wonderful job of sharing the Christmas story.



Poinsettias



In Memory or in Honor of

By

L'Dean Henkes, Dwain, Jody, Austin and Aren Henkes & Loved Ones	Arleta Henkes & Family
Loved Ones	Mary Ann Koehn, David & Lorna Jones
Jerry Brown	Celia Brown
Loved Ones	Andy, Heidi, Emma & Joseph Meyer
Lyle Johannsen & Loved Ones	Marion Johannsen & Family
Loved Ones	Barb & Dave Kalkwarf
Jamie, Brent, Kevin Jr. & Loved Ones	Kevin & Penny Brainard
Loved Ones	Tyler & Ashley Camp, Brodyn, Bryce & Layton
Robert Ball and Allen Ball	Betty Ball & Laurie Bellinger
Loved Ones	Don & Karen Martindale & Family
Loved Ones	Richard & Teresa Sass
Loved Ones	Craig & Mary Jo Sexton & Family
Eddie & Inez Langhus, Eldean & Ivy Wilke	Jim & Linette Langhus
Roger Halvorson	Connie Halvorson, Tracey, Rogeta, Jay, Lisa & Families
Kim Trappe & John Tesar	Sharon Tesar
Jim Walter	Judy Walter, Lisa, Lori, Lary & Families
Loved Ones	Judy Walter & Family
Gene Baade	Marilyn Baade & Family
Loved Ones	Tim & Diane Fisk & Family
Dale Tieskoetter	Barb Tieskoetter, Tracy & Family, Angie & Family, Matt & Family
Loved Ones & Military Members	Barbara Horns
Janet Pollock	Paula, Paul, Taylor & Nora Rasmussen
Loved Ones	Eldon Kurth & Family





JANUARY

Mission Action:

Bath Soap 4-5 oz. in original wrap

Bible Study:

Faithfulness in These Days

Session One: Ruth and Naomi

JANUARY CALENDAR

Wed. Jan 15th

10:30 am Soup Luncheon & Bible Study with Pr. Erika

Jan. 23rd & 24th

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.

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



**A Special Thank You to
"Secret Santa" for sending
beautiful Christmas plants to
our GardenView members,
the church office and other
members of the community.
They are much appreciated!**

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 collected 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 January is Bath Soap, 4-5 oz bar in original wrapper

2025 Noisy Can

The Church Council has voted to give the 2025 Noisy Can donations to benefit the Driftless Area Wetlands Centre (DAWC) in Marquette. The DAWC provides many camps and school activities that benefit the children our congregation and they have also started offering new programming for adults with dementia and their caregivers. This new program could likely bring more individuals with mobility challenges to the DAWC. Part of the proceeds will go to help congregation member Hannah Friedlein, from Scouts BSA Troop 138, fund her Eagle Scout service project to build 4 handicap accessible picnic tables for the DAWC. St. Paul is the sponsoring Charter Organization for Scouts BSA Troop 138. Friedlein is also exploring estimates on an automatic door opener to help individuals with mobility issues. Any proceeds raised beyond the cost of materials for the accessible picnic tables will be given to the DAWC to be used toward an automatic door opener or to help fund programming.

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

St. Paul Lutheran Church

Council Meeting December 10, 2024

(December Minutes are printed but pending approval at the January Council Meeting)

Present: Crystal Thurn, Danielle Friedlein, Pastor Erika Lenth, Ashley Blietz-Camp, Linda Staff, Barb Tieskoetter, Lois Garms, Steve Johnson, Kevin Brainard, Andy Meyer, Daryl Henkes, Absent: Jill Lamborn, Justin Birdnow, & Tiffany Torkelson

Meeting called to order by council President, Crystal Thurn, at 6:02 pm.

Devotions were led by Crystal Thurn for Justin Birdnow. Next month is Ashley Blietz-Camp.

Minutes of Council Meeting: Minutes from the November 13th council meeting were reviewed. Steve Johnson motioned to approve the minutes as printed. Barb Tieskoetter seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report & Bills: Danielle shared that in the month of November we brought in \$3733.33 more than we spent. The Memorial Fund brought in \$3094.69 with \$20.00 being In Loving Memory memorials. The organ will be tuned on December 18. Committee annual reports are due by the end of the year. Kevin Brainard motioned to approve the treasurer's report. Ashley Blietz-Camp seconded. Motion carried.

Correspondence: Thank you received from LSI for the donation made in August.

Pastor's Report: Pastor presided over Ivan Krueger's funeral with Elaine Melcher's taking place December 14th. She had her monthly visit to Garden View and confirmation classes continue to go well, and they are having short classes after Advent services. She also attended our Thanksgiving Eve service and mentioned about 50 people attended. Pastor had a great time in New York City on vacation. No mileage to report.

Education & Youth: Met November 18th. Sunday school is averaging 55-76 children per week, and the Christmas program will be Dec. 15th. There is a need for more teachers to split up by grades due to large class sizes. 11 children will receive First Communion on Maundy Thursday, April 17th. Budget was approved. Next meeting is February 17th.

Fellowship & Evangelism: No report

Mission & Social Ministry: Met November 17th to go over Fall Dinner recap. Christmas Giving Tree has been placed through December 8th. Budget was approved.

Property & Grounds: No report

Stewardship & Finance: No report

Worship & Music: No report

Interchurch Council: No report

Old Business:

Membership Committee-Active and inactive member lists were reviewed and new members were approved. Per the church Constitution, to be an active member you must receive communion and give a recorded offering at least once during the last two-year period.

Council Minutes Continued . .

Door Estimate-Received estimate from Mary Bissell Construction for \$3,567.82 for materials and installation. Storm door estimate is \$702.91, equaling \$4,272.73. R&R Auto will paint the door. Lois Garms motioned to approve the estimate for purchase and installation of both doors. Linda Staff seconded. Motion carried.

Railing on Basement Stairs- Shawn has the north stairwell completed, and will be working on the south stairwell soon.

Other-Floor tiles in the basement discussed last month will be replaced as time permits.

New Business:

Noisy Can Inquiry (Hannah Friedlein)-Hannah will be partnering with Driftless Area Wetlands Centre on an upcoming project for handicap and Dementia patrons for her Eagle Scout project. She will be building handicap accessible picnic tables and would like to contribute to the cost of a handicap door opener if possible. The cost of materials for the picnic tables is \$400-500 and the door opener is \$2,000-3,000. Hannah asked if Noisy Can donations for 2025 could be allocated towards her project and any money above what is needed for the picnic table project would be given to the Wetlands Center towards the purchase of the door opener or other projects. Lois Garms motioned to allocate 2025 Noisy Can donations towards the Driftless Area Wetlands Centre and Hannah's Eagle Scout project. Kevin Brainard seconded. Motion carried.

2025 Budget-Kevin Brainard presented the 2025 budget. Steve Johnson motioned to approve the 2025 budget as presented. Ashley Blietz-Camp seconded. Motion carried.

Church Carillon Amplifier-The bell tower has been buzzing when music is played. In order to fix this issue, a new amplifier needs to be purchased at an estimate of \$500. Lois Garms motioned to purchase a new amplifier. Kevin seconded. Motion carried.

Next Meeting will be the Annual Meeting on January 19, 2025 at 10:00 am.

Andy Meyer motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:26 pm. Kevin Brainard seconded. Motion carried.

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted by Ashley Blietz-Camp

ANNUAL MEETING

The St. Paul 2024 Annual meeting will be Sunday, January 19th, following the 9:00 a.m. worship service. We will gather in the Fellowship Hall for our Congregational Meeting.

~A baked potato bar will be served by the Luther League. ~

Committee reports for the Congregational Annual Report were due on December 31st . All financial reports need to be turned in by Friday, January 3rd. Those reports include Luther League, WELCA,

Committee Reports, Council President, Pastor, Music Department, Choirs, Altar Guild, and

Scouts BSA Troops #38/138.

Annual Reports will be ready Sunday January 12th. Please pick up your copy in the Fellowship Hall anytime after that date.

Shepherd of the Hills Ministries

NEWSLETTER – JANUARY 2025



And that is a “wrap”! Christmas for Kids is now completed, Thank you does not seem to cover the outpouring of support we received for this project. The donations are greatly appreciated. The quilts were beautiful, the books were a great assortment and let’s just say... I may have tested some of the pretty cool toys! I can only imagine how the kids will feel opening up these gifts for Christmas. All of you should feel a little joy knowing you were a big part of a brighter Christmas for these families!

Clothing Center Updates:

We will not be accepting any Christmas items until next year. Winter items will only be accepted from now until March. We appreciate a scheduled day for your donations to maintain the flow and schedule volunteers accordingly. Just a side note... My mom has decided to take a small step back from volunteering so if you are interested in volunteering, please call the office.

Shepherd Conference News:

Congratulations to Pastor Michael Ashman (St. Paul Lutheran and St. John Lutheran- both in Guttenberg) on the anniversary of his ordination on January 3, 1993.

I will be working on the Conference Assembly paperwork. If you are wanting to serve on the SOTH board, we will have openings for secretary (2 yr term) property (2 yr term) and the Synod Representative (3 yr term). If you have an interest in joining the board, please let me know by January 3rd, 2025.

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:

**Conference Assembly
February 16th @ 2pm
(snow date of Feb. 23)
St. Paul, Volga**

***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**

JANUARY BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES

6: Emma Meyer

7: Ivy Burke

12: Skyler Engen

13: Nathan Friedlein

15: Ava Hendricks

Waverly Wagner

16: Macey Moose

23: Lucille Cheeseman

25: Jase Bouzek

27: Grace Palas

Brody Moose



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Jan. 15: Eldon Kurth

Jan. 19: Sharon Trappe

Fran Passmore

Jan 22: Larry Geisler

Jan 29: Mary Jo Sexton

JANUARY GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

January 16th - Roger & Marcine Nelson

OFFICIAL ACTS IN DECEMBER

Funeral: Dec 14 Elaine Melcher, Age 75

THANK YOU'S !

For the Sunday School Program: Thank you to our Students, Superintendent Heidi Meyer, Teachers, Pastor Erika, Judy Walter, and Ryan Martindale, for a wonderful Christmas Program! You are all talented people and St. Paul is so blessed to have you!

St Paul's Choir had a wonderful time sharing musical selections at the Dec. 22nd Songs of Advent Worship Service. Thank you to Director, Diane Fisk; pianist, Judy Walter; violinist, Pam Malanaphy; flautist, Lisa Lenth; the Choir, and all who attended.

For the Decorations: The Fellowship & Evangelism Committee wishes to thank everyone who helped with decorating the church for the Advent and Christmas season. Many hands make light work. The decorations bring added beauty to the Christmas Season. You are invited to help take down the decorations on January 5th after Fellowship. Thank you in advance!!

The Christmas Giving Tree: The Mission and Social Committee would like to thank everyone for their generous donations to the Christmas Giving Tree this season. Donations were split between: Shepherd of the Hills Christmas 4 Kids, Garden View and Scenic Acres.

ST PAUL EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH DATA

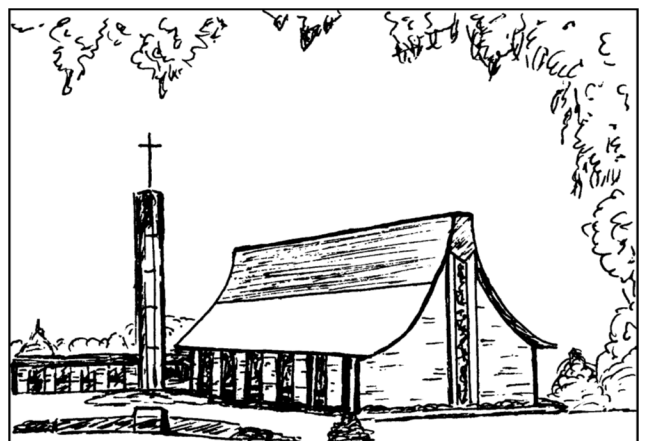
Total 536

Total Family Units 236

Average Sunday Attendance for 2022
92(In Person) 54 (Virtual)

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

Average for 2024 through December 15th
107 (In Person) 40 (Virtual)



November Financials



***Giving	Cash/Check
November 3rd	\$3,443.42
November 10th	\$7,623.17
November 17th	\$2,707.00
November 24th	\$6,621.54
**Total Simply Giving for November 2023	\$3,784.00
ILM Memorials	\$20.00

*** 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	November 2024 Actual	November 2024 Budget	November YTD Actual	November YTD Budget
*Receipts	\$17,305.74		\$178,928.15	
Disbursements	\$13,572.51	\$18,104.07	\$165,250.43	\$199,144.77

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 February St. Paul News need to be turned into the office by January 20th.

St. Paul Parish Office Hours

Monday - Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Friday 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

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.
stpaluth@neitel.net*

JANUARY 2025

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
			1 Office Closed	2	3 Financial Reports due	4
5 9:00 am Worship/ Eucharist 10:00 am Fellowship (EPIC) *Take Down Christmas Décor.	6	7 6:00 pm Audit 2024 Financials	8 6:30 pm Confirmation	9	10	11
12 9:00 am Worship/Eucharist 10:00 am Fellowship Worship & Music 5:00 pm Troop 138	13	14	15 9:30 am Staff Meeting 10:30 am WELCA Bible Study Soup Luncheon 6:30 pm Confirmation	16	17	18
19 9:00 am Worship/Eucharist Council meet before 10:00 am ANNUAL MEETING Council meet after Lunch /Luther League 5:00 pm Troop 138	20	21	22 6:30 pm Confirmation	23 Doing Days	24 Doing Days	25
26 *Noisy Can* 8:00 am Bell Choir 9:00 am Worship/Eucharist 10:00 am Fellowship 10:15 am Sunday School 5:00 pm Troop 138	27	28	29	30	31	

**St. Paul Evangelical
Lutheran Church**

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JANUARY SCHEDULES

COUNCIL

Jan. 5 9:00 a.m.	Daryl Henkes Andy Meyer
Jan. 12 9:00 a.m.	Steve Johnson Barb Tieskoetter
Jan. 19 9:00 a.m.	Ashley Blietz-Camp Jill Lamborn
Jan. 26 9:00 a.m.	Kevin Brainard Crystal Thurn Justin Birdnow

DATE USHERS

Jan. 5	Jim Langhus Linette Langhus
Jan. 12	Bob Tayek Wayne Garms
Jan. 19	Heidi Meyer Andy Meyer
Jan. 26	Nathan Friedlein Aaron Friedlein

Come & Worship

LECTORS

January 5:	Sara Wagner
January 12:	Justin Birdnow
January 19:	Heidi Meyer
January 26:	Melissa Haberichter

ACOLYTES

Jan. 5:	Avery Lamborn Hannah Friedlein Blake Schutte
Jan. 12:	Addison Buchheit Evelyn Birdnow Kashton Decker
Jan. 19:	Kyler Nuehring Hailey Bouzek Kase Paulus
Jan. 26:	Jaxon Lamborn Brodyn Blietz Grace Palas

ALTAR GUILD

Jan. 5	Lorna Jones
Jan. 12	Barb Kalkwarf
Jan. 19	Mary Ann Koehn
Jan. 26	Linette Langhus - check robes

FELLOWSHIP

Jan. 5	Jill Lamborn
EPIC	Abby Burns
Jan. 12	Diane & Tim Fisk
Jan. 19	Annual Meeting Luther League
Jan. 26	Heidi & Andy Meyer Rein Kregel

FLOWER ASSISTANTS

Jan. 5	Beth Henkes
Jan. 12	Lois Garms
Jan. 19	Pam Malanaphy
Jan. 26	Lorna Jones