

# St. Paul's Lutheran Church ELCA



November 2024

## The Church Door



Revised 2022

### Winter Weather Policy

With the advancement of technology and our use of streaming we will not be canceling our services due to inclement weather. We will close our building.

Our Building will be closed after it has been determined:

1. The National Weather Service has issued Winter Weather **Warning**.
2. Walker, Hackensack, Akeley Schools are closed.
3. State Patrol advises no travel.
4. Pastor and the President will determine the need to close the building.

The congregation will be notified by:

1. Our answering machine will have a message.
2. A message will be placed on the Website/Facebook
3. A mass-email will be sent.

Approved 2022

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## From The Pastor's Desk



Dear Friends,  
We're in the home stretch. The election is this month, and then we can (perhaps) have a break from incessant campaign messaging. As Christians, it is right that we take part in the political process while acknowledging that the process does not save or hold ultimate truth. In that light, I'd like to share something that I saw on a flawed means of communication – Facebook!

### The Christian Voter's Guide

By

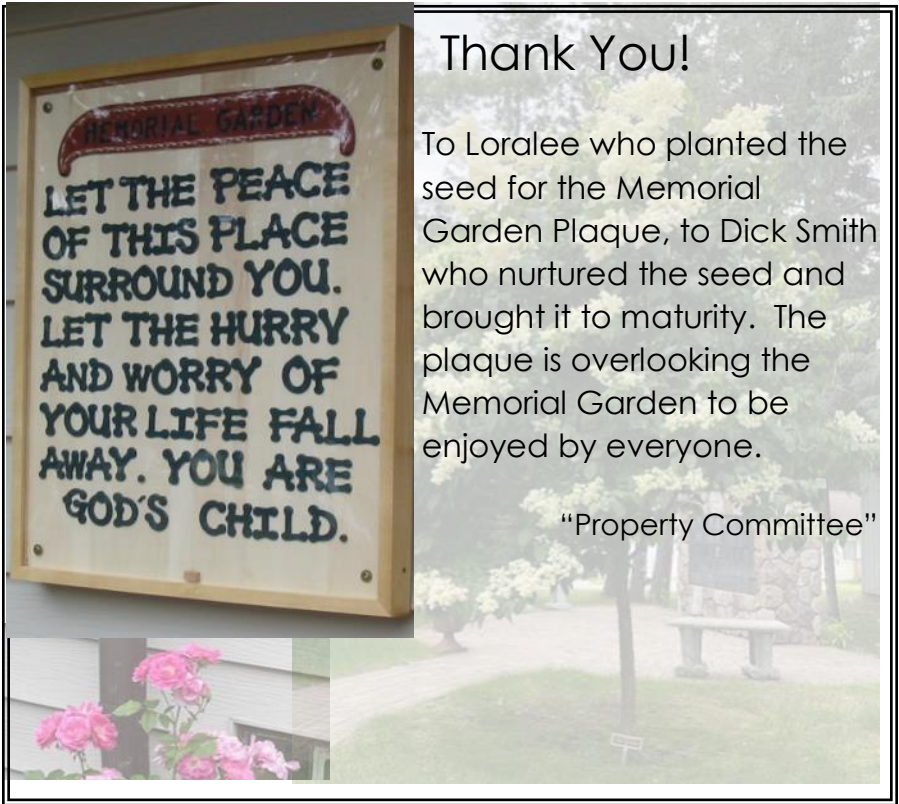
Brian Zahnd

1. The political process, while necessary, has little to do with how God is saving the world.
2. The fate of the kingdom of God does not depend upon political contests.
3. Don't be naïve, political parties are more interested in Christian votes than they are in Christian values.
4. The bottom line for political parties is power. The bottom line for a Christian is love. Therein lies the rub.
5. While in pursuit of the Ring of Power, you are not permitted to abandon the Sermon on the Mount.
6. If your political passion makes it hard to love your neighbor as yourself, you need to turn it down a notch.

7. Your task is to bring the salt of Christian civility to an ugly and acrimonious political process.
8. To dismember the body of Christ over politics is a grievous sin.
9. Exercise your liberty to vote your conscience and conviction, while accepting that other Christians will do the same and vote differently than you.
10. It's more important that your soul be filled with love than it is for your political team to win the game.

Brian Zahnd is a pastor and author from Missouri. I think he has presented some sound truths for us as we approach the election. May we pray that we know to keep political power in its place and refrain from turning power into an idol.

Peace and Joy,  
Pastor Leif



## Thank You!

To Lorelee who planted the seed for the Memorial Garden Plaque, to Dick Smith who nurtured the seed and brought it to maturity. The plaque is overlooking the Memorial Garden to be enjoyed by everyone.

“Property Committee”

*Archive History of the Memorial Garden*

## Disaster Relief in the U.S.

World Vision.org has fully stocked and staffed warehouses that are positioned to respond to disasters across the United States, including hurricanes like Helene and Milton, tornados and wildfires. With decades of experience in emergency response and strong relationships, they partner with local organizations to provide immediate relief to affected families, especially with essential supplies.

They also stay throughout the rebuilding process, offering assistance to churches and their communities even after other organizations have left.

Submitted by Sharon Schwegel  
Mission Interpreter



## November Birthdays

**Pastor Leif Espeland**

**Carol W.**

**Nancy F.**

**Shirley F.**

**Wayne B.**

**Clydia J.**

**Dick R.**

**Diana P.**

## St. Paul's Lutheran Church WELCA Meeting

Meeting date and time: Thursday, Oct. 10<sup>th</sup>, at 9:30 am

Hostess: Garen Hebeisen

Bible Study Leader: Diane Zasko

Number attending: 11

President Laura Ristow led us in the Statement of Purpose and Mission Statement.

### BUSINESS MEETING:

Secretary's Report: MSP

Treasurer's Report: MSP

Quilts: We continue to make about 1 each week.

Prayer Shawls: 1 was given to Mimi B.

### OLD BUSINESS:

1. Sharon Schwegel attended the Fall Living Waters Conference meeting at Zion, Grand Rapids and reported:
  1. The Angel Fund was the recipient of the offering. It gives money as needed to anyone with cancer.
  2. Zion houses Open Closet where community members in need can receive clothing. The needs were listed for attendees.
  3. Summer Convention dates are June 16-17, 2025 at Zion, Grand Rapids.
2. MSP to pass 2025 budget as printed. Due to uncertainty of Hwy 371 access to St. Paul's Country Fair, July 2025, we felt the need to cut back on budgeted giving. The CF is our main fundraiser for all our giving each year. We can revisit this budget and hopefully increase our giving next fall.

### NEW BUSINESS:

1. At our Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> meeting, we will again package donated cookies for our shut-ins and make 20 candy bags for our young people attending the Christmas Eve service.
2. Laura will again contact Family Safety Network to get three families' information for us to buy gifts for at Christmas.
3. Congregation members can contribute to the Christmas families fund during the month of Nov.
4. A shopping/wrapping time schedule will be set up in early Dec. Let Laura know if you would like to help shop and wrap the gifts.
5. A Blessing of the Gifts will take place on a Sunday in mid-December, and they will then be taken to Family Safety Network to be given to the 3 chosen families.
6. Prayerfully consider the need for a new WELCA president for 2025 as Laura will be finishing her term.

Next meeting: Thursday, November 14, 2024 at 9:30 am

Coffee hostess: Laura Ristow

Bible Study leader: Loralee Torkelson

Respectfully submitted: Diane Zasko, Secretary



WELCA Christmas Party  
Thursday, December 12th at 9:30 am

Come and bring a friend  
CHRISTMAS ATTIRE ENCOURAGED!



## Do You Need Prayer?

When you or someone close to you is in need of prayers for healing, or to handle a crisis, prayers can be prayed in great numbers. St. Paul's has a long list of people who will pray when notified. When you are in need, you can call Pastor Leif, the church office, or Diane Zaske and a notice will be sent to the Prayer Chain people - then they will begin praying for the health or other needy situation. Know that prayers work! Others care! God will listen and answer your prayers!  
Diane Zaske



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## Make Christmas Wonderful for Families in Need for 2024

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### Blessing of the Gifts



We will be buying Christmas Gifts for 3 Families from the Family Safety Network. We will be taking Money Donations through the month of November. Scheduling of the shopping trip and the Sunday gift blessing will be in early December.

Yet To be determined.



# Church Council

Meeting minutes

## St. Paul's Church Council Meeting Minutes

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

Absent: none

Council President Chuck Forsgren convened the meeting at 9:09 a.m.

Devotions: Pastor Leif

President's Opening Prayer

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

**Additions to Agenda** – none

**Secretary's Minutes** – MSP to accept as printed.

**Treasurer's Report** – MSP to accept as printed.

**Pastor's Report** – Advent Season is fast approaching. Pastor Leif has reached out to UCC to coordinate upcoming Wednesday night shared services. There will be 3 Advent Services this year with Soup Supper to follow the Service. St. Paul's will be hosting on December 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. More information to come.

### **Committee Reports:**

Property Report – included in the newsletter.

Clean Up Day went well. Thanks to all that volunteered their time to make this event successful!

Tech team report – included in the newsletter.

WELCA report – included in the newsletter.

Family Safety Network has let WELCA know that St. Paul's will be sponsoring 3 families this year for Christmas.

### **Old and Ongoing Business:**

1. There were 33 Membership Surveys returned. Barb Harrington volunteered to compile the results and provided an in-depth summary to the Council. The results will be shared with the congregation during the Annual Meeting.
2. The new directory has been completed. (Note: this is a living document, and updates will be made as needed). Upon request Tammy can print a copy of the directory for your use.
3. St. Paul's annual meeting is scheduled for Sunday February 2, 2025. The deadline for submitting your annual reports to Tammy is January 1, 2025.
4. The electronic sign will need to be removed and relocated during the highway 371 project planned for 2025. More information to come.
5. The ramp on the sidewalk is scheduled to be repaired/fixed on October 17<sup>th</sup>. The sidewalk project has been postponed until Spring.
6. Hanging of the Greens has been scheduled for Tuesday November 26<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m.

### **New Business:**

1. None

Devotions for next meeting – Chuck Forsgren  
Next Council Meeting Date – November 20, 2024

Meeting adjourned with The Lord's Prayer at 11:02 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Tonia Kahler, Council Secretary

# Property Committee

## Meeting minutes



### ST. PAUL'S OCTOBER PROPERTY COMMITTEE REPORT OCTOBER 8, 2024

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jim Madland, Dave Kahler, Deloris Ressen, Dan Knicley, Dick Ristow, Lewie Schrupp, Jim Jacobsen, Terry Bergstrom, Chuck Forsgren, Russ Torkelson, Pastor Espeland, Shirley Johnson

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OLD BUSINESS:

CLEANNING DAY DISCUSSION: Nice turnout. We served 28 people lunch.

Memorial Garden. Thanks to the people who helped Tonia Kahler clean the flower beds and taking some perennials. More will be available next spring.

- Service doors were not painted. Will be done in spring.
- Install more gutter guards in spring.
- Moved 2 Sprinkler Heads.

ELECTRONIC SIGN UPDATE: No update from the city, or Ross Signs on value of used sign.

SIDEWALK SINKING REPAIRING: To be done yet in October. DBS plans on raising the ramp Oct 17.

SIDEWALK REPAIR: 1st contractor declined to take the work. Chuck is seeking more contractors to bid on the project.

PAVERS OUTSIDE CONFERENCE ROOM: ON HOLD

GUTTERS: Dick Ristow has received two bids on gutters. After discussion, the property committee decided to wait until Spring.

NEW BUSINESS:

HANGING OF THE GREENS: The Property Committee has been asked to help with the Hanging of the Greens before Advent.

ADJOURN

NEXT MEETING: WILL CALL IF NECESSARY

**Volunteers needed**



**Stock up on Butter Braids**

These pastries sell for \$14.00 each and are available

Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m.—12:00 noon also,

Sunday Mornings.

**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.



### AND NOW FOR THE REST OF THE STORY

The Memorial Garden was completed by August 2006. It contains a circular patio, retaining wall planter and a flower garden containing perennials and annuals with continuous bloom throughout the growing season. A sculpture in Memory of Barbara Bjorgaard was moved from the front of the fellowship hall to the patio along with a curved bench. A Japanese Lilac Tree was planted in memory of John and Orlyn Larson. Due to generous donations and memorials, a concrete table, umbrella and four curved benches allow people to enjoy the solitude of the garden.

Members of the Property Committee were approached after the completion of the Memorial Garden to consider installing a Columbarium. One person remarked "Where else would I rather rest in peace than next to my Church?" Thus a Columbarium Sub-Committee was formed to study the feasibility of the project. Quotations were secured from several contractors and informational meetings were held inviting members of the Congregation to attend. The Committee invited a Funeral Director to answer questions regarding Cremation. The Committee decided that there was enough interest to pursue the project.

Once again, Warren Nehring offered his Landscaping Expertise and a plan was drawn up. The Columbarium was ordered and In November of 2009 the concrete block unit was put in place. In July 2010, the preliminary footprint of the site was started. The Columbarium arrived and the pavers connecting the existing sidewalk to the Columbarium site were installed along with a semi circle patio. The rock facing completed the Columbarium. Landscaping included planting four large Spruce Trees given in memory of Jim Sandelin. Three curved benches were placed on the patio in front of the Columbarium given in memory of George and Gladys Carder.

Since the beginning of the Memorial Garden, many members have honored loved ones with accessories to the garden. Most recently, a wall plaque encouraging you to "let the peace of this place surround you" was hung on the exterior conference room wall. A metal trellis and a gazing ball that reflects the sky and surrounding plants, plus a carved Cross that stands sentinel to the area each have a special place in the gardens. Roses and shrubs were also given in memory of loved ones in earlier years. They continue to thrive with the loving care given to them by volunteers.

The Committee is most appreciative of the many hours of donated labor and money to complete the Memorial Garden and Columbarium. St. Paul's members are encouraged to consider purchasing a Niche soon while the cost is still only \$900.00 per Niche. A Niche contains space for two persons. Questions you may have regarding the by-laws can be answered by Jim Anderson, Richard Johnson or Shirley Johnson.

### ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH IS SELLING FRESH WREATHS FOR THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY.

Fill out an order form found in Newsletter and Sunday Bulletins and send payment to:

St. Paul's Lutheran  
P.O. Box 307  
Hackensack, MN. 56452

**Deadline for orders is Thursday November 14th**

Preordered Wreaths may be picked up:  
Saturday November 23, or Sunday November 24.

**Shipping Available!**

**Check order form for cost and Shipping date.**





## Tech Report

### Tech Report 10/11/24

The church lost power after the sermon Sunday 10/6; we had to reset some equipment. i.e. Security cameras, clocks, dimmable light switches, computers.

We are experiencing problems with our pew camera. Troubleshooting to see if it is a camera or cable issue. It works for awhile if we unplug then plug it in again.

The church photo directory is ready to start printing directories for people who cannot view them on-line. Please see Tammy for a customized directory.

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

The council survey is done we are tabulating the results. The results will be presented to council on Oct 16 with plans to share with the congregation during annual meeting.

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.

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.  
402-525-1127

Chuck Forsgren

We will be boiling potatoes and firing up the grills for Lefse.  
**Volunteers are needed. There are jobs for everyone No experience necessary.**



October 29 & October 30  
November 5 & 6  
Tues. @ 12:30 p.m. Wed. @ 9:00 a.m.  
Lefse is for sale only on  
Oct. 30 and Nov. 6



## LEFSE



**We Remember Them**

**All Saints Sunday Nov. 3rd**

*At the rising of the sun and at its going down  
We remember them.  
At the blowing of the wind and the chill of  
winter  
We remember them.  
At the opening of the buds and in the rebirth  
of spring  
We remember them.  
At the blueness of the skies and in the warmth  
of summer  
We remember them.  
At the rustling of the leaves and in the beauty  
of autumn  
We remember them.  
At the beginning of the year and when it ends  
We remember them.*

*As long as we live, they too will live;  
for they are now a part of us,  
As we remember them.  
When we are weary and in need of strength  
We remember them.  
When we are lost and sick at heart  
We remember them.  
When we have joy we crave to share  
We remember them.  
When we have decisions that are difficult to  
make We remember them.  
When we have achievements that are based  
on theirs We remember them.  
As long as we live, they too will live;  
for they are now a part of us,  
As we remember them.*

**Thank You! to all that helped with the Fall Clean up.  
28 people attended and Lunch was delicious!**



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"



**Advent Schedule  
Wednesdays at 5:00 p.m.**

**December 4, @ St. Paul's  
December 11, @ UCC  
December 18, @ St. Paul's**

**Soup & Sandwiches to follow Service**



St. Paul's Lutheran Church ELCA

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PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

