

St. Paul's Lutheran Church ELCA



February 2025

The Church Door



Quilters



St. Paul's Quilters group meets every Monday morning at 9:00.

Some members plan, piece and hand stitch the quilt that gets raffled off each year at the Country Fair. Also, we make single bed size quilts (finished size 60" x 84") that are donated to local agencies such as: the Sheriffs Dept., the Women's Shelter, Family Safety network and others. Some of these are sold at each Country Fair as well. Quilts are available for purchase all year. We always welcome new members – no sewing skills required! Training is available and the best part is coffee break, fellowship time. Stop in some Monday morning and see what we are about – we'd love to have you join us!

Inside this issue

Annual Meeting.....	2
Missions.....	3
WELCA	4
Tech report.....	4
Phishing scam.....	5
Church council.....	6
Property.....	7

Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes
St. Paul's Lutheran Church
February 02, 2025
Subject to the Approval of St. Paul's Lutheran Church Congregation

The annual meeting was called to order by President Chuck Forsgren at 10:13 a.m. with 35 members attending: 26 in person and 9 by Zoom.

Opening statement from President Chuck Forsgren.

Opening Devotions were led by Pastor Espeland.

Secretary's Report – MSP to accept minutes as printed.

Trust Fund -

President Chuck Forsgren turned over the meeting to the Trust Fund. President Kathy Forbrook (whose term has expired) convened the trust fund meeting at 10:22. Many thanks to Kathy for her years of dedicated service of presiding over the Trust Fund Committee. Russ Torkelson provided a report on assets and expenditures (report printed in Annual Report booklet). MSP to accept the Trust Fund report. MSP to cast a unanimous ballot for Heidi Wilke to a first term on the Trust Fund Committee. MSP to close trust fund meeting at 10:32.

Treasurer's Report – Complete report located in *Annual Report* booklet – MSP to accept treasurer's report.

President's Comments – are in the *Annual Report* booklet.

Pastor's Report/Statistics – A complete report located in *Annual Report* booklet. Pastor Espeland discussed pursuit of getting caterers lined up for large numbers of people like the recent funerals.

Committee Reports – MSP to accept reports as printed in *Annual Report* booklet.

Old Business – there was no old or on-going business.

New Business:

2025 Budget – MSP to accept the proposed budget as printed.

Congregation survey - results were reviewed by President Chuck Forsgren and Barb Harrington.

Some discussion was held on the use of offering envelopes and also on possible outreach events. Examples: fish fry and service in the park. Follow up to be taken regarding responses to the Time and Talents sheet.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 10:48 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Tonia Kahler
Council Secretary



Wildfires At night

California Wildfires

Rev. Elizabeth Eaton, Presiding Bishop of ELCA in America has put out a message:

“When you pass through the waters, I will be with you, and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through the fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. (Isaiah 43:2)

Please join in praying that God’s love and care will be manifested among all those impacted by wildfires. Pray for firefighters battling unrelenting blazes and for first responders, health care providers and public servants providing safety and support for those impacted. Pray for ELCA ministries as they care for the needs of their communities. Pray for the long-term well-being of all who are affected by the widespread devastation and who face ongoing danger.

Gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response equips them to respond to communities affected by wildfires and related disasters. Gifts to [U.S. Wildfires](#) will be used in full (100%) to assist those affected by wildfires until the response is complete.

Submitted by Sharon Schwegel
Mission Interpreter

February Birthdays

Myrna T.

Lee B.

Ralph B.

Deen S.

Caroline L.

Richard S.

Tamara H.

Women of the ELCA

St. Paul's Lutheran WELCA Minutes

Date: Thursday, January 9, 2025, 9:30 am
Hostess: Laura Ristow
Bible Study Leader: Sharon Schwegel
Number attending: 9

President Clydia Jacobson opened the meeting by leading the group in the Statement of Purpose and the Mission Statement.
Treasurer's Report: MSP
Secretary's Reports: MSP

Quilts: 3 were given to Christmas families
Prayer Shawls: 7 were given since our last meeting

Old Business:

16 Boxes of cookies were given to shut ins and staff. 27 candy bags were prepared for distribution on Christmas Eve. Will review the number to prepare for next Christmas.

Tech Report 1/13/25

1. We continue to have great audio and video for our live streaming of Sunday services. The new 20x camera is so much better quality!
2. We have supported 2 funeral services so far this month, Jan 8, and Jan 10. The families did not want the service streamed but we did record both services so we could give the family a copy of the service.
3. We utilized our winter weather church closing prerecorded service on Sunday Jan 12th. With the snowstorm it was decided to cancel church service. We then contacted the congregation by email, text, and phone calls. Then a prerecorded video was streamed on Facebook and YouTube. **Please give us feedback on how it worked.**
4. Mass communications- Unfortunately church

New Business:

World Day of Prayer and Lenten Prayer Breakfast were removed from WELCA planning schedule as participation has fallen off.

Discussion of Christmas Eve candy bags will be on November Agenda.

Christmas Party will be a potluck in 2025 as in the past.

Next Meeting: Thursday, February 13 at 9:30 am

Hostess: Clydia Jacobson

Bible Study Leader: Diane Zaske

Respectfully submitted:

Laura Ristow, acting secretary

directory does not offer the ability to text everyone in the directory anymore. (They dropped that service) But the tech team plans to research 1 software to contact the congregation all at once via email, text, voicemail. More to come on this.

5. The TV in the Narthex is running St Paul's announcements on a trial basis. It is running the Pre-Announcements PowerPoint slide show. The TV needs to be turned on each morning but then shuts off automatically in the afternoon. Please let Chuck know your opinion if the announcements have value or not.

Many Thanks to Mike, Char, Tammy, Tim, and Alice for all your efforts!

If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions please don't hesitate to contact me.

Chuck Forsgren 402-525-1127



Safe Data
Safe Families

How to Spot a Phishing Scam

Phishing is a cybercrime to obtain login credentials or financial information from victims. A person may pretend to be a legitimate organization (bank, IRS, phone company) and contact victims over the phone, email, or text message to trick them into providing sensitive information.



How to avoid being a phishing victim:



Messages often try to create a sense of urgency ("respond in the next 10 minutes!") to get you to act without thinking.



Offers are often "too good to be true." Trust your gut.



Do not download attachments from unknown senders.



Don't click on a link in an email or text message. On your computer, hover your mouse over the link to view the URL or manually enter the website name (e.g., bankofamerica.com).



When in doubt, call the organization directly and ask if the message is legitimate.



Church Council

Meeting minutes

St. Paul's Church Council Meeting Minutes January 15, 2025

Present: Pastor Leif, Laura Ristow, Russ Torkelson, Ron Wedin, Chuck Forsgren, Shirley Johnson, Alice Knowles, Steve Hoopman and Tonia Kahler.

Absent: none

Council President Chuck Forsgren convened the meeting at 9:34 a.m.

Devotions: Pastor Leif

President's Opening Prayer

Mission Statement: "Proclaiming and serving Christ in the Heartland and beyond"

Additions to Agenda – none

Secretary's Minutes – MSP to accept as printed.

Treasurer's Report – MSP to accept as printed.

Pastor's Report – Retiring of the Greens completed. Performed two funerals at St. Paul's in the past week.

Committee Reports:

Property Report – included in the newsletter. Dan will be on vacation in February. Looking for volunteers to assist in his absence. The AED is obsolete and needs to be replaced. Looking into a replacement. Steve Hoopman has a contact that would provide training on AED/CPR. More information to come. Snow removal is going

well. Need volunteers to remove snow from the solar panels. Tools are stored behind the panels if you are interested in helping.

Tech team report – included in the newsletter.

WELCA report – included in the newsletter.

Old and Ongoing Business:

1. St. Paul's annual meeting is scheduled for Sunday February 2, 2025. An email invite with a link to a Zoom meeting will be sent to those unable to attend in person.
2. The electronic sign will need to be removed and relocated during the highway 371 project planned for 2025. Tabled until Spring 2025.

New Business:

1. MSP to accept the proposed budget for 2025.
2. For those wanting to contribute to disaster relief for the California Wildfires please put this designation in the memo section of your check.

Devotions for next meeting – Shirley Johnson

Next Council Meeting Date – February 19, 2025

Meeting adjourned with The Lord's Prayer at 10:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Tonia Kahler, Council Secretary

Property Committee

Meeting minutes

Tech Report



St. Paul's 2025 January Property Report January 14, 2025 after Green Retirement

MEMBERS PRESENT: Russ Torkelson, Terry Bergstrom, Dick Ristow, Dan Knicely, Pastor Leif, Deloris Ressen, Shirley Johnson. By Phone: Chuck Forsgren

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jim Jacobson, Dave Kahler, Jim Madland, Lewie Schrupp

OLD BUSINESS:

DBS Lifting ramp to Narthex schedule. Scheduled for May 21st. Quoted \$2,160.00.

SIDEWALK REPLACEMENT: NO report. Defer to Dave Kahler to secure quotation in Spring

Electronic Sign: Chuck or Steve Hoopman. No report

AED Training: See **NEW BUSINESS BELOW:** Ron Wedin offered to help.

RETIRING OF THE Greens: Went very well. Many thanks go to Dick Ristow who removed The Crech from the altar prior to Dennis Wick's funeral. The persons who helped with the remaining "Greens", felt it takes about 1-½ hour to decorate and remove the "greens" each time. This year based on January 6th it could have been done a week earlier.

NEW BUSINESS:

ROOF HEAT TAPE ON NORTH SIDE OF NARTHEX HAS COME LOOSE. Need to wait until warmer weather to climb on roof and secure again.

NEED A NEW REPLACEMENT FOR AN AED. Chuck volunteered to work with Hackensack Fire Department to see what they have, (will facilitate training and replacement batteries) Chuck has contacted Jason who is on the Fire Department to inquire about the make and model of the AED the Hackensack EMT recommend. Discussion on cost vs convenience of having the same model ensued. No purchase will be made until we have figures to compare.

Roof heat tape on the South side is not plugged in. There was no need to plug in the heat tape as we did not have measurable snow. It will be when necessary.

The split rail fence by West parking lot has been damaged. Steve Hoopman will be contacted.

CRACKED WINDOW IN CONFERENCE ROOM: Will repair in Spring.

Propane tank leak: Evening of Thursday Jan 9, Brian noticed strong gas smell around the propane tank, he notified Chuck. Chuck called Ferrell gas emergency number and a tech from Longville was dispatched. Brian met the tech around 10:PM. They found a leaking valve on the tank. And the tank level was around 65%. The tech closed the valve and performed a pressure test on the system, then relit water heater pilot light. **We think the tank was filled on Jan. 6, so we need to review the next Ferrell gas bill.**

ADJOURN:

NEXT MEETING: TBD

NEW SINCE PROPERTY COMMITTEE

ADJOURNMENT:

ATTENTION PROPERTY COMMITTEE

MEMBERS: WE HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED OF THE CUSTODIAN VACATION:

Dan Knicely will be taking a vacation from FEBRUARY 10 TO FEBRUARY 23, 2025. IS THERE ANYONE WHO IS WILLING OR ABLE TO FILL IN?

St. Paul's Lutheran Church ELCA

Our Congregation is centered upon the person of Jesus Christ our Lord, Head of the Church and of this congregation. As members of Christ's Church, we seek to be His disciples as we serve each other, members of our community, and His Church throughout the world.

"Proclaiming and Serving Christ in the Heartland and beyond"



**ASH WEDNESDAY
SERVICE**

Imposition of Ashes and
Holy Communion
5:00 p.m.
Wednesday, March 5th
at UCC

St. Paul's Lutheran Church ELCA

Mailing Address
P.O. Box 307
Hackensack, MN 56452
Physical Address
220 Third St.
Hackensack, MN 56452

Phone: 218-675-6335
Website: stpaulselcahackensack.org
Email:
stpauls@stpaulselcahackensack.org

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

