



ST. PAUL NEWS

Monona, IA 52159

July 2026

Office 563-539-2230

Kitchen/School 563-539-2050

*Pastor:
Erika Lentz*

*Parish Bookkeeper:
Ashley Blietz-Camp*

*President:
Kevin Brainard*

Inside this issue:

Pastor Erika	1
Game/Movie Night	2
Back to School	
WELCA	3
Council Minutes	4
Council Minutes cont.	5
Shepherd of the Hills	6
Birthdays & Anniversaries	7
Financial Report	8
Calendar	9
Schedules	10

From Pastor Erika

This 4th of July we celebrate the United States' 250th birthday. Our country has been through so much in 250 years and we currently are going through some inner turmoil that in some people's opinions does not make the United States the best country it can be. Our country was founded on some amazing ideals; from the Declaration of Independence: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness." The 1st Amendment of the Constitution is: Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances. You're probably wondering what this has to do with faith. When you were baptized you or your parents made promises and one of them included you are entrusted with responsibilities to proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made and work for justice and peace. We first belong to God and are citizens of this country. God asks us to care for others and work for justice and peace. When I read the Declaration of Independence and the 1st amendment I believe that is what the founders of our country were doing- working for justice and peace. The language is outdated and as people have evolved we believe all people are created equally and all deserve life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

On this 250th birthday of the United States of America, I invite you to celebrate this country, its people, its history and what else is in store for it. I invite you as a Christian to live out your baptisms, when you don't see greatness in this country that you call it out, you work for justice and peace and you care for all of God's people. Jesus gave us a very important commandment "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you." John 15:12. When we live out this commandment we are living out our baptismal calling and our duty as citizens of the USA. Go in peace. Seek liberty and justice for all.

In God's Peace,
Pastor Erika

GAME & MOVIE NIGHT

*Join us for a family-friendly evening of
fun and fellowship!*

SUNDAY, JULY 26TH
GAMES STARTING AT 4:00 PM



*Light meal provided starting at 5:00 pm. Please bring
a side/chips to share. Animated children's movie to
start at 5:30 pm in the Fellowship hall.*

Popcorn will be provided!

DONATIONS FOR SOTH SCHOOL BUS APPRECIATED



BACK TO SCHOOL 4 KIDS!

St. Paul will have the School Bus out to
collect supplies from July 1st - August 2nd



It is that time of year again, where we ask congregations and the public to be mindful of our Back to School event that supports the children in our area. Through physical donations of backpacks/school supplies and monetary donations we can fill backpacks for many children.

Let's come together and FILL THOSE BACKPACKS!

This years wish list:

Mechanical Pencils, Pencils, Pink Erasers, Dry Erase Markers, Pencil Boxes, Pencil Cases, Index Cards, Kleenex, 1" Binders, College Rule and Wide Rule Spiral Single Subject Notebooks, College Rule and Wide Rule Composition Books, College Rule and Wild Rule Filler Paper, Colored Pencils, Thin Colored Markers, Classic Wide Markers, Crayons, Highlighters, Glue Sticks, Pocket Folders, Blunt Youth Scissors, TI 30x Scientific Calculators, Adult Sized Backpacks (17" or bigger)

Cash donations are appreciated and may be sent to: Shepherd of the Hills Ministry PO Box 36, St. Olaf, IA 52072. All cash donations will be used to purchase items not donated.

Please remember to indicate Back to School on the memo line

THANK YOU & GOD BLESS!!!



JULY

Mission Action:

School Supplies

Bible Study:

Bible Study: I am worthy

I am created in God's image (no matter what anyone else says)

Focus Verses:

Genesis 1:26 Then God said "Let us make humans in our image, according to our likeness"

JULY CALENDAR

July 1st

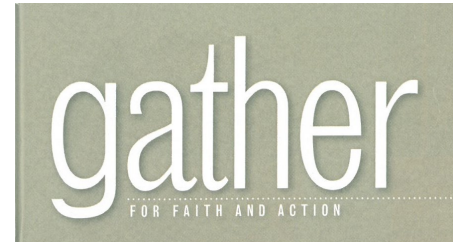
No WELCA Bible Study

July 15th

10:30 am Bible Study - Pr. Erika
WELCA Salad Luncheon
Everyone Welcome

July 16-19 Triennial Gathering
Des Moines IA.

"I am Worthy" to Register & see
Schedule WELCA.org



*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 SALAD LUNCHEON & BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday July 15th at 10:30 a.m.

St. Paul Fellowship Hall

Bible Study with Pr. Erika:

I Am Worthy



**BRING A SALAD,
BRING A FRIEND,
ALL ARE WELCOME!**

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!

July Item:



REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

St. Paul Lutheran Church

Council Meeting June 10, 2026

(The June Minutes are printed but pending approval at the July 8th Council Meeting)

Present - Kevin Brainard, Michael Rood, Justin Birdnow, Craig Watson, Barbara Horns, Rein Kregel

Absent - Beth Foels, Andy Meyer, Celia Brown, Nicole Palas, Tracy Decker, Stephanie Larson

Meeting called to order by Kevin at 6pm, devotions led by Pastor Erika.

Minutes from the May meeting reviewed , motion to approve by Barbara, 2nd by Craig

Pastor's report - no mileage to turn in this month, attended a Memorial service at Garden View, Pat Malanaphy sang a song and Lorna Jones made cookies for the residents at Garden View. She also made a home communion visit and conducted a funeral service for Keith Nuerhing, in Elgin. Pastor has continuing Education "The Moses Project", starting in August, in Des Moines. The office duties, along with Ashley are going well.

Correspondence - Thank you received from Brodyn Blietz for the scholarship. Thank you from Darlene Miller in regards to what the St. Paul Lutheran Nursery Dept. sent her. Also, received from the Northeast Iowa Synod, a certificate for the giving of \$2,055 to ELCA Ministries.

Treasurer's Report (May 2026) - presented by Crystal Thurn

Monthly Offering - \$14,093.36

Monthly Expenses - \$15,543.02

Deficit of \$1,449.66

May expenses - Worship/Altar supplies, \$111.55 , (acolyte paperweights), Fellowship/Evangelism \$185.92 (senior fellowship food/decorations)

Memorial Fund - In May, the Memorial Fund brought in \$2,653.07 with \$1,685.00 of that being In Loving Memory memorials. Expenses from the Memorial Fund were \$63.69 to the MFL MarMac Caring Closet for May's noisy can offering. \$2,000 to Camp Ewalu for confirmation camp, and \$40,000 from the current fund holding was moved to a 3 month CD.

Upcoming expenses - The parsonage is now on budget for Black Hills Energy and the monthly payment will be \$98. Church Mutual umbrella policy premium is unchanged at \$750 for the year.

Committee reports -

Education & Youth - no report , next meeting is in August before new school year with current staff and new staff

Fellowship & Evangelism - no report

Mission & Social - no report, next meeting is soon planning the movie and game night at church

Council Minutes, continued . . .

Property & Grounds - basement drain fixed in the parsonage basement

Stewardship & Finance - no report

Worship & Music - outdoor services starting June 21st

Interchurch council - meeting in June, 1 day Vacation Bible School at St. John's in Farmersburg

Old business - none

New Business - Membership transfer out - Madelyn Vogt to Crossview Lutheran in Edina Minnesota (Justin motioned, Michael 2nd), Membership transfer in - Andrew Lilienthal (Craig motioned, Barbara 2nd)

Next Meeting - July 8th, 6pm.

Meeting adjourned and closed with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted,
Rein Kregel



SUMMER OUTDOOR WORSHIP

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

July 19th
August 16th
September 6th

Looking Ahead!

Sunday August 23rd Blessing of the Backpacks at
the 9am Worship service

Sunday September 13th God's Work Our Hands/
Rally Day

Shepherd of the Hills Ministries

NEWSLETTER – JULY 2026



Back to School will be here sooner than we think. If you would like to support this project, here is how you can do that.... You can purchase supplies or if you want me to purchase them, you can submit a financial donation. (I have access to buy things in bulk so I don't mind shopping.) August 1 is our Dollar General School Supply Event. We will be in the local stores accepting donations from 9am-6pm that day. There has been a trend over the last few years where we are seeing 10-15% more families utilizing our programs. We certainly have been blessed with so many people supporting our mission to help those in need. Sending children to school is so expensive. With your help, we can alleviate some of the financial stress on families in need.

Clothing Center Updates:

We have been blessed with wonderful donations of great quality. We want to be able to accept your donations, so to ensure we have availability, a quick call to set up a day to donate is greatly appreciated.

We are looking for a few more volunteers that would like to join our team in the thrift store and our projects we host. If you are interested, please contact Heather for more information. Our thrift store has a great atmosphere where you can come in, be welcomed and want to stay awhile. (Air conditioning is a plus too) Thank you for supporting your small town thrift store.

Remember, most of our items are only \$1.00!

Shepherd Conference News:

A few pastors in our conference are celebrating the anniversary of their ordination...

Pastor Jeremy Wolfe, St. John Farmersburg and Luana on 7/28/2024

Pastor Tyler Hoey, St. Peter Garnavillo and Peace in Clayton on 7/24/2021

Pastor David Tielbar, St. Paul, Garnavillo and First Congregational, McGregor on 7/15/2015

On behalf of Shepherd of the Hills, we congratulate you all on this special anniversary.

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 4 Kids

August 12th

Referral is required to participate

October 4th (4pm-7pm) is our Annual Hog Roast Fundraiser

**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**

JULY BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES

2 Ayden Barat Klimesh Carson McAllan	12 Harlan Mitchell Abella Flores Benjamin Stangeland	20 Dylan Kurth 24 Briella Schutte 24 Arlo Mitchell 26 Raela Kraus 27 Brady Welsh 28 Dawson Bouzek	29 Jaden Wolff Weston Kregel Olivia Blietz
3 Haven Martins	13 Kira Kurth		
6 Kashton Decker	15 Natalie Kregel		
7 Madeline Burns	17 Brooklyn Headlee		
8 Evangeline Tayek	Marcus Stoddard		
10 Marshall Burns	18 Rayanne Marmann		



JULY GOLDEN BIRTHDAYS

July 7	Dolly Klingeman
July 19	Betty Ball
July 23	Judy Walter
July 23	Ron Mueller
July 27	Diane Mueller
July 30	Kenny Staff

**NO JULY
GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES**

OFFICIAL ACTS IN JUNE

Funeral: June 10, 2026 at Leonard-Grau
Funeral Home, Elgin

***Keith Allan Nuehring*, Age 55**

Funeral: June 29, 2026 at St. James
Lutheran Church, Allison

Ila Grace Wangsness

ST PAUL EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH DATA

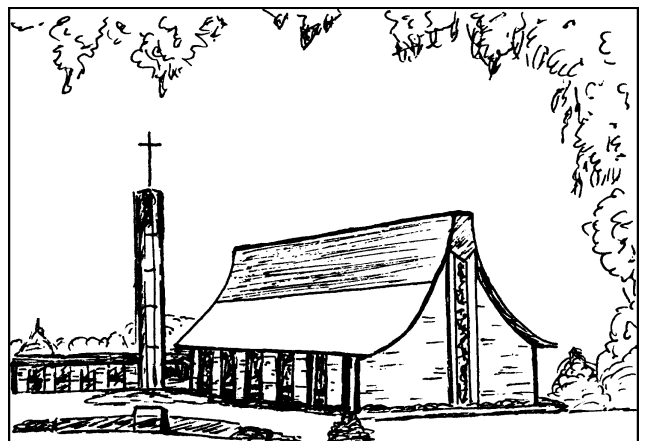
Total 420

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 June 21
102 (In Person) 48 (Virtual)



May Financials



***Giving	Cash/Check
May 3	\$3,267.85
May 10	\$1,819.50
May 17	\$2,107.00
May 24	\$2,522.69
May 31	\$1,656.01
ILM Memorials	\$1,685.00
**Total Simply Giving	\$4,044.00

*** 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	May Actual	May Budget	May YTD Actual	May YTD Budget
*Receipts	\$14,093.36		\$87,415.64	
Disbursements	\$15,543.02	\$18,514.81	\$78,916.45	\$92,574.06

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

St. Paul Parish Office Hours

Monday	9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Tuesday	9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday	9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Thursday	Closed (Pastor Erika available by appointment)
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.

JULY 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 <i>Independence Day</i>
5 9:00 Worship/ Eucharist	6	7	8 6:00 pm Council	9	10	11
12 9:00 Worship/ Eucharist	13	14 6:15 Worship & Music	15 10:30 am Bible Study WELCA Soup Luncheon	16	17	18
19 <i>Outdoor Worship</i> 9:00 Worship/ Eucharist <i>*Outdoor, weather permitting</i> Confirmation Camp	20	21	22	23	24	25
5:00pm Giard Eager Hands 4H						
26 <i>Noisy Can</i> 9:00 Worship/Eucharist 4:00 Game & Movie Night	27	28	29	30	31	

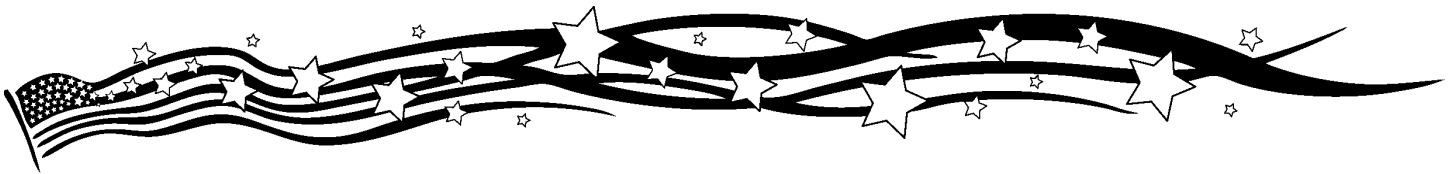
**St. Paul Evangelical
Lutheran Church**

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

July 5 Rein Kregel
Sunday 9:00 am Andy Meyer

July 12 Niki Palas
Sunday 9:00 am Volunteer

July 19 (Outdoor) Craig Watson
Sunday 9:00 am Volunteer

July 26 Rein Kregel
Sunday 9:00 am Justin Birdnow
 Volunteer

USHERS

July 5 Celia Brown & Crystal
 Thurn

July 12 Richard & Teresa Sass

July 19 Outdoor Service

July 26 Kevin & Penny Brainard

JULY SCHEDULES

ACOLYTES

July 5 Grace Palas
 Evelyn Birdnow

July 12 Jaxon Lamborn
 Blake Schutte

July 19 Veda Torkelson
Outdoor

July 26: Brodyn Blietz
 Clayton Henkes

FLOWER ASSISTANTS

July 5 Dyane Schutte

July 12 Lois Garms

July 19 Pam Malanaphy

July 26 Lorna Jones

ALTAR GUILD

July 5 Mary Ann Koehn

July 12 Linette Langhus

July 19 Teresa Sass

July 26 Kris Christen
 *check robes

LECTORS

July 5 Diane Fisk

July 12 Justin Birdnow

July 19 Melissa Haberichter

July 26 Sara Wagner