

St. Paul's Lutheran Church ELCA



May 2026

The Church Door

Communication Is the Key

As life always does, things change. That is the case with St. Paul's Policy and Procedures. I prefer to use the terms guidelines and procedures. Sounds less formal. There have been changes to the process in the Use of the Church, as well as the fees charged for using the Church for Outside activities. The biggest change since covid is, technology.

Lets get to the process. Someone asks you to use the Church for their activity. The easiest thing to do is have them contact the office, if you choose to represent this person making the request. The office and the council need certain pieces of information. I hear the question, "Why does the council need to know?" I will get to that later in this article.

- Please gather this information.
- Date and Time.
 - Alternative dates and times.
 - Length of time.
 - Type of activity.
 - Member or Non Member?
 - Non-Profit or For-Profit Users?
 - The need for a key?
 - Estimate of attendance.
 - Use of kitchen?
 - Use of sound system?

When you contact the office for availability, you need to pick up or fill out a Church Use and Fee Policy form. Once this form is filled out it goes to the council for approval. Once approved the office contacts you or the person making the request to sign the General Use Policy and receive their copies of the signed documents. I hope this clarifies changes to the procedure.



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From the Pastor's Desk May 2026



Dear Friends,

We have had a long, hard winter. We lost beloved members of our parish who were “all in” when it came to showing up and participating in the life of the church. Many of us have expressed unease that two of our people chose not to have funeral services. I heard many times people rightly saying, “the funeral isn’t for the person we lost, it’s for everyone else!”

It’s also been a long, cold winter. At this writing, I’ve seen eighty degrees on my home thermometer, and now it’s predicted to snow again! It seems like the quote from Lewis’ *Chronicles of Narnia* is apt: “It’s always winter, and never Christmas.”

Our country is at war again. We have unrest and division and violence happening throughout the nation, and we keep hearing it’s going to get worse before it gets better. We might remember Christmas as a receding memory right now. But God came to be with us not just in joyful times like Christmas. God is with us during the events of Holy Week. And God is with us and for us through the empty tomb.

Professor Matt Skinner notes for us that all four gospels tell the story of the first Easter in their own way. For Mark, Luke and John, the resurrection brings confusion, reunion, disbelief, and wonder. For Matthew, it’s primarily a triumph. **God unleashes power.**

This power is manifest in multiple ways:

- The natural world itself is affected, as it is in any seismic event.
- An angel, blinding in appearance, enters the

scene. Any barrier between the earth and the heavenly realms has been breached.

- The angel does more than roll the stone away. He makes a chair out of it, he mocks its great weight, he mocks the empire that rolled it there in the first place, and even the finality of death that the stone represents.

The guards are overwhelmed. The seal that represented imperial authority over the tomb snaps apart; it’s no more a deterrent than flimsy yellow tape guarding an old crime scene. The angel cares nothing about the legal ramifications of breaking open the threshold.

The vantage point that Matthew gives us is that God has determined that no power, not even death can separate us from the love of God. We are all tormented by the power of death. All of us have felt the sting of death in those we love. That Jesus is the first fruits of God’s action to defeat the power of death is the center of the Christian message.

Matthew also alludes to God’s power over the rulers of the earth. Empires and tyrants are well acquainted and persistent partners with the power of death. Death and the threat of death are used to great effect by the powers and principalities. But God and the angel emissary let it be known that using death as a tool of domination has a shelf life. The empire and the religious authorities tried to make Jesus a non-person. But God foiled the old formula with the resurrection. The resurrection shook the world on the first Easter. It shakes the world today. Death and the powers that use death as a tool to silence and oppress will be flung aside. The God who gives us life shows that we all have life in Jesus’ name.

Peace and Joy,
Pastor Leif



Caption describing picture or graphic

Missions

FAITH IN ACTION

Faith in Action invites you to consider joining to help your neighbors, by driving people to doctor appointments, shopping, housework, respite care, building ramps for people who need to use wheelchairs. FIA volunteers “Promote Possibility” In our community there is no public transportation, so this is a valued service.

Volunteers are able to choose when and how they want to volunteer. Coordinating services and liability insurance is provided. With Faith in Action, there’s a place for everyone’s time and talents. The phone number is 218-675-5435.

Submitted by Sharon Schwegel
Mission Interpreter

May Birthdays

Mary E.

Mona W.

Bob M.

Rick Z.

Ken S.

Sue S.

Dennis W.

Jon G.

Tonia K.

Sherrie G.

Marlys J.

Lewie S.

Wendy W.



ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
WELCA MEETING MINUTES APRIL 2026

Date: Thursday, April 9, 9:30 am
Hostess: Holly Lee Bernstein
Bible Study Leader: Cookie Luallen
Number attending: 12

Following the Bible study 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 was given to Hackensack Game Changers for auction. Will give one to Ricky, Florence's son at inurnment.

Prayer Shawls: Will give one to Skyler – Florence's granddaughter at inurnment.

ticket prices to \$2.00.

5. Date for Country Fair is July 15, 2026
6. Next meeting is the Spring Fling May 14th 9:30 a.m. No meeting or Bible Study. It will be Potluck this year and we will have games and prizes.

Next Meeting: **Spring Fling Thursday
May 14th 9:30 a.m.**

Games: Laura Ristow

Respectfully submitted:
Laura Ristow, Secretary

OLD BUSINESS

1. Discussed getting approval from Quilters before giving away quilts.
2. Spring Living Waters Conference @ St. Andrews in Grand Rapids Saturday April 11th.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Synod Convention will be June 15-16 at Zion in Grand Rapids.
2. Attendees should fill out registration forms and let Diane know if you plan to attend.
3. Diane will approach Trust Fund to pay registration fees for attendees. Meals during convention will be paid for by attendees.
4. Country Fair planning will begin later in Spring. We will not be selling raffle tickets at the Flea Market this year and will raise

Attention Women of St. Paul's

Our Annual Women's Convention is June 15 and 16. If you want more details and a registration form, please see Diane Z. so we can arrange car pools.

Hey everyone...

We need your assistance in finding an accompanist for the choir. Please spread the word among your friends and family.

If you know of someone or hear of someone that might be interested, please let me know and/or get me their contact info.

Thanks!



*An invitation to all ladies of St. Paul's
Come and join us for
WELCA's Spring Fling
Thursday May 14th
9:30 a.m. Coffee and Treats
We will have fun and games and prizes.
Potluck Lunch
Bring a friend*

**Save the Date
Country Fair
July 15, 2025**





ST. PAUL'S CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

April 15, 2026 – St. Paul's Fellowship Hall and Zoom

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

Absent: None

The meeting was convened at 9:30 a.m.

Devotions: Laura Ristow

President's Opening Prayer

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

Additions to Agenda – Choir Accompanist, Clean Up Day, Monthly Newsletter

Secretary's Minutes – MSP to accept as printed.

Treasurer's Report – MSP to accept as printed.

Pastor's Report – Synod Assembly is April 24 – 26 at Breezy Point, Pastor is planning to attend. Diane Zaske has volunteered to attend on the 24th and 25th and will be leading Sunday Service on the 26th.

Committee Reports:

Property report – included in the newsletter.

Tech team report – included in newsletter. Working on upgrading the sound system. Still looking for volunteers to join the tech team.

WELCA report – included in the newsletter. The Spring Fling will be held on May 14th. All are welcome to attend.

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. Chuck Forsgren has been in contact with MN Power and the City of Hackensack.
2. Deen continues to work with the Kitchen Coordinators on improvement ideas. Ongoing.
3. Review current Membership List to determine if updates are needed. Deen, Shirley and Tonia have volunteered to work on this. Ron Wedin has volunteered to provide a brief review on the use of the Church Directory.
4. 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.

5. 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. Discussed putting together a summary of committee responsibilities and volunteer opportunities for communication purposes.
6. The Columbarium Committee is busy updating their bylaws. Once complete they will submit to the Council for approval.

New Business:

1. MSP to allow AARP to use the Church Fellowship Hall again in 2027 for tax preparation.
2. MSP to allow the Lending Library to use the Church Fellowship Hall on May 28th from 9:00 – 12:00.
3. A big Thank You to Mona Wolff for the many years that she has shared her talents with St. Paul's! We will need a new accompanist for the Choir. Deen will be working with the Personnel Committee to fill this position.
4. Burger Bash? Table until May.
5. Update list of non-profits that have approval to use the Church without requiring Council approval. Table until May.

Upcoming Events:

1. Spring Clean Up Day – May 12, 2026 @ 9:00
2. WELCA Spring Fling – May 14, 2026
3. Blood Drive – August 18, 2026
4. God's Work Our Hands – September 13, 2026

Devotions for next meeting – Lewie Schrupp

Next Council Meeting Date – May 20, 2026 @ 9:30

Meeting adjourned with The Lord's Prayer at 10:36 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Tonia Kahler,

Council Secretary

Property Committee

Meeting minutes

Tech Report



St. Paul's April Property Committee Meeting Report April 7, 2026, 9:30 AM Fellowship Hall

Members Present: Jim Jacobsen, Russ Torkelson, Pastor Leif, Dick Ristow, Dan Knicely, Dave Kahler

Members Absent: Terry Bergstrom, Chuck Forsgren, Deloris Ressen, Lewie Schrupp, Jim Madland

Old Business;

No news on sign - Tabled until May

New Business;

1. New sidewalk cracked by fire hydrant-should we do anything/ Committee discussed the issue and decided that Dave Kahler contact Northfork, send a picture and inquire about corrective action.
2. Rake and plant grass on the new sidewalk. The Committee decided to do this during Spring Clean-up.
3. **Spring clean-up date: May 12, 2026, 9:00 AM** Same schedule as previous years. Committee will provide a "thank you lunch". Shirley will print duties and co-ordinate lunch.
4. Have Brian Weed & Feed Lawn again this year? Committee decided to have Brian include this with his agreed upon duties

5. Replace roof heat tapes on Sanctuary and office this summer? Dick Ristow will purchase heat tapes and Committee will replace the heat tapes when the weather is warmer. Maybe in the fall.
6. Dead Wasps in basement. Vacuum up dead wasps. Committee felt this is a common occurrence
7. Install timers on outside lights over back ramp, and by the kitchen door? When people go out during the winter, when it's dark you can't turn the light on because it stays on, I can install a timer switch that you would set dial when you go out, the light comes on and stays on for a designated time, 0-60 minutes. \$16 each for a mechanical one. Like a bathroom heater timer. Jim Jacobsen will speak with Chuck.
8. God's Work Our Hands September 13, 2026

Discussion to change the Property Committee Schedule to the 2nd Tuesday of the Month from now on. Ok'd by the Committee.

ADJOURNED:

**NEXT MEETING: May 12, 2026, 9:AM SPRING
CLEAN-UP PLACE IT ON YOUR CALENDAR!**

Tech Report 4/10/26

1. We purchased and installed larger shelves and purchased totes to store our cables and parts. The old shelf is in the basement for church use if you need it or get put on the Country Fair!
 2. We purchased a new wireless microphone system. It has 4 microphones which include 2 lapel microphones, and 2 handheld microphones. This replaces our outlawed wireless microphones and gives us more flexibility when having visiting pastors and use during annual meetings and funerals. This will be installed soon.
 3. We started purchasing a new sound system. The existing system was put together using external mixers at the chancel and choir loft which we cannot control without running to those locations. The new system will allow us to adjust microphones from the streaming room.
 4. With the loss of Alice-We will be advertising for people to join our team to share the fun of working with new equipment and streaming services!
 5. 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 Media2 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

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

