

St. Paul's Lutheran Church ELCA



August 2025

The Church Door

Sponsorship of the Kids Fishing Contest



More Pictures Pgs. 2 and 4

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Fishing Contest



What is GWOH

GWOH God's Word Our Hands.

On Sunday Sept. 7th, We will have our annual "God's Work Our Hands" event right after Church. It will culminate with a light lunch. Everyone is welcome to help with our projects:

- Assemble School kits for Lutheran World relief
- Rip, strip and tear sheets and roll into bandages for Global Health Ministries
- Tie a quilt
- Cut batting for quilts



GWOH is an annual day of service in which Lutheran congregations come together to lend a hand, help build a future and repair their communities.

Please find your GWOH T-shirt and wear that day.

If you like or need, a Yellow "God's Work Our Hands" t-shirt. we have them available. Please check in the office.



St. Paul's is sponsoring a Blood Drive Tues. Aug. 19 12:00-5:00 p.m. There is a big demand for blood at this time.

We need donors and also a few people to donate bottles of juices and cookies or bars.

vitalant
Blood Donation





Images from People .com and The Independent

Texas Flood Relief Fund

Prayers are needed along with donations to survivors and rescuers responding to the Texas floods over the 4th of July weekend. The crisis is far from over, with more rain expected and on-going search operations. Greater Good Charities is responding on the ground where they are distributing emergency and humanitarian and pet supplies – including emergency supply packs and additional hygiene supplies.

Local news properties owned by TEGNA has set up a fund- TEGNA Flood Relief. The fund will raise money now and, in the future, to be distributed to local non-profit organizations providing support in areas impacted by floods.

Most of all, pray for the families who have lost people and property during this trying time.

Submitted by Sharon Schwegel
Mission Interpreter

August Birthdays

Diane Zaske

David Kahler

Florence Kargel

Chuck Forsgren

Jane George

Sharon Schwegel

Deloris Ressen

Lois Watkins

Diane Allison

Women of the ELCA

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH WELCA MEETING MINUTES JULY 2025

Date: Thursday, July 10, 2025, 9:30 am
Hostess: Clydia Jacobsen
Bible Study Leader: Diane Zaske
Number attending: 10

President Diane Zaske opened the meeting by leading the group in the Statement of Purpose and the Mission Statement.
Treasurer's Report: MSP
Secretary's Report: MSP

OLD BUSINESS

Quilts: One a week are being finished – Four have been given to graduates. There are many completed and stored in the quilter's closet. Please contact Diane or Loralee if interested.
Prayer Shawls: No report – many finished and ready to be given located on shelves in fellowship hall.

1. Virtual Country Fair – Shirley reported we have collected \$4890 – our goal is \$5000 which will allow us to meet our budgeted benevolences. Thanks to all who have donated!
2. Report on the Living Waters Conference gathering – Sharon Schwegel reported the focus for the year will be water wells in Liberia – the penny offering will go to Angel Fund which helps support local people undergoing cancer treatment. 700 infant care kits were completed for

Lutheran World Relief

3. Reminder: Hope Lutheran's yearly event. Christmas in July will be the 15th from 10:30-1:00.

NEW BUSINESS

1. August meeting is salad luncheon with dessert furnished, following our bible study and meeting.
2. GWOH September 7th immediately following church service – WELCA will provide opportunities to put together school kits, roll bandages for Global Health Ministries, cut quilt batting or tie a quilt. Followed by light lunch.
3. A basket for collecting school supplies will be in the Narthex along with a list of required items.

Next Meeting: **Thursday August 14, 2025
(Salad Luncheon) 9:30 am**

Hostess: Deloris Ressen

Bible Study Leader: Sharon Schwegel

Respectfully submitted:

Laura Ristow, Secretary



Thank You!

To all for helping us meet our Country Fair goal of 5,000. This will allow us to meet our budgeted benevolences



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 7, 2025. WELCA will provide the backpacks. The items required are listed below. There will be a basket in the narthex in August. **Back to School sales start soon!** You can buy the items randomly. They needn't be a whole kit.

Each kits requires:

- ♦ Four 70-sheet notebooks of wide or narrow ruled paper (no loose paper) **MOST NEEDED**
We need 240 total!
- ♦ 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 black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink)
- ♦ One box of 16 or 24 crayons
- ♦ One large (2 ½ inch) eraser



Tech Report 7/10/25

1. The testing of the 30x camera to replace our old pulpit camera has gone well-we have purchased it.
 2. Kim Smith has graciously volunteered to join the Tech Team as time allows, she ran the slides last Sunday and did a great job! Thanks Kim!
 3. We will have technical training on Friday July 18 at 11:AM to continue testing the Restream software. The Restream software will replace the StreamYard software we use to stream our services.
 4. Ron has been taking pictures for the Church Directory on Sundays, please contact him if you want your picture added or if you want to update your picture,
 5. Microsoft 365 is changing their free licensing for non-profits. We are looking into options for St Paul's.
 6. We are looking to create a new Facebook page-the page we have now was created under Tammy's page.
- Many Thanks to Mike, Char, Tammy, Tim, Alice, and Kim 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

July 16, 2025 – St. Paul's Fellowship Hall

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

Absent: none

Council President Chuck Forsgren convened the meeting at 09:03 a.m.

Devotions: Deen Swart

President's Opening Prayer

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

Additions to Agenda – Council members lead Church activities?

Secretary's Minutes – MSP to accept as printed.

Treasurer's Report – MSP to accept as printed. \$2097 was sent to Hope Lutheran from our Kid's to Camp fundraising. \$400 returned to the Hackensack Lions for overage from the AED fundraiser.

Pastor's Report – Pastor expressed his gratitude to the Council for sponsoring the New Member Sunday picnic. New supply of Gods Work our Hands t-shirts has been received.

Committee Reports:

Property report – in newsletter. A workday was held on July 8th to complete outdoor projects that couldn't be done due to the rainy weather on the workday this Spring. The split rail fence has been power washed and is ready for staining/sealing. Possible God's Work our Hands project. Tech team report – included in newsletter.

WELCA report – included in the newsletter.

Nearing their fundraising goal for the virtual Country Fair. Busy making quilts and providing them to various area shelters. Collecting items for school kits.

Old and Ongoing Business:

1. The electronic sign will need to be removed and relocated during the highway 371 project planned for 2025. The Property Committee will take the lead on this project. No additional updates were discussed.
2. God's Work our Hands Sunday – September 7, 2025. We will be assembling school kits and rolling bandages. Please let WELCA know if you have any ideas for additional projects.
3. Kids Fishing Contest – St. Paul's is sponsoring on July 22nd. Be at the Birch Lake public landing by 10:30 if you can help with this fun activity.
4. New Member process/procedure documentation was reviewed. Tammy to update with recommended changes and finalize. Postcards for potential new members are located near the entrance door and can be used by all for the recruitment of new members.
5. Membership List. A discussion was held on how to keep this up to date and who is responsible for this. Further discussion is needed.
6. Chuck presented on the Teen Challenge Choir which is comprised of individuals from the Brainerd Treatment Center. It was decided that we might pursue the opportunity to have them share their story later this year or early next year. More information to come.
7. During our June council meeting Deen presented an idea for establishing a Community Prayer. Tabled until the August meeting.

New Business:

1. New Member Sunday picnic review. Discussion was held on what we would do differently if/when we sponsor another picnic. Feedback from the congregation was

- mostly positive and it was decided that no changes were needed.
2. Council Elections. Numerous council positions are expiring at the end of the year. They Include: Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer which have a 2-year commitment. Additionally, we need 2 at large council members which have a 3-year commitment. If you are interested in any of these positions, please let our President Chuck Forsgren know.
 3. Disability Ministry information from ELCA was reviewed. Laura has volunteered to do some research and provide feedback at the August council meeting.
 4. Minor updates to the Church Use and Fee policy need to be reviewed during the August council meeting.
 5. The need for an Activity Director to assist with coordinating activities like the Sweetheart Days Parade, Kids Fishing Contest etc. was discussed. Tabled until August.
- Devotions for next meeting – Russ Torkelson
Next Council Meeting Date – August 20, 2025
Meeting adjourned with The Lord’s Prayer at 10:35 a.m.
Respectfully submitted by Tonia Kahler,
Council Secretary

Property Committee

St. Paul’s July 2025 Property Committee Report July 1, 2025, 9 AM



Members Present: Russ Torkelson, Chuck Forsgren, Louie Schrupp, Jim Madland, Dick Ristow, Deloris Ressen, Dan Knicely, Shirley Johnson

Members Absent: Dave Kahler, Jim Jacobson, Terry Bergstrom, Pastor Leif

OLD BUSINESS:

ELECTRONIC SIGN UPDATE: Nothing new to report.

SIDEWALK REPAIR: UPDATE: DAVE: Northfork will install sidewalk in July.

REFRIGERATOR IN KITCHEN: Received and installed. The committee was pleased with the appliance.

FREEZER in Conference Room: Sold for \$100.00. Funds placed in General Account.

GUTTERS: DISCUSS: Will check downspout on Workday.

CUSTODIAN TIME OFF: Dan Knicely has notified us that her will be gone beginning July 15, 2025. Dick Ristow will fill in for Dan.

SET WORKDAY TO FINISH OUTSIDE LANDSCAPING & REPAIRS DUE TO THE SPRING CLEAN UP DAY RAINOUT!!!! Work Day set for July 8, 2025 9 AM

PRUNE SHRUBS AS NEEDED

- CLEAN SPLIT RAIL FENCE BEFORE SEALING BY STEVE HOOPMAN— Dick Ristow & Dan Knicely will provide power washers.
- CAULK RAMP GAPS - CHUCK HAS MATERIALS
- CLEAN GARBAGE CAN’S

NEW BUSINESS:

PLASTIC BAG COLLECTION: St. Paul’s will continue to collect plastic bags etc. Volunteers will take them to collection sites

PROPANE CONTRACT 2025 contract ended June 30, 2025. NEW CONTRACT to be announced in the fall.

Adjourned

Next Meeting: August 5, 2025 if needed

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"

Sweetheart Parade Float



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PLACE
STAMP
HERE

