



ST. PAUL NEWS

Monona, IA 52159

May 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

May is a month that is full of endings. May 3rd is Cradle Roll Sunday and the last day of Sunday School until September. May 10th is when we recognize the 2026 graduates from our congregation. May 17th is graduation for the MFL MarMac seniors. My oldest daughter graduates from preschool and school for all students and teachers is done May 22nd. But are these endings really endings or are they new beginnings? They are accomplishments, a start to a new phase of life. As hard as it is to say goodbye or watch your children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews get older, it's the next phase of life for them and you. We are in the season of Easter, Easter never ends, it is not a one day event or even a season, we are living the new life of resurrection every day. The resurrected life is a beginning every day. When I think about the word of God I can't come up with a time that says the end or this is the ending but I do know of 2 very important times of beginning. In Genesis 1, "In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth," and in John 1 "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God." Do you notice something about beginnings? They are with God; God has a hand in the beginnings. In the Bible it may not say exactly the end but people have assumed when the end times are coming. Matthew 23:34, "Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away but my words will not pass away." Jesus' words, God's word have not ended, over 2,000 years later and we continue to hear these words, have faith in God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and live our lives in the hope of the resurrection. God has stood the test of time, hope in everlasting life with God is still very much alive and the fact that we can still find joy out of fear and the turmoil of our world is a testament to the resurrection. Endings and new beginnings are hard and scary because we do not know what the world will look like when we leave the familiarity of our hometown or how we can possibly find joy again after the death of a loved one. We don't do it alone, God in Jesus Christ walks with us in love as God did in the beginning, on the cross, in death and resurrection and often times it is with the person whom we didn't expect that God puts in our lives to walk with us. May is not full of endings but new beginnings in our journey in the resurrected life. Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

In Christ's peace,
Pastor Erika

CRADLE ROLL RECOGNITION & NURSERY ROOM GRADUATION SUNDAY, MAY 3rd AT THE 9:00 AM WORSHIP SERVICE

During worship our Nursery Room will share some special music and the Nursery Room Graduates will be recognized. We will also recognize all newly baptized children from the past year and their parents. Fellowship with light refreshments to follow. This will also be the last day of Sunday School for the year.

Kindergarten Graduates

Harper Berns
Dawson Bouzek
Matthew Burns
Layton Camp
Carlie Donlon

Skyler Engen
Maxine Henkes
Everlee Koenig
Grace Marmann
Haven Martins
Porter Martins



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2026 GRADUATES!

*Brodyn Blietz ~ Hailey Bouzek ~ Jackson Foels
Clayton Henkes ~ Kyler Nuehring ~ Grace Palas
Brady Welsh*

Senior Recognition ~ Sunday, May 10th at Worship

St. Paul Lutheran has a long tradition of honoring our confirmed senior graduates at a worship service during the month of May. A special gift created by the women of the congregation will be presented to them on behalf of all the members of St. Paul.



Baccalaureate ~ Wednesday May 13th

The MFL MarMac Interchurch Council will be honoring the graduating seniors at a Baccalaureate service on Wednesday, May 13th at 7:00 pm at St. Paul Lutheran, Monona. All parishioners are invited to join our seniors for this special prayer service. This is our way to honor and support our young adults who have reached this milestone in their lives.





MAY

Mission Action:

Personal Care Items—
Shampoo, deodorant, etc.

Bible Study:

Session three: Jesus said to her,
“I Am the resurrection and the life.
Those who believe in me, even
though they die will live, and
everyone who lives and believes in
me will never die” John 11:25

MAY CALENDAR

May 2nd

LWR Truck, Decorah
7:00 -10:00 am

May 3rd

Cradle Roll Recognition

May 6th

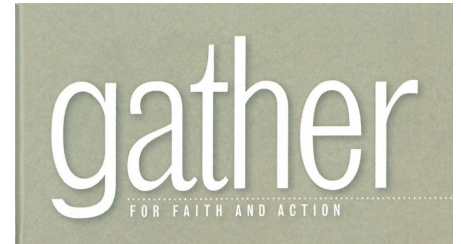
9:15 am Bible Study

May 10th

Senior Recognition

June 20

Synod Women’s Organization-
Northeast Iowa Our Savior’s
Lutheran, Mason City, Iowa



*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.

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!



May Item
Personal Care Items
Shampoo, Deodorant etc.

SAVE YOUR STAMPS!

WELCA is collecting used postage stamps. Tear off the stamps and place in the container at church and WELCA will trim them. There must be a 1/4-1/3 inch boarder of paper around the stamp. Small 1/2 cent through current postal rate are accepted. Seasonal holiday or any special stamps are great! These are donated to the Alliance Stamp Ministry to raise money to provide Sunday School curriculum to Spanish speaking countries.

THANK YOU to Jim & Linette Langhus for delivering quilts and kits to the Lutheran World Relief Truck in Decorah.

Scholarships For EWALU

WELCA will donate \$40 to any St. Paul Sunday School student who would like to attend Summer Camp @ EWALU. If interested, contact the church office.

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

St. Paul Lutheran Church

Council Meeting April 8, 2026

(The April Minutes are printed but pending approval at the May 11th Council Meeting)

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

Absent: Barb Horns, Mike Rood, Tracy Decker

Meeting called to order at 6:01pm by Kevin Brainard

Devotions led by Justin Birdnow. Next month is Celia Brown

Minutes from March meeting reviewed, motion to approve by Justin, second by Niki. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: given by Crystal. March monthly offering \$14,342.89, expenses \$16,105.90. Overspent in March by \$1763.01, this is partly due to purchasing a new vacuum (\$593.64) and one-time yearly expenses of \$758 for Worship/Music. Memorial fund brought in \$3,712.02 with \$75 of that being In Loving Memory memorials and \$357.04 in interest from the Memorial Fund CD. \$24,461.75 was also transferred from the Current Fund into the Current Fund Holding. Expense from the Memorial Fund was \$185.48 to the MFL Mar Mac Caring Closet for March's Noisy Can offering. Black Hills Energy monthly amount will be increasing to \$1124 from \$1012. Motion to approve Treasurer's report by Andy, second by Stephanie. Motion carried. Pastor's Mileage was reported and paid in the amount of \$208.80 for 290 miles. Motion to approve by Stephanie, second by Justin. Motion carried.

Correspondence: A Thank You letter was received from the ELCA regarding the World Hunger donation that was sent. A notice was received by the Leila Kilcher Estate, St. Paul is listed as a beneficiary. Unknown specifics at this time, will go to the Endowment Fund.

Pastor's Report: MFL Mar Mac Speech is now done, students had a fantastic season. With Holy Week past we now look forward to New Member Sunday, Cradle Roll and Graduation Sunday. Pastor plans to visit Garden View in May for their Memorial Service. Had one funeral in March (Mary Ann Fuelling) and one planned in April (Carol Marting).

Education and Youth: Still looking for more Sunday School teachers.

Fellowship and Evangelism: New Member Sunday April 19th, Graduation Recognition Sunday May 10th.

Mission and Social: Next meeting April 12th after worship. Progressive Supper April 26th.

Property and Grounds: Still monitoring the uneven concrete in the parking lot. Seems to be better with warmer temperatures but Kevin still plans to contact someone to fix it. Plan to work on Parsonage landscaping. Plan to meet soon for the cemetery to discuss the very large old "See" monument. Plan to move it which would open up some unclaimed plots.

Stewardship and Finance: Have not met

Worship and Music: Have not met

Interchurch Council: MFLMM Baccalaureate Service at St. Paul's on Wednesday May 13th at

Council Minutes, continued . . .

7pm. St Paul's is also in charge of the Goodwill Truck at the community center parking lot on Saturday May 9th, will need some volunteers to help.

Old Business: Auction on March 21st brought in a total of \$6689.50. Church items were \$2371.50, Mary Ann Fuelling's items \$318 and a donation of \$4000.

New Business: Cintas Service agreement contract is up soon. The price is unchanged, options for 24 month contract or 60 month contract. Discussion was held but no decision was made during the meeting. Discussion was also held regarding the best communication for when Sunday worship is cancelled. The cancellation is put on Facebook, but many members do not have social media. Announcement will also be put on radio stations and TV stations (Pastor is now able to do this from home).

Next meeting will be **Monday May 11th** at 6pm

Motion to adjourn meeting at 6:38pm by Niki, second by Stephanie. Motion carried.

Meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted by Beth Foels



What: Abiding, Belonging, Creative, Collaborative Congregations (A/B/C³)

When: 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM Saturday, June 6, 2026

Where: St. Paul Lutheran Church and School, Waverly, IA

Address: 301 1st St NW, Waverly, IA 50677

Who: ELCA congregation members and rostered leaders

Cost: \$50. Payment needed at the time of registration. Registration deadline is May 22, 2026. No late registrations or walk ins due to the food order.

Contact the NEIA Synod Office to register.

Saturday May 9th ~

8 am to 11am

**It's time for spring cleaning!
Interchurch Council is hosting
the Goodwill Truck for the
things you want to donate!**

**WE'RE ON A
ROLL**



Our Truck Will Be Accepting Donations At

East Parking Lot Monona Comm. Ctr.

Shepherd of the Hills Ministries

NEWSLETTER – MAY 2026



Boy, have we been busy! Our event, "A Formal Affair", was a success for our first year. We had over 300 dresses available for purchase. 120 of the dresses were donated to Shepherd of the Hills alone. We sold almost 30! We had so much fun seeing the stunning formal dresses come in. A few bridal gowns were sold, Mother of the bride/groom dresses, vintage dresses, homecoming and prom. We have a lot left over that will continue to be sold at the thrift store. We would love to continue this event in the future, so please think of us if you have formal event!

Clothing Center Updates:

*The thrift store is now switched over to the spring/summer season. There is a lot to choose from. We have been blessed with wonderful donations of great quality. Thank you for supporting your small town thrift store. Remember, most of our items are only \$1.00!
(Excluding formal wear)*

Garage sale season is upon us. If you have some items left, we do require an appointment before you donate them!

We are looking for a few volunteers that would like to join our team in the thrift store on Saturdays. We would love to be open so the working families can shop/donate on their days off. Hours would be 9am to noon on Saturdays.

If you are interested, please contact Heather for more information.

Shepherd Conference News:

Ascension Day service will be May 14 at 5:30 @ Ceres Church on Hwy 52 between Garnavillo and Guttenberg. Potluck style supper to follow at St. Peter Lutheran Church in Garnavillo.

The 2026 Northeastern Iowa C3 Conference is June 6 th at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Waverly, Iowa. This is a workshop event through the Synod instead of a business/voting session. Cost to attend is \$50.00. If you would like more information, please visit the Synod website at neiasynod.org/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:

- Ascension Day Service May 14th
 - Synod C3 Conference June 6th
 - Back to School 4 Kids August 12th
- Referral required to participate*

**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**

On Sunday, April 12th, The entire Sunday School had a pizza party for donating \$702.40 during the 4 week long Coin Wars that went to the Clayton County Food Shelf! Thank you to the Sunday School students, staff and parents for giving back to our community! Thank you to Heidi Meyer for organizing the Coin Wars and pizza party!




Save the Date June 28-July 2, 2027







On Maundy Thursday nine 2nd graders received their First Communion. Congratulations to (back) Amalia Schlueter, Beau Hudson, Joe Meyer, Chandler Donlon, (front) Andrew Torkelson, Ryleigh Palas, Emilia Pendleton, Maddie Burns and Weston Kregel

MOTHER'S DAY



CINNAMON ROLL FUNDRAISER

FRESHLY BAKED AND FROSTED CINNAMON ROLLS WILL BE READY FOR PICK UP AT THE CHURCH FELLOWSHIP HALL FROM 2-4 PM ON SATURDAY, MAY 9TH, OR 8:30-10 AM ON SUNDAY, MAY 10TH

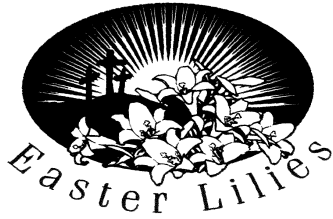
-  PAN OF 6 ROLLS FOR \$12
-  PAN OF 9 ROLLS FOR \$17
-  PAN OF 12 ROLLS FOR \$20
-  1 LARGE ROLL FOR \$5

FILL OUT AN ORDER FORM AND DROP OFF AT THE CHURCH OFFICE OR GIVE TO A LUTHER LEAGUE MEMBER.

PRE-ORDERS DUE THURSDAY MAY 7TH

THANKS FOR SUPPORTING THE LUTHER LEAGUE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS OF ST. PAUL IN MONONA RAISE FUNDS FOR THEIR ACTIVITIES

QUESTIONS, CONTACT JONNA SCHUTTE AT 563.537.0092



In Loving Memory...

Of Bob & Florence Evans
By Tryg & Karan Mathison
Gloria Rainer

Of Jamie, Brent, Kevin Jr. and Loved Ones
By Kevin & Penny Brainard

Of Loved Ones
By David & Lorna Jones
Mary Ann Koehn

Of Jerry Brown
By Celia Brown

Of L'Dean Henkes
Dwain Henkes & Family
and Loved Ones
By Arleta Henkes and Family

Of Loved Ones
By Andy & Heidi, Emma & Joe Meyer

Of Loved Ones
By Tyler & Ashley Camp
Brodyn, Bryce & Layton

Of Loved Ones
By Richard & Teresa Sass

Of Loved Ones
By Don & Karen Martindale and Family

Of Loved Ones
By Judy Walter and Family

Of Robert & Allen Ball
By Betty Ball & Laurie Ballinger

Of Loved Ones
By Tim & Diane Fisk and Family

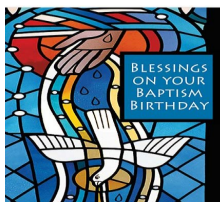
Of Loved Ones
By Barbara Horns and Family

Of Lyle Johannsen and Loved Ones
By Marion Johannsen and Family

Of Roger Halvorson
By Connie Halvorson, Tracey, Rogeta,
Jay, Lisa and Families

Of Jason & Arleen Ferguson, Randy Ferguson, Paige &
Delores Buerger, Ray & Darlene DeSotel &
Dorleen Thorton
By Marlyn & Patty Buerger and
Ron & Chris Ferguson

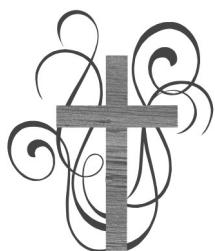
MAY BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES



12	Ania Kwilinski	22	Dreyah Henkels	30	Laina Kraus
14	Lydia Wagner	25	Hannah Friedlein		
22	Lukas Friedlein	29	Sydney Bissell		

OFFICIAL ACTS IN APRIL

Funeral: April 18, 2026
 Carol Yvonne Marting, Age 88



MAY GOLDEN BIRTHDAYS

May 3	Robert Saacke
May 10	Steve Ford
May 14	Connie Halvorson
May 22	Marion Johannsen
May 18	Doug Bachman
May 26	Roger Nelson
May 29	Joyce Saacke
May 29	Jim Tayek

SUMMER OUTDOOR WORSHIP DATES

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

June 21st

July 19th

August 16th

September 6th

MAY GOLDEN ANNIVERSARYS

May 9	Fred & Bonnie Heins
May 23	Bob & Joyce Saacke
May 29	Ron & Diane Mueller
May 30	Allan & Mary Smith

ST PAUL EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH DATA

Total 420

Total Family Units 174

Average Sunday Attendance for 2024

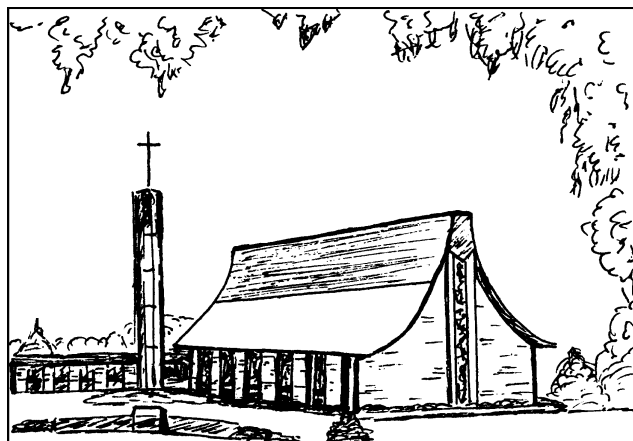
105 (In Person) 40 (Virtual)

Average Sunday Attendance for 2025

104 (In Person) 50 (Virtual)

Average Attendance for 2026 through April 26th

109 (In Person) 54 (Virtual)



March Financials



***Giving	Cash/Check
March 1	\$2,807.94
March 8	\$2,496.93
March 15	\$468.00
March 22	\$5,424.24
March 29	\$3,435.00
ILM Memorials	\$75.00
**Total Simply Giving for March	\$4,295.00

*** 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	March Actual	March Budget	March YTD Actual	March YTD Budget
*Receipts	\$14,342.89		\$51,643.48	
Disbursements	\$16,105.90	\$18,514.81	\$48,499.71	\$55,544.44

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

St. Paul Parish Office Hours

Monday 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
 Tuesday 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. & 2-3:30 p.m.
 Wednesday 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
 Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
 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.

Would you like to receive the St. Paul News via email? Please let us know by emailing the church office stpaulth@neitel.net

MAY 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 LWR Truck Decorah
3 <i>Cradle Roll/NR Grad.</i> 8:30 Choir Practice 9:00 Worship/ Eucharist 10:00 Fellowship 10:15 Sunday School 4:00 Progressive Dinner 6:30 Troop 38	4	5	6 9:15 am Bible Study	7	8	9 Goodwill Truck 8-11 Dave Kalkwarf funeral 11am
10 Mother's Day <i>Senior Recognition</i> 8:30 Choir 9:00 Worship/ Eucharist 10:00 Fellowship	11 6:00 pm Council	12 6:15 Worship & Music Meeting	13 7:00 Baccalaureate St Paul Monona	14	15	16
17 8:30 Choir 9:00 Worship/ Eucharist 6:30 Troop 38	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 <i>Pentecost</i> <i>Noisy Can/Tables</i> 8:00 Bells 9:00 Worship/Eucharist Martins Baptism	25 <i>Memorial Day</i> OFFICE CLOSED	26	27	28	29	30
31 8:30 Choir practice 9:00 Worship/Eucharist						

**St. Paul Evangelical
Lutheran Church**

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P O Box 1968
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Email: stpaluth@neitel.net

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



COUNCIL

May 3 Sunday 9:00 am	Beth Foels Rein Kregel
May 10 Sunday 9:00 am	Andy Meyer Celia Brown
May 17 Sunday 9:00 am	Justin Birdnow Niki Palas
May 24 Sunday 9:00 am	Rein Kregel Stephanie Larson Kevin Brainard
May 31 9:00am Sunday	Craig Watson Andy Meyer

USHERS

May 3	Kevin & Penny Brainard
May 10	Jim Langhus & Brad Kiesau
May 17	Lindsay Krambeer Bailey Engen
May 24	Tim & Diane Fisk
May 31	Amber Hendricks & Deb Moose

MAY SCHEDULES

ACOLYTES

May 3	Gage Paulus Brodyn Blietz Kashton Decker
May 10	Taylor Rasmussen Evelyn Birdnow Clayton Henkes
May 17	Veda Torkelson Briella Schutte Jaxon Lamborn
May 24	Kyler Nuehring Blake Schutte Kashton Decker
May 31	Clayton Henkes Brodyn Blietz

LECTORS

May 3	Sara Wagner
May 10	Crystal Thurn
May 17	Heidi Landt
May 24	Barb Kalkwarf
May 31	Heidi Meyer

FLOWER ASSISTANTS

May 3	Lorna Jones
May 10	Beth Henkes
May 17	Teresa Sass
May 24	Dyane Schutte
May 31	Lois Garms

ALTAR GUILD

May 3	Mary Ann Koehn
May 10	Linette Langhus
May 17	Heidi Meyer
May 24	Crystal Thurn
May 31	Teresa Sass Check robes

FELLOWSHIP

May 4	<i>Cradle Roll</i> Education & Youth Sunday School Staff
May 11	<i>Senior Recognition</i> Fellowship & Evangelism
May 17	Wayne & Lois Garms & Barb Kalkwarf