

THE Epistle from St. Paul



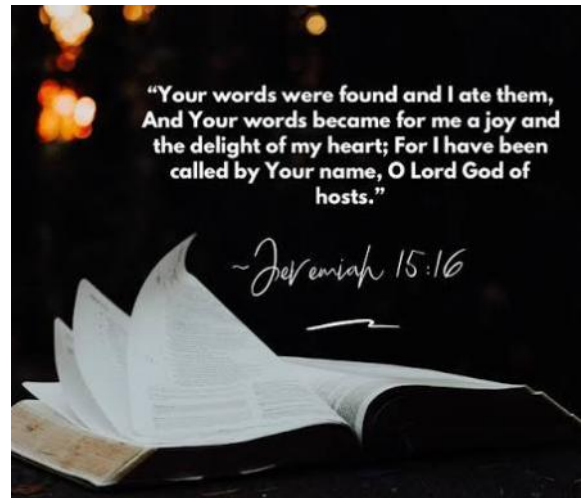
SEPTEMBER 2026

Dear fellow students of the Good Teacher,

The Lord bless you as schools in our community kick into gear again and routines are re-established! It's been great to gather around the Word and Sacraments on Sundays and Wednesdays so that Christ centers our orbit even in all the busy schedules of the summer. As the season wraps up, we look forward especially to digging back into the Word of God together!

There are so many opportunities: Sunday mornings has Bible study for all ages; Monday night is Women's Bible study; Wednesday night has Bible study for all ages again (not to mention both the pizza supper before and the Service after!); Thursday mornings have Brothers And Sisters In Christ (BASIC) or Ladies Bible study, which follow chapel services; and Thursday evenings have men's study.

I encourage you in the Lord to join up wherever you're able! Start with Sunday morning and Wednesday night, if you can—that's where the heavy lifting is done in the congregation, when we digest the Word of God together and sort through what the Lord is doing to us and giving to us in the Holy Scriptures. God's Word through the Prophet Jeremiah rings true for us too.



The more we dig into the Living, Active Word of God, the more the Word is a joy and delight to us. It's because in the Word we encounter the God who has called us by His name in Holy Baptism and who continues to be present among us in Word and Sacrament. There's no greater joy than showing up where Jesus shows up! God be with you all!

In Christ,
Pastor Newton

Join us for weekly Chapel services beginning Thursday, September 10 at 9:30am.

Midweek Begins September 16

Schedule

Meal • 5:00pm–6:00pm

Bible Study & Classes • 6:00–7:00pm

Worship Service • 7:00pm

2026-2027 Teachers

Pastor Newton • Adults

Caitlin Remington • High School

Laura Nelson • Confirmation

Alyssa Wendzel • 4th-5th Grades

Paul Ebert • 2nd-3rd Grades

Karen Kisker • Kindergarten-1st Grades

Joyce Binneboese • Pre-K

Our nursery team is available during the Bible study hour.



Thank You, Jeros! Thank you to Jon and Candy Jero for their generosity with the Celebrate America with the High Society Big Band Swing Dance event on July 18. Free will offerings were collected at the door to benefit the St. Paul Youth. The generosity of attendees allowed the Jeros to donate \$450 to our St. Paul Youth! We are truly blessed for the support of the youth and youth programming! Thank you!

— St. Paul Youth Board



Cancer Support Group

The Cancer Support Group meets on Monday, September 28 at 5:00pm at Perkins. If you have questions please contact Mary Stratmann at 515-720-3181.

September Bible Studies Begin

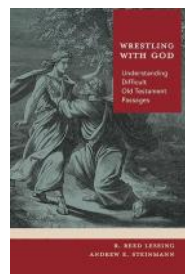
BASIC (Brothers and Sisters in Christ) Bible Study

Begins Thursday, September 10 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. No class September 24.

Midweek Bible Studies

Begins Wednesday, September 16, 6:00pm-7:00pm. Adults meet in the Sanctuary with Pastor Newton. Senior youth are in the youth room.

Monday Night Women's Bible Study — Led by Sarah Newton. Begins September 14 at 6:30pm and concludes November 30. They will be going through *Wrestling with God: Understanding Difficult Old Testament Passages* by Rev. Dr. Reed Lessing 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. Order your book (Amazon or CPH) and come along!



Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study

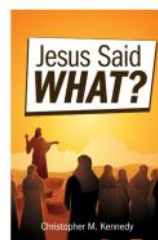
Begins September 13 at 9:30am. Grab your coffee (in a reusable cup of course) and head into the FLC for *Showing Up Where Jesus Shows Up*. From our earliest days, nearness has made a difference. Our hometown, our school, our team, our neighbors and family, even our achievements make such a difference 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.

Sunday Morning Youth Bible Studies

Begins September 13, 9:30-10:30am. Junior youth are invited to join team-teaching duos Eddie Bell and Rochelle Sandvick, and Axel Pottratz and Dan Pottratz, while senior youth gather with Laura Nelson, for an engaging journey through God's Word! 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 rejoice in God's abundant grace!

Thursday Morning Ladies Bible Study

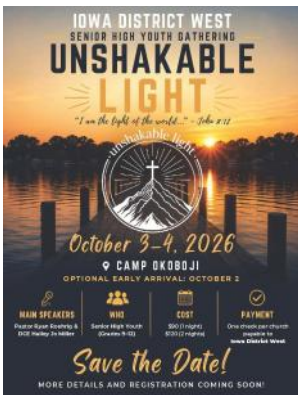
Begins Thursday, September 17 at 10:00am. Ladies, join us for morning Bible study on the first and third Thursdays. This coming year we'll study the work by Pastor Christopher M. Kennedy entitled *Jesus Said WHAT?* Throughout the Gospels, our Lord Jesus said a number of hard things which often offend today's cultural sensitivities. Join us in exploring the truth and the love of Jesus in these "hard" but necessary words. Look for a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for your copy of the book.





Why this has become a tradition at St. Paul? Anointing someone is a way of giving them a purpose. In the Rite of Consecration, Catechumens and Confirmands are anointed with crosses of scented oil because Jesus has a purpose for them among us at St. Paul: to receive the gifts he brings and to love others the way Jesus loved the whole world.

Eighth grade students are asked to attend either service on Sunday, September 27.

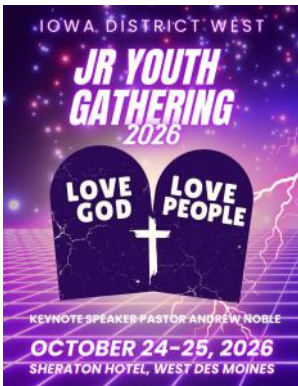


Register today for the IDW Youth Gatherings! You won't want to miss these wonderful weekends centered on Christ.

Packets are on the cabinet in the Narthex.

Firm deadline for registration is September 20.

Please see Laura Nelson if you have any questions.



August Youth Calendar

Sept. 6 — Worship (8 & 10:45) + Fellowship Hour

Sept. 13 — Rally Sunday— Bible Study is back! 9:30am

Sept. 13 — Jr. Youth Sunday Funday 2-4pm

Sept. 16 — Midweek 5-7:30pm
(Supper, Study & Service)

Sept. 20 — Jr. & Sr. Youth Bible Study 9:30am

Sept. 20 — Sr, Youth Sunday Funday 2-4pm

Sept. 20 — RSVP Deadline for Jr. & Sr. Youth District Gatherings

Sept. 23 — Midweek 5-7:30pm
(Supper, Study & Service)

Sept. 27 — Rite of Consecration for 8th Grade Confirmation Students, 8am and 10:45am

Sept. 27 — Junior Youth Bible Study 9:30am

Sept. 27 — Senior Youth Bible Study with adults & guest leader Pastor Kendal 9:30am



Join us for two hours of games, competition, hanging out, and our very own nacho bar challenge! Teams will create, name, and unveil their ultimate nacho creations before doing the only sensible thing left to do...EAT THEM.

Add in the games — reverse charades, five second rule, and a few surprises, and we've got ourselves a funday!

Bible Studies Begin September 13

Junior youth are invited to join team-teaching duos Eddie Bell and Rochelle Sandvick, and Axel Pottratz and Dan Pottratz, while senior youth gather with Laura Nelson, for an engaging journey through God's Word! Each Sunday from 9:30am–10:30am, 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 rejoice in God's abundant grace!



Junior youth (grades 6–8), it's time for a Sunday Funday! Join us for an afternoon packed with games, laughter, friendly competition, and plenty of time together. Friends always welcome!

We'll break out some funday favorites, try a few new challenges, and make our own soft pretzel bites with plenty of dipping options!

Come ready to play, snack, laugh, and have some fun!



Registration is open for nursery, confirmation, Sunday school, midweek, and youth group programs for the 2026-2027 education year. 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. 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!

To register, use the QR code or go to the church website.



Rally Day is a chance to come together, reconnect with friends, and welcome new faces as we kick off a new year of youth ministry. We'll gather for fun, fellowship, and encouragement in God's Word as we look forward to all that He has planned for us this year — we can't wait to see you there!



July 2026 Summary

Offerings/Income	\$45,694.06
Expenditures	\$38,837.59

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

2027 Offering Envelopes

We will soon renew envelopes for 2027. You may already know that online giving is available. If you would like to continue using envelopes, we are happy to provide them. If you prefer another giving option, please visit the church website: St. Paul Lutheran Church - Give. Instructions for giving online are provided there. If you no longer need offering envelopes please contact Kathy in the church office or you can contact me, Dewayne McGohan, Financial Secretary, at 515-343-6549.

Offering Counters Needed

Looking for a simple way to serve our church family? We need additional counters. No experience is needed, and training will be provided. The time commitment is about 30 minutes following the late service, a couple of times approximately every three months. If you would like to learn more or volunteer, please reach out to Dewayne McGohan, Financial Secretary, at 515-343-6549.

Change is Coming

Change isn't always easy! Especially when it comes to a computer program I've been using for ten years. In October Microsoft 365 subscribers will no longer have access to Publisher. This desktop publishing program has been used at St. Paul for probably 20 years (or more!). Now this might not sound like a big deal, but trust me it is. Think of all the bulletins, newsletters, posters, flyers, calendars, labels, postcards, etc., that have been created during this time! Definitely hundreds. Maybe thousands!

Why am I telling you this? Because things may look a little different beginning mid-October when I am forced to use a different program. I'll eventually get the hang of it, but like everything, there's a learning curve (especially at my age!). Please be patient.

Blessings,
Kathy Olson



Lady Diners meet on Tuesday, September 1 at Latin King in Des Moines at 11:30am. If you want to carpool 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.

LWML Kicks Off on September 8

Our summer break has come to an end and we will resume our monthly LWML meeting. Join us on September 8 at 6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. All women of St. Paul are welcome to attend for mite devotions, fellowship, fun, and business meeting. Upcoming events include LWML East Zone rally and our annual craft sale. Proceeds from the sale help fund special mission projects. A special thank you for all the donations for the school supplies benefiting Capitol View Elementary in Des Moines. In September we will be collecting personal care items for the Ankeny Service Center (see below).

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

September Personal Care Donation Drive



- Shampoo & Conditioner
- Bar Soap
- Toilet Paper
- Razors
- Deodorant
- Feminine hygiene products
- Toothpaste

Place donations
in the basket by
the LWML table.

Donations going to the Ankeny Resource Center. Items will directly benefit those in the Ankeny community.



2026 School Donation Totals

45	Box regular markers 10 count
20	Box skinny markers 10 count
1	Box skinny markers 20 count
7	Highlighters
968	Pencils
88	Expo dry erase markers—skinny
18	Expo dry erase markers—large
170	Post-it notes
85	Box colored pencils 12 count
3	Box colored pencils 24 count
1	Box colored pencils 10 count
48	Mechanical pencils
41	Pkgs disinfectant wipes
25	Boxes facial tissue
8	Packages card stock paper
5	Backpacks

A huge thank you to everyone who donated school supplies! St. Paul and Christ Lutheran were able to contribute a sizeable amount of supplies to Capitol View Elementary School in Des Moines. Another organization that had provided all their supplies in the past chose a different school this August. So the school was thrilled to receive the items and said this was their largest donation.

September kicks off another donation drive!



August Elders Meeting Minutes

Present at the August 11 meeting were Steve Bradley, Jeff Bull, Kaleb Grev, Gary Hauge, Jon Jero, Ken Kise, Dan Pottratz, Hans Schaeffer, and Pastor Newton.

Pastor Newton shared an opening devotion and led us in prayer. In addition to normal items, other items of discussion included: elders assisting with Holy Communion, getting letters to cottages, elder coverage for weekend weddings this month, and Officer's Handbook review by council members. Also, Pastor provided an LSB to each elder, complete with visitation aids.

Official Acts

Baptism

Josie Janet Hopp, August 9

July Attendance

Average Sunday Attendance for July:

2026 - 270

2025 - 245

Average Year-to-date Sunday Attendance through July:

2026 - 294

2025 - 272

Average Midweek Service Attendance for June: 43

July Membership

Baptized – 698

Confirmed – 601

Households – 295

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Bradley
Head Elder



Church Offices Closed

Monday, September 7

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 September 15
- Sunny View at 2:30pm on September 20
- Mill Pond at 2:00pm on September 27

Christian greeting cards available!

Check out the display in the Narthex.

Proceeds benefit LWML



Stewardship Hosting Camping Weekend

We hosted a successful reception honoring Pastor Kottlowski on his 30th anniversary serving the Lord. We had around 110 people who joined us for the service and meal. Much thanks to all who assisted in any way.

We have offered to assist the Education committee in any way needed for rally day.

The Stewardship Board is hosting a camping weekend September 18-20 at Prairie Flower campsite (L loop). There will be a potluck Saturday night at 5:30pm. The main course (hamburgers and hot dogs), along with plates and utensils, will be provided by Stewardship. If you do not camp, please join us for the potluck with your favorite side dish or dessert. The sign-up sheets for the camping and potluck are in the FLC Hallway.

In His Service,
Chris Wood
Stewardship Chairperson

CONTACT information



Do you have a new address, phone number or email? Please update the church office so we can keep our records accurate. You can send it via email to kathy@stpaulankeny.org or call 515-964-1250.

Building Healthy Families

President Harry S. Truman once said, “A pessimist is one who makes difficulties of his opportunities and an optimist is one who makes opportunities of his difficulties.” Which are you? Pessimists... how’s this working for you? It’s usually true that mood follows message: what we think or tell ourselves about a situation results in how we feel about what is happening. The next time you are feeling low or having a difficult day, stop and listen to what you are telling yourself. Is it true? Challenge and then replace negative, untrue thoughts with the truth.

(Hint: look for truth in your Bible.) If you’re stuck in a negative pattern of thought and life, you don’t have to stay there. Please reach out. Your LFS counselors are available to help you learn to identify and change negative thought patterns, replacing them with truth.

www.LutheranFamilyService.org

— *Lutheran Family Service*



**Lutheran
Family Service**

For Nothing is Impossible with God

July Council Meeting Minutes

Meeting July 21, 2026, 6:30pm. Present were Stacia Bradley, Steve Bradley, Tim Davies, Tim Krehbiel, DeWayne McGohan, Josh Remington, Mike Sickels, Duane Suhr, Jennifer Thompson, Chris Wood. Absent: Jon Clark, Julie Krehbiel, Pastor Joel Newton, Laura Nelson. Devotion led by Tim Krehbiel on Revelations chapter four with excerpts from *To Live with Christ*.

Motion to appoint to a president. Tim Krehbiel made a request for a motion to approve the appointment of Duane Suhr as president. Motion made by Steve Bradley, seconded: Josh Remington. Motion approved.

June 16 meeting minutes. Stacia Bradley requested her name be added to those in attendance as she was at the meeting. Motion to approve as amended: Mike Sickels, seconded: Jennifer Thompson. Motion approved.

Financial Report Motion to approve report: Mike Sickels, seconded: Tim Krehbiel. Motion approved

Staff reports Youth Ministry (provided in written form)

Board Reports (provided by the following members)

Education – Julie Krehbiel (in written form)

Property – Mike Sickels

Children & Family – Stacia Bradley

Evangelism – Josh Remington

Youth – Jennifer Thompson (in verbal form; she covered the Youth Ministry report as well additional youth board items)

Stewardship – Chris Wood

Elders – Steve Bradley

Action item: after Jennifer Thompson requested guidance regarding her board's role and governance, it was decided that Duane Suhr will send copies of the policy manual to council members and as per by-law article VII-A, Tim Krehbiel will review with individual board chairs their respective sections of the handbook for potential updates as part of a broader scope of each council member's responsibilities.

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

Old Business

Construction Committee: Tim Krehbiel said the committee is working on pricing some of the work.

New Business

Policy Manual: As noted above, Duane Suhr will send the manual to council members.

Office manager role: continued discussion about the role of the office manager is as far as financial concerns. Duane Suhr and Tim Krehbiel will review the job description.

Financial review: council is considering forming a committee

Next meeting Monday, August 18, 2026, 6:30pm. Motion to adjourn: Mike Sickels, seconded: Steve Bradley, Approval: unanimously approved. Lord's Prayer recited to end the meeting.

SEPTEMBER 2026

ELDER OF THE WEEK

06: Jeff Bull

13: Gary Hauge

20: Jon Jero

27: Steve Bradley

ALTAR COMMITTEE

06: Karen Dozler, Donna Stoelk

13: Karen Kisker, Donna Stoelk

20: Alyssa Forde, Mary Suhr

27: Alise Sunderman, Dorothy Marvin

ALTAR FLOWERS

06: Sue Stoll

13: Lynn Powell

20: Laura & Jeff Bull

27: Traci & Adam Haselhuhn

OFFERING COUNTERS

September 6 & 13

Betty Berlau, Marilyn Sharar

September 20 & 27

Jennifer Dorfler, Rod Silvey

USHERS

September 6 & 13

8:00am — Don Halbur, Cal Uhlig

10:45am — Jason Buls, Jaydon Buls, Jordan Buls, Jalen Buls

September 20 & 27

8:00am — Les Stave, Jeff Fahrman, Colby Fahrman

10:45am — Mike Koester, Craig, Dewayne McGohan

September 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 11:30am Lady Diners	2 7:00pm Summer Liturgy	3 7:00pm Men's Bible Study & Fellowship	4 <i>Offices Closed</i>	5
6 8:00am Worship Service Fellowship Hour 10:45am Worship Service	7 LABOR DAY <i>Offices Closed</i>	8 6:30pm LWNML 6:30pm Elders Meeting	9 9:00am Moms Group Chalk the Walk 7:00pm Final Summer Liturgy	10 9:30am Chapel 10:00am BASIC Bible Study 7:00pm Men's Fellowship & Bible Study	11	12
13 RALLY SUNDAY 8:00am Worship Service 9:15am Sunday School 9:30am Bible Studies 10:45am Worship Service Noon Catechumenate 2-4:00pm Jr. Youth Sunday Funday	14 9:00am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Women's Bible Study	15 2:00pm Rock Creek Service 6:30pm Council Meeting	16 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	17 9:30am Chapel 10:00am Ladies Bible Study 7:00pm Men's Fellowship & Bible Study	18	19
20 8:00am Worship Service 9:15am Sunday School 9:30am Bible Studies 10:45am Worship Service Noon Catechumenate 2-4:00pm Sr. Youth Sunday Funday 2:30pm Sunny View Service	21 9:00am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Women's Bible Study IDW Pastors Conference	22	23 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	24 9:30am Chapel 7:00pm Men's Fellowship & Bible Study	25	26
27 8:00am Worship Service* 9:15am Sunday School 9:30am Bible Studies 10:45am Worship Service* 2:00pm Mill Pond Service *Rite of Consecration 8th Grade Students	28 9:00am Staff Meeting 5:00pm Cancer Support Group @ Perkins 6:30pm Women's Bible Study	29	30 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			