

St. Paul's Lutheran Church ELCA



May 2024

The Church Door

2024 Synod Assembly—Make Us One

I had the opportunity to attend the 2024 Synod Assembly. This year the assembly was held via Zoom. Given all it entailed to put this 'in person-online' event together and have it land without a hitch, I have to say that God was at work. Bishop Amy Odgren opened the assembly and led us in worship. She spoke on the theme 'Make Us One', discussing our need to be active participants in unity. She states we have been called to maintain unity; to embrace others just as they are; and to look to God as our binding force. God's gift is to equip us for ministry as a whole body. She challenged us to wonder what it would look like if we worked together to truly change the world. And then went on to say, 'We Can!' We can collectively throw our pebble into the pond and see our ripples touch the whole world and Make Us One.

From there, the assembly went on to do their work, adopting the agenda, accepting the rules and procedures, accepting the 2023 minutes, and presenting the nominating committee reports. Bishop Odgren provided a synopsis of the many highlights of life in 2023, reflecting on how the Synod embodied the four core values of **Welcoming, Connecting, Reforming, and Supporting** over the past year. The Synod employees introduced themselves, shared their roles and gave brief reports. One new part-time role established in 2023 was that of Synod Minister for Mental Health. Elections of both lay and rostered clergy for various committees were held. The 2025 Synod Budget was presented and discussed and later voted on and approved. Also voted on and approved was the 2025 Salary & Benefits Compensation Guidelines. A few Synod Constitution Amendments were also approved. That was the primary business of the assembly.

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From The Pastor's Desk



May 2024

Dear Friends,

The weather is unseasonably warm, even factoring in that we got a late winter/early spring dump of snow – just to keep us on our toes. With the warming weather, we are cheered by our friends returning north. The ranks of the choir fill up, the sanctuary has more familiar faces, and our community feels like it is back where it should be.

With more people come more activities. Remember the “Five Ps:” Proper Planning Prevents Poor Performance. There is a lot coming up, for which we need to plan. We aren’t specifically looking for great performances, but we do want participation! So keep these in mind:

- May 7, 9:00 will be Spring Cleanup. I am doing a dangerous thing, and breaking with tradition. It is customary for those operating the electric hedge trimmers to sever the cord while trimming (it’s happened repeatedly). I will bring my new cordless trimmer and start a new tradition.
- Fishing opener is on May 11, followed by Mother’s Day on the 12th.
- Council retreat is on the 15th, and Memorial Day is the 27th.

Special note: the Country Fair is coming July 17th. That may seem far away, but we already have donations coming into church. We ask that if you have anything for the sale, that you bring the donations to the basement rather than to the fellowship hall. Between now and the fair we need to have the fellowship hall clear to host people and observances.

The day of Pentecost is on May 19th. This is the celebration day of the Holy Spirit, fifty days after Jesus’ resurrection. The indwelling of the Spirit promises to enlighten, empower, and reset boundaries. May the month of May be a time for us to rejoice in God with us, through the Spirit.

Peace and Joy,
Pastor Leif

Kermit Roseen Memorial Service
May 18, 2024
12:00 pm Visitation
1:00 pm Service
Military honors in the Memorial Garden
Lunch to follow



Pics from Lutheran World Relief



**LUTHERAN
WORLD RELIEF**

Gifts of Love

Gifts of Love is a program administered by Lutheran World Relief. Needs of poor nations and their people are called to our attention. This is a great opportunity to make a positive, lasting difference for neighbors in need.

The gifts range from basics, such as Family Water Systems, Mosquito Nets, Seeds for Farming communities. An irrigation system makes a lifelong impact on an entire community.

Many of the “Gifts” center around animals: Hens & Chicks, Goats and Sheep, Herds of Hope.

There is a catalog on the missions table in the narthex. We used to have a display set up with a tree containing cards of a sheep, or chick, etc., and mail it to Lutheran World Relief. Now, everything is ordered online through: giftsoflove.org. Giving Gifts of Love is a great opportunity to touch communities in countless, positive ways.

Submitted by Sharon Schwegel

May Birthdays

Mary Elam

Mona Wolff

Bob Moe

Rick Zaske

Ken Schwake

Sue Sanders

Dennis Wickham

Tonia Kahler

Sherrie Gayken

Marlys Johnson

Lewie Schrupp

Wendy Wolfe



St. Paul's Lutheran WELCA Minutes

Date: April 11, 2024, 9:30 am
Hostess: Jeanette Jacobsen
Bible Study Leader: Laura Ristow
Number attending: 8

President Laura Ristow opened the meeting by leading the group in the Statement of Purpose and the Mission Statement.

Treasurer's and Secretary's Reports: MSP
Quilts: We gave 4 quilts to the Bingo party at the HUB to raise funds for the Hackensack Food Shelf.

Prayer Shawls: Blessing of the prayer shawls will be in late spring.

Old Business:

1. A delicious Easter breakfast consisting of quiche, fruit, and juice was prepared by Deloris and helpers, and served to about 40.
2. Adult/Teen Challenge center doesn't need further donations. Thank you to those who contributed.
3. June WELCA synod convention kits will be completed soon.
4. Country Fair planning will continue.
5. We will arrange blessing of the prayer shawls with Pastor Leif.

New Business:

1. Summer Convention June 10-11 at Zion in Grand Rapids. Diane Z. volunteered to be the delegate. Let Laura know if you're interested in attending.

2. We will request registration funds for Convention from Trust Fund when we know the attendance numbers.
3. Laura and Lorelee will hang the quilt today, Paws in the Fall, and the flyer for Country Fair will then be completed.
4. Confirm with Marlys and Lorelee that they will make CF tickets again this year.
5. Start a sign-up sheet for CF quilt tickets at Flea Markets.
6. Spring Fling is planned for our May 9th, 9:30 am meeting. No bible study will be held.
7. New silverware is needed for our kitchen. Tabled.
8. New Bunn coffee pot is needed. Tabled.
9. April 20th at Warba: Spring Conference.

Next Meeting: May 9, 9:30 am is our annual Spring Fling. It is open to all women and their guests. There will be games led by Laura R. and lots of prizes. Shirley J. will furnish brunch for everyone.

Hostess: Shirley Johnson

Bible Study Leader: Will not be held.

Respectfully submitted:
Diane Zaske, Secretary

An ode to the quilter of ELCA from the archives

We cut, we match, and knots we tie.
“How great these Look!”...
We say with a sigh.

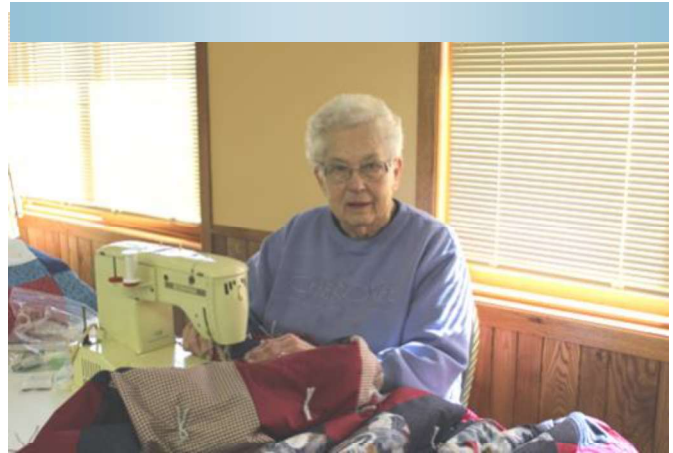
It’s under the bridge for this one to go.
Not quite good enough
We’ll just put it below.

Hey, look at this one, its beauty behold.
We’ll put this in the stack
Of those to be sold.

Now These are all nice we have to agree.
Lets’ give each away
To some needy family.

Now we thank you, God, for the time we’ve spent here.
May our quilts help others
Those both far and near.

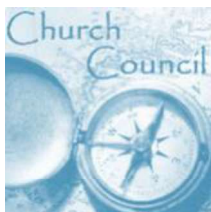
~ Ruth Stenberg



“To have things run smoothly, teach the process, not the person.”

~Pastor Leif

***An invitation to all ladies of St. Paul’s
Come and join us for
WELCA’s Spring Fling
Thursday May 9th
9:30 – 11:00
Brunch will be provided, and we will have games,
prizes, and fun fellowship!
Bring a friend or neighbor.***



Church Council

Meeting minutes

St. Paul's Church Council Meeting Minutes

April 17, 2024 - Fellowship Hall and Zoom

Present: Pastor Leif, Ron Wedin, Laura Ristow, Russ Torkelson, Alice Knowles, Chuck Forsgren, Shirley Johnson, Steve Hoopman, and Tonia Kahler

Absent: None

Council President Chuck Forsgren convened the meeting at 09:02 a.m.

Devotions: Alice Knowles

President's Opening Prayer

Mission Statement: "Proclaiming and Serving Christ in the Heartland and Beyond"

Additions to Agenda – Rural Resource Network
Secretary's Minutes – MSP to accept as printed.

Treasurer's Report – MSP to accept as printed.

Pastor's Report – Pastor is busy planning for two upcoming funerals. Reminder that the Synod Assembly is scheduled for April 27th, attendance is via Zoom.

Committee Reports:

Property Report – There was no meeting in April. The siding project is underway. Clean up day is scheduled for May 7th beginning at 9:00.

Discussed switching L.P. supplier.

Tech team report – included in the newsletter.

WELCA report – included in the newsletter.

Old and Ongoing Business:

1. Membership Survey – tabled until Spring Retreat in May. Continue to brainstorm questions to be included on the survey.
2. New pictorial directory to be created using

Instant Church Directory. A decision was made that we will utilize the Standard version of the program/software. Tabled until Spring Retreat in May.

3. Ron Wedin continues to work on updating the privacy policy.
4. The Council's Spring Retreat and Potluck will be held on Wednesday May 15th at the home of Shirley Johnson beginning at 10:00 a.m.
5. Pastor updated the discretionary spending process.
6. Russ is in the process of updating the compassion fund procedure. Will discuss further at the May Retreat.
7. God's Work Our Hands will be on Sunday September 8th.

New Business:

1. Rural Resource Network which is being organized by Faith in Action was discussed for informational purposes only.

Devotions for next meeting – Laura Ristow

Next Council Meeting Date – May 15, 2024 @ Shirley Johnson's home

Meeting adjourned with The Lord's Prayer at 10:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Tonia Kahler,
Council Secretary




Property Committee

Meeting minutes

Tech Report



No Scheduled Meeting/No report



Church Clean Up

It's Spring CLEAN UP TIME AGAIN!!
The planned "ENTIRE CHURCH"
Spring clean up date is Tuesday,
May 7th @ 9:00 a.m. Meet in the Fellowship Hall.
We will have Sign Up Sheets in the Narthex!
As always, your Property Committee
will provide lunch.
It's our way of saying
THANK YOU FOR HELPING US TAKE CARE OF ST. PAUL'S.
We couldn't do it without you!
(Please bring your favorite cleaning tools)
Property Committee meeting after Clean-up



Synod: Cont. Page from pg. 1

There were two awards presented. The Lutheran Social Services Servant of Christ Award was presented to Bethlehem Lutheran in Brainerd for the many services they provide to their community. The Holy Cow Award was presented to Knife River Lutheran in Knife River for their amazing giving of \$84.25pcm (per confirmed member) toward hunger in their community and world. HOLY COW is right! Only 12 churches in the Synod gave more than \$10pcm. (St Paul's did not make the cut... Next Year!) This year is the 50th Anniversary of the World Hunger Appeal. An event entitled 'Walking Together 2024' will be held on October 12, 2024 in Nisswa. It is not a walk... it is an event that includes worship, a guest speaker, lunch and break out sessions. There are other events in 2024 that may be of interest. You can find more info at <https://nemnsynod.org>.

One final note... A committee was created in 2019 to begin developing a Social Statement on Civic Life and Faith. This has been a huge undertaking with many a faithful servants donating hours and hours of time researching, discussing, rediscussing, and writing a 'Civic Life and Faith' draft. This draft is located on the Synod website. I believe it would be worth your time to read this draft. It is a document outlining how our faith and our civic life fit together (my simplistic explanation). The committee is extremely interested in your feedback, so there is a survey on the webpage. <https://nemnsynod.org>.

Thank you for entrusting me to be your voting representative at the 2024 NEMN Synod Assembly. I enjoyed it and gained new insight into how our Synod operates. I also learned that the Lutherans pray every chance they get. Feel free to ask any questions as this is just a brief summary.

Submitted by,
Deen Swart

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"

Country Fair July 17



**As you begin your spring
cleaning start saving items
for St Paul's
Annual Country Fair
July 17th.**

**We have a "Nearly New"
table and could use a
lot of items
(no clothing, please)**

St. Paul's Lutheran Church ELCA

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PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

