

THE Epistle from St. Paul



OCTOBER 2026

How You Can Get Involved at St. Paul

If you're new to St. Paul, serving is a fantastic way to meet people. Or maybe you've always wanted to serve but haven't decided the best way to use your God-given talents. Sometimes it takes a little nudge to finally make the move. Here's your nudge... and a few ideas to get you thinking!

On Sunday mornings there are opportunities for ushers (substitutes especially needed!), greeters, and altar committee. If you like to be behind the scenes you could help run the livestream, audio and worship slides. Like to sing? Join the choir or handbells!

Serve on a board. Evangelism and stewardship are always looking for more hands to help with events and serving meals. See Josh Remington or Chris Wood for more info.

Be a substitute teacher for midweek or Sunday school. The teachers for the year have been selected, but perhaps you have a real talent for teaching and want to jump right in. Talk to Laura Nelson or Julie Krehbiel.

Of course there are many other ways and new opportunities arising, so don't be afraid to ask questions and get involved! We'd love to have you.



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 and help residents with singing and turning pages in the book.

- Rock Creek at 2:00pm on October 20
- Sunny View at 2:30pm on October 18
- Mill Pond at 2:00pm on October 25

Lady Diners Meet October 6

Lady Diners will enjoy dining at Aunt Maude's in Ames on Tuesday, October 6 at 11:30am. To carpool meet in the parking lot at 11:00am.

Lady Diners is for all single ladies of St. Paul! If you have any questions contact Betty Berlau or Donna Stoelk.

September Elders Meeting Minutes

Present at the September 8 meeting were Eric Bradley, Steve Bradley, Jeff Bull, Kaleb Grey, Gary Hauge, Jon Jero, Ken Kise, and Pastor Newton. Pastor Newton led the elders in a room by room blessing of the church with scripture and prayer.

In addition to normal items, other items of discussion included: ongoing updates to the Officer's Handbook including the duties of our Director of Youth; potential for janitorial type help from within the congregation; recent compassion fund activity and requests of staff for financial assistance; and building security needs.

Official Acts

Baptisms

Mildred Ilene Wangsness, August 30

Josephine Kay von Qualen, September 2

Meredith Christine Greufe, September 6

Wedding

Claire Behrens and Caleb O'Gara, August 15

Transferred out

Zachariah Watt to University Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, MN

August Attendance

Average Sunday Attendance in August:

2026 - 307 2025 - 274

Average Year-to-date Sunday Attendance

2026 - 296 2025 - 272

Average Midweek Service Attendance: 40

August Membership

Baptized – 699

Confirmed – 600

Households – 295

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Bradley

Head Elder



August 2026 Summary

Offerings/Income \$45,938.51

Expenditures \$65,863.25

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

October Bible Studies at St. Paul

BASIC (Brothers and Sisters in Christ) Bible Study

Thursdays, October 8, 22 and 29 at 10:00am. Men and women, join us for the BASIC Bible study the second, fourth and fifth Thursdays of each month for an in-depth study of Holy Scripture. Pastor Kottlowski will lead us in a study of St. Paul's first letter to the Corinthians. St. Paul's powerful words direct us to the Cross and our salvation, also providing today's Christians with God's Word on issues that plagued the Corinthians yet remain relevant today.

Homebuilders

Sunday, October 4, 4:00-5:30pm. This group is for those interested in following Jesus as a household. They'll meet the first Sunday of each month.

Midweek Bible Studies

Wednesdays 6:00pm-7:00pm. Adults meet in the Sanctuary with Pastor Newton. Youth meet in their respective youth rooms.

Monday Night Women's Bible Study — Led by Sarah Newton. They will be going through *Wrestling with God: Understanding Difficult Old Testament Passages* by Rev. Dr. Reed Les-sing and Dr. Andrew Steinmann. As sinful humans, we wrestle with God and the most difficult parts of Scripture. Consider this book your own Peniel, helping you find clarity in the Old Testament. As you settle into theological discussions and life applications, you will come away with a better understanding of God's Word. No class October 19.

Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study

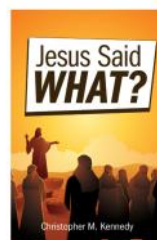
Sundays at 9:30am. Grab your coffee (in a reusable cup of course) and head into the FLC for *Showing Up Where Jesus Shows Up*. From our earliest days, nearness has made a difference. Our hometown, our school, our team, our neighbors and family, even our achievements make such a difference when they're near or far away. When we were children, Mom and Dad nearby helped us know we're safe. A friend who stuck close brought some familiarity to us even in new experiences. In the present chaos, full of sharp edges and a cloudy future, so much slides farther away as life spins ever faster. Can the Church hold the center as the whirling gets wider and wider? Is there any way to slow it down? The Scriptures point us to Christ, our Friend who has drawn near in history and promises to draw near to us too. No class on October 4.

Sunday Morning Youth Bible Studies

Sundays 9:30-10:30am. Junior youth are invited to join Eddie Bell and Rochelle Sandvick, while senior youth gather with Laura Nelson, for an engaging journey through God's Word. Each Sunday we'll dig into the lectionary readings—the same readings heard in the Divine Service—and see how they point us to Jesus, what He has done for us, and who we are in Him. Through conversation, questions, and time together in Scripture, we'll hear again and again the Good News of Christ and re-joyce in God's abundant grace.

Thursday Morning Ladies Bible Study

Thursdays, October 1 and 15 at 10:00am. Ladies, join us for morning Bible study on the first and third Thursdays. This coming year we'll study the work by Pastor Christopher M. Kennedy entitled *Jesus Said WHAT?* Throughout the Gospels, our Lord Jesus said a number of hard things which often offend today's cultural sensitivities. Join us in exploring the truth and the love of Jesus in these hard but necessary words.



October Youth Calendar

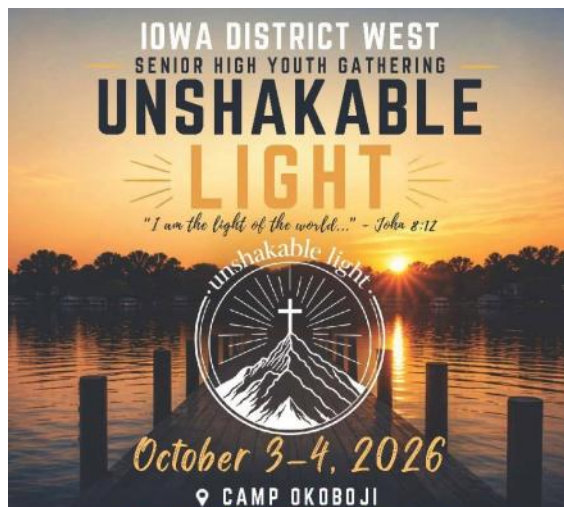
- Oct. 3-4 — IDW Senior Youth Gathering
Oct. 4 — Youth Bible Study 9:30am
Oct. 7 — Midweek 5-7:30pm
(Supper, Study & Service)
Oct. 11 — Youth Bible Study 9:30am
Oct. 11 — Senior Youth Hayride, 5pm
Oct. 14 — Midweek 5-7:30pm
(Supper, Study & Service)
Oct. 18 — Youth Bible Study 9:30am
Oct. 21 — Midweek 5-7:30pm
(Supper, Study & Service)
Oct. 24-25 — IDW Junior Youth Gathering
Oct. 25 — Youth Bible Study 9:30am
Oct. 28 — Midweek 5-7:30pm
(Supper, Study & Service)



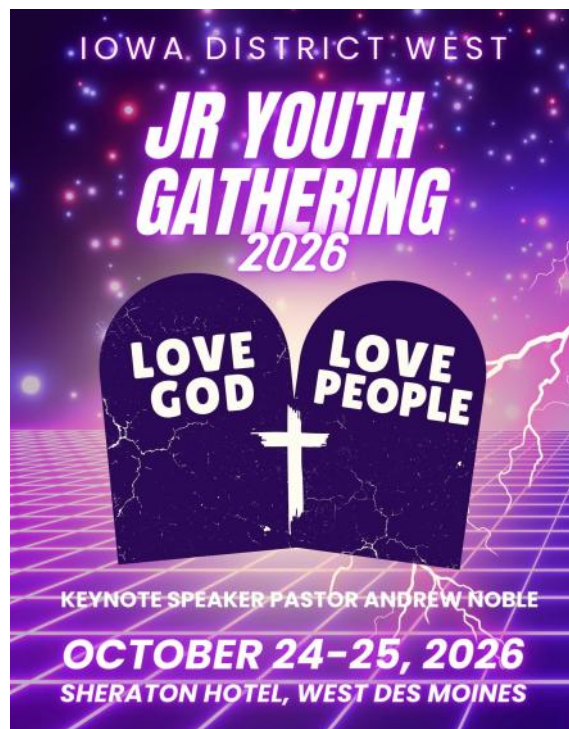
Senior youth (9th-12th graders) are invited to the annual hayride through Jester Park on October 11. You'll enjoy a hayride, scavenger hunt, food, s'mores and elk!

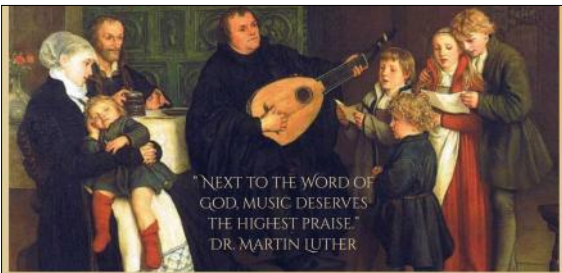
You may drive separately and meet us there. Meet at St. Paul at 4:30pm if you are catching a ride. We'll leave Jester Park between 7:30pm and 7:45pm. Students will text parents with a more exact time for pick up.

Please RSVP to ensure we have enough food and space on the hayrack. Friends always welcome!



Registration for the youth gatherings is closed. Please pray for our students and chaperones as they travel, experience the gatherings, and return home. If you have any questions about the gatherings please see Laura Nelson or Jennifer Thompson.





The Congregations of the East and West Des Moines Circuits are cordially invited to:

REFORMATION VESPERS

SUNDAY OCTOBER 25TH 4:00 P.M.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH - DES MOINES

POTLUCK SOUP SUPPER: 5:15 P.M.

PRESENTATION: 6:00 P.M.
"Music's Role in the Reformation and Evangelism"

GUEST PREACHER AND PRESENTER:
Rev. Nathan Sherrill, Sr. Pastor of St. Paul's Council Bluffs
and Executive Director of David's Harp.



DAVID'S HARP

Contact Trinity if you plan to bring food to share or would like to sing in the Reformation Circuit Choir: 515-279-3609.



Build a Healthy Marriage

Join us for a free
Marriage Enrichment Seminar
by Lutheran Family Service
At Immanuel Lutheran Church in
Osceola (101 East View Pl.)
Saturday October 24th 1:00-3:00pm




Lutheran Family Service



Learn more and register today at
immanuelosceola.org/marriage

History of the Flag Display

It was after September 11, 2001, that there was an increase in patriotism and the beginning of the Iraq War. There were members of our congregation that joined the Armed Forces, including Matt and Ben Hayden, who joined the Marines. It was then that their mother, Linn Hayden, became very active in the LCMS ministry named Operation Barnabas.

Operation Barnabas was established in 2007 as the only one of its kind in the U.S., together with the LCMS congregations to accomplish three key goals: 1) Care for Reserve chaplains and their families. 2) Train and assist local congregations in the care, support and outreach to all military connected people in their congregations and their communities. 3) Serve as a resource to other organizations that provide care to military connected people.

With these goals, many members in our congregation wanted to honor the Armed Service members of our families that previously and presently served. A program began for congregation members to purchase a flag and pole in honor or memory for a member of their family that served in the military.

These flags are displayed on the special flag days of Memorial, Flag, Independence, Patriot, and Veterans. The year 2016 was the initial year for displaying the flags. We will always be grateful to Linn Hayden for providing the leadership to start this recognition ministry for our congregation.

Curt Hora is currently the coordinator for scheduling the installation and removal of the flags.

Bob Peters

August Council Meeting Minutes

August 18, 2026, attendance; Stacia Bradley, Steve Bradley, Jon Clark, Tim Davies, Julie Krehbiel, Tim Krehbiel, Dewayne McGohan, Pastor Joel Newton, Laura Nelson, Josh Remington, Duane Suhr, Jennifer Thompson, and Chris Wood. Absent: Mike Sickels. Devotion led by Pastor Newton on 1 John:3 with excerpts from *To Live with Christ*.

Motion to approve July 21 meeting minutes: Dewayne McGohan, seconded: Steve Bradley. Motion approved.
Motion to approve financial report: Jennifer Thompson, seconded: Julie Krehbiel. Motion approved.

Board Reports (provided by the following members)

Elders – Steve Bradley	Education – Julie Krehbiel
Property – Mike Sickels (in written form)	Children & Family – Stacia Bradley
Evangelism – Josh Remington	Youth – Jennifer Thompson
Stewardship – Chris Wood	Financial Secretary - Dewayne McGohan

Motion to approve Lena Fulscher to the children's ministry board: Tim Krehbiel, seconded: Chris Wood. Motion approved.

Motion to approve board reports: Tim Davies, seconded: Steve Bradley. Motion approved

Staff reports (from Pastor Newton and Laura Nelson)

Motion to approve: Jon Clark, seconded: Julie Krehbiel. Motion approved.

Old Business

Construction Committee: No update this month.

Constitution Committee: Officer handbook is being reviewed by respective boards.

Office manager: a job description was presented to the council along with a recommendation to increase the position's annual salary by \$6,000. Recent additional responsibilities involving treasurer and human resource related duties were noted as justification for the salary increase. A motion to approve the job description and salary increase was made by Duane Suhr, seconded by Tim Krehbiel. Tim Davies made a motion amendment to remove the responsibility of giving authority to sign checks, seconded by Dewayne McGohan. If an outside audit verified there was no issue with this responsibility be given to this position or that necessary controls are in place then perhaps this duty could be added in the future. Motion amendment was approved. The amended motion was then voted on and approved.

Spending Policy: proposed policies were presented to the council regarding:

- a) spending authority,
- b) receipt transmission,
- c) tracking & oversight,
- d) spending limits & exceptions,
- e) reimbursement/payment processing for ordained and commissioned ministers, full-time staff, and board chairs.

A motion to approve the policies as presented was made by Josh Reminton and seconded by Jennifer Thompson. Motion approved.

Officer Handbook: respective boards are working on updates

Keys: Gary Hauge provided keys to those members who needed one

Board Budgets: Duane Suhr reminded everyone of the timing of 2027 budget process

Date of the Voter Meeting was decided to be Monday, November 30 6:30pm

Next meeting – Monday, September 15, 2026, 6:30pm. Motion to adjourn: Duane Suhr, seconded: Dewayne McGohan, Approval: unanimously approved. Lord's Prayer recited to end the meeting.

October Is a Busy Month for LWML

October 4 is LWML Sunday. We will be serving coffee, donuts, and sweet treats in the FLC between services. If you've been wanting to learn more about LWML this is the perfect chance.

Our next LWML meeting will be held **Tuesday, October 13** at 6:30 in the Fellowship Hall. All ladies of St. Paul are welcome to attend.

The fall LWML rally will be on **Saturday, October 17** at Christ the King in Altoona. Please RSVP to Sue Stoll by October 12 (see below for details).

Thank you to all who donated personal care items for the Ankeny Service Center. We'll have item totals in the next newsletter. Look for information on our next donation project coming soon.

Save the date for the upcoming craft and vendor fair! **Saturday, November 14** from 9:00am-2:00pm come and shop and eat breakfast or lunch! See below for more information.

LWML Board,
Sue Stoll, Sarah Kroemer, Betty Berlau, and Vicki Sickels



SAVE THE DATE



**Des Moines East
Zone Fall Rally
October 17, 2026**

**SHARE THE LIGHT
OF CHRIST**

1 Peter 2:9

**8:30 a.m. REGISTRATION & BREAKFAST
9:00 a.m. RALLY BEGINS**

Registration Fee: \$ 6.00

CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH
600 1ST Ave. N.
Altoona, IA 50009

Ingathering for Caring Hands Outreach Center
Canned potatoes (sliced or whole), Hamburger helper, Grape Jelly, Single packs of rice & rice mix bags, Canned Fruit (oranges, pineapple, pears, peaches), Canned Pork & Beans, Large Canned Soup (16oz and larger): No chicken noodle please, Dry Beans and Canned Pinto Beans, Oatmeal and Canned Chili



Join us
**Saturday,
November 14, 2026
9am-2pm**
and explore our
**6th Annual
"UNEXPECTED TREASURES"
Craft & Vendor Fair**
at
**St. Paul Lutheran Church
1100 SE Sharon Dr. Ankeny, IA**

**Come Browse the
Variety of
"Unexpected Treasures"**

**Look for that
Perfect Gift!**

**Participate in our
Vendor Sponsored
Door Prizes**

**and
Support Local
Vendors!**

October 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 9:30am Chapel 10:00am Ladies Bible Study 7:00pm Men's Fellowship & Bible Study	2	3 IDW Sr Youth Gathering
4 <i>LWML Sunday</i> 8:00am Worship Service 9:15am Sunday School 9:15am Fellowship Hour 9:30am Youth Bible Study 10:45am Worship Service 4:00-5:30pm Homebuilders **No Adult Bible Study**	5 9:00am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Women's Bible Study	6 11:30am Lady Diners	7 10:00am Moms Group 5:00-6:00pm Meal 5:15pm Handbell Rehearsal 6:00-7:00pm Midweek 7:00pm Service 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	8 9:30am Chapel 10:00am BASIC Bible Study 7:00pm Men's Fellowship & Bible Study	9	10
11 8:00am Worship Service 9:15am Sunday School 9:30am Bible Studies 10:45am Worship Service Noon Catechumenate Tailgate @ Nelsons 5pm-7:30pm Sr. Youth Hayride	12 6:30pm Women's Bible Study	13 6:30pm LWML 6:30pm Elders Meeting	14 10:00am Moms Group 5:00-6:00pm Meal 5:15pm Handbell Rehearsal 6:00-7:00pm Midweek 7:00pm Service 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	15 9:30am Chapel 10:00am Ladies Bible Study 7:00pm Men's Fellowship & Bible Study	16	17
18 8:00am Worship Service 9:15am Sunday School 9:30am Bible Studies 10:45am Worship Service 2:30pm Sunny View Service	19	20 2:00pm Rock Creek Service 6:30pm Council Meeting	21 10:00am Moms Group 5:00-6:00pm Meal 5:15pm Handbell Rehearsal 6:00-7:00pm Midweek 7:00pm Service 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	22 9:30am Chapel 10:00am BASIC Bible Study 7:00pm Men's Fellowship & Bible Study	23	24 IDW Jr Youth Gathering
25 8:00am Worship Service 9:15am Sunday School 9:30am Bible Studies 10:45am Worship Service Noon Catechumenate 2:00pm Mill Pond Service	26 9:00am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Women's Bible Study	27	28 10:00am Moms Group 5:00-6:00pm Meal 5:15pm Handbell Rehearsal 6:00-7:00pm Midweek 7:00pm Service 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	29 9:30am Chapel 10:00am BASIC Bible Study 7:00pm Men's Fellowship & Bible Study	30	31

ELDER OF THE WEEK

04: Dan Pottratz
11: Eric Bradley
18: Kaleb Grev
25: Ken Kise

Full size calendars are located in the Narthex under the church mail-boxes.

ALTAR COMMITTEE

04: Karen Dozler, Sandy & Steve Townsend
11: Alise Sunderman, Mary Suhr
18: Karen Kisker, Vicki Sickels
25: Alyssa Forde, Dorothy Marvin

ALTAR FLOWERS

04: Dorothy & Ray Marvin
11: Libby & Travis Wielenga
18: Madonna & Gary Hauge
25: Toni & Richard Billings

OFFERING COUNTERS

October 4 & 11

Dan Deppe, Jon Gerths

October 18 & 25

Tim Davies, Kevin Kisker

USHERS

October 4

8:00am — Ray Marvin, Randy Sunderman
10:45am — Dan Hubbard, Cal Uhlig

October 11

8:00am — Ray Marvin, Randy Sunderman
10:45am — Mark Lauthen, Adam Haselhuhn

October 18 & 25

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