

# St. Paul's Lutheran Church ELCA



## April 2026

# The Church Door

## Communication Is the Key

Our Church Community has had several losses regarding volunteers. We are in desperate need of volunteers for various Church Activities!

I am starting with obviously the activities that have no volunteers or just one.

### Funeral Hostess

This volunteer opportunity at this time has no volunteers. We are in need of at least three hosts or hostesses, for a rotation and availability purposes.

The main duty of the Host or Hostess is the Family Waiting room to set up and clean up, and the family. And to assist out of town family in navigating around the Church.

A little bit of history: this position was created in 2012/2013 by the Worship Committee due to the need for guidelines for funerals, especially those where no funeral home is involved. At that time they had six members on the Funeral Committee, both men and women.

The next position of need is in the Altar Guild Committee. We are now down to one member. This Guild was created due to the loss of Pastor's assistants in 2012/2013. Ten volunteers of the congregation stepped up to help with readings and communion distribution. While the Altar Guild Committee was being planned.

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Communication



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# Church Council

Meeting minutes

## ST. PAUL'S CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

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

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

Absent: Laura Ristow and Lewie Schrupp

The meeting was convened at 9:34 a.m.

Devotions: none

President's Opening Prayer

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

**Additions to Agenda** – 2026 Synod Assembly, God's Work Our Hands, Easter Brunch, Trust Fund Treasurer

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

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

**Pastor's Report** – Shared Lenten Services are going well, preparing for Holy Week Services. Synod Assembly is April 24 – 26 at Breezy Point, Pastor is planning to attend. Contact Pastor Leif if you are interested in attending. Pastor will assist with Prayer Chain email and phone notifications.

### **Committee Reports:**

Property report – the committee did not meet in March.

Tech team report – included in newsletter.

WELCA report – included in the newsletter.

### **Old and Ongoing Business:**

1. 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
2. Deen continues to work with the Kitchen

Coordinators, WELCA and Pastor Leif regarding how best to handle/fund future funerals that are held at St. Paul's. She discussed possible improvements to our current Church Use & Fee Policy procedure. Ongoing.

3. Review current Membership List to determine if updates are needed. Tabled until Spring.
4. St. Paul's will be hosting a Blood Drive on August 18<sup>th</sup>. Deen Swart will be coordinating.
5. 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. Ongoing.
6. Chuck updated the advertising procedure to document how ads are funded.

### **New Business:**

1. Discussion was held on the need for additional committee members on numerous committees. If you have any questions and/or interest in how you can help, please contact Tammy or a Council Member.
2. Dead wasps/bees were found in the building. Property Committee will address.
3. Wireless mic frequency will need to be addressed by the Tech Team. Chuck discussed that the team would like to update our current sound system which will include updating the mic used by Pastor Leif.
4. God's Work Our Hands will be on Sunday September 13<sup>th</sup>.
5. St. Paul's Council Member list updated with new council members. Reviewed and



## April Birthdays

Bev W.

Loralee T.

## Missions

### Every Child Every Day Program

With the generous provision of nutritionally complete meals specifically formulated for malnourished children by Feed My Children and other organizations, thousands of children receive a hot meal prepared daily by our network of volunteers. 650,000 hungry children around the globe are discovering how good a full life feels.

The guarantee of a daily meal gives these boys and girls a chance to get a primary education while offering them hope for a better, brighter future. And since these meals are delivered through local church partners, the children also receive nourishment to help them grow in Christ.

Submitted by Sharon Schwegel  
Mission Interpreter

# Women of the ELCA

## WELCA Minutes 3-12-2026

WELCA met Thursday, Mar 12 at 9:30A with 8 present. Garen Hebeisen was hostess and acting president and treasurer.

Sharon Schwegel led the Bible Study.

The minutes of the Feb. meeting were approved as was the financial report.

Several quilts were given to members of Teen Challenge after they presented their program on Feb. 8<sup>th</sup>.

----April 11 the Living Waters Gathering will be held at St. Andrews in Grand Rapids.

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

----Easter Breakfast was planned – fruit, rolls, and deviled eggs

----The WELCA meeting in May will feature a potluck lunch.

----April 9 WELCA meeting will be held with Holly Lee Bernstein as hostess and Cookie leading Bible Study.

----Respectfully submitted by Sharon Schwegel

## Council from Pg. 2

- approved.
6. Columbarium bylaws need to be reviewed. Question regarding whether they need to be added to our constitution. Table until next meeting.
  7. MSP appointing Ron Brauer to Trust Fund Treasurer. Ron Wedin to draft a resolution documenting this.
  8. Easter Brunch at St. Paul's. Deen to inquire with WELCA and Fellowship Committee for additional details.

Devotions for next meeting – Laura Ristow

Next Council Meeting Date – April 15, 2026 @ 9:30

Meeting adjourned with The Lord's Prayer at 10:41 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Tonia Kahler,  
Council Secretary

St. Paul's is asking for a couple to attend this years Synod assembly at Breezy Point Resort. Our Pastor will be attending but our President cannot. Could some one attend in his place? Need more information? Check below or ask Pastor Leif.

## 2026 Synod Assembly April 24-26, 2026 Breezy Point Resort

This year's assembly includes the election of a Synod Bishop and a Synod Vice President.



Registration packets were mailed out **this week** - one per congregation.

## Communication from Pg. 1

The Altar Guild helps in communion distribution, changing of paraments, care of plants and flowers for the altar, as well as ordering supplies and care of the sacristy.

If God has been speaking to you about serving others in his name, this maybe a way. Both of these positions fall under the Worship Committee. Whether you just want to help in an activity or serve as a committee member, you might want to know all the duties of the worship committee.

**Sunday Services and other Worship Services.** They arrange for Scripture readers. Pastor chooses hymns for each service with the help of choir director. They also arrange for Ushers.

The Worship Committee is in need of a recorder. If you wish to fill one of the three needs of this committee please contact any member of the Worship Committee, the Pastor or the office.

\* The job descriptions are a synopsis of the duties. Dates are from the Annual reports.

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### *“Social Ministry / Outreach Committee needs help.”*

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With the recent events of this past year Outreach committee has only two active members. According to our Constitution and Bylaws all Committees are to have three or more members...( constitution C12.07.C 21.) ratified 2021.

According to Outreach/Social Ministry annual report for 2025: Their activities include Care of the Picture Board in the fellowship hall, ordering of t-shirts for Gods Work Our Hands, trinkets for the parade float, sponsorship of the Blood Drive in August, Sponsorship of the Kid’s Fishing contest. Buying of the first time visitor mugs with the St. Paul’s Brochure. Liaison to the local Food shelf. The only fundraiser is selling Christmas Wreaths.

As the writer of this article I want to share my observations of this committee. They enlist the help of the office administrator to edit, create, approve and print the St. Paul’s Brochure and put together the ingredients inside the mugs for the ushers to give out. Also they go through the pictures sent to the office from members of the congregation of our activities and create the picture board. When I became a member they decorated the Parade float for Sweetheart Parade, the August Blood drive however two people, not members of the committee took

these activities over. You could say they are the chairs of these activities.

Other activities of this Committee have been taken over by the Council, such as the Fishing Contest, and paying of advertising in papers for Christmas and Easter. I am not positive but they pay dues to the Chamber, to receive free advertising in Visitor Guide.

Outreach started the Monday quilters and Prayer shawl ministry. WELCA reports on their progress in the monthly minutes.

I believe that they need help of men in this committee. Not only for the physical need but to also give ideas that may meet the needs of the male population of the Hackensack community.

This committee is in need of a chair person and a recorder.

Please consider volunteering for this committee. To have individuals take up an activity, And other committees help financially means that these activities are important to continue.

Submitted by Tammy  
Office Administrator



*You're Invited to*

# *Afternoon Tea*

*Join us for an afternoon  
of tea & treats!*



*Sunday, May 3rd • 2:00 PM*

*at The Hackensack Hub*

*RSVP required to save your space:  
hubhackensack@gmail.com or 612.819.2787*

*\$15 Adult • \$5 Under 12*

*Sponsored by The Hackensack Hub*

*Live musical entertainment.*

# Property Committee

Meeting minutes

Tech Report



## No Property committee meeting held in March

### Tech Report 3/15/26

1. Char has resigned from the Tech Team. We want to Thank her for her many years of service of putting all the messages on the Electronic sign!
2. Sadly, we also lost Alice Knowles-she was a rock on our team both physically and financially. I'd bet she is watching us though!
3. We continue to stream the mid-week Lenten services from all 3 churches on our FB and YT pages. This is possible with Mikes expertise using the StreamYard software and inviting the other churches into the stream.
4. The wireless microphone we found in the sound system closet wouldn't work right with our sound system because it was old technology. It squealed horribly. So, it will be put on the Country Fair.
5. We rearranged the cables in the streaming room and cleaned up the cardboard boxes that were in there. There is some other old equipment that will be put on the Country Fair.
6. We purchased a new larger shelf for the streaming room. After it is put together we will go through our spare equipment and get it organized in totes.
7. Chuck is still working on the Policy/Procedures manual. Still gathering and updating existing procedures. This is a hardcopy in a 3-ring binder kept in the Conference room. And it is in our Media 2 folder for storage. More to come on this.

Many Thanks to Mike, Tammy, Tim, 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

*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

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"

## New Look to the Next Newsletter

Software changes in the current program the Church has used to create the newsletter and bulletins has become obsolete. We have purchased a new program to do our publishing and printing needs.

You will see fewer announcements at the beginning as I get use to the new program. The basic reports will be in these first issues and I do plan on continuing "Communication is the Key". I will welcome any new ideas.

Submitted by Tammy  
Office Administrator

St. Paul's Lutheran Church ELCA

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PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

