



# ST. PAUL NEWS

Monona, IA 52159

FEBRUARY 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

I just read this verse in a devotional, “I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.” (Joshua 1:9) That’s something I needed to hear today and every day. This is a verse we all need and I didn’t edit the verse I left “I hereby command you;” because sometimes we need someone else to tell us what to do, and who better than God. This life that we lead on earth is full of uncertainties, joy and sorrow, birth and death, new opportunities and ways to make the old new again and through all of that the Lord your God is with you wherever you go. This is a good reminder for all of us that even when we feel alone we are not; we are never alone. We are commanded to be strong and courageous which is not the same as telling us to get over it but that we are stronger and more courageous than we know and we can get through the hard times because God is with us and has put people and pets in our lives to walk with us. The world can be a scary place because of terrorists, bullying, drugs, violence, uncertainty and also all the decisions we have to make not knowing if it is the right one for us and our family; but we move forward and aren’t frozen because we have faith, trust in God and in ourselves because God has given us our lives and has trust in us. God is commanding us not to lead our lives in fear but with strength and courage. Here is one of my favorite prayers from our hymnal: O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

In Christ’s Peace,  
Pastor Erika

## ANNUAL MEETING

St. Paul's Annual Meeting was held Sunday, January 19th following our 9:00 Worship service.

There were 45 people in attendance.

Congratulations to our new Council members:

Beth Foels, Rein Kregel, Craig Watson and Barbara Horns.

**Committee members:** Tracy Decker, Pam Malanaphy, Kristen Zabel, Danny Torkelson, Katie Kregel, Randee Koenig and Celia Brown.

**Nominating Committee:** Heidi Meyer and Diane Fisk

**Thank you to our out-going members:** Daryl Henkes, Jill Lamborn

Linda Staff and Barb Tieskoetter

**Our officers for 2024 are: President Crystal Thurn, Vice President Kevin Brainard and Secretary Ashley Blietz-Camp**

The Installation service for the 2025 Council was held on Sunday, January 26th at the 9:00 Worship service.

## SCHOLARSHIP AT ST. PAUL

***St. Paul Endowment Scholarship***

***First Established by Ploma Blaha***

***Additional donors: Irene Wall and Ivanelle Garms***

This Scholarship is for High School Seniors who plan to attend a College or Vocational Technical School. This is a \$1,500 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 church office or from your Guidance Counselor**

## St. Paul Pictorial Directories

After much waiting and anticipation, our Church Directories have finally arrived!

**If you had photographs taken for the directory in the Summer of 2023, your directory is labeled for you and can be picked up in the back of the sanctuary.**

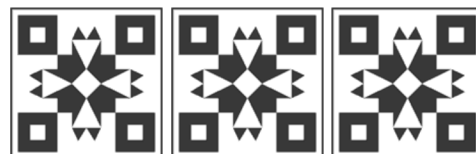
For reasons beyond our control, the process of getting the completed directories took much longer than anticipated. We appreciate everyone's patience throughout this process.

## Contribution Statements

Contribution statements for the 2024 tax year are available to be picked up in the back of the sanctuary. Statements will only be mailed upon request. If you need your statement mailed to you, please contact the office.

## 2025 Offering Envelopes

2025 Offering Envelopes are also available to be picked up in the back of the sanctuary. If you use envelopes for your offering, please pick up and start using your new 2024 envelopes, as some people's envelope numbers have changed this year.



## **FEBRUARY**

### **Mission Action:**

Toothbrush-adult size in original wrapper

### **Bible Study:**

Faithfulness: Session 2 Faith in the Depths: Psalm 22

**Focus Verses:** Psalm 22



## **FEBRUARY CALENDAR**

**Wed. Feb. 5th**

9:15 am Bible Study

**Feb. 27th & 28th**

Doing Days

**March 7th**

World Day of Prayer @  
Monona United Methodist



*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 February is Adult Size  
Toothbrush in original wrapper**



**Mary and Martha fun for all**

Friday Feb 21 and Sat. Feb. 22, 2025

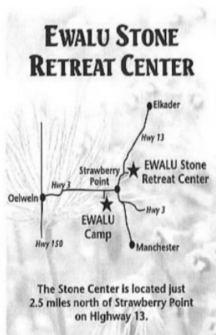
**YOU and your friends are invited to a retreat to Celebrate all the Marys and Marthas! This is a Celebration of YOU!**

Who is welcome? Any woman who belongs to the ELCA and their friends.

*A Woman, a Christian, a helper, a doer, a listener, a learner.*

Activities: bible board games, mixer game, puzzle, **bring your own** crafting projects (everything is welcome including: Quilting, bandage rolling, knit/crochet, etc)

**Celebrating and learning and doing.**



**Friday Feb 21st** arrive anytime after 4pm

join soup supper, hymn sing, game, puzzle and crafting time.

Stay overnight and meals for \$35

Beds, bedding, and towels included (Share a room)

**What to bring:** comfortable clothes, craft projects opt, yourself with a joyful heart

**Saturday Feb. 22nd:** come for the day, breakfast/ coffee @ 8am; Noon meal, bible study, hymn sing, bible study, crafting time and lots of fellowship

Welcome @ 9am, Day ends @ 3pm

Day only rate for meals and building usage \$15

**Registration deadline:** Monday Feb 19th

EWALU Stone Center, 35124 Hwy 13, Strawberry Point, IA

which is 2.5 miles north of Strawberry Point. Handicap accessible facility.

hosted by Your NE IA Women of the ELCA Synod Board and Katie's Fund

Snow dates Feb. 28- March 1

questions ? contact: Christine Schmitt [candcschmitt@gmail.com](mailto:candcschmitt@gmail.com)

641-397-2572 or cell 641-220-5361

**ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES**  
**St. Paul Lutheran Church**  
**Council Meeting January 19, 2025**

*(The Annual 2025 Minutes are printed but pending approval at the 2026 Annual Meeting )*

Meeting called to order by Council President, Crystal Thurn, at 10:13. All members present were asked to sign their names for attendance. 44 voting members were present.

Pastor Erika led devotions, using the Opening Liturgy found in the back of the Annual Report.

Minutes of the January 21, 2024 Annual Meeting were reviewed. Tim Fisk motioned, Randee Koenig seconded, to approve the minutes from the previous annual meeting as printed in the annual report. Motion carried.

**Reports:**

Pastoral Report- Pastor Erika shared that 2024 was a really great year! Average worship attendance has went up to 104. 73 kids, grades 3rd-8th, participated in the Christmas program. She also showed her appreciation to the outgoing council members and encouraged those in attendance to consider joining council, as a way to get to know her and other church members better. In her written report, she shared that she presided at 15 baptisms, 15 funeral/burials (10 of these were members), 8 confirmands, and 5 1<sup>st</sup> communions.

Auditing Committee- Kevin Brainard represented the auditing committee and stated that the committee has reviewed the 2024 financial records of St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church and find the records to be in order to the best of our ability. Danny Torkelson motioned, Tim Fisk seconded, to approve the auditing committee report. Motion carried.

Congregational Annual Report Question & Discussion- Tim Fisk motioned, Teresa Sass seconded, to accept the annual report as printed. Motion carried.

**New Business:**

The presentation of the 2025 ballot and election was held. The following volunteers offered their service on the following committees:

Three-year church council terms- Beth Foels, Craig Watson, Rein Kregel, Barb Horns

Nominating committee- Heidi Meyer, Diane Fisk

Synod Assembly- Heidi Landt, Celia Brown, still need one youth

Finance/Stewardship- Tracy Decker

Property/Grounds- Danny Torkelson

Worship/Music- Pam Malanaphy

Education/Youth- Katie Kregel

Fellowship/Evangelism- Kristen Zabel

Social Ministry/Mission- Randee Koenig

Interchurch Council- None needed

Mission Endowment- Celia Brown

Tim Fisk made a motion to accept the 2025 ballot, Danny Torkelson seconded. Motion carried

The 2025 proposed ministry plan was presented on pages 10 and 11 in the annual report. Motion by Heidi Meyer, seconded by Tim Fisk, to accept the ministry plan as printed. Motion carried.

**Other Business:**

Question was asked regarding our church insurance policy, and whether there were any changes in coverage when switching companies. Kevin Brainard and Danielle Friedlein both shared that the policy itself did not change.

Randee Koenig made a motion to adjourn the annual meeting at 10:46, Tim Fisk seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by Jill Lamborn, Council Secretary

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# 2025 Committee Members

*\* New Committee members*

## EDUCATION/YOUTH

Jamie Lightfoot	
Penny Brainard	
Katie Kregel*	
Rein Kregel	Council
Ashley Blietz-Camp	Council
Heidi Meyer	Superintendent

## FELLOWSHIP/EVANGELISM

Mary Jo Sexton	
Danny Torkelson	
Kristen Zabel*	
Andy Meyer	Council
Tiffany Torkelson	Council

## MISSION/SOCIAL MINISTRY

Ashley Blietz-Camp	
Rein Kregel	
Randee Koenig*	
Lois Garms	Council
Beth Foels	Council

## PROPERTY/GROUNDS

Aaron Friedlein	
Travis Torkelson	
Danny Torkelson*	
Kevin Brainard	Council
Justin Birdnow	Council
Shawn Thurn	Maintenance
Denise Schutte	Custodian
Kevin Brainard	Cemetery

## STEWARDSHIP/FINANCE

Wayne Garms	
Kevin Brainard	
Tracy Decker*	
Craig Watson	Council
Steve Johnson	Council
Danielle Friedlein	Parish Adm.

## WORSHIP/MUSIC

Heidi Landt	
Mary Ann Koehn	
Pam Malanaphy*	
Crystal Thurn	Council
Barbara Horns	Council
Judy Walter	Organist
Diane Fisk	Director
Teresa Sass	Altar Guild

## COUNCIL

Lois Garms	
Steve Johnson	
Tiffany Torkelson	
Crystal Thurn	President
Kevin Brainard	Vice-President
Andy Meyer	
Justin Birdnow	
Ashley Blietz-Camp	Secretary
Beth Foels*	
Rein Kregel*	
Craig Watson*	
Barbara Horns*	

## MISSION ENDOWMENT

Katie Kregel	
Kristi Donlon	
Kevin Brainard	
Tracy Decker	
Celia Brown*	
Andy Meyer	Non Voting Council
Danielle Friedlein	Non Voting PA

## INTERCHURCH COUNCIL

Crystal Thurn
Mary Jo Sexton
Barb Kalkwarf*

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Heidi Meyer	At large
Diane Fisk	At large
retiring council 2025	Lois Garms
retiring council 2025	Steve Johnson
retiring council 2025	Tiffany Torkelson
retiring council 2025	Crystal Thurn

# Shepherd of the Hills Ministries

## NEWSLETTER – FEBRUARY 2025



*The numbers are in for our Christmas for Kids event. We served 176 families and a total of 443 children. Thank you all for your gracious donations to make Christmas extra special for our families. We are very grateful for the support from Toys for Tots, Bob's Towing, Dollar General and each one of you. We defiantly had more toys than what we have had in years past. A huge thank you goes out to all my volunteers for "saving" Christmas. Unfortunately, I was out of commission but these volunteers took charge and made it work. I appreciate everyone that made this event successful!*

### **Clothing Center Updates:**

*Due to my unfortunate health issue, the clothing center has been closed. The plan is to re-open on February 3. This has given me the opportunity to work from home continuing to serve people in CRISIS needs. I have also continued to do the daily tasks that my job requires. The clothing center has been on the back burner for now. I do plan to have a sale in February which will be a ½ off sale. Please stay connected to our Facebook page for the date and times for the upcoming sale. We have a large variety of items for sale and I will return healthy and happy to serve you for your thrifting needs.*

### **Shepherd Conference News:**

Mark your calendars for our annual Conference Assembly. It will be February 16<sup>th</sup> @ 2:00 pm at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Volga. Please make sure you select your delegates to attend so they can get all the great news and current events going on at Shepherd. I have sent a video to the churches to share with you about donations and how you can help us help those in crisis needs. This is a sad time for me as we will be thanking a few board members for their service that has ended but yet....I am eager to welcome some new members with new ideas and efforts to keep Shepherd of the Hills going strong.

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](mailto:shephill@neitel.net)

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

## FEBRUARY BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES

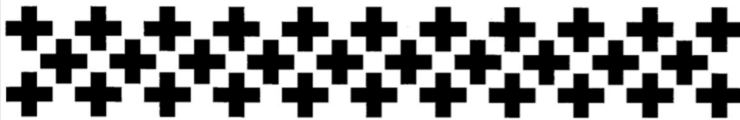
Feb. 5	Brayton Schutte	Feb. 13	Nora Rasmussen
Feb. 7	Lennox Palas	Feb. 16	Aiden Henderson
Feb. 8	Gage Paulus	Feb. 16	Kamery Schulte
Feb. 9	Sullivan Welsh	Feb. 20	Elsie Lenth
Feb. 10	Carter Lightfoot	Feb. 22	Jaxon Lamborn
Feb. 11	Evelyn Lenth	Feb. 24	Kaleb Nuehring

Feb. 27	Ethan Hendricks
Feb. 28	Kenedy Schulte
Feb. 28	Maddyn Brainard



### American Red Cross

*Give blood.* Help save lives.



### Monona Blood Drive Community Center

104 East Center St  
Monona, IA 52159

**Thursday, February 20, 2025**  
**12:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.**

For an appointment contact Carol at 563-880-1125.



Create a flurry of hope! Come give blood Jan. 27 to Feb. 28 for a \$15 e gift card [rcblood.org/flurry](http://rcblood.org/flurry)



## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Feb. 2	Elmer Marting
Feb. 8	Darlene Miller
Feb. 22	Jan Vangen
	Wayne Garms
Feb 24	Stan Klotzbach
Feb 26	Harry Schutte
Feb. 28	Gale Bissell

## NO FEBRUARY GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

## NO OFFICIAL ACTS IN JANUARY

### ST PAUL EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH DATA

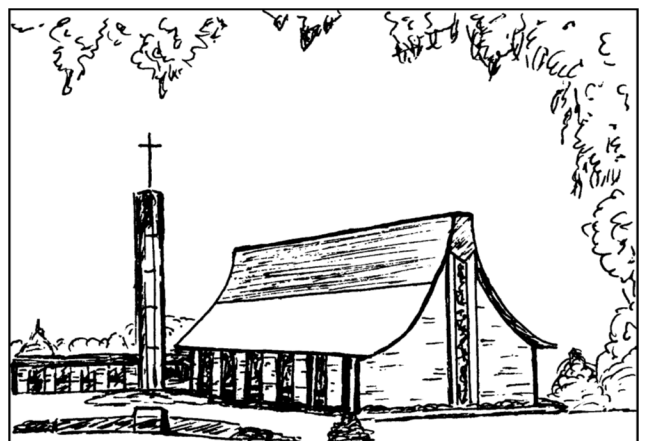
Total 420

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 Jan. 19th  
58 (In Person) 50 (Virtual)



# December Financials



***Giving	Cash/Check
December 1	\$2,669.00
December 8	\$2,143.00
December 15	\$4,726.39
December 22	\$2,975.75
December 24 & 25	\$11,864.00
December 29	\$1,811.89
<b>**Total Simply Giving for December 2024</b>	<b>\$3,950.00</b>
ILM Memorials	\$2,595.00

\*\*\* 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	December 2024 Actual	December 2024 Budget	December YTD Actual	December YTD Budget
*Receipts	\$28,568.10		\$207,496.25	
Disbursements	\$14,240.11	\$18,149.07	\$179,490.54	\$217,798.84

## 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 February 17th.**

## 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.  
[stpauluth@neitel.net](mailto:stpauluth@neitel.net)*

# FEBRUARY 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 8:00 Choir 9:00 Worship/ Eucharist 10:00 Fellowship (EPIC) 10:15 Sunday School	3	4	5 9:15 WELCA Bible Study 6:30 Confirmation	6	7	8
9 "Souper Bowl" Sunday 9:00 Worship/ Eucharist Ferguson Baptism 5th-8th Grade Sings 10:00 Fellowship 10:15 Sunday School	10	11	12 6:00 pm Council	13	14 Valentine's Day	15
16 8:40 Men's Choir 9:00 Worship/ Eucharist Henkes Baptism 10:00 Fellowship (LL) 10:15 Sunday School 2:00 Conf. Assem. Volga	17 President's Day Office Closed 6:00 Ed & Youth @ Center Street	18	19 6:30 Confirmation	20	21	22
23 Noisy Can 8:00 Bell Choir 9:00 Worship/ Eucharist 10:00 Fellowship 10:15 Sunday School	24	25	26 6:30 Confirmation	27 Doing Days	28 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  
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MONONA, IOWA

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



**COUNCIL**

February 2 9:00 am	Ashley Blietz-Camp Andy Meyer
February 9 9:00 am	Andy Meyer Crystal Thurn
February 16 9:00 am	Steve Johnson Rein Kregel
February 23 9:00 am	Kevin Brainard Tiffany Torkelson Justin Birdnow

**FEBRUARY SCHEDULES**

**Come & Worship**

**LECTORS**

Feb 2: Rein Kregel  
Feb 9: Crystal Thurn  
Feb 16: Barb Kalkwarf  
Feb 23: Dave Kalkwarf

**ACOLYTES**

Feb 2: Avery Lamborn  
Jaxon Lamborn  
Kyler Nuehring

**ALTAR GUILD FEBRUARY**

Feb 2: Heidi Meyer  
Feb 9: Teresa Sass  
Feb 16: Crystal Thurn  
Feb 23: Kris Christen  
- check robes

**FLOWER ASSISTANTS**

Feb 2 Teresa Sass  
Feb 9 Dyane Schutte  
Feb 16 Beth Henkes  
Feb 23 Lois Garms

**FELLOWSHIP**

Feb 2 Kristen Zabel/Nicole Palas  
EPIC  
Feb 9 Emily/Arleta Henkes  
Rachel Wagner/Molly Moose  
Feb 16 Luther League  
Feb 23 Lorna Jones  
Mary Ann Koehn

Feb 9: Grace Palas  
Austin Trappe  
Hannah Friedlein  
Feb 16: Addison Buchheit  
Clayton Henkes  
Evelyn Birdnow  
Feb 23: Brodyn Blietz  
Blake Schutte  
Hailey Bouzek

**USHERS**

Sun. Feb. 2 Barb Tieskoetter  
Crystal Thurn  
Sun. Feb. 9 Celia Brown  
Marsha Gerleman  
Sun. Feb. 16 Lorna Jones  
Mary Ann Koehn  
Sun. Feb. 23 Bob Tayek  
Rich Sass