

St. Paul's Lutheran Church ELCA



January 2025



The Church Door

The New Year Resolution or Tradition

We do this resolution thing every year. Some succeed, some fail, some vow to never make another resolution. As Christians is that how God sees us? Are we not told that he knows our shortcomings and our successes?

Maybe we can look at this tradition differently. Did not Paul write letters on living a life through Christ? Did not Jesus answer the question of the which is the greatest commandment?

And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment, and a second is like it, You shall love your neighbor as yourself, On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets.”

If we are committed to a life in Christ, do we need to make resolutions? Don't we work on our shortcomings all the time? Why do we make resolutions that we have trouble keeping? Are we stuck in keeping resolutions because it is a tradition? Do we make the mistake by not asking God what is a resolution that you would like to help me make?

If we want to continue this tradition. And we ask God what he might want us to fix. Here is a list that might be from God:

Listen to me Give in my name Pray unceasingly

Trust in me Remember I Forgive

Submitted by Tammy H.



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Are you aware? Want more information? Compassion Fund

What is the Compassion Fund? The fund is designed to help any member of St. Paul's Lutheran through a financial crisis. You or anyone you know that could use assistance should initially contact the Pastor or congregational president. These funds could be used for rent, utilities, medical expenses etc. Requests exceeding \$300.00 will be approved by the church council. All requests will be held in strict confidence.

There is a special designated account for the Compassion Fund within the church Treasury. The account is funded by individual donations from church members or committees. Individuals should designate donations to this fund on their offering envelopes or by a memo on their check.



Visitation

"I was sick and you visited me..."
Matthew 25:36

If you or someone you know would like a home visit from the Pastor, please call the office or Pastor Leif personally. Office: 218 675-6335 Cell: 210 773-8500



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 package.



Caption describing picture or graphic

Spirit of Christmas

The Spirit of Christmas has shown its presence at St. Paul's this month as members have Hung the Greens, prepared for Advent services during challenging weather, welcomed visitors at events, shopped and prepared gifts for area families that are in need, baked and delivered cookies to shut-ins. Thanks to everyone who has donated to church-wide missions.

Submitted by Sharon Schwegel
Mission Interpreter

Annual reports will be available on
January 19th.

An electronic copy can be sent to those who attend by
zoom.

Please contact the office.



January Birthdays

Donna Sandelin

James Madland

Ann Espeland

Garen Hebeisen

Laura Ristow

Denise Wickham

Carrie Arnquist

Linda Olson

Jim Tuller

Larry Olson

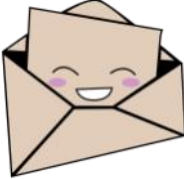
Women ^{of the} ELCA

WELCA MINUTES DECEMBER 12, 2024

Our December “meeting” was our annual Christmas party for the women and friends of St. Paul’s. We met at 9:30 and were served wassail and kringle by Diane Z. and Shirley J. We played a variety of games including bingo, decorate the tree and “steal my present”. We then broke into groups and completed the following tasks: wrap gifts for the family names we had from Family Safety Network, assemble Christmas Eve treat bags for children following that service, assemble cookie boxes to be delivered to friends in our congregation as well as all our staff, and organize and prepare lunch for all attendees. Lunch was a variety of egg bakes, fruit cup, cranberry bread, and cherry angel food dessert. 20 ladies enjoyed the morning of activities.

Our next meeting is January 9, 2025 at 9:30. Sharon S. leads the Bible Study and Laura R. is hostess. Our February 13 meeting is at 9:30 with Diane Z. as Bible Study leader, and Clydia J. as hostess.

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Zaske, Secretary



Offering Envelopes

Are here!

Pick them up in the box on the table in
the Narthex

**Church Committee Chairs
Annual Reports Due 12-31-2024
Thank you!**



Annual Meeting

Sunday Feb. 2nd @10:15

is in person and on Zoom

Please notify the office if you are attending!

(To make quorum requirements.)

If you are attending via zoom Call the office for an invite.



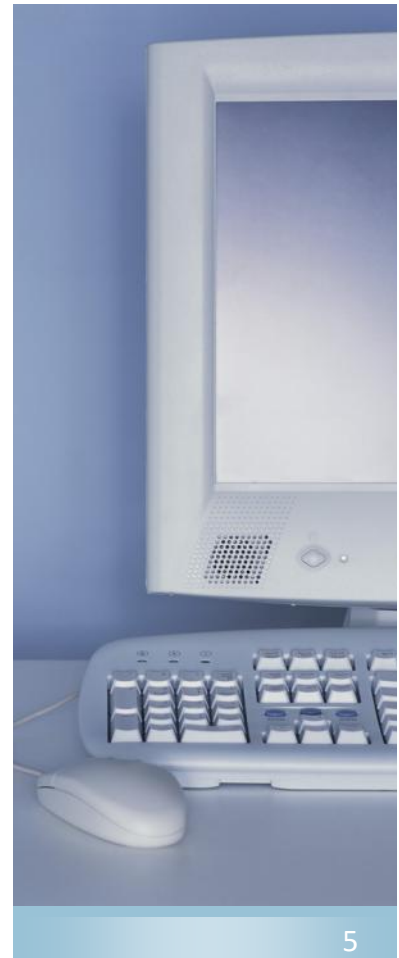
Tech Report 12/10/24

- Tim, Alice, and Tammy are doing a great job with Advent services! You may have noticed that when the service is at St Paul's the StreamYard icon is UCC's- this is because we are using UCC's account so we can send to both Facebook, and YouTube for both churches. This requires the tech team to do extra logging in.
- We continue to have great audio and video for our live streaming of Sunday services. The new 20x camera has so much better quality!
- The TV in the Narthex is running St Paul's announcements on a trial basis. It is running the Pre-Announcements PowerPoint slide show. The TV needs to be turned on each morning but then shuts off automatically in the afternoon. Please let Chuck know your opinion if the announcements have value or not.

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





Church Council

Meeting minutes

ST. PAUL'S CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

December 18, 2024 – St. Paul's Fellowship Hall
and Zoom

Present: Pastor Leif, Laura R., Russ T., Ron W.,
Chuck F., Shirley J., Alice K., Steve H. and
Tonia K..

Absent: none

Council President Chuck F. convened the meet-
ing at 9:36 a.m.

Devotions: Steve H.

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 – Final Advent Service tonight.
Reminder that annual reports are due by January
1, 2025.

Committee Reports:

Property Report – included in the newsletter.

Taking down the greens is scheduled for January
14, 2025.

Tech team report – included in the newsletter.

WELCA report – included in the newsletter.

Christmas Party was well attended. There was
fun and games along with wrapping presents for
the Christmas Families, packaging cookies for
shut ins and making treat bags for Christmas Eve
Service. Election of officers for 2025.

Old and Ongoing Business:

1. 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.
2. The electronic sign will need to be removed
and relocated during the highway 371 project
planned for 2025. Tabled until Spring 2025.

New Business:

1. Reviewed current Council Member terms.
No terms are expiring until the end of 2025.
If you are interested in being on the council,
please let one of the current council members
know.
2. Reviewed survey results and discussed how
we should disseminate the information to the
congregation during the Annual Meeting
3. General discussion held on Compassion
Funds.

Devotions for next meeting – Shirley J.

Next Council Meeting Date – January 15, 2025

Meeting adjourned with The Lord's Prayer at
10:53 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Tonia Kahler, Council
Secretary

Property Committee

No Meeting in December



The church library in the conference room is full of many Christian novels that you might enjoy reading. Take the ones you want to read and return them when finished.



10:30 AM – Noon

2nd Tuesday of each month

There is no cost to attend and registration is not required. Enjoy coffee, snacks, Pet Therapy, reminiscing, support, and share.

For more information, please contact Simon at 218.547.6843 or

swhitehe@umn.edu.



We have a **puzzle exchange** on the shelves in the narthex. Take a couple home to enjoy.

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"



Blood Drive!

Hackensack Lions

Wednesday, January 22nd
12:30–5:30
St. Paul's Lutheran Church

St. Paul's Lutheran Church ELCA

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PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

