



ST. PAUL NEWS

Monona, IA 52159

August 2026

Office 563-539-2230

Kitchen/School 563-539-2050

*Pastor:
Erika Lenth*

*Parish Bookkeeper:
Ashley Blietz-Camp*

*President:
Kevin Brainard*

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From Pastor Erika

Five confirmation students and I just went for a week at Camp EWALU. It definitely was an adventure- when we arrived the air quality from wildfires was so unhealthy that all activities needed to be inside and because the confirmation students were in non-air conditioned cabins they got to have a sleepover on the floor of the Chapel in the Creation Center. The next day was hot, stormy and rainy and so activities were inside again but by day 3 we had the best camp weather you could ask for. I tell you all this because it goes with our theme for the week **Wear Love** and every day they had a subtheme: kindness, humbleness, calmness, resilience and forgiveness. The students went canoeing, camping at Motor Mill and they all did the high ropes course. They tried new foods, ate a lot of food cooked over a campfire and were away from family, friends, technology and the familiar for a week. They learned a lot about resilience, calmness and kindness this week.

I love this theme for all of us as we go into a busier season of school, sports, Doing Days, Sunday School, Confirmation Classes, fellowship time, choir, bell choir and more people at worship. How do we Wear Love into our daily lives? Like our clothes that we take care of and choose every day, love is also worn as its woven into our lives; God's love connects us to each other. The theme verse for camp this year is Colossians 3:12 "As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness and patience." How do we go out into the world everyday wearing God's love and showing compassion, kindness, humility, meekness and patience to all that we meet? It's not easy but as Christians we see Christ in each other and we can start small- opening doors, smiling, serving in worship, making quilts, teaching. Wearing God's love is in everything we do whether we realize it or not. As you get dressed every day, also put on God's love before you leave the house and see what a difference that will make in your day.

In Christ's peace,
Pastor Erika



BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

Sunday, August 23rd at the 9:00 a.m. service, we will be blessing Backpacks and Students. Parents, please have your student(s) bring their backpacks to church so that we may ask for God's Blessing for a great school year!



CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Confirmation Classes will start **Wednesday August 26th at 6:30 p.m.**

****Parents and Confirmands meeting will be Sunday, August 16th at 9:45 am in the Fellowship Hall**

LUTHER LEAGUE ICE CREAM SOCIAL

September 20th, 4:30-7 p.m.



EWALU CONFIRMATION CAMP 2026

*The week of July 19th, 5 St. Paul
Confirmation students and Pr. Erika attended Confirmation-
Camp at Camp EWALU.*





AUGUST

Mission Action:

Spools of Thread
Coats & Clark brand preferred

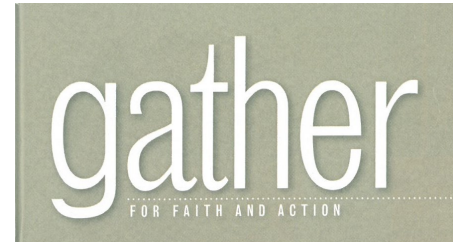
Bible Study:

No Bible Study in August.



AUGUST CALENDAR

No Bible Study In August



*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 NEWS & NOTES

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

Sept. 19~Sugar Creek Quilt Auction & 60th Anniversary Weekend

Quilt Auction (10 a.m.-1pm), Country Store, Silent Auction baskets, Pony Rides, Crafts, Yard Games & more! Lunch will be available for purchase and will feature BBQ and fresh pies!

Sept. 19 ~EWALU Fall Festival & Quilt Auction

Online Auction: Begins Sept. 14th - Sept. 20th

Live Auction @ EWALU: Saturday, Sept. 19

Join us for live music, a worship service, and more than 300 quilts and quality hand-crafted items displayed for review. A free-will lunch is served at noon, and the live auction starts at 1:00 p.m. It is a day to celebrate and support the incredible ministry that occurs at Camp EWALU!

AUGUST 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!



Spools of Thread
Prefer Coats & Clark Brand

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

St. Paul Lutheran Church

Council Meeting July 8, 2026

(The July Minutes are printed but pending approval at the August 12th Council Meeting)

Present: Justin Birdnow, Andrew Meyer, Nicole Palas, Celia Brown, Craig Watson, Tracy Decker, Ashley Blietz Camp, Pastor Erika, and Marilyn Rood (representing Mike Rood)

Absent: Kevin Brainard, Rein Kregel, Beth Foels, and Barbara Horns

Meeting called to order at 6:01 pm by Vice President Justin Birdnow

Devotions were led by Andrew Meyer, next month is Barbara Horns

Minutes from June's meeting were shared and reviewed, with no additions or corrections the minutes were approved on a motion by Celia Brown and a second from Nicole Palas. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: given by Ashley Blietz-Camp, the monthly offering for June was just about \$13,000.00 and the month's expenses were a little over \$18,000.00. A few notable expenses for the month were the annual premiums for workers compensation at \$2,161.00, \$244.13 for the security camera display for the office, \$162.00 for our annual post office fee, and \$700.00 to relift a few areas of the parking lot before resurfacing. The memorial fund brought in \$4,344.16 with the biggest deposit from the interest from the Mission Endowment CD at \$3,659.00. The only expense from the fund was \$66.47 to the MFL MarMac Caring Closet for the June noisy can offering. She also shared a couple of upcoming expenses with our cleaning service monthly fee increasing 3.0% which will take the monthly bill from \$66.62 to \$68.61. She also purchased stamps for the office and the Sunday School for the upcoming year before the price increase. The report was approved on a motion by Nicole Palas and a second from Tracy Decker. Motion carried.

Pastor's Mileage: Pastor reported 94 miles for a total of \$67.68. Mileage was approved on a motion from Tracy Decker and a second from Craig Watson. Motion carried.

Correspondence: The church received a thank you from the Brad Christiansen family.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Erika shared her report. Her and Elsie attended Vacation Bible School in Farmersburg and Evelyn also helped her with her visit to GardenView. Pastor also shared that she will be a mentor for members of Camp Ewalu's summer staff for 5 weeks this summer.

Education and Youth: Next meeting is July 14th

Fellowship and Evangelism: No report

Mission and Social: Shared information about the upcoming game night at the Church on the evening of July 26th. There will be indoor and outdoor games, a meal, movie and popcorn

Property and Grounds: Shared that work on the parking lot would begin towards the end of the month with MB Construction to remove the sidewalks and the Kluesner to begin the asphalt work shortly after.

Stewardship and Finance: No report

Worship and Music: Next meeting is July 14th

Council Minutes, continued . . .

Interchurch Council: No report

Old Business: Andrew Meyer shared that he would get the approved Church signage installed soon. It was also shared that work on the Church parking lot should begin toward the end of July.

New Business: New member request from Barbara Herzmann, she was gladly approved on a motion by Craig Watson and a second from Nicole Palas. Motion carried.

Next meeting will be Wednesday August 12th at 6:00 pm

With no other business to discuss it was moved by Craig Watson and seconded by Nicole Palas to adjourn the meeting at 6:18 pm.

The group closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrew Meyer



Thank You!

A warm thank you to the flower giver for the beautiful red, white, and blue flowers. They brought great joy and are deeply appreciated!

Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who sent birthday cards, messages, texts or calls. It was greatly appreciated. It was a great week with family & friends.

Take care & God Bless,

Judy Walter

Blood Drive in Monona August 20

Celebrate
MORE LIFE. GIVE BLOOD.

American Red Cross

Monona Community Blood Drive
Community Center
104 East Center St
Monona, IA 52159

Thursday, August 20, 2026
12:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

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

Scan to be directed to August event

Come to give blood in August for a \$20 Amazon Gift Card by email. Terms: rcblood.org/August

Scan to schedule an appointment

Shepherd of the Hills Ministries

NEWSLETTER – AUGUST 2026



Our project, Back to School, is under way! We still need your help. School supplies are getting very expensive, so if you are willing to help, we would be very grateful. We are accepting donations, both supplies and financial donations, through August 10th. This truly is a great way to help families less fortunate navigate through this tough time of year. It is an investment in young people's education. That in itself is PRICELESS! If you are a Thrivent member, you could also apply for a charitable card that will provide \$250.00 towards projects for non-profits, like Shepherd of the Hills. If you would like to apply, I can help you get started. If you have questions, please give me a call. Also, as a Thrivent member with investments, you can allocate your yearly Choice Dollars to Shepherd of the Hills. Last year, gracious members collectively donated \$2,898 through Choice Dollars. We are so blessed to have generous people with big hearts that help us help others. It is tough doing it alone, but if we come together, great things can be possible.

Clothing Center Updates:

We are looking for more volunteers in the thrift store. Our plan is to be open more Saturdays but we need more help to ensure this can happen. If you are interested, please contact SOTH. We will be accepting fall items the beginning of September. This is where long sleeve with light material will be accepted. Winter items will be accepted in late October. This is the projected plan but it is subject to change. We like to stay connected in many ways possible. Please follow us on Facebook, our website and future Newsletters for updated information. When you love what you do, it no longer seems like a job. Thank you all for your continued support so I can come to work and have fun!

Shepherd Conference News:

We have one ordination anniversary to recognize this month. Pastor Adam Starrett, Elgin Lutheran (Elgin) and Highland Lutheran (Elkader). He will celebrate 16 years on 08/08/2010. Please help us come together to offer our blessings and celebrate this accomplishment. Best wishes to Pastor Starrett.

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
August 12th 9am-5pm
Annual Hog Roast Fundraiser
October 4th 4pm-7pm
Christmas for Kids
December 16th -17th
***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

AUGUST BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES

Aug 6: Andrew Torkelson

Aug 11: Maysen Doeppke

Luke Zabel

Aug 17: Mila Friederick

Lyla Friederick

Aug 20: Knox Cahoon

Mabel Cahoon

Aug 21: Oaklee Wachter

Aug 22: Bray Andreae

Aug 25: Bennett Hertrampf

Aug 29: Veda Torkelson



AUGUST GOLDEN BIRTHDAYS

August 11 Jim Fox

August 23 Marilyn Baade

AUGUST GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

August 4 Mark & June Birdnow

August 9 Marvin & Pat Brainard

August 27 Craig & Mary Jo Sexton

August 30 Pat & Pam Malanaphy



COFFEE HOUR

will be starting in the Fall!
Fellowship & Evangelism
will be working on a new
Coffee Hour schedule.

If you would like to volunteer, or request a special Sunday, there's a Sign up sheet on the usher table in church.

Thank you to everyone who filled the St. Paul school bus with school supplies for the SOTH Back to School 4 Kids project! Your donations to support our local kids are greatly appreciated!

SUMMER OUTDOOR WORSHIP

Bring a lawn chair and join us for
Worship Service on the church lawn.
(Weather permitting)

August 16th
September 6th

ST PAUL EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH DATA

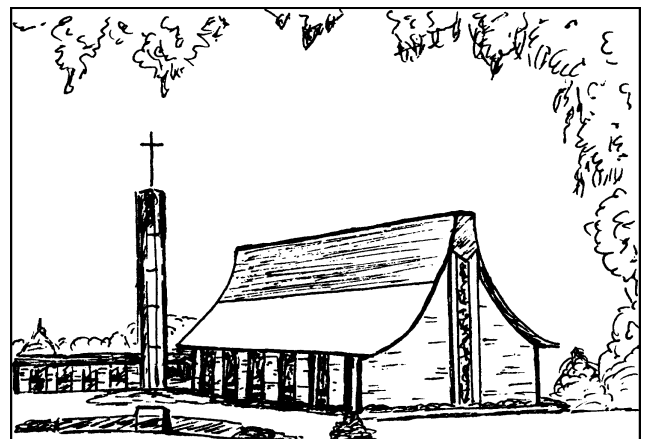
Total 436

Total Family Units 172

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 July 26
94 (In Person) 47 (Virtual)



June Financials



***Giving	Cash/Check
June 7	\$2,063.00
June 14	\$1,293.00
June 21	\$4,295.00
June 28	\$1,693.74
ILM Memorials	0.00
**Total Simply Giving for June	\$3,925.00

*** 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	June Actual	June Budget	June YTD Actual	June YTD Budget
*Receipts	\$12,993.71		\$100,409.35	
Disbursements	\$18,127.32	\$18,514.81	\$97,043.77	\$111,088.87

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 Sept. St. Paul News need to be turned into the office by August 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.

AUGUST 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9:00 Worship & Eucharist	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 9:00 Worship & Eucharist	10	11	12 6:00 pm Council	13	14	15
	Pastor Erika at	Continuing Ed.	In Des Moines			
16 <i>Outdoor Worship</i> 9:00 Worship & Eucharist 10:00 Confirmation Meeting	17 6pm Sunday School Staff mtg	18	19	20	21	22
23 <i>Noisy Can</i> 9:00 Worship & Eucharist & <i>Baptism</i> 10:00 Youth Gathering mtg	24 <i>1st Day of School</i> <i>Blessing of the Backpacks</i> 31	25	26 6:30 Confirmation	27	28	29
30 9:00 Worship & Eucharist						

**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

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MONONA, IOWA

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



COUNCIL

August 2 Sunday 9:00 am	Andy Meyer Niki Palas
August 9 Sunday 9:00 am	Rein Kregel Kevin Brainard
August 16 <i>Outdoor Service</i> Sunday 9:00 am	Justin Birdnow Stephanie Larson
August 23 Sunday 9:00 am	Andy Meyer Craig Watson Rein Kregel
August 30 Sunday 9:00 am	Andy Meyer Celia Brown

USHERS

Aug 2	Eldon Kurth & Volunteer
Aug 9	Jim & Linette Langhus
Aug 16	Outdoor
Aug 23	Celia Brown Crystal Thurn
Aug 30	Aaron & Nathan Friedlein

AUGUST SCHEDULES

Come & Worship

ACOLYTES

Aug 2:	Brodyn Blietz Kashton Decker
Aug 9:	Nora Rasmussen Veda Torkelson
Aug 16:	Outdoor Jaxon Lamborn
Aug 23:	Grace Palas Taylor Rasmussen Evelyn Birdnow
Aug 30:	Briella Schutte Blake Schutte

FLOWER ASSISTANTS

Aug 2	Beth Henkes
Aug 9	Teresa Sass
Aug 16	Dyane Schutte <i>Outdoor</i>
Aug 23	Lois Garms
Aug 30	Pam Malanaphy

ALTAR GUILD

Aug 2	Crystal Thurn
Aug 9	Barb Kalkwarf
Aug 16	Mary Ann Koehn <i>Outdoor Service</i>
Aug 23	Linette Langhus
Aug 30	Lorna Jones *check robes

LECTORS

Aug 2	Crystal Thurn
Aug 9	Heidi Landt
Aug 16	Barb Kalkwarf
Aug 23	Heidi Meyer
Aug 30	Randee Koenig