

St. Paul's Lutheran Church ELCA



March 2026

The Church Door

Communication Is The Key

In the upcoming months we are concluding our busiest time of the year. We have finished Advent and the Annual Meeting and are heading into Tax time and Lent.

This is an update to contacts for our Executive Council.

President—Ron Wedin

Vice-president —Chuck Forsgren

Treasurer — Laura Ristow

Secretary —Tonia Kahler

Council members at large: Deen Swart

Louis Schrupp

This is an update to contacts for the Trust Fund.

President — Steve Hoopman

Treasurer — Ron Brauer

Secretary — Deen Swart

Members at large: Heide Wilke

Dave Kahler

If you should need to contact someone in either the Council or Trust Fund please consult the online Church Directory.

More housekeeping reminders: Our Council Treasurer put a notice into our weekly bulletins that Year-end statements have been sent out and are in your mail box. If you have not received this

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Church Council

Meeting minutes

ST. PAUL'S CHURCH COUCLIL MEETING MINUTES

February 18, 2026 – St. Paul's Fellowship Hall and Zoom

Present: Pastor Leif, Russ Torkelson, Ron Wedin, Chuck Forsgren, Deen Swart, and Tonia Kahler.

Absent: Laura Ristow, Shirley Johnson and Lewie Schrupp

The meeting was convened at 9:32 a.m.

Devotions: Tonia Kahler

President's Opening Prayer

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

Additions to Agenda – Blood Drive, Funding Activities, Teen Challenge

Secretary's Minutes – MSP to accept as printed.

Treasurer's Report – MSP to accept as printed.

Pastor's Report – Pastor recommended cancelling Ash Wednesday service due to the bad weather. Council concurred with his recommendation. UCC will stream a previous Ash Wednesday service instead.

Pastor expressed his gratitude to Chuck Forsgren for his years of service as the Council President.

Committee Reports:

Property report – the committee did not meet in February.

Tech team report – included in newsletter.

WELCA report – included in the newsletter.

Old and Ongoing Business:

The electronic sign which was located within the road right of way has been removed. A decision on the future of the sign will need to be made. Property committee continues to take the lead on this project. Tabled until Spring 2026

Teen Challenge Choir – February 8, 2026. A total of \$1000 and 5 quilts were donated to the Choir.

Employee Christmas Gift procedure reviewed and MSP to approve by the Council.

Deen is working with the Kitchen Coordinators regarding how best to handle/fund future funeral luncheons that are hosted by St. Paul's. Ongoing.

Review current Membership List to determine if updates are needed. Tabled until Spring.

Update Safety Deposit access list. MSP to remove Shirley Johnson, Russ Torkelson and Roger Jaycox and to add Ron Wedin to the list of approved personnel with access to the safety deposit box.

New Business:

Easter Service ad – MSP to approve placing ads in the Walker Pilot and the Pinecone Press. Chuck to update the procedure to include how ads are funded.

St. Paul's will be hosting a Blood Drive on August 18th. Deen Swart will be coordinating.

Funding of activities. Discussion on how/by which committee different activities/events are funded determined that we have an opportunity for improvement to document responsibilities. Chuck to speak with committee chairs and provide feedback at next month's meeting.

Devotions for next meeting – Laura Ristow

Next Council Meeting Date – March 18, 2026 @ 9:30

Meeting adjourned with The Lord's Prayer at 10:21 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Tonia Kahler, Council Secretary



United States - Mexico Border

NE MN Synod ELCA Exploring US Mexico Border

Please join this group of leaders from NEMN synod who are exploring life and ministry on the US/Mexico border. They arrived on Feb 7th, and were able to attend a worship service with ministry partners in El Paso.

Maryknoll Missionerds sends this message: Our first task in approaching another people, another religion is to take off our shoes, for the place we are approaching is holy. Else we may find ourselves treading on another's dream. More serious, still, we may forget that God was there before us.

In the days ahead, they will meet with migrants on both sides of the Rio Grande, border patrol agents, local religious leaders, and many others connected to the complexities of border life.

Submitted by Sharon Schwegel
Mission Interpreter

March Birthdays

Doris S.

Paul B.

Kim S.

Barb W.

Chad E.

Richard J.

Jeannette J.

Roger J.

Women of the ELCA

WELCA Minutes 02-12-26

WELCA met Thursday, Feb. 12 at 9:30A with 11 present. Sharon Schwegel was hostess and Diane Zaske led the Bible Study. The minutes of Jan. were approved as corrected. The financial report was approved. This month 13 quilts and three prayer shawls were given.

—April 11 the Living Waters Spring Gathering will be held at St. Andrew's in Grand Rapids.

—June 15-16 the NEMN annual synod convention will be held at Zion in Grand Rapids.

—Members are urged to attend these 2 events. Donating “buy it now” or silent auction items at these events helps defray the cost of attendees at the Triennial National WELCA Convention held in Des Moines in July. Unfortunately the date of that convention coincides with our Annual Country Fair so our local members are unable to attend.

—We discussed plans for Easter breakfast.

—Cookie explained a play she has written. She will present her plans to Council.

—March 12 at 9:30A WELCA will meet with Sharon Schwegel as Bible Study leader and Garen as Hostess.

—Respectfully submitted by Diane Zaske, acting Secretary

We need Soup!

For our Lenten Services, St Paul's will be hosting services and soup supper on March 4th and 25th if you could bring a crock pot with a soup, whatever your specialty is. Variety is our specialty.

A sign up sheet is in the Narthex.



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 for Pastor Leif
Office: 218 675-6335
Cell: 210 773-8500

Treasurer Notice

Year-end statements are in your mail box.

Please join the Joint Lenten Choir



We are going to have a joint Lenten Choir. Sheryl K. and I got together and made the following plan.

We will be singing at two Lenten services. They are March 4 at St. Paul's and March 18 at UCC. Below is the schedule.

February 25 - Practice at UCC at 4pm. We will **not** be singing at this service. (Service is at UCC)

March 4 - Practice at St Paul's at 4pm. We **will** **be** singing at this service. (Service is at St. Paul's)

March 18 - Practice at 4pm at UCC. We **will** **be** singing at this service. (Service is at UCC)

All are welcome!
Please Come and Sing!

Communication from Pg. 1

statement and cannot locate the year-end statement please contact the Council Treasurer.

Next item is the Prayer Chain: To activate the Prayer chain it is important that you have permission from the person you want to put on the prayer chain! To start the prayer chain, Please contact the Pastor first and he then will contact the people in charge of the prayer chain. This goes for updates as well.

The reason for this article is communication. Now that we are in tax season we are having AARP here every Thursday using the fellowship hall to help prepare taxes for low to middle income families and seniors. This service is by appointment only. At the beginning of this season they did have a full appointment schedule. For appointments call 218-366-0071, in hopes that they may have a cancellation.

Lastly, we have many meetings and church activities and zoom meetings on our Church Calendar. It is important when scheduling a committee/zoom meeting that only meets occasionally to contact the office secretary before scheduling to make sure that your meeting will not conflict with another meeting. And if you cancel or reschedule a meeting, activity, or zoom, please contact the office secretary to free up that time for someone else.

To schedule a Visitation or meet with the Pastor, Please contact him directly. He is in charge of his schedule and his office time, however, you can leave a message in the office for him to contact you.

Lent Services Schedule 2026

ALL SERVICES START AT 5:00 PM
Services held at listed church.

March 4 th	Lent Service @ St. Paul's	<i>with Soup after</i>
March 11 th	Lent Service @ The Lighthouse	<i>with Soup after</i>
March 18 th	Lent Service @ Union	<i>with Soup after</i>
March 25 th	Lent Service @ St. Paul's	<i>with Soup after</i>

The Seder
(Traditional Passover Meal and Ritual)

April 2 nd	Maundy Thursday @ Union	5:00-7:00 PM
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Property Committee

Meeting minutes

Tech Report



No Property Meeting Held in February

Tech Report 2/10/26

1. We showed slides and recorded the Bray service on Feb. 6.
2. We set up and streamed the Teen Challenge choir on Feb. 8th.
3. Setting up for the annual meeting on Feb. 15th. This will be a combination in person/Zoom meeting.
4. We found a handheld wireless microphone in the sound system closet and got it working. We can use this to pass the mic around for people's questions/comments during meetings, funerals, weddings.
5. We purchased a set of 4 walkie talkies for testing, with the idea that we can use to communicate with each other during special events.
6. Chuck is still working on the Policy/Procedures manual. Still gathering and updating existing procedures. This will be hardcopy in a 3-ring binder kept in the Conference room. And it will be in our Media2 folder for storage. More to come on this.

Many Thanks to Mike, Char, Tammy, Tim, Alice, and Kim for all your efforts!

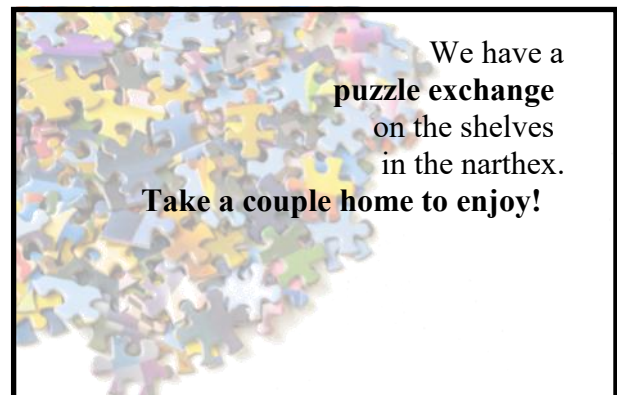
If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions please don't hesitate to contact me.

Chuck Forsgren 402-525-1127

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.



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"

Easter Breakfast



Easter Breakfast April 5th

From 8-9 a.m.

Come enjoy the breakfast and fellowship.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church ELCA

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PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

