

THE Epistle from St. Paul



Upcoming Services at St. Paul

APRIL 2026

Dear Christians, during this Holy Week the Church walks with our Lord Jesus Christ through His suffering, death, and resurrection. The Liturgy immerses us, body and soul, into the Story of Salvation and the presence of Jesus Christ Himself. We'll walk through the whole week together, communing in the presence of Jesus every day. Then after Easter, we'll celebrate together for a whole week, Communing on the Body and Blood of Christ every night at 7pm.

Passion Sunday with Procession of Palms (8am and 10:45)

As Christ enters Jerusalem, the Church enters with Him into the Sanctuary, hailing the King who has come to rescue His people. Then, after a brief silence, we prepare to enter Holy Week, when Jesus' glory is displayed in full as He is lifted up on the cross to draw all people to Himself.

Holy Monday (7pm)

The Son of Man is prepared for burial in Mary's anointing and mourning ritual. Later, some Greeks ask to see Jesus. Jesus tells His disciples that He will be seen most clearly in the hidden glory of the crucifixion.

Holy Tuesday (7pm)

"The hour has come," the Savior says, as He proclaims Himself the Light of the World for all those who sit in darkness. Jesus' words are straight from God the Father, and Jesus' words are life.

Holy Wednesday (7pm)

Jesus predicts Judas' betrayal and Peter's denial, and gives a new commandment: "Love one another, as I have loved you." In Holy Communion, Jesus gives us the fruits of his loving sacrifice for us, and calls us to lay down our lives for others.

Maundy Thursday (7pm)

"Maundy" is from the Latin *mandatum*, which means commandment. On Wednesday, we heard Jesus say, "a new command I give you." Tonight we receive the fullness of that command and the fullness of the love of Christ in the fruits of His cross. Christ and His disciples share the Last Supper and Jesus institutes the Holy Eucharist before being betrayed into the hands of men. Maundy Thursday is one of the clearest ways Jesus brings His church into the story, feeding us His same Body and Blood that the disciples, and even the whole Church, has received through the ages.

Continued on next page

Continued from front page

Good Friday Chief Service (Noon and 7pm)

Having been betrayed, falsely accused and condemned, beaten, whipped, and mocked, the King of Kings is enthroned on a cross and crowned with thorns. As the Church communes with Him, She is brought into a different kind of kingdom: one where the highest glory is that of love and sacrifice.

Good Friday Tenebrae Vespers (9pm)

Tenebrae means “darkness,” denoting the extinguishing of seven candles at different times in the service. The Light of the World has been nailed to a tree, and hung there to die. The Church chants psalms as the prayers of Jesus on the cross, then hears of the Crucifixion, when the whole world is plunged into darkness. Still, the silence at the end of Good Friday is not defeat, or a funeral for the Savior. It’s prayer and meditation, waiting on the Lord to act.

Saturday Easter Vigil (7pm, with a party after)

“This is the night!” As the Church recounts God’s acts of salvation for His people, the whole life and chronicle of faith floods over us in a single evening—those who have gone before, those who follow after, lifelong Christians and the newly baptized—all are swept up into God’s salvation history, made new in the victory Christ won by His death and resurrection. Christ’s presence in Word and Sacrament is in full view, and Catechumens are welcomed into full fellowship for the first time. The Alleluia comes back with bells on, as a whole new creation bursts forth in Christ!

Easter Sunrise (6:30am)

The sermon for Easter Sunrise, when the women went to the tomb, is the Paschal Homily of St. John Chrysostom. Mary thinks she’s all alone in the world, but Jesus meets her in person, there in the Garden. The same Jesus comes in person, in Body and Blood, to His people in the Holy Eucharist.

Easter Sunday (8am and 10:45am)

For the Feast of the Resurrection, the Church lets out all the stops. Organ and trumpets are at their loudest again, and rejoicing is in full swing from the Invocation to the Benediction and beyond. The whole earth rejoices that Jesus has risen from the dead as the firstfruits of those who fall asleep—that means, when a Christian dies, they’ll follow Jesus even through death and the grave into life everlasting. That’s the guarantee of what we receive in the Holy Supper: the Bread of Immortality, and the Blood of the New Covenant.

Easter Monday-Saturday (March 6-11) at 7pm, the celebration continues!

God be with you all!

In Christ,

Pastor Newton

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Holy Week Schedule



HOLY MONDAY
7:00pm Divine Service

HOLY TUESDAY
7:00pm Divine Service

HOLY WEDNESDAY
7:00pm Divine Service
(No meal or classes)

MAUNDY THURSDAY
7:00pm Divine Service

GOOD FRIDAY
Noon & 7:00pm Chief Service, 9:00pm Tenebrae Vespers

HOLY SATURDAY
7:00pm The Great Vigil of Easter
(Ice cream & pie after service)

EASTER SUNDAY
6:30am, 8:00am, 10:45am Divine Services

A Busy March for Vicar Jarrod Thomas

Grace, mercy, and peace to you from God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ!

March has been extremely busy for us up here at ULC! We have been finishing up our Lenten series on the Christian's Walk in the Wilderness of this world, and will be closing it with the festival of the Annunciation. Holy Week will be extremely busy next week with Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil, and Eastern Morning service. It's been very busy and very enriching, but it will be a blessing for things to calm down.

We've had lots of social events this month. Early on we had a Bob Ross painting night, which was a great deal of fun. We also got together and wrote cards for the people on our prayer list. I baked some cookies and made chocolate covered pretzels for it! Our Theology Pub event was well attended and we had some good discussion about war and justice in war.

I was able to visit home this month for a couple of days when the UMN and CSP students were on Spring Break, which was a nice break. My mother also came up and visited us when she had a break from work, which was a great blessing. My family will be coming up for Easter weekend, which will be a great joy. I'm planning on coming back down towards the end of April for my brother's graduation ceremony, so Lord, I might see some of you.

Next month at the Seminary, vicarages and calls will be assigned, so please keep my brother seminarians in your prayers as they are sent out to train and serve in Christ's Church.

Blessings in Christ,
Vicar Jarrod Thomas

Photo top right—Bob Ross night!
Photo bottom right — making cards.





2026 VBS is June 7 through June 11. Throughout this program, we will go on a Tropical Trek and along the way be guided by our Savior, Jesus who is the way, the truth, and the life! Let's go on an unforgettable journey!

VBS registration is now open! Don't miss out on this Christ-centered, fun week! Scan the QR code to get started.



Look for additional information coming soon!

GLOW PARTY

APRIL 25, 2026
5-7 PM

Enjoy a "glowing" good time at the St. Paul Glow Party! Enjoy dancing, face paint, games, a flash-light scavenger hunt, car races, & more!

Dinner will be provided.
Family & friends are welcome!

REMEMBER TO WEAR WHITE OR NEON!

PLAY
CREATE
DANCE
LASER COURSE

Medick Farewell

Members of St. Paul are invited to a reception for Nancy and Duane Medick, who are moving about an hour north to be closer to their daughter. Duane and Nancy were members of St. Paul from 1982 until 2017 when they left to help start a church plant, The Gate, now called Christ Lutheran Church.

Nancy and Duane were very active at St. Paul, helping with Bible studies, GriefShare, youth ministry and children's ministry. Many children have fond memories of Duane driving the church van to pick them up after school on Wednesdays to attend midweek classes.

The reception is Sunday, April 12, 10:30am to 11:30 am at Christ Lutheran Church at 2325 SW State Street.

St. Paul Lutheran Church

Moms Day Out

Join us for a relaxing morning at Porch Light Coffeehouse, compliments of St. Paul Lutheran Church. You may drop off your child(ren) beginning at 9:45 AM in the Fellowship Hall. Childcare will be provided by LWML. Then drive on over to Porch Light for coffee, pastries, and fellowship time with other moms!

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29
9:45 AM - NOON

St. Paul Lutheran Church logo: PORCH LIGHT COFFEEHOUSE

April Bible Studies at St. Paul

BASIC Bible Study

Thursdays, April 23 and 30 at 10:00am. Pastor Kottlowski continues the study of Romans, following the Apostle Paul on a course through the context of the doctrine of justification and its joyous outflow in the life of the Christian.

Homebuilders

Sunday, April 12 at 4:00pm. *The Sanctuary Is Our Home*. This year Homebuilders (a group for those interested in following Jesus as a household) will delve into the Sacrament of the Altar as the center of life for the Christian family. From the altar where the Lord visits His people extend the spokes of Christian living: mercy, witness, and life together as a household held in Christ.

Men's Fellowship & Bible Study

Men of all ages are invited to join in fellowship time and a Bible study each Thursday night at 7:00pm. They are studying *The Augsburg Confession*. No study on April 2 or April 9.

Midweek Bible Studies

Wednesdays from 6:00pm-7:00pm. Adults meet in the Sanctuary with Pastor Newton. Senior youth are in the youth room and junior youth meet with Laura Nelson in the youth room by the Fellowship Hall. Worship follows at 7:00pm. No class on April 1 or 8.

Monday Night Women's Bible Study

Mondays at 6:30pm. They will be walking through the first several chapters of the Gospel of Matthew. All you need is your Bible! No study on April 6.

Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study

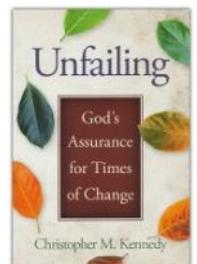
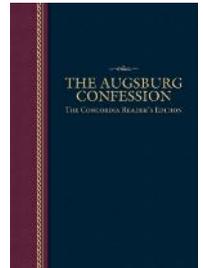
Sundays at 9:30am in the FLC. Grab your coffee (in a reusable cup of course) and head into the FLC for *The Who, What, When, Where, Why of It All*. Join us as we explore all that it means that Jesus descends from heaven to be with us in the Divine Liturgy, why we do what we do, say what we say, sing what we sing, and even dress how we dress! We'll explore the Liturgy as we experience it on Sunday mornings, we'll dig into Holy Scripture especially in Leviticus and Hebrews, we'll hear from the Confessions and from other work of Martin Luther, and we'll explore the new Companion to the Services from CPH and other resources on what happens in worship. No study on Easter Sunday.

Sunday Morning Youth Bible Study

Sundays at 9:30am. Join Dave Brunelle and Laura Nelson on an engaging journey through God's Word as we look into the lectionary and see how it points us to Jesus and our identity in Him. Each Sunday from 9:30–10:30am, Junior youth gather with Dave and Senior youth with Laura for conversational Bible study. Together we'll explore Christ's teachings and rejoice in the many wonders of God's grace! No study on April 5.

Thursday Morning Ladies Bible Study

Thursday, April 16 at 10:00am. Led by Pastor Kottlowski. They are continuing with the devotional book entitled *Unfailing: God's Assurance for Times of Change* by Rev Christopher M. Kennedy.



April Youth Calendar

April 1 — Holy Wednesday (No supper or study. Service only.)

April 5 — Easter Sunday (No Bible Study or Sunday School)

April 8 — Easter Wednesday (No supper or study. Service only.)

April 10-12 — Junior Youth Confirmation Retreat

April 12 — Junior & Senior Youth Bible Study 9:30-10:30am

April 15 — Midweek 5-7:30pm (Supper, Study and Service)

April 19 — Junior & Senior Youth Bible Study 9:30-10:30am

April 19 — Senior Youth Sunday Funday 12-2pm

April 19 — Higher Things Conference Parent/Teen Meeting 2:30pm

April 22 — Midweek 5-7:30pm (Supper, Study and Service)

April 26 — Jr & Sr Youth Bible Study 9:30-10:30am. Last Sunday of the 2025-2026 school year.

April 26 — Mill Pond Service and Sunday Sips 1:40-3pm. Must RSVP.

April 29 — Midweek 5-7:30pm. Last supper and study of the 2025-2026 school year.

Services continue throughout the Summer.

April 29 — Youth End-of-Year Bowling Party 7:30-9:30pm

Senior Youth Sunday Funday — Topgolf + Tie Blankets!

Sunday, April 19, Noon to 2:00pm. Alright, this one's a little different... and honestly? Kind of the best of both worlds.

Here's the plan:

- 12:00pm – We roll out (bring your *favorite fast food* to eat on the way!)
- Topgolf time! We've got reserved bays for swinging, laughing, and *attempting* to look athletic
- Bonus mission: We'll also be making tie blankets right there in our bays.

Why blankets plus golf?

1. It might be chilly... so hello cozy fleece
2. Not everyone (*ME!!!!*) is here for the golf life
3. We're putting our hands to work for a good cause. All blankets will be donated to the Ronald McDonald House.

Whether you're coming for the golf, the fleece, the snacks, or just the vibes — you belong here. Bring your friends and competitive spirit (or not... I won't judge). — *Laura Nelson*



Confirmation Retreat

The Confirmation Retreat is rescheduled to April 10-11. We're staying local! For confirmation students in sixth, seventh, eighth/ninth grades.

Our upcoming Confirmation Retreat will take place right around Ankeny, with most of our time spent at St. Paul and a couple of planned outings for mini golf at Jester Park and bowling at B&B Theatres. Students will spend the day together in God's Word, prayer, and fellowship, while also enjoying some fun activities around our community. Through worship, teaching, games, and shared experiences, the retreat will encourage students to grow closer to Christ and to one another in a meaningful and memorable way. Please continue to keep our Confirmation students in your prayers!



Lady Dinners

Lady Dinners meet on **Tuesday, April 7** at Trailside Tap in Ankeny at 11:30am. If you have any questions please see Betty Berlau or Donna Stoelk. Lady Dinners is open to all single ladies at St. Paul.



February 2026 Summary

Offerings	\$56,414.59
Expenditures	\$55,702.40

Approved operating budget for 2026 is \$835,154. Offerings needed each month to cover budgeted expenses: \$69,596.17.

Please contact Duane Suhr or David Reddel with questions or comments pertaining to this report or our congregation's financials.

Stewardship Updates

The Stewardship Board will serve ice cream and coffee after the Easter Vigil service on April 4. There will also be a potluck of pies (and other sweet treats) served with ice cream and coffee.

We also discussed future events, such as serving the meal for the VBS opening in June and the camping weekend mid-September. The Board of Elders has been serving donuts and coffee in March. The Evangelism Board will serve in April. The Children and Family Board will serve in May. The donuts have been coming from a different Casey's location (2710 SW Snyder Blvd., same staff), as the old location closed, due to the upcoming construction on Ankeny Boulevard.

In His Service,
Ken Kise
Stewardship Board Chairperson

March Elders Meeting

Board of Elders meeting March 10, 2026.
Those present were John Jero, Tim Krebhiel,
Shawn Thomas, Peter von Qualen, Nathan
Wendzel, Steve Bradley, Adam Haselhuhn,
Gary Hauge, Dan Pottratz, and Pastor Newton.

Membership & Attendance

Average Sunday Attendance for February:

2026 — 294 2025 — 264

Average YTD Sunday through February:

2026 — 293 2025 — 254

Sunday School (pK-12th) attendance for Feb: 42

Midweek service attendance for Feb: 104

Midweek adult Bible study for Feb: 50

Midweek (pK-12th) attendance for Feb: 58

Total Baptized & Confirmed Members:

Baptized – 698

Confirmed – 605

Households – 293

Recommend for peaceful release from
membership (no contact or wish to be
removed):

Kaitlyn Boersma

Brittney, Stephen and Owen Hindman

Zach, Kate, Eli, Grace, Ella, Quinton, and

Nolan Pool

Allen and Carol Schipull

Donovan and Julia Chesnut

Tami Chesnut

Olivia Smith

Adam Kilgore

Anita Stevenson

Kyle Damman

Claire McGohan

Erin McGohan

Aydria Wilber

Jaedon Wilber

Larry Dorn

Respectfully submitted,

Adam Haselhuhn

Head Elder

IOWAY Mission Trip

The same weekend of April 2024, when IDW was hit by a massive storm front, another EF3 tornado ripped through Sulphur, OK, hometown of DCE Jonathon Bailey of Redeemer, Sioux City. It flattened the entire east side of town, sadly took the life of one individual, while more than 30 others were injured and required medical care.

At this time, the community of Sulphur is still trying to rebuild. The people who could afford to repair their homes or had insurance have already completed those repairs. There are, however, people who cannot afford to purchase materials or hire people to help.

In June, Redeemer Lutheran Church of Sioux City will be taking a group of 25 on a mission trip, basing out of Hope Lutheran Church in Sulphur. They need to raise \$18,000 to cover travel expenses as well as materials for the people who need help.

If you are able to support this project, please send donations by May 31 to the district office – c/o Julie Mann, with the memo OK Mission Trip. Your generosity is appreciated!

Thank you and God bless,

Julie Mann

IOWAY Director

District Disaster Response Coordinator

LCMS Iowa District West



LWML to Host Spring Rally April 25



Hello mission-minded members! LWML would like to thank you for the successful Mission Workshop event! Men, women, and children of all ages from St. Paul and other churches came together and completed so many projects: 840 laundry packets for Hope Ministries (almost triple from last year!), 59 Diana's Angels bracelets and prayer squares, 300 rolled bandages for Ioway, 24 handmade encouragement cards, 12 fleece tied blankets for Joppa, 12 duffel bags filled with towels and personal items for Ellipsis' homeless youth shelter, and 75 eyeglasses and cases packaged for Lions Club. All this was achieved because of your helping hands, generous donations, and the financial support of Thrivent's Action Team funds and St Paul's LWML. What a blessing the event was and we look forward to next year!



What's next you ask?! Mark your calendars for the upcoming events. Contact any LWML Board member to RSVP or for more information.

Tuesday, April 14

LWML Meeting, 6:30pm-8pm, Fellowship Hall

Saturday, April 25

LWML Zone Spring Rally 8am-Noon, hosted by St. Paul LWML

Wednesday, April 29

Kid watch for Mom's Day Out, 9:45a-12p, (20 kids age infant-4yr). Sign up to join us!

Tuesday, May 12

LWML Meeting and voting for president and treasurer, 6:30p-8pm, Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, June 9

LWML Dinner (last meeting before summer break)

Location and time to be determined.

Saturday, November 14

"Unexpected Treasures" Sixth Annual Craft and Vendor Fair (contact StPaulCVFair@gmail.com for info and a vendor application!)

And, for the Lutheran ladies in the house, join us for our next monthly LWML get-together at 6:30pm on Tuesday, April 14 in the Fellowship Hall. We'll have fellowship time along with a hands-on project and meeting afterward to discuss ways to serve. Join us as we continue to walk in service to the Lord!

Have a blessed April and Happy Easter!

Your LWML Board and Sisters in Christ,

Kim Rasler, Sue Stoll, Betty Berlau, and Vicki Sickels



March Council Meeting Minutes

Meeting on March 17, 2026, 6:30pm. In attendance: Pastor Joel Newton, Director of Youth Ministry Laura Nelson, Tim Davies, Adam Haselhuhn, Ken Kise, Dave Reddel, Josh Remington, Mike Sickels, Duane Suhr, Jennifer Thompson, Megan von Qualen. Absent: Julie Krehbiel, Joel Ott. Devotion led by Pastor Newton on John chapter 6 (beginning at v 48) with excerpts from *To Live with Christ*.

February 17 meeting minutes. Motion to approve: Josh Remington, seconded to approve: Ken Kise, Approval: unanimously approved

Staff Reports (from Pastor Newton and Laura Nelson). Motion to approve staff reports: Mike Sickels, seconded to approve: Jennifer Thompson. Approval: unanimously approved

Financial Report. Motion to approve report: Dave Reddel, seconded to approve: Adam Haselhuhn. Approval: unanimously approved.

Board Reports (provided by the following members)

Education – no report

Children & Family - Megan von Qualen

Evangelism – Josh Remington

Youth - Jennifer Thompson

Stewardship - Ken Kise

Elders - Adam Haselhuhn

Property – Mike Sickels

Motion to approve board reports: Tim Davies, seconded to approve: Mike Sickels. Approval: unanimously approved.

Motion to approve release the following inactive members and members whose whereabouts are unknown was made by Adam Haselhuhn, seconded by Ken Kise which was unanimously approved: Kaitlyn Boersma, Donovan Chestnut, Julie Chestnut, Tami Chestnut, Kyle Damman, Larry Dorn, Brittney Hindman, Owen Hindman, Stephen Hindman, Adam Kilgore, Claire McGohen, Erin McGohen, Eli Pool, Ella Pool, Grace Pool, Kate Pool, Nolan Pool, Quentin Pool, Zach Pool, Allen Schipull, Carol Schipull, Olivia Smith, Anita Stevenson, Aydria Wilbur, Jaedon Wilbur

Adam Haselhuhn notified the council that the following Baptized members are now Communicant members: Walker Allen, Calla Fahrman, Allison Meissner, Quinn Wielenga, Astrid Pottratz, Ellie Tucker, and Cole White.

Old Business

Construction Committee update: Duane Suhr said things continue to be on hold with the city of Ankeny. Constitution/by-laws update: at the next council meeting, Duane Suhr stated that he will be bringing forth a list of nominees to be on the constitution committee.

New Business

Dave Reddel made a motion to accept resignations of Mike Giese as treasurer and Amber Giese as education board chair due to them moving out of the area. Mike Sickels seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Continued from previous page

2026/2027 church nominations: President-elect, assistant treasurer. Board chairs; Children & Family, Elder, Evangelism, Property, Stewardship, and at least six elder positions. Treasurer position is open but can be appointed as vacancy occurred in the first year of a two-year term.

Dave Reddel made a motion for the following individuals to be on the nominating committee: Adam Haselhuhn, Ken Kise, Dave Reddel, and Duane Suhr with Pastor Newton and Laura Nelson as advisors. Jennifer Thompson seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Next meeting is April 21, 2026, 6:30pm. Motion to adjourn: Adam Haselhuhn, seconded to approve: Mike Sickels, Approval: unanimously approved. Lord's Prayer recited to end the meeting.

Submitted by,
Tim Davies
Council Secretary

Full size calendars are available at church.

APRIL 2026

ELDER OF THE WEEK

05: Steve Bradley
12: Gary Hauge
19: Adam Haselhuhn
26: Jon Jero

ALTAR FLOWERS

05: Easter Lilies
12: Toni & Richard Billings
19: Betty & Ken McConnell
26: Karen & Jon Gerths

OFFERING COUNTERS

April 5 & 12
Betty Berlau, Dan Deppe

USHERS

April 3 — Good Friday

7:00pm — Mark Lauthen, David Reddel
9:00pm — Les Stave, Jeff Fahrman, Cael Fahrman, Colby Fahrman

April 5—Easter Sunday

6:30am — Ray Marvin, Randy Sunderman
8:00am — Gary Hauge, Don Halbur, Ray Marvin
10:45am — Steve Bradley, Tim Krehbiel

April 12

8:00am — Don Halbur,
10:45am — Steve Bradley, Tim Krehbiel

April 19 & 26

8:00am — Dan Hubbard, Ken Kise
10:45am — Jeff Strothcamp, (additional usher still needed for this team)

ALTAR COMMITTEE

Dorothy Marvin, Jane Thompson

April 19 & 26

Jennifer Dorfler, Donna Stoelk

April Birthdays

01: McKenna Irlmeier	19: Betty McConnell
02: Terry Moehnke	Jace Patten
03: Zack Nelson	Jarrold Thomas
04: Timothy Fairchild	Autumn Zogg
05: Dean Gleason	20: Thomas Brunelle
Joel Ott	Levi Kisker
06: Jake Madsen	Luke Kisker
Jeff Meissner	Christian Rangen
07: Ben Fairchild	Ezra von Qualen
08: Ryan Rutter	21: Harrison Teggatz
Jeremy Sellen	22: Jack Dorfler
10: Jenna Hopp	Tyler Wille
Lorelli Matz	23: Karla Harris
11: John Haase	24: Julie Krehbiel
Deb Jans	Amy Linn
Wanda Stave	Alexandria Wendzel
13: Sandie Krause	26: Polly Anderson
14: Hannah Crawford	Joyce Voss
Lindsay Trueblood	27: James Dorfler
15: Paul Ebert	28: Jack Brunelle
16: Ella Ausan	Sean Meissner
Chad Heflebower	Magnus Pottratz
17: Marley Anderson	29: Emerson Hayden
Jennifer Heuton	Tony Miller
18: Carla Oleson	Sandy Townsend
Peyton Rangen	Maci Winkelmann
Sienna Townsend	30: Morgan Wiebelhaus

April Wedding Anniversaries

01: Jeri & Paul Wendzel	16: Julie & Tim Krehbiel
02: Ann & Aaron Taugher	19: Melissa & Dan Rud
06: Vicki & Mike Sickels	Shelley & Jeff Wangsness
07: Chris & Rich Wood	25: Karen & Jon Gerths
09: Doris & Art Olson	26: MacKenzie & Ryan Rutter
12: Doreen & Jason Buls	30: Jenni & Matt Madsen
Betty & Ken McConnell	
15: Toni & Rich Billings	
Donita & Roger Link	

