

St. Paul's Lutheran Church ELCA



September 2024

The Church Door

Disability Access

Maintenance has been happening behind the scenes for years. It started with handicapped parking and access to the Church, most of are used to seeing it, but we do not realize that someday we may have to use these access points, even if it is temporary. If you have not noticed coming in and out of the sanctuary. A pew is missing! It was removed for wheelchairs and walkers with seats. We all have been walking up the stairs to the Sanctuary past the wheelchair lift. Property Committee, an elevator service, and state inspectors make sure it is in good working order. Have you used the wheelchair ramps, because you can't take the stairs? We have two ramps, in the front and the back. We also have 5 handicapped parking spaces. Please let the property committee know that their continued maintenance to Church access is appreciated.



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From The Pastor's Desk

Dear Friends,

We've had a lot of activities this summer. We certainly pray that all of our busyness has glorified God and brought people closer to the Lord. We pray together that the outreach we do is like the person in Russ's recent council devotion. When one is reaching out as a disciple of Jesus, it should be done not with a superior attitude, nor with dire warnings of hell designed to scare people straight. Rather, we should approach the evangelism mission as starving people who have been given bread, offering bread to other starving people. There are more opportunities to reach out than we can imagine, but we pray that we may be good stewards of God's nourishment to us.

The August council (the month, not the descriptor of the council, although that is also apt!) asked me to pass along the deliberation regarding the "Kids to Camp" initiative. For the past few years St. Paul's has sponsored kids going to camp through Hope Lutheran in Walker. I grew up calling it Bible Camp, in these parts it is known as Church Camp. So, Church Camp it is.

First, we discussed eligibility. A guiding principle through the years is that we would prioritize Hackensack kids who go to Hope. It has worked out well, but we wanted to clarify that if there are no Hackensack kids, our support would remain. We decided for the record that we will support "area" kids.

Second, we talked about budget and timeline. In past years the St. Paul's Trust Fund has contributed matching funds to Kids to Camp offerings. Distributing funds for Christian education is a pillar of the Trust Fund's guiding principles, so Kids to Camp is a good fit. The council also received word that we got the offering to Hope on the day the kids departed for camp. To promote better planning we decided to start the process earlier so the gift would be in place before camp starts.

St. Paul's continues to show amazing generosity. Treasurer Laura is consistent in her praise of the sound finances of the church. It is good that we help those with financial need for things like food and fuel. It is also a time-honored way to grow the gospel when we spread the good news through Church Camp fellowship.

Peace and Joy,
Pastor Leif



Women’s Adult and Teen Challenge—Brainerd

(from an Article in Her Voice, A Brainerd Dispatch Program)

The program is up and running since January 2024. Abigail Peltier, a Teen Challenge graduate, was hired to serve as director and develop the new women’s program. At 17, Abigail faced three drug felony charges and chose long-term treatment at Teen Challenge over a jail sentence. It totally transferred the projection of her life. Instead of wanting drugs, she wanted God. Instead of wasting her life away, she gained a passion for making a positive impact on society and received a masters degree in social work.

The Brainerd program is a 90-day minimum stay that can be extended. It includes 28 hours a week of faith-based substance abuse programming plus secure lodging in a 24-bed facility. The strong spiritual element is what sets Teen Challenge apart from most treatment programs.

The full article is in the summer 2024 edition of Her Voice. Current financial needs include funding for additional parking spaces, a storage building for maintenance equipment and construction of a playground for children who visit their parents in the treatment program.

Submitted by Sharon Schwegel
Mission Interpreter



Picture Directory

If you would like your picture taken and submitted to the Church Picture Directory, Ron W. will be coming in on Saturday September 7th from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. He will also be available after Church service on Sunday September 8th

Please turn in the Church Directory Information form by September 1st

September Birthdays

Dorothy
Harrington

Russ Torkelson

Gary Krimmel

Ron Wedin



St. Paul's Lutheran Church WELCA Meeting

Meeting date and time: Thursday, August 8,
2024 9:30 AM Salad Luncheon
Hostess: Lorelee Torkelson/Laura Ristow
Bible Study Leader: Laura Ristow
Number attending: 13
President Laura Ristow led us in the Statement
of Purpose and Mission Statement.

BUSINESS MEETING:

Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports: MSP
Quilts: We sold 3 at the Country Fair
Prayer Shawls: 1 was given

OLD BUSINESS:

1. We will have a wrap up meeting with planners and chairs of some of the areas of Country Fair. We noted that we ran out of pies to sell by the slice, but other foods were the perfect amount. We had more nearly new items than past years. We donated the remaining items to Share and Care as well as the Akeley Area Community Center/ Women's shelter. The number of volunteers was amazing, as usual. Our pickles sold out, all 105 jars! There were over 40 people lined up to enter before 9:00 AM. Our profit was nearly \$7,000. Most of that money goes to local, national and international charities and non-profits.
2. We need members to consider taking a leadership office in WELCA for the upcoming year. We will vote on new officers this fall.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Living Waters fall conference is Sept 28th @ Zion in Grand Rapids. Please let Laura R. know if you plan to attend.
2. God's Work, Our Hands Sunday is September 8th. We will assemble 50 school kits, cut batting, roll bandages and tie a quilt. We will begin right after church, and a light lunch will follow. Wear your yellow GWOH tee shirt if you have one. There are new shirts available in the office. Members and friends are all welcome to help and enjoy this fun activity day. There are "sitting" jobs to do, also. In the Narthex, there is a list of school supplies that can be donated at any time.
3. Members are encouraged to look over the budget and make suggestions as to any changes for next year. Budget will be voted on in November.
4. Blood Drive will be held August 20 at St. Paul's. Lorelee will coordinate it and set up appointments with the help of Deen Swart. Let Lorelee know if you can volunteer, or donate beverages/snacks.

Next meeting: Thursday, September 12, 2024 at 9:30 AM

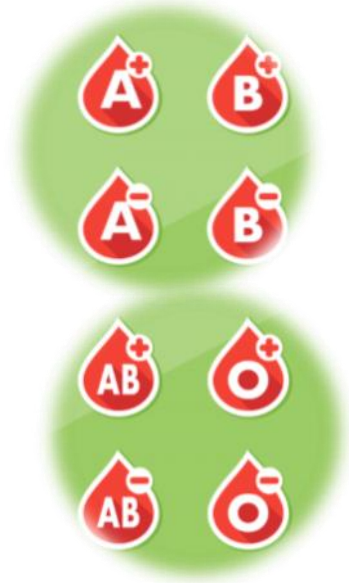
Coffee hostess: Deloris Ressen

Bible Study leader: Diane Zaske

Respectfully submitted: Diane Zaske, Secretary

Thank You Blood Donors!

61 units of blood were donated during the Blood Drive held at St. Paul's on August 20, 2024! A big thank you to the volunteers who coordinated this event and those that donated cookies and juice!



“ Important Message from the property Committee”

Renew Propane Contract

Time to renew your Propane Contract. As of this week the price per gallon is:
Summer Fill: ONLY if you own your own tank. Price good through August 31ST. \$1.349 per gallon. Note: your tank must be down to 30%.

2025 St Paul's Contract Fill: Beginning September 1, 2024, to July 31, 2025, whether you own or rent your tank: \$1.599 per gallon. (SAME AS LAST YEAR)

Anyone who wishes to be included on the Contract, please call:
Susie or Katy @ 218 828 24470.

It would be helpful in negotiating pricing if we knew how many people use the Contract with Ferrellgas. Please send me an email @ sjohaz@aol.com or call me 218 675-6181 or 218 820-3793

THANK YOU,
Shirley Johnson





Church Council

Meeting minutes

August 21, 2024–Fellowship Hall

Present: Pastor Leif, Laura Ristow,
Russ Torkelson, Ron Wedin, Chuck Forsgren,
Shirley Johnson, and Tonia Kahler
Absent: Alice Knowles and Steve Hoopman
Council President Chuck Forsgren convened the
meeting at 9:03 a.m.
Devotions: Russ Torkelson
President's Opening Prayer
Mission Statement: "Proclaiming and serving
Christ in the Heartland and beyond"

Additions to Agenda – Back pew removal,
Budget \$

Secretary's Minutes – MSP to accept as printed.

Treasurer's Report – MSP to accept as printed.

Pastor's Report – included in the newsletter

Committee Reports:

Property Report – included in the newsletter.

Discussed patio paver project, LP price for
upcoming heating season, new Bunn coffee
maker.

Tech team report – included in the newsletter.
Still looking for volunteers.

WELCA report – included in the newsletter.
Salad luncheon was well attended, working on
preparations for upcoming God's work our
hands Sunday.

Old and Ongoing Business:

1. Membership Surveys have been distributed. If you have not completed your survey, please take some time to complete it and turn it into the office. Hoping to have the survey results completed by end of September.
2. Creation of the new photo directory is in process. Ron Wedin has been taking photos after Sunday Services. Ron will also be available on Saturday September 7th to take photos at the Church. In addition to your photo, you will need to complete an informational sheet with the data to be used in the directory. If you have a photo that you would like to use, instructions on how to upload to the directory can be provided. A church directory APP is available. A printed copy of the directory will be available upon request. Contact either Chuck or Ron with any questions you may have.
3. 61 units of blood were donated during the Blood Drive held at St. Paul's on August 20, 2024! A big thank you to the volunteers who coordinated this event and those that donated cookies and juice!
4. God's Work Our Hands will be on Sunday September 8th. We will be making school kits this year. WELCA will be serving a light lunch.
5. St. Paul's annual meeting will be held on February 2, 2025.
6. The electronic sign will need to be removed

Property Committee

Meeting minutes

Tech Report



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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chuck Forsgren,
Lewie Schrupp, Dick Ristow, Terry Bergstrom,
Dan Knicely, Deloris Ressen, Russ Torkelson,
Dave Kahler, Shirley Johnson

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jim Madland, Jim Jacobsen,
Pastor Leif Espland

OLD BUSINESS:

- The decision was made to remove one pew on the right rear of the sanctuary. To be removed on August 14 (workday)
- PAPER STORM: SHREDDING SERVICE?
Tabled until next year

BUNN COFFEE MAKER: Deloris informed us that the Bunn had failed on Sunday. The decision was made to replace the Bunn Coffeemaker.

Dick Ristow and Terry Bergstrom will research and order and install.

SECOND PHONE LINE: Line removed saving \$40.00/month/ Thank you!

NEW BUSINESS:

SIDEWALK SINKING: from front door to Kitchen Door. Chuck

- Discuss a price from Rob Triplet, Hackensack
- DBS price- do all, or just lift handicap ramp

THE PROPERTY COMMITTEE WALKED THE PROJECT AFTER THE MEETING AND NO DETERMINATION WAS REACHED AT THIS TIME.

ELECTRONIC SIGN: Chuck has been in discussion with Bill Kennedy, Mayor of Hackensack regarding the culvert installation across 371:

- May 2025
- Have estimate from Lewis Sign Co. of est . \$6,500.00
- We may want to make the sign higher at that time. No estimate yet.

NO ACTION TAKEN DURING THE MEETING.
TABLED TILL 2025.

LANDSCAPING DUTIES:

- PAVERS ON PATIO OUTSIDE OF CONFERENCE ROOM IN MEMORIAL GARDEN AND COLUMBARIUM: Discuss:
 - ◇ Suggestion to replace pavers with a 9' x 12' patio of concrete. Not preferable.
 - ◇ Call M&M Landscaping 218-838-6920, see if interested and get estimates.
 - ◇ Suggestions were made to get estimates from other contractors. Chuck will follow up.TABLED UNTILL QUOTATIONS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED.
- ◇ Suggestion was made to install 6" gutters for heavy downpours
- SPRUCE TREE ON LAWN SOUTH AND WEST OF COLUMBARIUM IS DYING: WILL BE REMOVED ON WORKDAY. (August 14)
- MULCH ON PATH IN MEMORIAL GARDEN: COMPLETED BY DICK RISTOW. He also raised the edging. THANK YOU, DICK!!!
- PRUNE SHRUBS: SET WORK DATE AND ASK FOR VOLUNTEERS TO MAKE IT A QUICK JOB.
- WORKDAY SET FOR AUGUST 14 (WEATHER PERMITTING)
- Prune cherry/apple trees. Brian interested, \$100/tree, wants someone to direct for shape.
- Property approved the expenditure and work to be done.
- PAINT SERVICE DOORS: PAINT ON FALL CLEAN-UP DAY.

Council cont. from pg. 6

and relocated during the highway 371 project planned for 2025.

New Business:

1. MSP to budget \$1500 for Church Campership (Kids to Camp) for 2025.
2. [One of the back pews has been removed for wheelchair accessibility purposes.](#)
3. The property committee is gathering bids for the sidewalk repair project. They will present their recommendations to the council for approval. There are funds available to complete this project which will be completed Fall 2024.
4. Fall Clean Up is scheduled for October 8, 2024.

Devotions for next meeting – Ron Wedin
Next Council Meeting Date – September 18, 2024
Meeting adjourned with The Lord's Prayer at 10:30 a.m.
Respectfully submitted by Tonia Kahler, Council Secretary

Property cont. from pg. 7

- DECORATING COMMITTEE: M/P to allow expenditures up to \$500.00 for the Decorating Committee to purchase materials for seasonal decorations.
Thank you to Tonia Kahler and Bev Wigness for their talent.

FALL CLEAN- UP DAY SET FOR OCTOBER 8, 2024, 9 am Members are encouraged to bring project ideas to the September 3rd meeting.

COUNCIL & FINANCE ACTION: See Decorating Committee action above.

ADJOURN:

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday SEPTEMBER 3, 2024

SCHOOL KITS

Thanks to the generosity of our congregation, St. Paul's has been able to provide much needed school kits to be distributed by Lutheran World Relief. We will be assembling the kits on God's Work Our Hands Sunday September 8, 2024. WELCA will provide the backpacks. The items required are listed below. There will be a basket in the narthex in August.

Each kits requires:

- ♦♦ Four 70-sheet notebooks of wide or narrow ruled paper (no loose paper)
- ♦♦ One ruler with centimeter markings – may have inches on one side
- ♦♦ One pencil sharpener
- ♦♦ One blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)
- ♦♦ Five unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers
- ♦♦ Five black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink)
- ♦♦ One box of 16 or 24 crayons
- ♦♦ One large (2 ½ inch) eraser

Tech Report 8/14/24

We will be testing a different camera controller. The previous controller was designed for security cameras and wasn't meeting our needs. These controllers are used to move our PTZ cameras to get different views during services.

We will also be testing a new camera. The camera is a 20x network camera which is an upgrade from our existing 20x camera. Will report back with our findings.

The church photo directory is getting started. We will be putting in individual pictures of the Tech Team. Please provide a picture of yourself that we can use in the directory.

We called Spectrum and had the 2nd phone line removed. We verified that the change was reflected on our bill.

The Tech Team is having a training night. This will be at 7:PM the fourth Thursday each month. August training will be on the OBS scene creation.

We are discussing installing a TV on the shelf on the Right side of the choir loft for pastor to see what slide is on. Also getting a wireless "clicker" so he could control advancing slides during his sermon, or in a pinch could run the whole service.

Mike is 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.

The council is conducting a survey to see what activities the congregation would like to see the church do, and how the congregation is utilizing our tech services. Hope to get direction by the end of the year.

Many Thanks to Mike, Char, Tammy, Tim, 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

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Plastics must be clean, dry and free of food and organic residue



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GWOH God's Word Our Hands.

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"

"God's work our hands." Sunday, is an annual day of service in which congregations come together to lend a hand, help build a future and repair their communities.

Please find and wear your GWOH T-shirt.
If you need one, we have them available please check in the office.



SUNDAY, SEPT 8 FOLLOWING THE CHURCH SERVICE

Come and join in a time of fellowship, fun and service to others.

This year we will be assembling school kits, roll bandages and tie a quilt.

There are "sitting" jobs to do!

Lunch will be served!

St. Paul's Lutheran Church ELCA

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PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

