

THE Epistle from St. Paul



AUGUST 2026

Registration Now Open

Registration is open for Sunday school, mid-week classes, confirmation, Sunday morning youth Bible study, youth group, and all other children and youth activities at St. Paul. These Christ-centered programs are designed to support your family in the lifelong task of growing in faith, grounded in God's Word and the Lutheran Confessions.

At St. Paul, our teaching and community life are rooted in the truth that we are baptized children of God, redeemed by Christ and nourished by His Word and Sacraments. Through study, worship, fellowship, and service, your children will grow in their knowledge of the faith, their love for the Church, and their readiness to give a faithful witness in the world.

Our volunteers and staff are committed to providing a safe, caring environment where your children are encouraged to grow. Registration helps the Board of Christian Education, the Board of Youth, and Laura Nelson prepare well for a faithful and fruitful year ahead. We look forward to walking with your family in Christ this school year!

You can register by using the QR code or going to the St. Paul website at stpaulankenya.org. Click on the "Family Ministry" tab and scroll down to "Registration."



Donate
SCHOOL SUPPLIES

- Kleenex
- Disinfecting Wipes
- Expo Markers (black skinny & regular)
- Crayola Colored Pencils
- Crayola Markers
- Post-it Notes

Place donations in the basket by the LWML table.

School supplies benefit Capitol View Elementary School in Des Moines. Last day to drop off is August 12.

Nursing Home Ministry

Led by Pastor Newton or Pastor Kottlowski, St. Paul provides services to local nursing homes once a month. Members are always welcome to attend the services.

- Sunny View at 2:30pm on August 16
- Rock Creek at 2:00pm on August 18
- Mill Pond at 2:00pm on August 23

Sunday, August 2 we will celebrate the 30th anniversary of Christ's ordaining Pastor David Kottowski into the Holy Ministry. Divine Service is at 3:00pm with dinner following. Pastor was ordained on August 4, 1996. We rejoice that Jesus has blessed His people through him for three decades!

Women and men of the congregation are invited to a wedding shower honoring Rebecca Packard and Jarrod Thomas on August 17. We hope you'll join us as we shower them with love and gifts before they enter the world as a married couple on August 22 and then head to Fort Wayne for Jarrod's final year of seminary. No RSVP is needed, just drop in anytime between 6:00pm and 8:00pm.

Hosted by Betty Berlau, Malisa Davies, Karen Gerths, Donita Link, Kathy Olson, Vicki Sickels and Sue Stoll.



ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Nurturing in Faith • Growing in Grace • Reaching the World

Lady *Diners*



If you have any questions please see Betty Berlau or Donna Stoelk. Lady Diners is open to all single ladies at St. Paul.

Exciting News From Vicar Jarrod Thomas



Our first date.

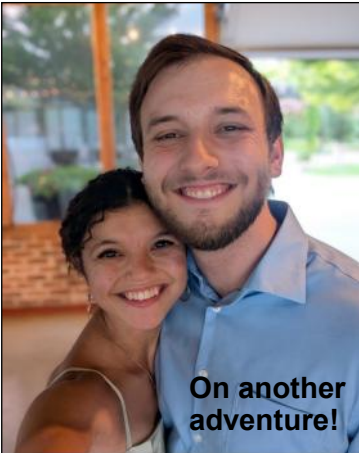
Grace, mercy, and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!

I am writing to give a very exciting update to you all. I have been dating a woman for the last several months who I met up here at ULC, and we got engaged! Her name is Rebecca, and she is a senior at CSP studying Psychology. Although we met at ULC, her and I didn't really talk until she invited people from ULC to go to an orchestra. I went and we sat next to each other, chatting throughout the orchestra, and then chatting for hours after the orchestra. A couple of days later, I asked her on a date, and we got Kitfo, an Ethiopian dish that she loves and I had never tried (it became one of my favorites that night).

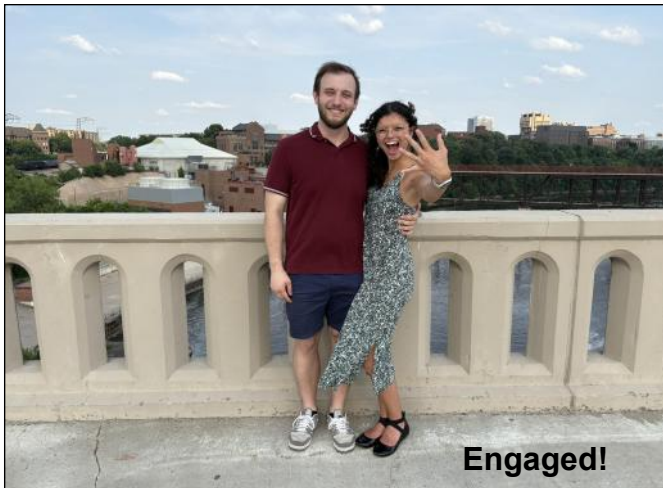
We very quickly knew that we were the right fit for each other. We have been going to orchestras, hiking (when it isn't 90+ degree), exploring cool towns and neighborhoods, finding bookstores, and all sorts of other adventures. When proposal day came, I took her across the bridge where her and I first knew we loved each other and popped the question. After she said yes, we got more Kitfo and ice cream.

Our wedding will be on Saturday, August 22 at 10:30am at St. Paul, with a reception in the Family Life Center shortly after. We are sending an open invite (see below) to both wedding and reception to you all, and we would love to see you there if you are able! It will be a wonderful time, and we are looking forward to it! You all have welcomed me like family, so it will be lovely for you to join Rebecca and I becoming a family!

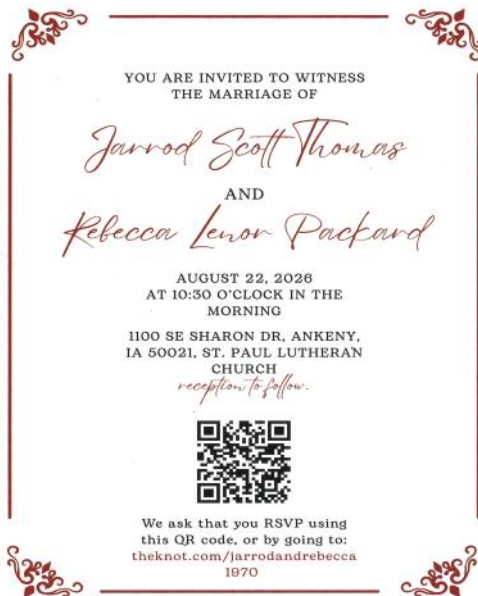
Blessings in Christ,
Vicar Jarrod Thomas

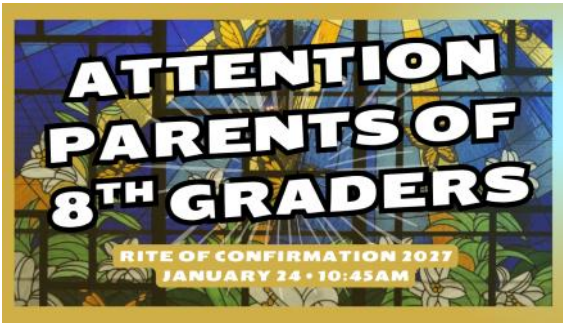


On another adventure!



Engaged!

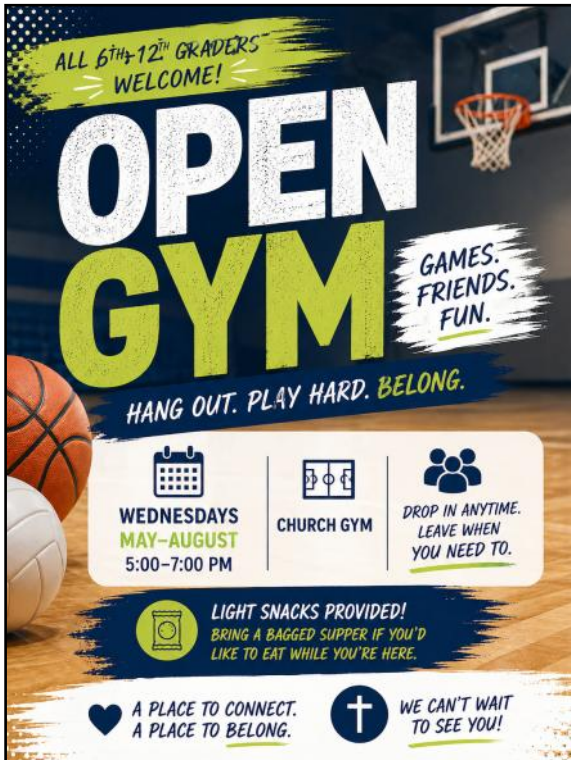




Is your eighth grade student interested in being confirmed in 2027? Let's chat soon!

Please set up an appointment with Pastor Newton and Laura Nelson. You can email them at pastornewton@stpaulankeny.org and laura@stpaulankeny.org.

Save the date! Rite of Confirmation is Sunday, January 24, 2027 at 10:45am.



August Adjustments

August Adjustments? We're right there with you. August comes in with backpacks to fill, sports schedules to juggle, and maybe just a little resistance to letting go of summer.

Whether you're clinging to the last sips of lemonade or already mapping out the first week of school, we get it—this month is all about shifting gears.

And as routines return and calendars fill back up, our youth ministry begins to lean back in too. But even with new schedules and fresh starts, we stay grounded in what matters most:

- ⇒ God's Word
- ⇒ His Sacraments
- ⇒ The main thing is STILL the main thing

So as you make your August adjustments—buying supplies, getting back into rhythm, maybe even shedding a few summer tears—know that we're praying for your families and walking with you into this new season.

Jesus goes with you—into classrooms, carpool lines, and quiet moments of trust.

Blessings,
Laura Nelson
Director of Youth Ministry



August Youth Calendar

Aug. 2—Worship (8 & 10:45) + Fellowship Hour
Aug. 5—Open Gym 5-7pm, Worship at 7pm
Aug. 9—Worship (8 & 10:45) + Fellowship Hour
Aug. 9—Swimmy Summer Sunday 1-4pm
Aug. 12—Open Gym 5-7pm, Worship at 7pm
Aug. 16—Worship (8 & 10:45) + Fellowship Hour
Aug. 19—Open Gym 5-7pm
Aug. 22—Sailing & Kayaking with Jim Sohn 12-5pm
Aug. 23—Worship (8 & 10:45) + Fellowship Hour
Aug. 26—Open Gym 5-7pm, Worship at 7pm
Aug. 30—Worship (8 & 10:45) + Fellowship Hour
Aug. 30—Swimmy Summer Sunday 1-4pm



JR AND SR YOUTH SAILING & KAYAKING

RESCHEDULED

August 22, 2026 • 12-5pm • Big Creek

All 6th through 12th graders are invited to an exciting day of sailing, kayaking, swimming, and hanging out on the beach at Big Creek. We will meet at St. Paul at 11:30 to carpool, or you may meet us there at the beach after 12pm. Life jackets, lunch, and drinks will be provided. Be sure to bring swimwear, sunscreen, and a lawn/beach chair. All youth will need to update their health/medical release forms and turn them in ahead of time in order to participate. *Adult volunteers are also needed!*

Please join us for this fun afternoon!

SATURDAY • AUGUST 22
RSVP BY AUGUST 12
MS. LAURA -- LAURA@STPAULANKENY.ORG

Join the Band App

Parents and students! Be sure to keep a close eye on BAND as schedules are being updated! Scan the QR code and follow the prompts.

Senior Youth



Junior Youth



Sync Our Church Directory to Your Mobile Device

Now you can sync our church directory directly to your Apple, Android or Kindle Fire device with a FREE app!

Search for other members, and then email, call or text – right from the directory app.

It's Easy!

1. Go to your device's App Store.
2. Search for Instant Church Directory.
3. Enter your email as it's listed in our church directory.
4. Follow the directions on screen to complete the login process.





June 2026 Summary

Offerings/Income	\$57,853.74
Expenditures	\$62,703.88

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

Stewardship to Host Anniversary Dinner

Stewardship will host a dinner for Pastor Kottlowski's 30th anniversary in the ministry on Sunday, August following the 3:00pm church service. We are serving Smokey D's for the meal. Everyone is welcome to join us.

Our St. Paul camping weekend is scheduled for September 18-20. We are hosting a potluck on Friday night for everyone to come. Good food and good conversation!

Donuts are served in August by property and education in September.

In His Service,
Chris Wood
Stewardship Board Chairperson

July Elders Meeting

Present at the July 14 meeting were Eric Bradley, Steve Bradley, Jeff Bull, Kaleb Grev, Gary Hauge, Jon Jero, Hans Schaeffer, Peter von Qualen, and Pastor Newton.

Pastor Newton shared an opening devotion and lead us in prayer. In addition to normal items, other items of discussion included: updated cottage lists, getting letters to members regarding their assigned elder, possibility of placing flags for 250th (USA) concert, and a review with Pastor Newton regarding various elder duties along with service participation.

Official Acts

Baptism:

Ruthie Lynn Loesch, July 12

Wedding:

Tori Hilchen and Keagan Gilbert, June 27

June Attendance

Average Sunday Attendance for June:

2026 - 276

2025 - 266

Average Year-to-date Sunday Attendance through June:

2026 -363

2025 - 336

Average Midweek Service Attendance for June: 47

June Membership

Baptized – 698

Confirmed – 602

Households – 295

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Bradley
Head Elder

AUGUST 2026

ELDER OF THE WEEK

2: Kaleb Grev
9: Eric Bradley
16: Ken Kise
23: Hans Schaeffer
30: Steve Bradley

ALTAR COMMITTEE

Sundays —
Sue Crawford, Donna Stoelk
Wednesdays —
Betty Berlau

ALTAR FLOWERS

2: Ruthie & Dan Pottratz
9: Linda & Steve Hunt
16: Behrens Wedding
23: Betty & Ken McConnell
30: Carol Wenndt

OFFERING COUNTERS

August 2

Dan Deppe, Donna Stoelk

August 9 & 16

Kevin Kisker, David Reddel

August 23 & 30

Jon Gerths, Doyle Witt

USHERS

August 2

8:00am — Dan Hubbard, Jon Gerths
10:45am — Jeff & Kristin Strothcamp

August 9 & 16

8:00am — Eddie Bell
10:45am — Eric Bradley, Cal Uhlig

August 23 & 30

8:00am — Tim Davies, Eric Forde
10:45am — Matt Hayden, Rod Silvey

August 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<i>1</i> 8am Christ Lutheran— St. Paul Golf Outing
<i>2</i> 8:00am Worship Service Fellowship Hour 10:45am Worship Service 3:00pm Kotlowski 30th Ordination Anniversary Service & Dinner	<i>3</i> 9:00am Staff Meeting	<i>4</i> 11:30am Lady Diners	<i>5</i> 5-7pm Youth Open Gym 7:00pm Summer Liturgy	<i>6</i> 7:00pm Men's Bible Study & Fellowship	<i>7</i> <i>Offices Closed</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>9</i> 8:00am Worship Service Fellowship Hour 10:45am Worship Service 1:00-4:00pm Youth Swimmy Summer Sunday	<i>10</i> 9:00am Staff Meeting	<i>11</i> 6:30pm Elders Meeting	<i>12</i> 5-7pm Youth Open Gym 7:00pm Summer Liturgy	<i>13</i> 7:00pm Men's Bible Study & Fellowship	<i>14</i> <i>Offices Closed</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>16</i> 8:00am Worship Service Fellowship Hour 10:45am Worship Service 2:30pm Sunny View Service	<i>17</i> 9:00am Staff Meeting	<i>18</i> 2:00pm Rock Creek Service 6:30pm Council Meeting	<i>19</i> 5-7pm Youth Open Gym 7:00pm Summer Liturgy	<i>20</i> 7:00pm Men's Bible Study & Fellowship	<i>21</i> <i>Offices Closed</i>	<i>22</i> 10:30am Thomas- Packard Wedding Noon-5pm Youth Sailing & Kayaking
<i>23</i> 8:00am Worship Service Fellowship Hour 10:45am Worship Service 2:00pm Mill Pond Service	<i>24</i> 9:00am Staff Meeting	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i> 5-7pm Youth Open Gym 7:00pm Summer Liturgy	<i>27</i> 7:00pm Men's Bible Study & Fellowship	<i>28</i> <i>Offices Closed</i>	<i>29</i>
<i>30</i> 8:00am Worship Service Fellowship Hour 10:45am Worship Service 1:00-4:00pm Youth Swimmy Summer Sunday	<i>31</i>					