

St. Paul's Lutheran Church ELCA



September 2025

The Church Door

THE GOOD WE DO

A year ago, in September 2024 at God's Work, Our Hands Sunday, we assembled 61 school kits. We also ripped strips and rolled 200 bandages. In June 2025, Sharon Schwegel and Diane Zaske attended the annual NEMN Women's Synodical convention at Grand Rapids, MN. We took the school kits and bandages with us. We were not alone in our items donated. The following chart shows how many of the other 129 churches also brought items for Lutheran World Relief and Global Health Ministries. St. Paul's WELCA also contributed money towards the shipping of these items. What we do as a small congregation makes a great impact!

Quilts	1,451	 LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF
School Kits	723	
Personal Care Kits	461	
Baby Care Kits	41	
Fabric Kits	85	
Newborn Kits	1,925	 Global Health Ministries Helping the hands that heal
AID/Hospice Kits	117	
Rolled Bandages	5,815	
Baby Blankets	66	
Soap (pounds)	52	
LWR Shipping	\$1,880.00	Financial Gifts
GHM Shipping	\$118.00	
Cash donations	\$49,843.00	
OTHER GIFTS		Other Gifts
Prayer Shawls	20	
Crocheted Afghans	173	
Seafarers Scarves	77	
Pillow Cases	25	
Convention quilt	1	
Quilts given locally	1,335	



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Tech Report 8/19/25

1. Tim Forbrook is leaving us to go to a company sponsored truck driving school out of state. Please thank Tim for all his dedication to St. Paul's and all his help on the Tech Team! Thanks Tim and good luck with your endeavors!
2. Kim Smith has graciously volunteered to join the Tech Team as time allows, she has been running the Director computer for the last 2 Sundays and has done a great job! Thanks Kim!
3. We will have technical training on Thursday Aug 21 at 11:AM to learn about and practice using banners in Streamyard.
4. Ron had been taking pictures for the Church Directory on Sundays, we think we have got everyone that wanted pictures-but contact him if you want your picture added or if you want to update your picture.
5. We are looking to create a new Facebook page-the page we have now was created under Tammy's page.
6. The next couple of months we will be getting the Altar piano set up, and preparing for the annual meeting.
7. We are planning to get a Policy/Procedures manual put together. This will have our procedures hardcopy in a 3-ring binder. We will also have the P/P on our MS 365 site for storage. More to come on this.

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 Elections – 2025 Annual Meeting (date to be determined)

We will be electing a President, Vice-President, and two Council Members at Large.

- President & Vice-President serve 2-year terms and provide leadership to the congregation and council.
- Council Members serve 3-year terms, overseeing worship, mission, finances, and staff.

Interested in serving or nominating someone? Contact a council member.



Some of Our WELCA Members Christmas 2024

April Birthdays

Dorothy Harrington

Russ Torkelson

Gary Krimmel

Ron Wedin

Nancy Gangelhoff

Missions

Women of ELCA

This organization is vital to many local and global agencies. With the congregations' help, we contribute to Hackensack Fire and Rescue, Faith in Action, Family Safety Network, Women's Shelter in Akeley, and Second Harvest.

Internationally, we support implementation of water wells in underdeveloped countries. Hands-on projects this year included newborn kits for babies in Africa, rolled bandages, school kits. Every Monday the quilters make a quilt. Some are shipped overseas and some are donated to local non-profit groups.

Women of ELCA is a channel for good-will offerings, both financial in-person efforts. We welcome new members to give us renewed energy and to share the mission.

Submitted by Sharon Schwegel
Mission Interpreter



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

Date: Thursday, August 14, 2025, 9:30 am
Hostess: Deloris Resen
Bible Study Leader: Sharon Schwegel
Number attending: 9

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

Quilting Report: One a week are being finished – 30 were donated in July. 10 each to:

Family Safety Network in Walker, Family Center in Pine River and Women's Shelter in Brainerd

Prayer Shawls: No report – many finished and ready to be given located on shelves in fellowship hall.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Virtual Country Fair – Shirley reported we have met our goal. Thanks to all who have donated! We will be able to meet our budgeted expenses and benevolences
2. Diane shared a lovely thank you note from one of the graduates who received a quilt this year – her granddaughter.

NEW BUSINESS

1. The Fall Living Waters WELCA conference will be held at Hope Lutheran in Walker on September 27. Sharon Schwegel attended the planning meeting and St. Paul's WELCA group will provide treats for morning coffee.
2. Blood Drive August 19 at St. Paul's. We

could use some store-bought treats and juice for donors.

3. Lefse making is being scheduled for Tuesday and Wednesday Oct. 21 and 22, Tuesday and Wednesday Oct. 28 and 29 and Tuesday and Wednesday Nov 4 and 5.
4. Pastor appreciation month is October. There will be a basket for cards for the entire month and coffee and cake will be served after church on Sunday October 5th.
5. Gods Work Our Hands Sunday will be September 7th. WELCA will provide a light lunch and arrange the projects. So far projects planned are rolling bandages, tie a quilt, cut quilt batting and assemble school kits.

Next Meeting: **Thursday September 11
9:30 am**

Hostess: Garen Hebeisen

Bible Study Leader: Diane Zaske

Respectfully submitted:

Laura Ristow, Secretary

WOMEN'S FALL CONVENTION

Saturday, September 27 at 9:00 am, Hope Lutheran in Walker will host the Women's Living Waters Conference Fall Gathering. St. Paul's will provide morning coffee treats. The conference theme is: Readiness, Stewardship and Compassion and the speaker will focus on the recent weather tragedies our country has suffered. A lunch is provided. Registration is \$15. All women are welcome to attend.



Church Council

Meeting minutes

ST. PAUL'S CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

August 20, 2025 – St. Paul's Fellowship Hall

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

Absent: Steve Hoopman and Russ Torkelson
Council President Chuck Forsgren convened the meeting at 09:03 a.m.

Devotions: Ron Wedin

President's Opening Prayer

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

Additions to Agenda – Naming convention for files.

Secretary's Minutes – MSP to accept as printed.

Treasurer's Report – MSP to accept as printed.

Pastor's Report – Busy planning for an upcoming wedding which will be held at St. Paul's in October.

Committee Reports:

Property report – in newsletter. The grandfather clock needs cleaning and repair. Northland Septic fixed the slow drain in the basement. Thank you to Jim Madland for cleaning the gutters. Fall Clean Up Day will be held on October 7th.

Tech team report – included in newsletter.

WELCA report – included in the newsletter.

Salad Luncheon was held in August. WELCA will be providing a light lunch following completion of God's Work Our Hands activities.

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. Membership List. A discussion was held on how to keep this up to date and who is responsible for this. Currently there is a database which is maintained by the church secretary. A lot of discussion was held on the best way to keep this up to date and when/how to remove inactive members from the active member list. Tabled until September meeting.
4. 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.
5. During our June council meeting Deen presented an idea for establishing a Community Prayer. Tabled until the September meeting.
6. Council Elections. Numerous council positions are expiring at the end of the year. They Include: President, 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.
7. Disability Ministry. Laura has begun investigating this and will continue to research and provide feedback at the September meeting.

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8. MSP to accept the minor updates made to the Church Use and Fee policy.
9. The need for an Activity Director was discussed and it was determined that the Outreach Committee is responsible for coordinating activities such as the Kids Fishing Contest and Sweetheart Days Parade.

New Business:

1. 2025 Annual Meeting will be on Sunday February 18, 2026, in the Fellowship Hall and via Zoom following Sunday Service.
2. The Council approved a naming convention presented by Chuck for naming files.

Devotions for next meeting – Russ Torkelson
Next Council Meeting Date – September 17, 2025
Meeting adjourned with The Lord's Prayer at 10:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Tonia Kahler,
Council Secretary



School Supplies

Again this year we will collect school supplies so we can assemble school kits on Sept 7, God's Work Our Hands Sunday. If you can donate any of these items, leave them in the Narthex. Thank you!

Each kits requires:

- ◆ Four 70-sheet notebooks of wide or narrow ruled paper (no loose paper) MOST NEEDED We need 240 total!



GOD'S WORK OUR HANDS SUNDAY

Do you have a yellow God's Work Our Hands (GWOH) tee-shirt yet? They are available in the Narthex. Please wear your GWOH shirts to church Sunday, September 7 when the entire national ELCA church will celebrate how we are helping others.

Right after church we will gather in the fellowship hall to work on the following activities. You will have your choice of how you can help.

We will serve a light lunch following our activities. Come enjoy the fun and fellowship.

- Open the packaging and assemble 60 school kits for Lutheran World Relief
- Rip bed sheets into strips and roll the strips into bandages for Global Health Ministries
- Measure and cut 2 big rolls of batting to be used for quilts we make every Monday



- ◆ 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

Property Committee

Meeting minutes



St. Paul's Property Committee Report

August 5, 2025

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dave Kahler

OLD BUSINESS:

ELECTRONIC SIGN: Nothing new to report.

SIDEWALK REPAIR & REPLACEMENT-Dave: Northfork will be installed within the next two weeks.

GUTTERS: Jim Madland cleaned the gutters on the South Side of the Sanctuary when we had the make-up outside workday. Gutter covers have been removed and will not be reinstalled.

SPLIT RAIL FENCE: Power washing was done on the outside work day. Steve Hoopman suggested sealing the fence with a clear stain/shellac to prolong the life of the fence. After discussing the pros and cons of sealing the fence, it was decided to leave the fence as is. Thank you, Steve, we appreciate your help in repairing the Split Rail Fencing.

NEW BUSINESS:

BLOOD DRIVE AUGUST 19, 2025: Deen Swart is coordinator of the Blood Drive. Dan is aware of the set-up.

CEILING FAN OPERATION: The Committee discussed the pros and cons of operating the ceiling fans continually. Property voted to approve turning the fans off when the rooms are not occupied.

SMOKE DETECTORS: Chuck questioned the Committee as to where all smoke detectors are located throughout the church facility. The only one that he knew was located in the Fellowship Hall and he recommended it be replaced because of the life of the unit. He will replace it, and the Committee will investigate more areas. Tabled till September.

LEVEL PLANTER AT NARTHEX ENTRANCE: Shirley requested we level one of the planters in front of the Narthex. Fall clean/up.

SET DATE FOR FALL CLEAN-UP/

Winterization: Tuesday, October 7, 2025, 9 AM.

- Replace the Faucet on the North side of the Fellowship Hall and install a Frost Proof Faucet before winter. Jim Jacobson and Terry Bergstrom will take care of it.
- Trim tree on the North side of the Solar Panels before winter. Will do on Fall Clean-up Day.
- The Handicap Ramp needs to be refinished. Dick Ristow will investigate and recommend method to proceed.

FIRE EXTINGUISHER: Chuck inquired if anyone had an extra bracket for a spare fire extinguisher. He would like to install it near the defibrillator.

Jim Jacobson may have one he will donate. Tabled until September.

PROPANE CONTRACT: The Committee has accepted the 2026 St, Paul's Ferrelgas Propane Contract

Effective August 1, 2025 to July 31, 2026 @ \$1.549 per gallon. Ferrelgas phone number is 1-888-337-7355 if you wish to join the contract. You may call the same number if you wish to be removed from the contract.

FISHING CONTEST VOLUNTEERS: The organizers of the Fishing Contest have invited all volunteers who have worked on our day of the Fishing Contest to a "Thank You" Picnic on Tuesday August 12, 2025 @ 6 PM at the Lakeside Pavillion. Meeting Adjourn

Next meeting: September

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"

Attention:

St. Paul is looking for people that would like to roll in dough. We will be having our annual lefse making project this fall. We boil and rice potatoes Tues. Oct. 21, 28 and Nov. 4 from approx. 10-12 noon. We will roll, bake, dust, and package on Oct. 22, 29 and Nov. 5 from 9 to 12. Lunch will be included on the rolling and baking days. It is a lot of fun! We are always looking for new members. A sign-up sheet is located in the Narthex. LEWIE WILL CONTINUE WITH THE "LAYING ON OF HANDS".



St. Paul's Lutheran Church ELCA

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PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

