

St. Paul's Lutheran Church ELCA



June 2024

The Church Door

Invest in Someone

The Wicked borrow and pay not again [for they may be unable]' but the [uncompromisingly] righteous deal kindly and give [for they are able].

Psalm 37:21

Take chances today and invest in someone else's life, especially if God tells you to do so. You may give them something of value only to learn they waste it as they have always done in the past. But remember that God made an investment in you, and He wants you to be willing to make an investment in somebody else.

Jesus died to give everybody a chance. Not everyone takes advantage of His provision, but we all have and equal opportunity to enjoy the abundant life. If you help someone, and they end up not doing what is right with it, that is between them and God. Give thanks that you are able to give, and then do whatever God tells you to do.



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Happy
Father's
Day!



From The Pastor's Desk

The liturgies we sing on Sundays provide the framework for our gatherings. This summer we will comply with the mandate *written into the church's constitution* that we will sing and speak the liturgy written by Pastor John Monson two times per month. It certainly fits our setting, especially the song of praise *Dance With Creation*. The mention of loons, bears, and the other aspects of the natural beauty of the north woods inspire gratitude for God's gifts.

The word liturgy means "the work of/for the people." The liturgy may have started out as a form of work, but it doesn't feel like it when we gather and offer our thanks and praise. We have other forms of work to do with summer projects and programs, but they seem to consistently bring joy and fellowship.

*

The Sundays after Pentecost return to gospel readings from Mark. During the Easter season we spent many Sundays in the Gospel of John, and had some detours into Luke/Acts. There is no particular unifying theme to the readings from Mark's gospel. They portray Jesus' ministry in the typical style Mark utilizes: with urgency, focus, a relentless drive forward to ensure that the kingdom of God comes among us. For us, we will discern what deserves our urgency and focus through the summer months. What is it that proclaims the kingdom for us and our community? That is where, with God's help, we will concentrate our time and talent.

Peace and Joy,
Pastor Leif



Purchase Your Quilt Raffle

Tickets

\$1.00 raffle tickets can be purchased in the Narthex for the hand quilted queen size "Paw Prints in the Fall" quilt.

Tickets are being sold in the Narthex on Sundays.

Drawing for the quilt will take place at 2:00 p.m. July 17th at the close of St. Paul's Annual Country Fair.

SENDING KIDS TO CAMP

We are contributing for
Hackensack kids to go to
church camp this year.



Note on your contribution as
"Sending kids to Camp" by
July 18



Blessing of the Prayer Shawls and some of the Knitters and Crocheters

Companion Synods

Companion synod relationships of the ELCA connect Lutheran churches throughout the world. These relationships are concrete expressions of communion and fellowship with more than 140 Lutheran member churches. One of the out-of-country synods that we are connected to is in Russia – the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ingria in Russia. (ELCIR)

The war has enormously impacted the ministries of ELCIR and created much uncertainty about the future. In addition to praying for the people of Ukraine, please pray for the ELCIR, its pastors and leaders, its ministries, the safety of its members, for courage and hope, and peace.

The NE MN Synod is also connected to churches in Honduras and India.

Submitted by Sharon Schwegel
Mission Interpreter

June Birthdays

Cheryl Schwake

Don Jacobson

Evelyn Brandt

Jim Jacobson

Barb Harrington

Judy Schrapp

Louise Hay

Women of the ELCA

WELCA Minutes

The May 9, 2024 meeting was our traditional Spring Fling. It was a great party atmosphere with 13 attendees. Morning coffee and treats were provided by Laura Ristow and Shirley Johnson. Bingo and a variety of goofy games were played and many prizes were won by everyone. Shirley Johnson and Diane Zaske then provided a salad and dessert lunch. No business meeting was held. The June 13th meeting will be held at 9:30. Following that, at 10:30 will be our annual Spicy Dill Pickle making session. We encourage everyone to come help in this fun activity. Our pickles are a BIG seller at the Country Fair, held on Wednesday, July 17th this year. Come be part of the fun!

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Zaske, Secretary

We Have Butter Braids

Apple, Bavarian Crème,

Blueberry Cream Cheese,
Raspberry, Strawberry Cream Cheese
and Caramel Rolls

These pastries are so easy to enjoy.
Simply thaw them on your counter
overnight, then bake for 30 minutes in
the morning. It can't be easier, or more
delicious! They are only \$14 per pack-
age. They also make very nice gifts!



Tech Report 5/8/24

1. No plans to change any hardware at this time.
2. We are preparing for Funeral services, testing the outdoor speakers, and using a cell phone to send columbarium and military services into the Fellowship Hall and be recorded in StreamYard.
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

We need Quilters

St. Paul's Quilters group meets every Monday morning at 9:00. Some members plan, beautifully stitch the quilt that gets raffled off each year at the Country Fair. Also, we make single bed size quilts (finished size 60" x 84") that are donated to local agencies such as: the Sheriffs Dept., the Women's Shelter, Family Safety network, Veterans and others. Some of these are sold at each Country

Fair as well. Quilts are available for purchase all year at the cost of \$45.00. We always welcome new members – no sewing skills required! Training is available and the best part is coffee break / fellowship time. Stop in some Monday morning and see what we are about – we'd love to have you join us!





Church Council

Meeting minutes

St. Paul's Council Meeting Minutes

May 15, 2024 – Shirley Johnson's home

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 10:06 a.m.

Devotions: Pastor Leif

President's Opening Prayer

Mission Statement: "Proclaiming and serving Christ in the Heartland and beyond"

Additions to Agenda –

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. We welcomed two new members to the church and performed two baptisms.

Committee Reports:

Property Report – The siding project is complete. Brian Shultz has been hired to take care of the lawn. Steve Hoopman is getting bids for cleaning and painting the steeple.

Tech team report – included in the newsletter.

WELCA report – included in the newsletter

Old and Ongoing Business:

1. Membership Survey is being created to determine ways to better serve St. Paul's

congregation.

2. New pictorial directory to be created using Instant Church Directory. Ron Wedin and Chuck Forsgren to coordinate this project. More information to come.
3. The council unanimously approved the privacy policy drafted by Ron Wedin. The policy will be posted on the church bulletin board.
4. Russ is in the process of updating the compassion fund procedure. Tabled until June meeting.
5. God's Work Our Hands will be on Sunday September 8th.

New Business:

1. The theme for this years Hackensack Sweet-heart Days float will be float my boat "Fisher of Men". Diane Zaske will be coordinating again this year. More information to come.
2. St. Paul's Country Fair – July 17, 2024
3. Hackensack Kid's Fishing Contest – St. Paul's sponsoring July 23, 2024
4. Blood drive at St. Paul's – August 20, 2024
5. July council meeting rescheduled to July 24 due to conflict with Country Fair.
6. Big Thank You to Shirley Johnson for hosting the Annual Council Retreat!

Devotions for next meeting – Laura Ristow

Next Council Meeting Date – June 19, 2024

Meeting adjourned with The Lord's Prayer at 12:22 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Tonia Kahler,
Council Secretary

Property Committee

Meeting minutes



ST. PAUL'S MAY 2024 PROPERTY COMMITTEE REPORT MAY 6, 2024

MEMBERS PRESENT Dick Ristow, Dave Kahler, Russ Torkelson, Lewie Schrupp, Terry Bergstrom, Chuck Forsgren, Dan Knicely, Jim Madland, Jim Jacobsen, Pastor Leif Espeland, Shirley Johnson

MEMBERS ABSENT Deloris Ressen

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Foundation Siding on South & East Side of Sanctuary: Total cost from Gull Construction per quote \$8,324.71. Work has been completed. MSP to approve final payment of \$5,978.00 which was \$420 above quotation. Everyone was satisfied with the project.
2. Report on Boiler Activity during the Winter: After Samuelson/Laney adjusted the flame, the boilers worked very well.
3. Snow shoveling: Brian Schultz temporary contract worked out very well. He cleared the snow 2 inches or below. Chuck is writing the contract for next year.
4. Solar Panel Snow Removal: Dave Kahler, Lewie Schrupp and Pastor Leif cleaned the panels. Thank you to the volunteers.
5. Repair of Conference Room Sink & Basement Toilet: Thank you to Dick Ristow for taking care of both.
6. Electronic Sign: MnDOT Update? No word from MN DOT. Project to be in 2025
7. Summer Lawn Services: Brian Schultz has been hired to mow the lawn this summer.
8. Discuss other duties: Fertilizer, Weed & Feed plus other requested tasks.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Brotherhood Mutual Insurance Renewal: Discuss Yearly Premium Increase \$5,792 to \$7,206 Property deductible from \$2,999 to \$5,000 A 1% Hail & Wind deductible was added to the policy. Discussion followed regarding increased cost, and all agreed that since we had a competitive bid last year and the company could not match our costs, we will accept the increase.

2. PROPANE Quotation from Superior Fuel: A lengthy discussion followed Lewie and Dave's Pros and Cons on switching providers. After weighing the cons, MSP that we continue our contract with Ferrellgas this year.

3. STEEPLE CLEANING: It was reported to me that the steeple is very dirty. The property Committee decided to talk to Steve Hoopman for suggested contacts. All agreed that the roof is too steep to expect our members to volunteer. Issue tabled.
4. CUT DOWN PEW (S) FOR WHEELCHAIRS: Decision was made to remove one pew for the time being.
5. PAPER STORM: SHREDDING SERVICE?: Missed this topic!!!
6. WRAP-UP OF CLEANING DAY: We had 24 ambitious members doing mostly indoor work. Lewie and Steve Hoopman spread a yard of mulch where needed. The Hydrangea's were pruned, and some other shrubs will be pruned when the weather allows. Dick Ristow was able to wash most of the outside windows.
7. COUNTRY FAIR: Lewie asked for some help getting tables from the Lion's on Monday, July 15th @ 9 AM from the Community Building. Ron & Ruth Brauer will be purchasing a new tent for use at the Flea Market and Country Fair. They will put it up and asked for help in taking it down.
8. BUNN Coffee Maker: Shirley reported that our original BUNN has been having some problems. In doing some research a minimum cost of the direct plumbed BUNN costs about \$850.00 not including the plumbing. More research will be done. Cost may be obtained from Memorial donations. TBD.
9. Fellowship Hall fluorescent lighting. Russ received permission to get quotations for upgrading the lighting to update to LED Fixtures. Tabled till next month.

Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Shirley

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"

Pickle Making 2024

It's time again to have fun making pickles!

Each year the ladies of St. Paul's make our sweet and spicy garlic dill pickles for the Country Fair fundraiser, and they are always a big hit.

Men are Welcome to Help!

We plan to make pickles on Thursday June 13th beginning at 10:30 a.m. following a brief WELCA meeting which begins at 9:30 a.m.

If you are unable to attend the meeting, feel free to show up at 10:30 a.m. to join in pickle making. Bring a friend! We expect to be finished by noon.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church ELCA

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PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

