

# ST. PAUL NEWS

Monona, IA 52159

MARCH 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

Lent is upon us, beginning with Ash Wednesday on March 5th. It brings to mind what will I give up this year? Will I give anything up? Giving something up during the 40 days of Lent is something personal; this is about your journey with God and strengthening your faith. So why do we give things up? We are replicating Jesus' sacrifice and withdrawal to the wilderness where he was tempted by Satan for 40 days. Many people give something up for self-sacrifice and to resist temptation as Jesus resisted temptation. Giving something up for 40 days is a way to start a new habit. Before Lent begins there is Shrove Tuesday, also called Fat Tuesday, it's a day of penitence, to clean the soul, and a day of celebration as the last chance to feast before Lent begins. This is the day where people eat and use up the foods or things that they will give up for Lent because food isn't to be wasted. Shrove Tuesday is a penitential day meaning it's the start of your reflection of yourself, many people would confess their sins to their pastor and receive absolution of their guilt. We will celebrate Fat Tuesday with our taco supper on March 4th. Lent is a solemn time that we reflect on how we have sinned against God and each other. Many people use Lent as a time to repair those relationships. As Jesus was in the wilderness for 40 days being tempted, we too are in the wilderness. We have been in the wilderness of a pandemic for 2 years, our journey through life is full of wilderness moments. During our Lenten Wednesday worship services, we will explore the topic Turning Toward God's Abundance. I love Lent because even though it is such a somber time, it is also a time that our faith is reinvigorated. We cling to God's promise, "I am about to do a new thing, now it springs, forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." (Isaiah 43:19) This Lent, we trust together that even now God is making a way in the wilderness, leading us toward that future and inviting us to inspire hope and courage along the way.

In Christ's Peace,  
Pastor Erika



# Fat Tuesday Taco Supper


2025


March 4th, 5-6:45 pm

St. Paul Lutheran Church  
Monona

Menu: Soft & Hard Shell Tacos  
With all the Fixings,  
Spanish Rice, Refried Beans,  
Chips, Bars and Beverage

Free Will Donation





## ASH WEDNESDAY

March 5th  
10:30 am Worship & Eucharist  
6:30 pm Worship & Eucharist

## HOLY WEEK

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

## 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 12, 19, 26  
April 2 & 9



## EASTER APRIL 20

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

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



## **MARCH**

**Mission Action:**  
Canned Goods

**Bible Study:**  
Faithfulness:  
Session 3: Peter & Cornelius

**Focus Verses:**  
Acts 10-11



## **MARCH CALENDAR**

### **March 5th**

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

### **March 7th**

1:30 pm World Day of Prayer  
@ Monona United Methodist

### **March 27th & 28th**

Doing Days - Calmar Ladies will  
join us on the 27th for 9:00 am  
coffee, working together & church  
tour with soup lunch.



*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 2025**

**March 7th, 1:30 p.m. at Monona United Methodist Church**

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

*"I Made You Wonderful"*

The 2025 WDP program invites us into the knowledge that each one of us was made with care and love by God. When we can receive this profound truth, everything in our life changes and we begin to radiate and shine from within. We also learn how to treat every other person as made wonderful by God.

Too often, women and girls have been silenced and oppressed, making this upcoming theme from WDP Cook Islands particularly relevant. The message that we, as women and girls, are "fearfully and wonderfully" made in the image of God reinforces our movement's support of women in expressing their faith and speaking about their lives in prayer and worship before God and in community.

**ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES**  
**St. Paul Lutheran Church**  
**Council Meeting February 13, 2025**

*(The February Minutes are printed but pending approval at the March 10th Council Meeting )*

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

Meeting called to order by council President, Crystal Thurn at 6:30 pm.  
Devotions were led by Steve Johnson. Next month is Lois Garms.

**Minutes of Council Meeting:** Minutes from the January 19th council meeting were reviewed. Andrew Meyer motioned, Justin Birdnow seconded, to approve the minutes as printed. Motion carried.

**Treasurer Reports & Bills:** Danielle Shared that January expenses were a bit more than what we took in. However; the first week in February we brought in some larger donations from people who pay annually and quarterly. All in all we're in good shape. The Memorial Fund CD of \$18,000.00 will be up for renewal in March. Current interest rate for a 1 year CD is 4.00%. A motion was made by Kevin Brainard to place the interest earned from the current CD into Committee Choice and to renew the \$18,000.00 CD for one year. Craig Watson, seconded. Motion Passed.

**Correspondence:** One elderly Parishioner verbally noted they were thankful for the online services. It is becoming more difficult for them to come to services.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor shared she had visited Garden View. There are two baptisms in February. One was last weekend and another this weekend. More of them are scheduled in March and April. There is one wedding coming up in October. There are 6 kids in Confirmation and all is going well. Started Bible Study last week and had 8 people in attendance. There are 3 more weeks and are held at 10:15 in the church library.

**Education and Youth:** No Update. They have a Meeting Monday February 17th.

**Fellowship & Evangelism:** Have not met.

**Mission & Social Ministry:** Have not met.

**Property & Grounds:** Have not met.

**Stewardship & Finance:** Met Monday February 10th. Selected new officers. Several projects were discussed that need to be completed. It was decided to ask the council if these funds could be set aside so we can complete them in the near future.

**Worship and Music:** Next meeting March 11th @ 6:15.

**Interchurch Council:** Met at St John's in Farmersburg on January 27th.. Baccalaureate will be held at the United Methodist Church in Giard on May 14th. The Goodwill truck will be here on May 10th in the Community Center Parking.

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## Council Minutes, continued . . .

**Old Business:** The new Carillon amplifier has been installed in the bell tower. However, the touch screen that controls the bells is not working. Ryan Martindale is contacting the company to help trouble-shoot what needs to be done with the touch screen.

**New Business:** There was discussion about the many projects we're working on that have not yet been completed and paid for. They include fixing of the sidewalks, parsonage door, office air conditioner, retaining wall and curb, and stripping and sealing the red tile floors. Some of the funds for these are coming from the monies we have in our general or current fund. Because they're not complete and some will take a bit time to complete and there is concern we could possibly "double spend" the money. After discussion, Crystal Thurn made a motion to move all but \$15,000.00 from the Current Fund Checking into a "Current Fund Holding Account" in the Memorial Savings account. Kevin Brainard seconded. Motion passed. This money is still considered current fund money and will be accessible for current expenses, as needed.

Next Meeting will be **Monday March 10th @ 6:30 pm.**

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm.

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Kevin Brainard

## 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**

## DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS MARCH 9



*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 2025



Thank you all for the well wishes. I am feeling better and back to work! I am pleased to announce our new website. Please take a look at it as we will be adding more items in the near future. The website is...

[shepherdofthehillsstolaf.org](http://shepherdofthehillsstolaf.org)

We would also like to share that we have applied for our 501c3 status for non-profits. This will open many opportunities for Shepherd of the Hills. Extra funding will allow us to explore more ways to offer services in our area. It takes time for this process, but we are excited for this change.

### Clothing Center Updates:

*We are open for business. M-F 9am to noon and 1-4pm. Since my time off I decided it was time to restructure how we operate. I have enlisted some volunteers to help keep the store open for our clients and customers. We have more regular hours and I am hoping that this will allow us to have more Saturday Sales in the future. We are still taking scheduled donations for winter items. Spring and summer items will be accepting starting April 1<sup>st</sup>. Please make sure your items are free from rips, stains, holes (Unless factory made) and in good working order. We appreciate your patience as we transition through new changes.*

### 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.

This event is open to all conference churches with confirmation students and chaperones. There will be fun activities, worship and lunch served. RSVP is required. All churches are encouraged to attend along with Pastors.

Ascension Day Service will be at Ceres Pioneer Rock Church on May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 5:30pm. There will be a potluck after at St. Peter Lutheran Church in Garnavillo. All are welcome to attend.  
Rain or shine.

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 29<sup>th</sup>, 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**

## MARCH BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES

5 Colson Rumph	17 Levi Walz	26 Adam Henderson
9 Korie Palas	Trayven Kraus	Aria Koenig
10 Leila Schlichte	18 Zada Thurn Jones	Kenyx Engen
15 Cooper Echard	19 Zoey Edwards	Bryce Camp
16 Hailey Bouzek	20 Isla Henkes	30 Kyler Nuehring
	25 Carter Stoddard	Addyson Kregel



## OFFICIAL ACTS IN FEBRUARY

### Baptisms

Feb. 9th:	Briggs Joseph Ferguson
	DOB: February 13, 2024
	Parents: Jacob & Erin Ferguson
	Sponsors: Rande Koenig
	Ashley Blietz-Camp
Feb. 16th:	Remington Rose Henkes
	DOB: December 4, 2024
	Parents: Zachary & Emily Henkes
	Sponsors: Brady Henkes
	Laurie Oddo

## 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

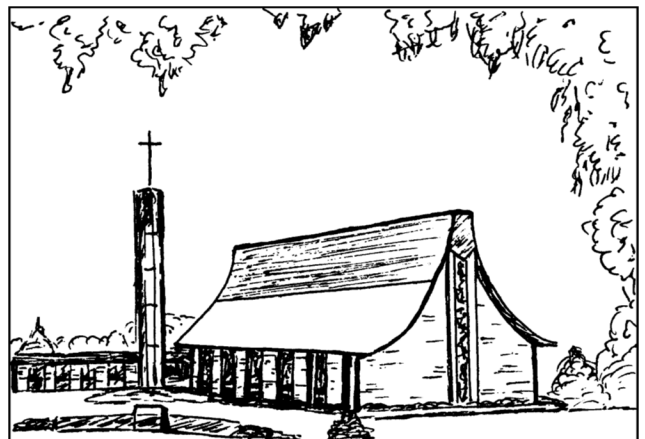
Total 420

Total Family Units 174

Average Sunday Attendance for 2023  
 94 (In Person) 45 (Virtual)

Average Sunday Attendance for 2024  
 105 (In Person) 40 (Virtual)

Average Attendance for 2025 through Feb. 16th  
 89 (In Person) 52 (Virtual)



# January Financials



***Giving	Cash/Check
January 5	\$3,157.00
January 12	\$1,565.00
January 19	\$1,623.00
January 26	\$3,843.98
<b>**Total Simply Giving for January</b>	<b>\$3,834.00</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	January Actual	January Budget	January YTD Actual	January YTD Budget
*Receipts	\$14,022.98		\$14,022.98	
Disbursements	\$16,269.63	\$18,171.87	\$16,269.63	\$218,062.47

## 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 April St. Paul News need to be turned into the office by March 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)*

# MARCH 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<b>1</b>
<b>2</b> 8:00 Choir 9:00 Worship/ Eucharist <i>Bissell Baptism</i> 10:00 Fellowship (EPIC) 10:15 Sunday School Adult Bible Study	<b>3</b>  6:00 Troop 138	<b>4</b>  5:00 Taco Supper	<b>5</b> <i>Ash Wednesday</i> 9:00 WELCA Bible Study 10:30 am Worship 5:45 pm Choir 6:30 pm Worship	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>  <i>Moose Baptism</i>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> <i>Daylight Savings</i> 8:00 Bells 9:00 Worship/ Eucharist <i>1st-4th Grade Sing</i> 10:00 Fellowship 10:15 Sunday School	<b>10</b>  6:00 pm Council 6:00 Troop 138	<b>11</b>  6:15 Worship & Music	<b>12</b> <i>Lent 1</i> 10:30 am Worship 5:30 pm Supper 5:45 pm Choir 6:30 pm Worship 7:00 pm Bell Choir	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> 8:00 Choir 9:00 Worship/ Eucharist 10:00 Fellowship (LL) 10:15 Sunday School	<b>17</b>  6:00 Troop 138	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> <i>Lent 2</i> 10:30 am Worship 5:30 pm Supper 5:45 pm Choir 6:30 pm Worship 7:00 pm Bell Choir	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 11:00 am E. Marting Funeral
<b>23</b> <i>Noisy Can</i> 8:00 Bells 9:00 Worship/ Eucharist 10:00 Fellowship 10:15 Sunday School	<b>24</b>  6:00 Troop 138	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> <i>Lent 3</i> 10:30 am Worship 5:30 pm Supper 5:45 pm Choir 6:30 pm Worship 7:00 pm Bell Choir	<b>27</b>  Doing Days	<b>28</b>  Doing Days	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> 8:00 Choir 9:00 Worship/ Eucharist 10:00 Fellowship 10:15 Sunday School	<b>31</b> 6:00 Troop 138 7:00 Interchurch Council - Faith Luth					

**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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PERMIT NO. 6  
MONONA, IOWA

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



**COUNCIL**

March 2 Sunday 9:00 am	Andy Meyer Steve Johnson
March 5 Wed 10:30 am 6:30 pm	Lois Garms Crystal Thurn Andy Meyer
March 9 Sunday 9:00 am	Beth Foels Ashley Blietz-Camp
March 12 Wed 6:30 pm	Steve Johnson
March 16 Sunday 9:00 am	Crystal Thurn Justin Birdnow
March 19 Wed 6:30 pm	Barbara Horns
March 23 Palm Sunday 9:00 am	Andy Meyer Kevin Brainard Rein Kregel
March 26 Wed. 6:30 pm	Craig Watson
March 30 6:30 am Easter 9:00 am	Ashley Blietz-Camp Steve Johnson

**FELLOWSHIP**

Mar 2 EPIC	B. Engen/L. Krambeer/S. Wagner
Mar 9	Haberichter/Burke
Mar 16	Luther League
Mar 23	Fisk/T. Torkelson
Mar 30	Volunteers Needed

**MARCH SCHEDULES**

**LECTORS**

Sun. Mar 2:	Heidi Landt
Wed. Mar 5 am:	Barb Kalkwarf
pm:	Crystal Thurn
Sun. Mar 9:	Diane Fisk
Sun. Mar 16:	Mary Ann Koehn
Sun. Mar 23:	Randee Koenig
Sun. Mar 30:	Heidi Meyer

**Come & Worship**

**ACOLYTES**

Schedule not provided at  
time of printing

**FLOWER ASSISTANTS**

Mar 2	Pam Malanaphy
Mar 9	Lorna Jones
Mar 16	Beth Henkes
Mar 23	Teresa Sass
Mar 30	Dyane Schutte

**USHERS**

Mar 2	Amber Hendricks Deb Moose
Mar 9	Kevin & Penny Brainard
Mar 16	Kenny & Linda Staff
Mar 23	Lindsay Krambeer Bailey Engen
Mar 30	Mary Jo Sexton Crystal Thurn

**ALTAR GUILD**

Mar 2:	Lorna Jones
Mar 5	Mary Ann Koehn set-up
Ash Wed	Barb Kalkwarf clean-up
Mar 9:	Linette Langhus
Mar 16:	Heidi Meyer
Mar 23:	Teresa Sass
Mar 30:	Crystal Thurn (Robes)