

# St. Paul's Lutheran Church ELCA



## July 2025

# The Church Door

### New Member Sunday Picnic A Success



Please Welcome Our New Members : Left to Right after Pastor Leif  
Dan Motzko, Chris Smith and Kim Smith, Jon Gangelhoff and  
Nancy Gangelhoff, Jane George



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## COUNTRY FAIR NEWS

Due to Hackensack's Road construction this year, we unfortunately feel the need to cancel this year's Country Fair. This is so concerning because the funds we raise during our Country Fair and quilt raffle are passed on to so many worthy non-profits. Did you know that last year WELCA (the coordinators of the CF) gave over \$5,000 in donations to: Hackensack Fire and Rescue, Faith in Action, Hackensack Food Shelf, Family Safety Network, Akeley Women's Shelter, Lutheran Social Service, Living Waters Conference of NE Synod and churchwide. We also gave over \$1,000 for expenses/donations within our Church community. Just as you have helped at our Country Fairs in the past with your donations and time spent working, we hope you will help out this year with a monetary donation. Consider what you would have spent buying

pickles, baked goods, crafts, plants, sporting goods and outdoor items, nearly new purchases, and of course quilt tickets and lunch. Add it up. We hope you will consider donating that amount (or even more!) so we can continue to provide the financial support these non-profits are counting on from us. If you would simply make checks out to WELCA and note "Country Fair", we will start a CF Fund to help our community. There are envelopes in the pews if you want to contribute using those. If you have questions, contact any of the WELCA officers or CF coordinators: Diane Zaske, Laura Ristow, Ruth Bygness. Thank you so much!

HELP US HELP OTHERS

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## *"Fund raising for the Kids to Camp drive"*

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## Kids to Camp

St. Paul's Church council chose to once again participate in fund raising for the Kids to Camp drive we have done the past several years. This project is a way we can encourage spiritual growth in local young people that do not attend church at St. Paul's. The cost for each camper is \$725.00 for a week. You may donate to this project beginning in May and we will collect until the end of June. We will need to get the money to Hope in Walker by early July.



## Summer Camp

*The Lutheran Camping Corporation of Central Pennsylvania Brochure*

## A Lasting Legacy

### Growing the Ministry of Camp Nawakwa for Future Generations

At the heart of Camp Nawakwa, a Lutheran Outdoor Ministry site nestled in the hills of Central Pennsylvania lies a pile of stones. Every summer at the end of every camper session, camper groups gather around this stone cairn to add their own rocks to the growing pile – a tradition that dates back to the camp’s founding in 1929.

The tradition commemorates a story in Joshua 4, in which the Israelites lay stones to remember the crossing of the Jordan River. Each stone represents a camper’s story of growth and their connection to the many others who came before them.

The appreciation for Nawakwa’s mission moved a parishioner to donate \$500,000 to the camp. He was moved by the role the Nawakwa Camp played in the spiritual growth of the youth at the church.

Submitted by Sharon Schwegel  
Mission Interpreter

## July Birthdays

**Ben Clayton**

**Denny Trushenski**

**Chris Smith**

**Char Bergstrom**

**Ilene Jaycox**

**Sylvia Peterson**

**Gail DeBoer**

**Judy C Nelson**

**Edie Johnston**



## St Paul's Lutheran Church WELCA Meeting Minutes June 2025

Date: Thursday, June 12, 2025, 9:30 am  
Hostess: Diane Zaske  
Bible Study Leader: Diane Zaske  
Number attending: 11

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 Reports: Spring Fling – no meeting

Quilts: One a week are being finished – Three were given to graduates  
Prayer Shawls: No report – many finished and ready to be given

### Old Business:

1. Passed sign up sheet for hostess and bible study leader
2. Report on the Living Waters Spring gathering – Sharon Schwegel attended, and the speaker was from Sam's Place which works with children with disabilities
3. Convention to be held June 16 and 17 – Diane Zaske and Sharon Schwegel will attend.
4. We will be donating 8 quilts, 62 school kits, 6 baby care kits, and 200 bandages for GHM

### New Business:

1. GWOH September 7 – WELCA will provide opportunities to put together school kits, roll bandages for Global Health Ministries and tie a quilt. Followed by light lunch.
2. Thank you notes that WELCA received were shared with the group
3. Christmas in July fundraiser at Hope in Walker – July 15 10:30 – 1:00
4. August meeting will be a salad potluck with dessert furnished.
5. Please remember we are having a virtual Country Fair (due to road work) and appreciate any donations.

### Next Meeting: **July 10, 2025 9:30 am**

Hostess: Clydia Jacobson  
Bible Study Leader: Diane Zaske

Respectfully submitted:  
Laura Ristow, Secretary

### **Sweetheart Days Float: Tues. July 15, 6:00 PM**

Last year we used Chuck's boat with the slogan "Jesus said I will make you fishers of men". This year the roads in Hackensack are tricky to navigate and we might need to start using a boat to get around. So we will again use Chuck's boat and our theme will follow the 8th Commandment about "Put the best construction on everything." You can help by donating construction hats and bright colored construction or hunting vests. (You'll get them back.) We need 8 walkers to carry our church sign and pass out tokens, as well as a few people to ride in the boat. See Chuck or Diane to see how you can help





*"More Pictures from New Member Sunday on pg. 4 and 8"*

## Tech Report 6/17/25

1. The TV in the Narthex is running St Paul's announcements on a trial basis. It is running the Pre-Announcements Power-Point 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.
2. The Tech Team is testing a 30x camera to replace our old pulpit camera (first one we bought) The 30x is from UCC church, they have upgraded. We can buy it for \$150, will use money from the Technology designated fund.
3. We had technical training on Thursday June 12 to continue testing the Restream software.
4. Kim Smith has graciously volunteered to join the Tech Team as time allows when she and Chris are up here. Thanks Kim!
5. We plan to play the 100-year video during the New Member Sunday picnic in the Fellowship Hall.



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

June 18, 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 09:02 a.m.

Devotions: Laura Ristow

President's Opening Prayer

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

**Additions to Agenda** – ELCA Community prayer, refund money from AED fundraiser to Lion's, new refrigerator

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

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

**Pastor's Report** – We will be welcoming 6 new members into our congregation on Sunday June 22<sup>nd</sup>.

#### Committee Reports:

Property report – in newsletter. The sidewalk in front of the church has been raised. Waiting for the contractor to install a new sidewalk on the north side and pad going into the kitchen. A new refrigerator is to be installed on June 19<sup>th</sup>.

Tech team report – included in newsletter.

WELCA report – included in the newsletter.

#### 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 to Camp fundraising has begun. If you would like to aid our area youth in attending camp, please designate this on your donation. Funds need to be submitted by July 1, 2025.
4. Kids Fishing Contest – St. Paul's is sponsoring on July 22<sup>nd</sup>.
5. New Member Sunday is scheduled for June 22<sup>nd</sup>. The Council is sponsoring a picnic lunch following the service.

#### New Business:

1. New Member process/procedure was discussed. Tonia is working with Tammy to document the current process for standardization.
2. AED funds – fundraising efforts were so successful that more funds were raised than were needed. A decision was made to offer to return \$400 to the Hackensack Lions. We originally requested \$500 from them, and they graciously donated \$900. Tonia will inquire with the Lion's at their June meeting and notify the council on what they decided.
3. Deen presented an idea for establishing a community prayer gathering which she saw in an ELCA newsletter. More information to come.
4. Teen Challenge – Chuck to get additional information.

Devotions for next meeting – Deen Swart

Next Council Meeting Date – July 16, 2025

Meeting adjourned with The Lord's Prayer at 10:28 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Tonia Kahler, Council Secretary

# Property Committee

## Meeting minutes



### **ST. PAUL'S MAY 20 Property Committee Report for June May 20, 2025**

**Members Present:** Terry Bergstrom,  
Russ Torkelson, Deloris Ressen, Dave Kahler,  
Chuck Forsgren, Jim Jacobson, Dan Knicely,  
Pastor Leif, Dick Ristow, Shirley Johnson

**Members Absent:** Lewie Schrupp. Jim Madland

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**DBS Lifting Ramp:** On Schedule, as of this report the work has been completed.

**AED TRAINING:** Scheduled for today, May 20, 2025. On Schedule

**ELECTRONIC SIGN:** Steve Hoopman will grind screws to the control box before the unit is moved. Steve continues to progress.

**GUTTERS:** On Hold from last month.

**SIDEWALK REPAIR:** Dave Kahler Will contact Northfork Builders & Contractors after DBS completes the ramp lifting to schedule a workday.

**RAIL FENCE:** Steve Hoopman has repaired the fence and requested that we have someone wire brush the mold, and he will spray the cleaned fence. To be cleaned on a scheduled workday.

**SPRING CLEAN UP:** Approximately 25 people cleaned inside the facility despite it being [rained](#) out! Outside work will be scheduled as needed.

**BUTTERBRAIDS:** The Fundraising Committee has decided to discontinue selling Butter braids beginning May 18, 2025, the price will be \$10.00 each.

**RAILING IN FRONT OF NARTHEX:** Our Thank You and appreciation Terry Bergstrom for

Sanding the rust and repainting the railing.

**NARTHEX DOORS:** Need Repair. Terry will investigate the repairs.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**INSURANCE QUOTATION:** Due to the increase in premium for Property, Liability & Workers Comp, Shirley requested a competitive bid from First National Bank Services. Brian Hein met with Chuck Forsgren and toured the facilities. After checking with the House of Worship Carriers they use, he informed us that they cannot compete with our current Insurance Renewal. He commented that our current package is very competitive, and our coverage is very good.

**REFRIGERATOR IN KITCHEN:** Deloris reported that the Refrigerator in the Kitchen is not working properly. Chuck confirmed by using a thermometer. Shirley contacted White Pine Service who referred us to SGR Northern from Backus. The service call date has not been confirmed yet. (Late note SCR may be here today 5/29/25.)

**LAWN CARE CONTRACT:** Chuck has negotiated with Brian Schultz for the Summer Lawn Care Contract

**CUSTODIAN TIME OFF:** Dan Knicely informed St. Paul's that his primary employer has requested he travel out of town for a work-related job. He requested time off. The exact dates are yet to be determined, but it may be in July. The Property Committee will work with Dan to cover his duties.

**ADJOURN: JULY MEETING: TBD**

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"

Thank you to the Council for the Burger Burn!  
And delicious side dishes!



St. Paul's Lutheran Church ELCA

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PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

