

# St. Paul's Lutheran Church ELCA



March 2024

## The Church Door

### Remembrance of the Four Chaplains

On February Fourth during our worship service we honored the four chaplains that sacrificed their life jackets, prayed and sang hymns during the sinking of the Dorchester to keep their fellow service men calm.

The Tech Teams at both UCC and St. Paul's, worked on sending a live feed of our memorial service to them. It worked perfectly!



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## From The Pastor's Desk

Not available at the time of printing—Reaching into the Archives

### **The Schade Tree**

(An article by Mona Wolff in 2004)

Lorene and George Schade were a part of our St. Paul's family for many years. George had been a high school science teacher and during that time had become friends with Orlyn and John Larson and Jeanne and Norm Ahrendt. Upon George's retirement, they bought land from John Larson and built their retirement home on Webb Lake right next to John and Orlyn.

They remained there until failing health caused them to move into an apartment in Hackensack - right on Highway 371. It always made me smile to see George (in his 80's) riding his bike around town, getting the mail and keeping an eye on what was happening in Hack!

Deteriorating health caused them to move to Sisseton, South Dakota where George's nephew and family lived. It was there that they both lived out their days - absolutely devoted to each other.

They had no children, so it was felt a living memorial to this dear and devoted couple would be in keeping with their love of God's

Creation and their service to St. Paul's. Hence the "Schade Tree" will be incorporated into the landscaping plans for the southeast corner of the church property.

Pastor Schlichting and I had gone to Sisseton for Lorene's funeral several years ago. When I heard about George's death late last fall, I felt something should be done to remember this dear couple.

Some of us began a fund immediately after George's death. Now that spring has come and planting is possible, we would like to open this up to others who knew them and would like to see a memorial for them. Feel free to contribute even if you didn't know this dear couple but would like to share in this.

Editor's Note: There has been some interest in landscaping that area of the church property and possibly adding a flower garden, benches, a picnic table or other things to beautify the grounds and make the area more usable. At this point there is only talk. The Property Committee will consider various ideas, if there is continued interest.



# Missions

## SUMUD NORTHLAND

### For Justice in the Holy Land, Palestine and Israel

“Sumud means “steadfast perseverance”

The organization formerly known as Twin Ports Peace Not Walls has a new name. This group is open to Palestinians and fosters just conditions for creating peaceful and just coexistence between people of Israel and the Palestinian people. They emphasize Awareness, Raising Advocacy, and Accompaniment.

As you know, the news from the Holy Land is bleak. As the bombardment of Gaza continues to destroy lives and communities through a staggering death toll, but also through severe life-changing injuries by survivors with limited access to medical care, food, housing. Poverty and hunger are on the rise.

During this time, the ELCA continues to accompany our partners through presence on the ground, emergency aid. So far, \$800,000 has been donated from Lutheran Disaster Response, World Hunger, and from individual donors.

Within the Middle East/North Africa Desk, the Sumud team has been working hard to put in place the foundations of holistic ELCA engagement, not for the current crisis alone, but also for long-term work that will be needed to address underlying causes of this crisis: the Israeli occupation of Palestine, the systemic denial of human rights to Palestinians, and the lack of a forward path for Palestinian self-determination.

In 2024, Sumud will offer a Virtual Network Gathering Series, A Lenten Video Series. A local Palestinian production company, a free weekly resource and study guide for Lent called Following the Way of Jesus: A Lenten Land Journey. The series is offered in English and Arabic. Watch the promotional video here :-Lenten Devotional Trailer. It has new sections each week of Lent.

## March Birthdays

Alice Knowles

Doris Seedorf

Paul Blomgren

Lee Ann Johnson

Barb Wirz

Chad Elliott

Richard Johnson

Jeannette

Jacobson

Roger Jaycox

# Women of the ELCA

## WELCA Minutes

The women of the ELCA met on February 8, 2024 at 9:30 A.M.

There were 6 ladies present.

We opened with the Statement of Purpose and our Mission Statement.

Secretary's report: M/S/P

Treasurer's Report: M/S/P Shirley has paid most of the budgeted items to the non-profit organizations.

Quilts: about 1 a week are made. None given out in Jan. Prayer Shawls: a number need to be blessed.

Old Business:  
Still need a coordinator for the Easter Breakfast.  
Adult Teen challenge center for women in Brainerd: The box is in the entry and a list of items provided.

New Business:  
Summer convention- sheets have been printed and handed.

Plan to complete kits for convention after the March meeting.

Closed with the Lord's prayer.

Next Meeting March 14, 2024, 9:30 am

Bible Study Leader: Sharon Schwegel Hostess: Garen Hebeisen

Respectfully Reported, Garen Hebeisen Acting Secretary

*"Please Take time to enjoy the Memorial gardens!"*





## From the Archives: The Columbarium

### “THE COLUMBARIUM “ WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?”

Most of us don't like to think about death and so we put off planning for it. Sometimes we put it off too long and our loved ones are left to make the plans in too short a time, with no real inkling of what we desire. This can lead to family disagreement and stress. If you have not made plans, now would be a good time to consider what you wish for your final earthly resting place.

One of the benefits of a columbarium, for your family, would be the closeness to the church. One could come at any time to spend a few moments in the memorial garden close to you. Folks used to go to visit loved ones in the cemetery beside the church. Now most are not close to the church. Some are so large we can't find our loved ones. Or when we go to the town, we don't have time to go to a cemetery. Since the church is a place where Christians gather, it is often not difficult to find a little time to spend there.

Although as Christians we know that the important part of us is not in the grave or the urn, sometimes it helps us to feel close to those who have gone. To sit and have a one-sided conversation with them, to focus and remember what they taught us over the years. Sometimes it may seem as though they speak back to us.

Each person and each couple should make the decision that is right for them. It should be done while there is time to look at the options, to make a good decision. No matter what the subject, one should consider all the available options. We would encourage you to consider the options while you have the ability to do so. Whatever you chose, preplanning is always the best way to go.

St. Paul's congregation approved the addition of a columbarium to the church property in January

at the annual meeting. At the present time there are six families that have indicated an interest in pursuing the project. It will be a separate accounting from the church finances and will not affect the annual church budget. In order to proceed, the project needs to raise \$15,000. Provided the six interested couples continue their interest, this is less than one half of the minimum required to purchase the unit. We urge anyone who is considering inurnment, or has not even thought of this option, to contact one of the members of the committee to express your interest. Or, if you are interested in helping finance the project, we would welcome that too.

Committee members: Marlys & Rich Johnson, Jim Anderson and Shirley Johnson





# Church Council

Meeting minutes

**“Due to unforeseen circumstances the regularly scheduled Council Meeting was not held in February.”**

## **Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes St. Paul’s Lutheran Church February 04, 2024**

### **Subject to the Approval of St. Paul’s Lutheran Church Congregation**

The annual meeting was called to order by President Chuck Forsgren at 10:17 a.m. with 38 members attending: 31 in person and 7 by Zoom.

Opening Devotions were led by Pastor Espeland

President Chuck Forsgren turned over the meeting to the Trust Fund. President Kathy Forbrook convened the trust fund meeting at 10:22. Russ Torkelson provided a report on assets and expenditures (report printed in Annual Report booklet). MSP to cast a unanimous ballot for Gail DeBoer to a second term and Deen Swart and Steve Hoopman to first terms to replace Linda Olson and Ron Brauer whose terms have expired on the Trust Fund Committee. MSP to close trust fund meeting at 10:32.

**Treasurer’s Report** – Complete report located in *Annual Report* booklet – MSP to accept treasurer’s report.

**President’s Comments** – are in the *Annual Report* Booklet.

MSP to approve meeting agenda.

**Secretary’s Report** – MSP to accept minutes as printed.

**Pastor’s Report/Statistics** – A complete report located in *Annual Report* booklet.

**Committee Reports** – MSP to accept reports as printed in *Annual Report* booklet.

**Old Business** – there was no old or on-going business.

### **New Business:**

1. **2024 Budget** – MSP to accept the proposed budget as printed.
2. **Nominations and Election** – MSP to cast unanimous ballot as follows: Chuck Forsgren for Council President, Ron Wedin for Council Vice President, Shirley Johnson, and Russ Torkelson for At Large Council Members.
3. **Proposal for siding on the block below the brick on the south and east sides** – MSP to accept bid of \$8,324.71. The council recommends using reserve funds to pay for this project.
4. **2024 Annual Synod Meeting** – Deen Swart volunteered to represent St. Paul’s at the annual synod meeting which is scheduled for April 27, 2024.
5. Loralee Torkelson spoke on behalf of the Hackensack Quilters and the Prayer Shawl committee. If you know of anyone in need of either a quilt and/or a prayer shawl you can contact a member of the committee. New members are always welcome.
6. Barbara Harrington spoke on behalf of the Columbarium committee which is in need of more members including a Treasurer. They will be working on bylaws and niche application updates.

Meeting was adjourned with the Lord’s Prayer at 11:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tonia Kahler  
Council Secretary

# Property Committee

Meeting minutes

Tech Report



## No Property Committee Meeting

### Tech Report 2/16/24

1. We believe the annual meeting went well technology wise, we had good audio and switching the cameras gave zoom attendees a good meeting. The recently purchased computer worked flawlessly. Let me know if you have any suggestions for future meetings.
2. If you watched the Ash Wednesday service on YouTube or Facebook you may have noticed that we used UCC's StreamYard feed. It appears that caused more lag in the audio than our Sunday services, and that the video wasn't as sharp. The degraded video was because we used one of the old cameras to match up with UCC's scenes. This was our first attempt, and we'll use it as a learning experience.
3. Mike is still willing to work on setting up appointments with council members to get Microsoft 365 set up on their home computers. This includes explaining the software, and how to operate it.

Many Thanks to Mike, Char, Tammy, Tim, Chad, and Alice for all your efforts!

If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions please don't hesitate to contact me.

Chuck Forsgren 402-525-1127

## From the archives: A Dream Becomes A Reality

### St. Paul's Lutheran Church ELCA

Our Congregation is centered upon the person of Jesus Christ our Lord, Head of the Church and of this congregation. As members of Christ's Church, we seek to be His disciples as we serve each other, members of our community, and His Church throughout the world.

"Proclaiming and Serving Christ in the Heartland and beyond"

On Memorial Day ~ 2004, members of our congregation donated funds and planted a living memorial lovingly called "The Schade Tree," (a flowering crab) and an Endless Summer Hydrangea in memory of George and Lorene Schade who were long time members of St. Paul's. (See previous article.) At that time, interest was expressed to form a Memorial Garden on the southeast side of the church. Mona Wolff and John Larson shared the dream of a quiet private spot with the beauty of plants and flowers all around.

The Property Committee approved the area as well as the Church Council. The St. Paul's Memorial Garden Designated Fund Account was opened.

A committee of interested persons met and secured the expertise of Don and Julie Scouten, Master Gardeners. The Scoutens' drew up a plan and the decision was made that no work would be started until there were enough funds to start the 'footprint' which would be the patio and sidewalk. During the following years and up until today, enough gifts and memorials have been received to allow the project to move forward. Plans are for the work to begin in early August. Shirley Johnson's brother, a Landscape Contractor, has donated his time and equipment.

Watch for a copy of "the plan" to be posted on the kiosk soon. Anyone wanting to be a part of this "dream" please contact a member of the Property or Memorial Garden Committee.

### St. Paul's Lutheran Church ELCA

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