



ST. PAUL NEWS

Monona, IA 52159

MARCH 2026

Office 563-539-2230

Kitchen/School 563-539-2050

*Pastor:
Erika Lenth*

*Parish Bookkeeper:
Ashley Blietz-Camp*

*President:
Kevin Brainard*

Inside this issue:

Pastor Erika	1
Taco Supper	2
Lent	
WELCA	3
Council Minutes	4
Council Minutes cont.	5
Scholarship	
Shepherd of the Hills	6
Birthdays & Anniversaries	7
Financial Report	8
Calendar	9
Schedules	10

From Pastor Erika

We are in the midst of Lent. For the 5 Lenten Midweek services I will reflect on the Small Catechism. Martin Luther designed the Small Catechism as a teaching tool not only to be used at church but also in the home. Luther intended for the home to be the place where faith was first shared and taught. The Small Catechism was probably one of Martin Luther's most well known publications, one that we continue to use today. In confirmation class we devote a whole school year to the Small Catechism to better understand how what we learn in the Small Catechism applies to our lives today. In the Small Catechism is what Martin Luther considered the most important things people of faith need to know. The Small Catechism consists of: the 10 Commandments and their meanings; the Apostles' Creed and its explanation; the Sacrament of Holy Baptism and Holy Communion and their explanations and the Lord's Prayer and its meaning along with basic prayers for morning and evening. As a Lenten discipline I invite you to find your Small Catechisms, if you can't find yours the church has many or you can also get the Small Catechism app for your phone and the small catechism is in the back of the hymnal. After Wednesday Lent worship service or before read the portion of the Small Catechism that we reflected on in worship. For those who are unable to be at worship this is the order we will reflect on the Small Catechism: February 25th : Ten Commandments; March 4th: Creed; March 11th: Lord's Prayer; March 18th: Baptism; March 28th: Holy Communion.

Lent is a time that invites us to give something up; begin a new discipline and grow and reflect on our relationship with God and with God's people and creation. This is one idea of things you can do on our 40 day journey to the cross. "Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love."

In Christ's Peace,
Pastor Erika

GARDEN OF MEMORIES

If you would like to share a spring plant or Easter lily for our Garden of Memories, please let the office know by **March 29th** to be included on the list for the bulletin. You can bring your plant to church any time during the week before Easter, but it must be there before 9:00 am on Saturday, April 4th, so the Flower Committee can design the garden.



FIRST COMMUNION

The following 10 students are eligible to receive their First Communion:

Mason Brainard, Maddie Burns, Chandler Donlon, Beau Hudson, Weston Kregel, Joseph Meyer, Ryleigh Palas, Emilia Pendleton, Amalia Schlueter, Andrew Torkelson

*First Communion Class will be Palm Sunday March 29 following Worship
First Communion will be April 2nd at the
7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Worship Service*

Sunday School Activities

March 15 Last Supper for Grades 1-4

March 22 Plant Grass

March 29th The Sunday School Students will have Easter Grass Gardens available.
Free will donation will go to the Parking Lot fund.

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY AT ST. PAUL

St. Paul Endowment Scholarship

First Established by Ploma Blaha

Additional donors: Irene Wall, Ivanelle Garms.

This Scholarship is for High School Seniors who plan to attend a College or Vocational technical school. This is a \$1,500.00 scholarship. It is to be divided between the two semesters of the first year of schooling.

Deadline to apply is March 15

**Applications can be picked up in the back of the church or from your
Guidance Counselor**

HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday	9:00 am March 29
Maundy Thursday	7:00 pm April 2
Good Friday	1:30 pm April 3

EASTER APRIL 5

6:30 am Sunrise Service
Luther League Breakfast
9:00 am Easter Worship

MIDWEEK LENTEN SCHEDULE

10:30 am Worship
 5:30 pm Lenten Supper
 5:45 pm Vocal Choir
 6:30 pm Worship
 7:00 pm Bell Choir
 Wednesday Lenten Services:
 March 4, 11, 18, 25



Lent

All Lenten Offerings split between
Shepherd of the Hills and the
Clayton County Food Shelf



MARCH

Mission Action:
Canned Goods

Bible Study:
Bible Study: "I Am: God's Holy name and promise"
Session one Bread Wine and Light
Abiding with us John 6,8, & 15

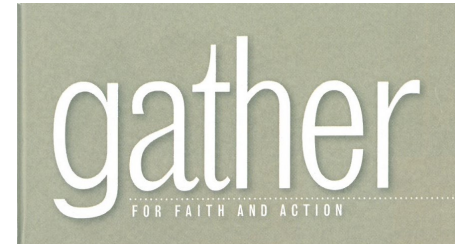


MARCH CALENDAR

March 4th
9:00 am Bible Study (time changed)
10:30 am Ash Wed. Service

March 6th
1:30 pm World Day of Prayer
@ St. John, Luana

March 26th & 27th
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.*

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 March is Canned Goods



World Day Of Prayer 2026

March 6th, 1:30 p.m. at St. John Lutheran Church, Luana

This year's host country for WDP 2025 is the Cook Islands.

"I Will Give You Rest: Come"

The 2026 World Day of Prayer materials from Nigeria bring us a powerful invitation drawn from Matthew 11:28-30. At a time when people worldwide are carrying heavy burdens, our Nigerian sisters offer profound insights into finding rest in

God. Through their exploration of different kinds of burdens - shame, systemic oppression, religious persecution, poverty and despair - the writers help us understand both the weight of human suffering and the depths of divine rest. Their work shows us that true rest isn't just about physical relief, but about transformation through God's grace and community support.

The Nigerian committee has woven together their cultural wisdom with the universal need for rest. Through symbols like the calabash bowl, which represents both daily sustenance and divine provision, they remind us how God meets us in our weariness.

ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
St. Paul Lutheran Church
Council Meeting February 11, 2026

(The February Minutes are printed but pending approval at the March 11th Council Meeting)

Attending - Stephanie Larson, Michael Rood, Celia Brown, Rein Kregel, Kevin Brainard, Nicole Palas, Craig Watson, and Pastor Erika Lenth

Absent - Tracy Decker (assumed Lloyd Johanningmeier spot), Andy Meyer, Barb Horns, Justin Birdnow, Beth Foels

Meeting called to order at 6pm by Kevin Brainard
Devotions led by Pastor Erika. Next month will be Kevin Brainard.

Kevin provided an update on the council position vacated by Lloyd Johanningmeier, due to personal reasons and Tracy Decker assumed the position. Motion to accept by Nicole - 2nd by Michael. Motion carried

Minutes from previous month reviewed and motion made by Craig - 2nd by Stephanie to approve the minutes of the January meeting.

Treasurer's Report by Crystal Thurn – January bills were normal, automatic door opener was repaired, no In Loving Memorial gifts received for the month. Receipts were higher due to donors giving for the year at one time. Extra pulpit supplies were purchased, will be reflected in next month's credit card statement. Motion to accept the treasure report - motion by Stephanie - 2nd by Celia. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report and Correspondence - no mileage for January, thank you cards received from Scenic Acres for the gifts given at Christmas from the Sunday School classes for their special friends, Ewalu for the money received from the Fall Dinner (money already raised by Ewalu is 2.1 million for the renovation of Cedar Lodge), Garden View - for the gifts from the Christmas Giving Tree. Also, Pastor and Ashley are settling into their new roles, 8 students in confirmation (classes on hold till after Lent), confirmation youth families are doing lent suppers before service at 5:30 to raise funds for camp, Bible Study - WELCA luncheon there were 10 ladies attended on a cold day, they meet 2 times a year, Pastor visits Garden View one time a month. Pastor is also a speech coach - the team had 14 events going to State Speech, 13 received #1, 9 to All State.

Education and Youth - Rein is the Chairperson and Penny is the Secretary, they met on February 5th. Pastor reported that the confirmation class was finishing up with the Apostles Creed. The point system is going well for their requirements, 2 students will be confirmed next fall, last class for confirmation will be the end of April. Next year, June 28th-July 2nd is the Luther League gathering in Minneapolis, Luther League will be going to King Pin in Decorah for a fun day out, no current update on Summer Bible School being hosted by St. John's in Luana. Sunday May 3rd is Cradle Roll - 12 graduates for that ceremony. Heidi reported on the Sunday School, attendance is steady, will need possibly 2 teachers next year, will be splitting the 3rd and 4th grades due to size of classes. The Christmas Program was a success again. Next meeting planned is Tuesday, July 14th at Center Street

Fellowship and Evangelism - have not met, no report

Mission and Social Ministry - Randee is Chairperson and Ashley is Secretary. Progressive Supper is Sunday April 26th, starting at 4 pm in the Fellowship hall. We are looking for 3 families or groups of people to host the other 3 stops. Soup/Salad, Main Course, Dessert. Contact the office or at church, Randee, Ashley, or Rein. Next meeting is Sunday 12th or the 18th after church.

Property and Grounds - have not met

Council Minutes, continued . . .

Stewardship and Finance - Craig reported, Kevin is the Chairperson and Craig is the Secretary. Discussion was on the Taco Supper, set up 12 to 12:30, discussed portion amounts and asked for help to serve. Update on the Current Holding Account. Motion made by Craig to move excess Current funds to the Holding Account that will be used for upcoming projects. Nicole 2nd. Motion carried

Worship and Music - Pastor reported Lent services will be at 10:30 in the chapel, 6:30 in the Sanctuary, Holden Evening Prayer, 1st Communion will be on Maundy Thursday at 7pm, the committee requested the church to buy new candles for the Christmas Eve service (that has been done, 350 new candles)

Interchurch Council - Met the end of January, Donna Staples is the Chairperson, Pastor Erika is the V.P. Crystal Thurn is the Treasurer. Agenda discussed - St. Johns Luana is hosting Vacation Bible School and the World Day of Prayer, St Paul is hosting on May 13th, Baccalaureate for the graduating seniors from MFL MarMac.

Old Business - Auction Update - Rein commented that with the list of items from Kevin, from the church and donations from the congregation, it will be a nice little auction to raise money for the Parking Lot fund. Listing for the auction fliers will be put together after the weekend of February 22nd, there will be a need for help with the auction itself, a clerk and cashier, Rein will ask the confirmation students to help with the auction part, as far as holding up items being sold, Pastor will ask the Luther League to serve a lunch. The Kregel Auction service is not charging for their services, and will cover the cost of the advertising. All proceeds raised will be handled by the auction service, and given back to the church after checks are clear. No Hay Days update at this time.

New Business - Updated contact info gathered for the council members, updated council member duties in regards to the Sunday morning collections. Request by Ashley in the office to get a different credit card in regards to several security issues with the old card. Motion for approval by Stephanie, Celia 2nd. Motion carried. Member transfer out - request by Wren Feuerhelm to transfer membership to Trinity American, motion to accept by Michael, Celia 2nd. Motion carried. Membership transfer in - request by Logan and Tessa Domeyer. Motion to accept by Nicole, Stephanie 2nd. Motion carried

Michael Rood motioned to adjourn the meeting, Nicole 2nd. Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Following the meeting, new council member instruction on council duties in the Sanctuary/Narthex

Next Meeting - Tuesday, March 10th, 6pm.

Respectfully submitted by Rein Kregel

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS MARCH 8



*Set Your clocks ahead
Sat. Night
You don't want to
miss Church!*

An Irish blessing

May God grant you always
A sunbeam to warm you,
A moonbeam to charm you,
A sheltering angel
So nothing can harm you,
Laughter to cheer you,
Faithful friends near you —
And whenever you pray,
Heaven to hear you.



Shepherd of the Hills Ministries

NEWSLETTER – MARCH 2026



We are trying new things this year to aid us in fundraising. If you like thrifting or our exclusive ½ off sales...you don't want to miss this! Thrift Shop Hop is hosted by the Depot Outlet in Decorah on March 13-15. Thrift stores in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Iowa are participating. You can find participating thrift stores on the web at thriftshophop.com. Each store can set their own sales and hours. We will be open the 13-14 only for this event. Please plan on attending to get some great deals! A Formal Affair will be on March 28th from 8am-4pm. The Volga Opera House in Volga will be our formal location. We will be taking consignment or donated formal wear...Prom/homecoming dresses, wedding/Mother of the Bride/Groom dresses, formal suits, flower girl dresses and accessories. This is your opportunity to find a home for those dresses in your closet or if you're on a budget... we got you covered with this formal buy and sell sale. Find the registration form on A Formal Affair's Facebook page. All proceeds directly support Shepherd of the Hills.

Clothing Center Updates:

We will be adding more clothing racks so we can have some off season clothing items out all year round. I am not sure how this will go but the request was made and we are willing to try new things. Please continue to schedule your donations so we can have enough volunteers on hand. With the weather getting nicer, we hope to have more ½ off sales. Don't forget we are having a ½ off sale on March 13-14!

Shepherd Conference News:

Our conference assembly was held February 15 at Zion Lutheran Church in Oelwein. Zion Church provided great refreshments and beautiful arrangements. They were great hosts on a beautiful day. 66 people were in attendance representing 16 churches. Bishop Kevin Jones visited with us about what the Synod does for our conference and our churches. It was very informative and interesting to hear the tasks behind the scenes. We welcome Chris Anderson (Synodical Authorized Minister) from St. John, Dundee and Peace in Ryan to our board. He will serve on our worship chair. On behalf of the Shepherd of the Hills board, we would like to thank everyone for your support throughout the years!

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:

½ off sale: March 13-14 9am-4pm

A Formal Affair: March 28

8am-4pm

Ascension Day Service May 14

**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@netel.net

**Business Hours: Monday-Friday
9am-12pm and 1pm-4 pm**

MARCH BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES

2 Jackson Bissell	15 Cooper Echard	19 Zoey Edwards
5 Colson Rumph	16 Hailey Bouzek	20 Isla Henkes
7 Kaley Moose	Dax Thurn Jones	25 Carter Stoddard
9 Korie Palas	17 Levi Walz	26 Adam Henderson
Remington Henkes	Trayven Kraus	Aria Koenig
10 Leila Schlichte	18 Zada Thurn Jones	Kenyx Engen



OFFICIAL ACTS IN FEBRUARY

Baptism

Feb. 22nd: Rogan Michael Hundt
 DOB: 12/2/2025
 Prairie du Chien, WI
 Parents: Aaron & Chelsea Hundt
 Sponsors: David Hundt
 Courtney Carlson



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- March 8: Donna Thompson
- March 8: Sharon Bruening
- March 12: Kerry Melcher
- March 13: Janet Staff
- March 15: Don Drahn
- March 17: Lois Garms
- March 18: Candace Schlitter
- March 22: Sharon Hefel
- March 24: Allan Smith

NO MARCH GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

ST PAUL EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH DATA

Total 420

Total Family Units 174

Average Sunday Attendance for 2024

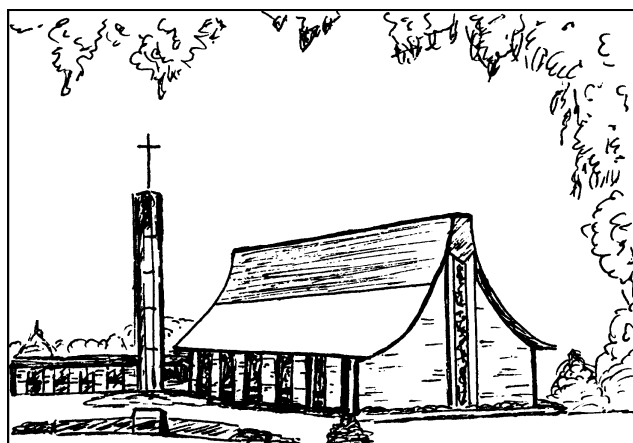
105 (In Person) 40 (Virtual)

Average Sunday Attendance for 2025

104 (In Person) 50 (Virtual)

Average Attendance for 2026 through Feb. 22nd

87 (In Person) 65 (Virtual)



January Financials



***Giving	Cash/Check
January 4	\$2,262.00
January 11	\$1,875.00
January 18	\$2,486.00
January 25	\$15,001.63
**Total Simply Giving for January	\$4,084.00

*** 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	January Actual	January Budget	January YTD Actual	January YTD Budget
*Receipts	\$24,264.64		\$24,264.64	
Disbursements	\$15,467.98	\$18,514.81	\$15,467.98	\$222,177.75

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 stpaulmonona.org
to see what's happening at St. Paul
Items to be included in the April
St. Paul News need to be turned
into the office by March 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 stpalth@netel.net

MARCH 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8:00 Choir 9:00 Worship/ Eucharist 10:00 Fellowship (EPIC) 10:15 Sunday School 6:30 Troop 38	2	3	4 Lent 2 9:00 WELCA Bible Study 10:30 am Worship 5:30 pm Supper 5:45 pm Choir 6:30 pm Worship 7:00 pm Bell Choir	5	6 World Day of Prayer 1:30pm St John's Lutheran Church Luana	7
8 <i>Daylight Savings</i> 8:00 Bells 9:00 Worship/ Eucharist <i>Snicker Baptism, 1st-4th</i> Grade Sing 10:00 Fellowship 10:15 Sunday School 1-4pm Froelich Board Mtg 5pm Giard EH 4H	9	10 6pm Council Meeting	11 Lent 3 10:30 am Worship 5:30 pm Supper 5:45 pm Choir 6:30 pm Worship 7:00 pm Bell Choir	12	13	14
15 8:00 Choir 9:00 Worship/ Eucharist 10:00 Fellowship (LL) 10:15 Sunday School 6:30 Troop 38	16	17	18 Lent 4 10:30 am Worship 5:30 pm Supper 5:45 pm Choir 6:30 pm Worship 7:00 pm Bell Choir	19	20	21 10am Church Auction
22 <i>Noisy Can</i> 8:00 Bells 9:00 Worship/ Eucharist 10:00 Fellowship 10:15 Sunday School	23	24	25 Lent 5 10:30 am Worship 5:30 pm Supper 5:45 pm Choir 6:30 pm Worship 7:00 pm Bell Choir	26	27	28 Schultz/ Picha Wedding
29 <i>Palm Sunday</i> 8:00 Choir 9:00 Worship/ Eucharist 10:00 Fellowship 10:15 Sunday School First Communion Class	30 7:00 Interchurch Council Monona Methodist	31		Doing Days Doing Days	Doing Days	

**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

March 1 Sunday 9:00 am	Stephanie Larson Celia Brown
March 4 Wed 6:30 pm	Mike Rood
March 8 Sunday 9:00 am	Rein Kregel Andy Meyer
March 11 Wed 6:30 pm	Niki Palas
March 15 Sunday 9:00 am	Stephanie Larson Beth Foels
March 18 Wed 6:30 pm	Mike Rood
March 22	Kevin Brainard Niki Palas Rein Kregel
March 25 Wed. 6:30 pm	Stephanie Larson
March 29 9:00am Palm Sunday	Justin Birdnow Kevin Brainard

FELLOWSHIP

Mar 1 EPIC	A. Torkelson & Lindsay Krambeer
Mar 8	Haberichter/Burke
Mar 15	Luther League
Mar 22	Fisk/D. Torkelson
Mar 29	Fellowship & Evangelism

MARCH SCHEDULES

LECTORS

Sun. Mar 1:	Rein Kregel
Sun. Mar 8:	Diane Fisk
Sun. Mar 15:	Justin Birdnow
Sun. Mar 22:	Melissa Haberichter
Sun. Mar 29:	Heidi Landt

ACOLYTES

March 1st	Grace Palas Kyler Nuehring Nora Rasmussen
March 4th Wed	Brodyn Blietz
March 8th	Evelyn Birdnow Jaxon Lamborn Gage Paulus
March 11 Wed	Veda Torkelson
March 15th	Clayton Henkes Blake Schutte Taylor Rasmussen

March 18th Wed	Briella Schutte
March 22nd	Grace Palas Kashton Decker Evelyn Birdnow
March 25 Wed	Jaxon Lamborn
March 29th	Brodyn Blietz Clayton Henkes Kyler Nuehring

FLOWER ASSISTANTS

Mar 1	Dyane Schutte
Mar 8	Lois Garms
Mar 15	Lorna Jones
Mar 22	Beth Henkes
Mar 29	Palm Sunday Palms/Pam

USHERS

Mar 1	Lindsay Krambeer Bailey Engen
Mar 8	Kevin & Penny Brainard
Mar 15	Barb Tieskoetter Crystal Thurn
Mar 22	Brad Kiesau Jim Langhus
Mar 29	Kenny & Linda Staff

ALTAR GUILD

Mar 1:	Kris Christen
Mar 8:	Lorna Jones
Mar 15:	Barb Kalkwarf
Mar 22:	Mary Ann Koehn
Mar 29:	Crystal Thurn (Robes)