

# THE Epistle from St. Paul



JULY 2026



## 2026 VBS

More photos on the St. Paul Facebook page and posted on the wall in the FLC Hallway.



# LWML Takes a Summer Break

LWML is on summer break for July and August. Our next scheduled meeting will be Tuesday, September 8 at 6:30pm in the fellowship hall. We invite all women of St. Paul to join us for fellowship, fun, and our mission minded meeting.

Election of officers were held at our May meeting. Officers are: President Sue Stoll, Vice President Sarah Kroemer, Secretary Betty Berlau, and Treasurer Vicki Sickels.

Looking for devotions and Bible studies? You can find them on the LWML website.

Enjoy your summer and join us in September.

Your LWML board and Sisters in Christ, *Sue Stoll, Sarah Kroemer, Betty Berlau, and Vicki Sickels*

**MOM'S GROUP**

July 1st - Watercrest Park  
811 NW Abbie Drive, Ankeny, IA  
(Park and Splash Pad)

July 8th - Grimes Splash Pad  
200 N James St, Grimes, IA 50111  
(Foot protection/water shoes recommended. Ice cream and pizza place walkable.)

July 15th - Ashby Park  
3200 38th St, Des Moines, IA 50310  
(Wading pool, bring or wear suits)

July 22nd - Haines Park  
300 Sixth Street Pl SE, Altoona, IA 50009  
(Shaded park with a small splash pad in the sun.)

July 29th - Greenwood Ashworth Park  
4500 Grand Ave, Des Moines, IA 50312  
(Park and splash pad, splash pad has slick spots.)

**MEET UP AT 10 AM**  
Pack a Lunch! 🍌

## 2026-2027 Council, Elders & Boards

Beginning July 1 the St. Paul Council, Elders and board leaders are:

President Elect—Tim Krehbiel  
Secretary—Tim Davies  
Treasurer—Jon Clark  
Children & Family—Stacia Bradley  
Education—Julie Krehbiel  
Evangelism—Josh Remington  
Finance—Dewayne McGohan  
Property—Mike Sickels  
Stewardship—Chris Wood  
Youth—Jennifer Thompson  
Head Elder — Steve Bradley  
Elders — Eric Bradley, Jeff Bull, Kaleb Grev, Gary Hauge, Jon Jero, Ken Kise, Dan Pottratz, Hans Schaeffer, Peter von Qualen.

(Number of elders decreased to ten.)

**NOW TAKING DONATIONS**

*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.

# Vicar Thomas Enjoying a Relaxing Summer

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

June has been a very relaxed month compared to the school year. With summer upon us, I'm no longer teaching junior catechesis, Greek, or my Confessions Study Group. Instead, I'm leading a Patristic Reading Group on Wednesday nights which has been very well attended. We're reading through Athanasius' book *On the Incarnation*, which has led to some fantastic discussions. We're even doing meals for it now as well.



I was able to spend Trinity Sunday in Wisconsin as well (see top photo at right). One of the men who graduated last school year got a call to St. Matthew's in Eau Claire, and he asked me to fill in for him on Trinity Sunday. The congregation was extremely gracious and kind to me. It was a great joy and blessing to meet all of them!



My parents were able to come up for Father's Day weekend (see photos at right), which was a fantastic time. Even saw a St. Paul friend here! I'll be heading down to Ankeny for Tori Hilchen's wedding, so I'm looking forward to seeing many of you there!



I also got my last day of vicarage figured out with my supervisor, August 9. It's crazy to think I only have seven Sundays left of vicarage! But it will be nice to have a few weeks off before seminary starts back up, and it will be nice to see you all again before making the trip to Fort Wayne!

Blessings in Christ,  
*Vicar Jarrod Thomas*



## Lady Diners

Lady Diners meet on Tuesday, July 7 at Chicago Speakeasy at 11:30am. If you want to car-pool please meet in the parking lot at 11:00am.

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

## Celebrate America!

a musical trip across the country  
with the

High Society Big Band

Saturday, July 18

come to  
dance or  
just listen!



free dance  
lessons  
@5:30

free  
admission

6-9 pm

St Paul Lutheran Church  
1100 SE Sharon Dr, Ankeny

*Free will offering to support St Paul youth*

Grab those dancing shoes and join us for an evening of patriotic music, dancing, and community as the High Society Big Band takes us on a musical trip across America!

Admission is free. Free dance lessons will be offered at 5:30pm. Whether you want to dance or simply sit back and enjoy the music, everyone is welcome. Invite your friends, neighbors, and family members and help us fill the room for this special summer event!

A freewill offering will be received to support the youth ministry of St. Paul Lutheran Church.

If you have questions please contact Jon Jero.

**Swimmy SUMMER SUNDAYS**

STUDENTS 6<sup>TH</sup>-12<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

1:00-4:00 PM CASCADE FALLS AQUATIC CENTER

MAY 31  
JUNE 14  
JULY 12  
AUG 9  
AUG 30

Join us for relaxed Sunday afternoons at the pool! Swim, hang out, and enjoy time together in a safe, supervised environment.

Parents are welcome to drop off students knowing that the Nelsons (along with lifeguards) will be present as a consistent adult presence.

A great opportunity for students to build friendships while parents get a little time to themselves.

**YOUR BASE CAMP** for anything you need while you enjoy your afternoon!

WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU!

SWIM. HANG OUT. MAKE MEMORIES.

## Higher Things Conf.

Please pray for the youth and adults attending the Higher Things Conference in St. Louis Monday, June 29 through Friday, July 3. Centered on the theme “Dying Church, Rising Hope” and Romans 6:11 — “So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus” — this conference will immerse our youth in worship, catechesis, fellowship, and the rich gifts Christ gives through His Word and Sacraments.

Those attending are Astrid P., Calla F., Quinn W., Hannah H., Lars P., Cael F., Colby F., McKenna B., Jaydee H., and Emma T. Adult leaders are Jeff Fahrman, Zack Nelson, Laura Nelson, Sarah Newton, and Pastor Newton.

Higher Things conferences encourage young people to stand firm in Christ in the midst of a culture that often feels uncertain and isolating. Throughout the week, our teens will participate in daily worship, Bible study, and gather alongside other Lutheran youth from across the country who confess the same hope in Christ crucified and risen.

# July Youth Calendar

- July 1—Open Gym 5-7pm, Worship at 7pm  
July 5—Worship (8 & 10:45) + Fellowship  
July 8—Open Gym 5-7pm, Worship at 7pm  
July 12—Worship (8 & 10:45) + Fellowship  
July 12—Swimmy Summer Sunday 1-4pm  
July 15—Open Gym 5-7pm, Worship at 7pm  
July 19—Worship (8 & 10:45) + Fellowship  
July 19—Sunny View Service & Sunday Sips  
2:10-3:30ish must RSVP  
July 22—Open Gym 5-7pm, Worship at 7pm  
July 26—Worship (8 & 10:45) + Fellowship  
July 26—Mill Pond Service & Sunday Sips  
1:40-3pm must RSVP  
July 29—Open Gym 5-7pm, Worship at 7pm

\*Junior and senior youth sailing with Jim Sohn was postponed due to weather and rescheduled to August 8. Please RSVP by July 30.

\*\*We're trying to find a **new date for our Ledges adventure**, and now it's your turn to help decide! Please vote for every date that works for your family (check the Band app or email Laura for the link). We know summer calendars are wonderfully busy, so no date will work for everyone, but we hope to find the one that allows the greatest number of students to join us. Please reply with your student's name and all the dates that work for your family no later than **Wednesday, July 1**. Thank you for helping make this adventure happen.



ALL 6<sup>TH</sup>-12<sup>TH</sup> GRADERS WELCOME!

# OPEN GYM

GAMES. FRIENDS. FUN.

HANG OUT. PLAY HARD. BELONG.

WEDNESDAYS  
MAY-AUGUST  
5:00-7:00 PM

CHURCH GYM  
(FLC)

DROP IN ANYTIME.  
LEAVE WHEN YOU NEED TO.

LIGHT SNACKS PROVIDED!  
BRING A BAGGED SUPPER IF YOU'D  
LIKE TO EAT WHILE YOU'RE HERE.

A PLACE TO CONNECT.  
A PLACE TO BELONG.

WE CAN'T WAIT  
TO SEE YOU!



VBS was a fun opportunity for these fifth and sixth grade students to come together!

# Treasurer's Report

## May 2026 Summary

Offerings/Income	\$56,420.18
Expenditures	\$51,501.03

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

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## Why it matters!

Have you ever wondered why it's important to complete an attendance card on Sunday?

We like knowing you are here! It helps us keep accurate worship service attendance. Those numbers get sent to the synod each year. We can plan for future needs as far as space, supplies, etc. When visitors fill out a card we get their contact information and can follow up with them.

If you are not in worship for several Sundays we get concerned! Are you sick, traveling or is there another issue preventing you from attending? You might get a call or email from your elder, a pastor or a staff member. We want to care for our church family!

Prayer requests and contact information changes can also be submitted on the cards. You can always email or call the church office too.

I especially enjoy the fun notes people write to me on the cards. Dorothy will let me know if her stuffed animals are with her. Kevin likes to kid me about Fred Hoiberg (former ISU player AND coach) and the Huskers. Others draw a photo or say, "Hi Kathy!" They give me a good chuckle and make me smile on a Monday so keep them coming!

Blessings,  
*Kathy Olson*

# June Elders Meeting

Present at June 10 meeting were Steve Bradley, Jeff Fahrman, Adam Haselhuhn, Gary Hauge, Dan Pottratz, Hans Schaeffer, Peter von Qualen, Nathan Wendzel, Ken Kise, Jeff Bull, and Pastor Newton. Items for discussion included staff evaluations and filling the vacant board of Elders position for 2026-2027. The board approved the nomination of Jeff Bull to fill the vacant position on the board of Elders, to serve a full two-year term.

## Official Acts

Baptisms: Finnley Lyle Bangert, May 17  
Emma B Schaeffer, May 17

## May Attendance

Average Sunday Attendance for May  
2026 — 300                      2025 — 272

Average YTD Attendance through May  
2026 — 302                      2025 — 278

Average Midweek Service for June — 47

## May Membership

Baptized — 698    Confirmed — 602  
Households — 295

Respectfully submitted,  
*Adam Haselhuhn*

**Christ Lutheran-St. Paul Golf Outing**

**REGISTER NOW!**

**Saturday, August 1 at 8:00am  
Woodland Hills Golf Course**

**Four-person best  
shot. Registration  
forms In the Narthex.  
Deadline is July 19.**



**Contact Greg Stokke with  
questions at 515-681-3127.**

# June Council Meeting Minutes

June 16 meeting attendance; Steve Bradley, Tim Davies, Adam Haselhuhn, Ken Kise, Julie Krehbiel, Tim Krehbiel, Mike Sickels, Duane Suhr, Megan von Qualen, Chris Wood, Laura Nelson, and Pastor Newton. Absent: Joel Ott, Josh Remington, Jennifer Thompson. Devotion led by Pastor Newton on 1 Thessalonians chapter 1:1-10 with excerpts from *To Live with Christ*.

May 18 meeting minutes. Motion to approve: Mike Sickels seconded: Megan von Qualen. Motion approved

**Staff Reports** from Pastor Newton (in verbal form) and Laura Nelson. Motion to approve staff reports: Adam Haselhuhn / seconded: Mike Sickels. Motion approved

**Financial Report** — In addition to the report provided, Duane Suhr indicated providing a supplemental budget report via email. Motion to approve report: Mike Sickels / seconded: Ken Kise. Motion approved

**Board Reports** (provided by the following members)

Education – Julie Krehbiel	Children & Family - Megan von Qualen	
Evangelism – no report	Youth – no report	
Stewardship - Ken Kise	Elders - Adam Haselhuhn	Property – Mike Sickels

Mike Sickels mentioned possibly forming an informal beautification committee to innovate and act on ways to enhance the look of the church's property. Motion was made by Mike Sickels / seconded by Megan von Qualen to approve new property board members Caleb Burkey, Nathan Boenneke and Justin Hopp. Motion approved. Motion was made to approve appointment of Mike Sickels as chair for the 2026-2027 term. Motion approved.

Motion made by Mike Sickels seconded by Adam Haselhuhn to appoint Josh Remington as evangelism chair for the 2026-2027 term. Motion approved.

Motion to approve board reports: Tim Davies seconded: Megan von Qualen. Motion approved

## Old Business

Construction Committee: Tim Krehbiel indicated no new developments since the last update to report.

Fraud: Duane Suhr communicated U.S. Bank fully reimbursed St. Paul for the losses incurred due to the fraudulent activity.

## New Business

Treasurer appointment: Duane Suhr made a motion, seconded by Adam Haselhuhn to approve the appointment of Jon Clark as treasurer. Motion approved.

Elder appointment: Adam Haselhuhn made a motion, Mike Sickels seconded to approve the appointment of Jeff Bull to elder board. Motion approved.

Council President vacancy: It was decided to defer from appointing a president-elect for the remainder of term. There is ambiguity in the church's governing documents as to whether the president-elect has the ability to make appointments but, assuming he can, a new president can be appointed during the next term.

Office manager: discussion was had concerning what role the office manager should have concerning financial matters. A thank you note from Kathy Olson regarding the gift and event held for her was read to the council.

Financial review: council is considering forming a committee. Last review occurred in early 2024.

Motion to adjourn: Mike Sickels, seconded: Ken Kise, Unanimously approved. Lord's Prayer recited.

## July 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 5-7pm Youth Open Gym 7:00pm Summer Liturgy	2 <i>Offices Closed</i>	3 <i>Offices Closed</i>	4
Senior Youth Higher Things Conference						
5 8:00am Worship Service Fellowship Hour 10:45am Worship Service	6 9:00am Staff Meeting	7 11:30am Lady Diners	8 5-7pm Youth Open Gym 7:00pm Summer Liturgy	9 7:00pm Men's Bible Study & Fellowship	10 <i>Offices Closed</i>	11
12 8:00am Worship Service Fellowship Hour 10:45am Worship Service  1:00-4:00pm Youth Swimmy Summer Sunday	13 9:00am Staff Meeting	14 6:30pm Elders Meeting	15 5-7pm Youth Open Gym 7:00pm Summer Liturgy	16 7:00pm Men's Bible Study & Fellowship	17 <i>Offices Closed</i>	18 6-9pm Celebrate America! High Society Big Band Y (Youth fundraiser)
19 8:00am Worship Service Fellowship Hour 10:45am Worship Service 2:30pm Sunny View Service (Jr/Sr Youth Service & Sunday Sips)	20	21 2:00pm Rock Creek Service  6:30pm Council Meeting	22 5-7pm Youth Open Gym 7:00pm Summer Liturgy	23 7:00pm Men's Bible Study & Fellowship	24 <i>Offices Closed</i>	25
26 8:00am Worship Service Fellowship Hour 10:45am Worship Service 2:00pm Mill Pond Service (Jr/Sr Youth Service & Sunday Sips)	27 5:00pm Cancer Support Group @ Perkins	28	29 5-7pm Youth Open Gym 7:00pm Summer Liturgy	30 7:00pm Men's Bible Study & Fellowship	31 <i>Offices Closed</i>	

## JULY 2026

### ELDER OF THE WEEK

05: Gary Hauge  
12: Jon Jero  
19: Steve Bradley  
26: Dan Potratz

### ALTAR COMMITTEE

Sundays —  
Sandy & Steve Townsend  
Wednesday Evenings —  
Betty Berlau

### ALTAR FLOWERS

05: Jane & David Thompson  
12: Sherri & Rod Silvey  
19: Eileen Anderson  
26: JoAnn & Terry Adamson—Altar  
Mary Ellen Twedt—Lectern

### OFFERING COUNTERS

July 5  
Dewayne McGohan, Rod Silvey  
July 26 & August 2  
Dan Deppe, Donna Stoelk

July 12 & 19  
Betty Berlau, Jon Gerth

### USHERS

July 5  
8:00am — Ray Marvin, Randy Sunderman, Curt Hora  
10:45am — Mark Lauthen, Cal Uhlig

July 12  
8:00am — Gary Hauge, Mike Hayden  
10:45am — Tim Krehbiel, Steve Bradley

July 19  
8:00am — Gary Hauge, Dan Hubbard  
10:45am — Tim Krehbiel, Steve Bradley

July 26 & August 2  
8:00am — Dan Hubbard, Jon Gerth  
10:45am — Jeff & Kristin Strothcamp

## July Birthdays

<p>01: Irene Griffin Ray Olsen Dan Rnd 02: Craig Edsen Colby Fahrman Karen Kisker Katie Schaeffer 03: Jace Kucik 04: Emma Kehrl 05: Samuel Forde Tessa Woerdhoff 06: Nick Winkelmann 07: Jon Clark Jerry Kluver Cole White 08: Andrew Crawford 09: Caleb Forde Rod Rieken Shawn Thomas 11: Sandy Guilloz 12: Michelle Schrader 13: Judy Reinke 14: Woo Voong 15: Steve Bradley Sue Johnson</p>	<p>16: Caleb Burkey Karen Whipple 17: Joel Ausan Cael Fahrman Mike Hayden Cora White 21: Jordan Buls Kathy Jacoby 22: Cindy Rohlfen Ellie Tucker 23: Heather Dalton Alaina Wielenga 25: Holden Smith 26: Isaiah Remington 28: Jim Harvey Duane Sühr 29: Markayla Irlmeier Mike Oleson Mary Ellen Twedt 30: Lola Eastman TJ Krehbiel Peter von Qualen 31: Adam Haselnuhn Carolyn Vesely</p>
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Full size calendars  
available at  
church under the  
mailboxes.

### July Wedding Anniversaries

<p>02: Sarah &amp; Joel Newton 06: Jennifer &amp; Tim Reed Jane &amp; David Thompson 08: Linda &amp; Steve Hunt 11: Sherri &amp; Rod Silvey 13: Lauren &amp; Kyle Stephens 16: Amanda &amp; Matt Hayden Abbey &amp; Jacob Woelmer</p>	<p>17: Marlene &amp; Craig Edsen Deb &amp; Arlan Jans 18: Jess &amp; Trevor Loeschen Sara &amp; Jeremy Schau 19: Jo Ellen &amp; Eric Sloan 26: Becky &amp; John Haase Jackie &amp; Brent Rangen 30: JoAnn &amp; Terry Adamson</p>
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