

# ST. PAUL NEWS

Monona, IA 52159

April 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

Spring is here! And you know what that means? Robins, green grass, flowers blooming, gardening, more outdoor activity for everyone, warmth and the list could go on. Spring is the time when we fling open the doors and windows and let out the stale air and germs and bring in the fresh and new, when we do our spring cleaning. Spring is a time of new birth: animals and plants, the birth of new ideas and for me spring brings a new outlook on life. The change of the weather from winter to spring always makes me feel hopeful and I see a lot of hope in this congregation. We have a lot going on in this month: baptism, , Palm Sunday, Holy Week, 1 st communion and Easter Day worship services and that's probably not everything. It's exciting to see a wide range of activities and ways that we share the gospel and love of God with each other, our neighbors and the world. We are witnesses to the world about how God is active in our lives, how the Holy Spirit moves us, what Jesus Christ's service and sacrifice means to us. It is not only in our events and giving of time, talents and resources that we witness to God but in our words and actions, how we hold each other up when we don't have the strength to do it ourselves.

The congregation of St. Paul is vibrant, growing and changing and has so much of God's love to share with the world. How are you witnessing to God in the world? We have so much going on at St. Paul this April I'd like to challenge you to try something you've never done and invite a friend, family member, co-worker to St. Paul or share with someone about your church or your faith. The world is in so much chaos with war, inflation and still going on that humanity needs hope, encouragement and a reminder there is good in the world. As we enter into this spring, getting closer to Easter, continuing our Lenten journey- "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." (Romans 15:13)

In Christ's peace,  
Pastor Erika



## GARDEN OF MEMORIES

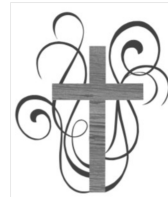


If you would like to share a spring plant or Easter lily for our Garden of Memories, please let Danielle in the office know by **noon on April 11th** to be included on the list for the bulletin. You can bring your plant to church any time during the week before Easter, but it must be there before 9:00 am on Saturday, April 19th, so the Flower Committee can design the garden.

## FIRST COMMUNION



The following 12 students are eligible to receive their First Communion:



**Mitchell Burns, Quebella Cahoon, Bryce Camp, Sloan Hansel,  
Adam Henderson, Ava Hendricks, Beckett Jones, Aria Koenig,  
Addyson Kregel, McCoy Rodas, Brayton Schutte, Waverly Wagner**

*First Communion Class will be Palm Sunday, April 13th, following Worship.*

*First Communion will be April 17th at the  
7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Worship Service.*

### 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:  
April 2 & 9



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

### HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday 9:00 am April 13  
Maundy Thursday 7:00 pm April 17  
Good Friday 1:30 pm April 18

### EASTER APRIL 20

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

## SUNDAY SCHOOL/HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

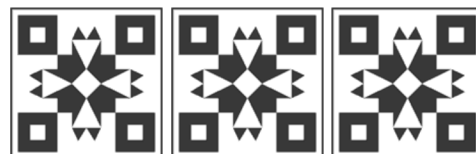
The Sunday School Students will have Easter Grass Gardens available by Palm Sunday. Free-will donations will go toward the purchase of new TVs for the Sunday School Department.

Luther League will have Butter Lambs available on Easter Sunday to make your Easter Dinner table a little more festive.

Free-will donation to support Luther League.

St. Paul's High School Youth will lead the 6:30 a.m. Easter Sunrise Service on April 20th, with Luther League Breakfast to follow.





## **APRIL**

### **Mission Action:**

Hand Towel

*\*Dark color recommended*

### **Bible Study:**

Faithfulness, Session 4

Faith Risks: Jairus and the Faithful Woman

### **Focus Verses:**

Mark 5:21-43



## **APRIL CALENDAR**

### **April 2nd**

9:00 am Bible Study *\*note time*

10:30 am Lenten Worship

### **April 24th & 25th**

Doing Days

### **April 26th**

WELCA Spring Gathering

St. John's, Arlington

### **May 3rd**

LWR Truck, Decorah



*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.*

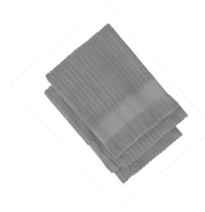
## **Monthly Mission Action Program**

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 April is a Hand Towel ~ dark color recommended**

## **WELCA Little Flock Cluster B Spring Gathering**

**Saturday, April 26th**

**St. John Lutheran Church on Park Ave. in Arlington, IA**

**Registration is from 9:00– 9:30 am.** Lunch will be served at a cost of \$7.00.

Please RSVP by April 11th. (reedsretirement@yahoo.com)

**Guest Speaker:** “Answering God’s Calling” Claudine Elzughbi, a Wartburg Seminary student who grew up in Palestine and recently lived in Jerusalem.

**Bring in-kind donations for:** St. John Little Food Pantry (*nonperishable products*)

**Offering:** Fayette County Food Shelf

*Make checks payable to Women of the NEIA Synod with “Cluster B” on memo line.*

## REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

St. Paul Lutheran Church

Council Meeting March 10, 2025

*(The March Minutes are printed but pending approval at the April 7th Council Meeting )*

**Present:** Crystal Thurn, Pastor Erika Lenth, Danielle Friedlein, Lois Garms, Ashley Blietz-Camp, Justin Birdnow, Steve Johnson, Kevin Brainard, Barbara Horns, Craig Watson, Beth Foels. Absent: Andy Meyer, Tiffany Torkelson

Meeting called to order by council President, Crystal Thurn, at 6:31 pm.

Devotions were led by Lois Garms. Next month is Tiffany Torkelson.

**Minutes of Council Meeting:** Minutes from the February 13th council meeting were reviewed. Justin Birdnow motioned to approve the minutes as printed. Steve Johnson seconded. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report & Bills:** Danielle shared that we brought in \$14,740.90 more than we spent in February. \$38,224.59 has been moved to the new Current Fund Holding account, leaving our checking account balance at \$15,000.00. Memorials received totaled \$1,078.95 with \$65.00 being In Loving Memory memorials. Memorial fund expenses for February included \$537.14 for the Carillon amplifier repair and \$210.07 for stained glass window supplies. The Memorial Fund CD matures on March 20th and the interest earned, estimated at \$900, will be moved into Committee Choice. The CD will be renewed for another year at 4% interest. Our new even pay amount for Black Hills Energy will be \$776.00 and communion supplies have been ordered and will be reflected in March. Kevin Brainard motioned to approve the treasurer's report. Ashley Blietz-Camp seconded. Motion carried.

**Correspondence:** None.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor reported mileage of 77 totalling \$53.90. Barbara Horns motioned to approve Pastor's mileage. Lois Garms seconded. Motion carried. Pastor has been busy visiting Garden View which is enjoyed by the residents. She has made some home visits and had three baptisms recently with two more upcoming. Pastor will preside at Elmer Marting's funeral on Saturday, March 22nd. She recently attended the SOTH assembly with Richard Sass, Craig Watson, and Bailey Engen . It was well attended by local congregations and the upcoming budget was passed. Pastor's six-week Bible study on the parables continues to go well, with 6-8 people attending each week. State Individual Speech is this coming Saturday with 29 entries participating.

**Education & Youth:** Met on February 17th and is looking into breaking up some combined grades to make more manageable class sizes for 2025-2026 and Heidi has received interest from few members to become Sunday School teachers.

**Fellowship & Evangelism:** No report

**Mission & Social Ministry:** No report

**Property & Grounds:** Met on February 23rd. Kevin gave an update on the ceiling tile and floor tile repairs. Justin received a quote for the retaining wall repair for \$3,000. Steve Johnson motioned to approve the repair of the east retaining wall. Craig Watson seconded. Motion carried. Updates were also given on the parsonage's new front door, the office's air conditioning, and sidewalk repairs. Justin is still waiting for an estimate on asphalt for the parking lot. Total project costs discussed range from \$8,800 to \$12,000.



## Council Minutes, continued . . .

**Stewardship & Finance:** Taco Supper served 95 people and brought in \$1,380.00.

**Worship & Music:** Next meeting is March 11th at 6:15 pm

**Interchurch Council:** Next meeting is March 31st at 7:00 pm

**Old Business:** Signage on the display entering Monona, cost will be between \$60-\$70 per sign and will be made by Schultz Sign Company. Lois Garms motioned that we purchase two signs for the display. Kevin Brainard seconded. Motion carried.

**New Business:** Denise Schutte has given her two weeks notice, with her last day being Sunday, March 22nd. Denise's custodial position was from November to April with Kevin working the remaining months but the position will now be year round and open to congregation members first. The new custodian will be paid \$10.00 an hour for 20 hours a week. Kevin will create a weekly schedule and summer schedule.

Next Meeting will be Monday, April 7th at 6:30 pm

Steve Johnson motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:19 pm. Kevin Brainard seconded. Motion carried.

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted by Ashley Blietz-Camp

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### **The Church Custodian Position Is Open**

Part-time, salaried position of about 20 hours per week  
(Schedule is flexible, but some weekend hours may be required)

The Church Custodian's responsibilities include cleaning and maintaining the church for regular and special events. This includes:

- General cleaning
- Deep cleaning
- Washing and waxing the floors
- Vacuuming the carpets and rugs
- Set-up and clean-up for regular church events and special events, such as dinners, weddings and funerals
- Monitoring and reporting supplies needed
- Basic maintenance of some church equipment

Church Custodian Requirements:

- High School diploma or equivalent
- Be able to pass pre-employment background checks
- Be able to lift up to 75 lbs and bulky items
- Be a self-starter, as this is a fairly independent position
- Be responsible for safe cleaning of the building
- Must be able to communicate with staff and the public as needed

A complete job description and applications are available in the Church Office.

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# Shepherd of the Hills Ministries

## NEWSLETTER – APRIL 2025



Our year is not starting out as great as we had hoped. Our furnace quit working and therefore we had to replace and upgraded to a more efficient unit with central air. It is something that was unforeseen and needed to be taken care of immediately. We remained open with no heat for 11 days. Because Shepherd of the Hills operates from donations, we really could use your support to help with this big expense . All donations sent should be noted on the memo line "Furnace repair". We are very blessed to have communities and churches support Shepherd of the Hills, specially NOW!

### Clothing Center Updates:

*We will be doing a season change over (Winter to Spring) so we will not be taking any winter items past **March 28<sup>th</sup>**. Please be patient as this process takes time. Remember that we would love to take all of your donations but there are some items that is impossible to keep. Really worn clothing, stained, holes, non-working zippers/snaps and rusty utensils will not be kept. Appointments are still required so I can staff accordingly. Thank you for thinking of us when it comes to donations. Theses items are needed in our area and bringing it here, they generally stay in the area.*

### Shepherd Conference News:

Confest will be held at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Monona on April 30<sup>th</sup> from 5:45-7:45pm. Please RSVP to Pastor Erika by April 23<sup>rd</sup>. This event is open to all conference churches with confirmation students and chaperones. There will be fun activities, worship and lunch served. All churches are encouraged to attend along with Pastors.

Please remember during this Lenten season to support your church with joining in worship and fellowship. Lenten meals are happening all around us and they do need your support as well. Not to mention the food is great too!

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:

**Confest- April 30. 2025**

**Ascension Day Service- May 29th, 2025**

**NE Iowa Synod Assembly June 6-7, 2025**

**\*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**

## APRIL BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES

3 Cash Burke	15 Kinley Schulte	25 Tristan Foels
Miles Burke	15 Avery Lamborn	28 Breklyn Schutte
7 Harlow Martins	16 Riley Titel	Reyna Lopez-Troester
8 Emilia Pendleton	21 Bennet Torkelson	
12 Emery Paulus	22 Beckett Jones	



## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

April 18 Dick Niel

## APRIL GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

April 3 Jim & Barb Fox



## THANK YOU!

A special thank you to Denise Schutte for her 5 years of service as St. Paul's Custodian. We appreciate all of her hard work in keeping the church clean and tidy. We wish you the best in your future endeavors!

## OFFICIAL ACTS IN MARCH

### Baptisms

Mar. 2nd: Jackson Edward Bissell

DOB: October 9, 2024

Parents: Julia Zweibohmer  
& Wade Bissell

Sponsors: Ashley Bugenhagen  
Devin Bugenhagen  
Ronnie Zweibohmer  
Marissah Wachter

Mar. 7th: Kaley Ann Moose

DOB: December 26, 2024

Parents: Kelby & Molly Moose  
Sponsors: Keagan Moose  
Kiarra Young

Mar. 16th: Dax Cameron Jones

Parents: Rachel Thurn & Cam Jones  
Sponsors: Alison & Taylor Thurn

### Funeral:

Mar. 22nd: Elmer Marting, Age 88

## ST PAUL EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH DATA

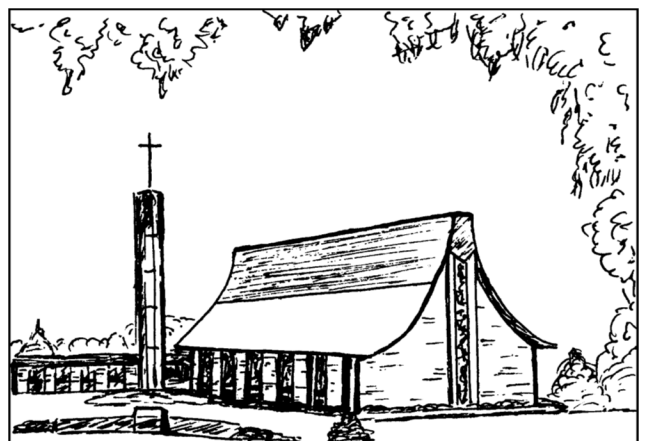
Total 420

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 March 16th  
101 (In Person) 51 (Virtual)



# February Financials



***Giving	Cash/Check
February 2	\$18,332.00
February 9	\$5,015.98
February 16	\$2,054.56
February 23	\$1,728.34
<b>**Total Simply Giving for February</b>	<b>\$3,674.00</b>

\*\*\* 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	February Actual	February Budget	February YTD Actual	February YTD Budget
*Receipts	\$28,962.50		\$40,889.00	
Disbursements	\$14,221.60	\$18,171.87	\$30,491.23	\$36,343.74

## 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 May St. Paul News need to be turned into the office by April 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](mailto:stpaluth@neitel.net)*

# APRIL 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 <i>Lent 4</i> 9:00 Bible Study 10:30 Worship 5:30 Lenten Supper 5:45 Vocal Choir 6:30 Worship 7:00 Bell Choir	3	4	5
6 8:00 Vocal Choir 9:00 Worship/ Eucharist 10:00 Fellowship (EPIC) 10:15 Sunday School	7 6:30 Council	8	9 <i>Lent 5</i> 10:30 Worship 5:30 Lenten Supper 5:45 Vocal Choir 6:30 Worship 7:00 Bell Choir	10	11	12
13 8:00 <i>Palm Sunday</i> 9:00 Vocal & Bell Choir Worship/ Eucharist <i>Andreae Baptism</i> 10:00 Fellowship 10:15 Sunday School 6:00 Troop 138	14 6:00 Ed & Youth @ Center Street	15	16	17 <i>Maundy Thurs.</i> 6:00 Vocal Choir 7:00 Worsh./Euch <i>1st Communion</i>	18 <i>Good Friday</i> 1:30 Worship	19 9:00 am Troop 138 Easter Egg Hunt
20 <i>Easter Sunday</i> 6:30 Sunrise Service Luther League Breakfast 9:00 Worship/ Eucharist	21	22	23	24	25	26 Little Flock Spring Gath St. John, Arlington
27 <i>Noisy Can</i> 8:00 Bell Choir 9:00 Worship/Eucharist 10:00 Fellowship (LL) 10:15 Sunday School 6:00 Troop 138	28	29	30 5:45-7:45 ConFest	Doing Days	Doing Days	

# St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church

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P O Box 1968  
Monona, IA 52159-0561

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Email: stpaluth@neitel.net

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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



## COUNCIL

Wed. April 2 6:30 pm	Lois Garms
April 6 Sunday 9:00 am	Justin Birdnow Beth Foels
Wed. April 9 6:30 pm	Lois Garms
April 13 Palm Sun. 9:00 am	Steve Johnson Tiffany Torkelson
April 17 Maundy Thurs. 7:00pm	Crystal Thurn Ashley Blietz-Camp Kevin Brainard
April 18 GF 1:30 pm	Crystal Thurn
April 20 Easter Sunrise 6:30am	Rein Kregel
April 20 Easter Sun. 9:00 am	Ashley Blietz-Camp Steve Johnson
April 28 Sunday 9:00 am	Lois Garms Kevin Brainard Andy Meyer

## FELLOWSHIP

April 6	Ashley & Tyler Camp Erin & Carla Schultz
April 13	Rasmusson / Birdnow
April 20	Luther League Breakfast
April 27	Fellowship / Evangelism

## APRIL SCHEDULES

### LECTORS

April 6	Sara Wagner
April 13	Rein Kregel
April 20	Melissa Haberichter
April 27	Justin Birdnow

### ACOLYTES

Wed. 2:	Addison Buchheit
April 6:	Grace Palas Austin Trappe Clayton Henkes
Wed 9:	Gage Paulus
April 13:	Blake Schutte
Palm Sunday	Hailey Bouzek Needed **
M Thurs 17:	Kashton Decker Avery Lamborn Brodyn Blietz Addison Buchheit Blake Schutte
G Fri 18:	Addison Buchheit Gage Paulus Evelyn Birdnow Brodyn Blietz
April 20 (Both): Easter	Jaxon Lamborn Kyler Nuehring Clayton Henkes
April 27:	Jaxon Lamborn Evelyn Birdnow Kase Paulus

## FLOWER ASSISTANTS

April 6	Lois Garms
April 13	Palms - Pam
April 20	Easter - Committee
April 27	Pam Malanaphy

## ALTAR GUILD

April 6	Kris Christen
April 13 PS	Lorna Jones
April 17 MT	Barb Kalkwarf
April 20	Teresa Sass -Set-up
Easter	Mary Ann Koehn -Clean-up
April 27	Heidi Meyer - Check Robes

## USHERS

April 6	Heidi & Andy Meyer
April 13	Kevin & Penny Brainard
April 17	Barb Horns/Celia Brown
April 18	Rich & Teresa Sass
April 20	Jim & Linette Langhus
April 27	Nathan & Aaron Friedlein