

St. Paul's Lutheran Church ELCA



April 2025

The Church Door

Living Lutheran

We listened—print is coming back.

There are few instances where we can recall people publicly admitting they were wrong, though as humans we should be saying that more often. However, this is one of those moments.

Last year *Living Lutheran* ceased as a print publication and continued as a digital-only service because of financial constraints. Running a monthly publication grew too expensive during a time of consolidated resources and shrinking readership. Since then, Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and staff have heard from many of you who have shared concerns about members who don't have access to computers or don't read content online for various reasons. As a result, people have felt disconnected from the ELCA.

We heard you—and listened.

At the request of Bishop Eaton, we have found a way to bring back the magazine's print publication. Beginning in 2025, *Living Lutheran* will again appear in your mailboxes with four issues a year (spring, summer, winter and fall). The cost for one year will be \$19.95 for an individual subscription and \$17 per year/per subscriber for a congregation group plan (minimum 10 copies).

To start receiving the print magazine, individuals and congregations can sign up at livinglutheran.org/subscribe. For congregation plans, enter the name of your church at this site, along with the email of the person who will be overseeing the subscription plan. In January, this person will receive information on how to add quantity for bulk orders shipped to the church or addresses if the magazine is being mailed directly to members.

You will be invoiced before June 2025 for your subscription. If your subscription didn't lapse at the end of 2023, you will receive a renewal notice when it expires.

Rostered ministers will continue to receive a gratis copy of the magazine and don't need to sign up for a subscription—we already have your addresses.



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If you have questions, please contact us at livinglutheran@elca.org or call us at 800-638-3522.
Thank you for your support in the past—and in the future. We look forward to again sharing in print our church's stories of God's people living their faith.

Jayne Shimko, director of content strategy

Andrea Pohlmann Kulik, manager of editorial services/*Living Lutheran*

To Explain: Why this article Above ?

The office received an e-mail containing this:

“I've never subscribed to this before, but would be interested. Is this something our church could offer to the congregation and get the group rate?”

And the link to the Living Lutheran website (above)

The office is willing to be the overseeing party to the subscription. We will need a minimum of 10 people to want a subscription. To get the group rate of \$ 17/per year.

Here is an idea—I send this newsletter to approximately 20 people, (in print) each month. These are people in our congregation that are unable to come to church, but want to be connected to us. Is it possible to sponsor one, donating a subscription for them to feel connected to the ELCA and the Bishop? Could we add those that do not own a computer or are unable to use one? This will fill the magazines requirements very quickly.

Think about it; if you want a subscription or sponsor a subscription contact the office. Ask God if this speaks to you as a ministry worth fulfilling.

Tammy

Office Administrator

We need Soup!

For our Lenten Services, St Paul's will be hosting services and soup supper on March 26. We Would Appreciate it if you could bring a crock pot of soup (what ever you specialty is).

Variety is our specialty!

A sign up sheet is in the Narthex.

We also need dessert bars and workers.





Family Safety Network

This month I'd like to highlight the Family Safety Network, the organization that we support in December with gifts for families in crisis.

The services provided today include one-on-one advocacy, violence and crisis intervention, safety planning support groups, financial empowerment education, legal clinics, and advocacy court accompaniment, and assistance for housing stability. FSN can be reached through their crisis line: 800-324-8151.

Financial donations can be given through:
familysafetynetwork.com

The Family Safety Network (FSN) was founded in 1993. It provides referral services to domestic violence victims in Hubbard, Cass and Clearwater counties.

Submitted by Sharon Schwegel
Mission Interpreter

April Birthdays

Bev Wignes

Sue Falk

Loralee Torkelson



Easter Breakfast

From 8-9 a.m.
Featuring egg bake and fruit

Come enjoy the breakfast and fellowship.





St Paul's Lutheran Church WELCA Meeting Agenda Secretary Report

Meeting Date and Time: 9:30 am; MARCH 13, 2025

Hostess: Sharon Schwegel

Bible Study Leader: Clydia Jacobsen

Number Attending Meeting: 8

President Clydia Jacobsen led us in Statement of Purpose and Mission Statement

BUSINESS MEETING.

Secretary's Report: M/S/P

Treasurer's Report: M/S/P

Quilt Count: 1 quilt finished per week, 4 donated to fundraiser to Faith in Action Fundraiser

1 donated to Legion

Prayer Shawls: None given this month

OLD BUSINESS:

Delores will provide egg bake and fruit at Easter Breakfast, served from 8:00 to 9:00

Spring Conference is at Grace Community Church in Big Fork on April 12th

Potluck Lunch will be served at the December meeting

NEW BUSINESS:

The annual Country Fair plans are in limbo pending further info on Hackensack Road access.

Convention Delegates- will be discussed in May

Gifts contributed at annual Convention will be school kits assembled during last September by the congregation during God's Work, Our Hands Day.

Next Meeting: April 10, 2025

BSL: Loralee Torkelson Hostess: Delores Ressen

Midweek and Holy week Services are @ 5:00 p.m. Unless otherwise indicated

Midweek Lent Schedule

Theme: Wilderness

*Mid-week Lent services with
Soup Suppers*

March 26 @ StP

April 2 @ UCC

April 9 @ StP

Holy Week

*Maundy Thursday April 17 @ UCC
Seder Meal*

*Good Friday April 18 @ St.. Paul's
No Meal*

*Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday @ our
respective Churches, Usual time 9:00 a.m.*

Sign up For 371 road construction Updates!

Opt-in to the Game Changers email list to receive weekly updates on the progress of the MN Dot road construction on State 371 through Hackensack. Learn what's going on in town and access links to current project updates.

Link <https://mailchi.mp/a16b1b2184e1/oe27967yg0>

You can unsubscribe at any time.

QR codes for scanning on page 8



Tech Report 3-12-25

1. We had some audio issues last Sunday, some cables had been changed during the week to enhance the video, but it affected the audio. So a shorter cable was installed-it will be tested tonight during the Lent service.
2. We have supported Lenten services so far this month, with very good results.
3. Mass communications- Unfortunately church 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.
4. 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.
5. MN Power is going to disconnect the Electronic Sign on Highway 371 in preparation for it to be taken down for the Little Boy River culvert project. So the sign will be out of service.



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



AIM TO TRAIN *Campaign*



Our Goal
\$2500

- 2,500
- 2,300
- 2,100
- 1,900
- 1,700
- 1,500
- 1,200
- 900
- 600



DONATE TODAY!

Let's replace our on-site A.E.D
& learn how to use it with a
First Aid/CPR/A.E.D training
session at our facility!

Questions or Help? Please contact
Steve Hoopman (218)259.8112

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH



Greetings to all,

We hope that everyone is aware that St. Paul's Church is open to all and is used for many public events, for example: large funerals, weddings, blood drives, quilting groups, country fair and other meetings. Our on-site A.E.D (Automated External Defibrillator) is in need of replacement. We are currently holding a fund drive within our membership to cover the cost of replacing it.

• *Approximatley \$1750.00, we have over \$600 toward that goal so far.*

Thinking "outside of the box" a little we have launched a "Aim to Train" campaign to raise funds to support our cause and offer the community/group members to attend a yet to be scheduled First Aid/CPR/AED training session at our facility. This would be open for up to 16 people. We are seeking donations from organizations such as yours to help fund this effort.

• **DONATIONS** | *When you donate you would be welcome to send:*

1 PERSON | \$200 Donation

3 PERSONS | \$500 Donation

These devises are only a valuable tool if people are not afraid to use them. We believe it is a GREAT opportunity for you to support our community based efforts to have as many trained people amongst us as possible. ***Our goal is to raise a total of \$2,500!***

Please consider helping us on our "Aim to Train" campaign.

AIM TO TRAIN

Thank you,

St. Paul's Fundraising Committee

Steve Hoopman | Diane Zaske | Florence Kargel

Questions or Help? Please contact

Steve Hoopman (218)259.8112

Tentative schedule for training | May 21, 2025



St. Paul's Lutheran Church | 220 3rd Street S | P.O. Box 307, Hackensack | MN



Church Council

Meeting minutes

St. Paul's Church Council Minutes

ST. PAUL'S CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

March 18, 2025 – St. Paul's Fellowship Hall and Zoom

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 9:30 a.m.

Devotions: Tonia Kahler

President's Opening Prayer

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

Additions to Agenda – Synod Assembly, Highway 371 project, Easter Ad

Secretary's Minutes – MSP to accept as printed.

Treasurer's Report – MSP to accept as printed.

Pastor's Report – Lenten services continue with UCC Church. Pastor will work with Tammy to send an eblast with a link to project notifications/updates to the congregation regarding the upcoming Highway 371 project. 2025 Synod Assembly is scheduled for May 3 and 4 in Brainerd. Pastor will only be able to attend on the 3rd as he will be traveling to Wisconsin on the 4th to attend the final service at the Parish that he first served. Steve Hoopman and Ron Wedin will be conducting the May 4th Sunday Service in his absence.

Committee Reports:

Property report – included in the newsletter.

Tech team report – included in the newsletter.

WELCA report – included in the newsletter.

Old and Ongoing Business:

1. The electronic sign will need to be removed and relocated during the highway 371 project planned for 2025. Minnesota Power will disconnect the power from the sign in preparation for its removal. Steve Hoopman has volunteered to coordinate the removal and storage of the sign. The Property Committee will take the lead on this project.
2. The AED has been ordered but has not yet arrived as it is on back order. Steve Hoopman has begun the fundraising efforts to pay for the AED and training on its use. If you would like to contribute to this project, please designate it on your offering.
3. God's Work our Hands Sunday – September 7, 2025

New Business:

1. Approved placing an ad in the Pilot advertising Easter Service.
2. Looking for congregants to attend the 2025 Synod Assembly in Brainerd on May 4th and 5th. Contact Pastor or Chuck if you are interested.

Devotions for next meeting – Alice Knowles

Next Council Meeting Date – April 16, 2025

Meeting adjourned with The Lord's Prayer at 10:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Tonia Kahler,

Council Secretary



From The Pastor's Desk April 2025

Dear Friends,

I have been invited this May to Gays Mills Wisconsin to participate in the final worship service held at Luther Memorial Lutheran Church. "LM" was one of the two parishes I served after completing seminary (the other being Our Savior's in Soldiers Grove). When the invitation letter arrived, you can imagine my dismay.

The little church extended such grace to Ann and me as we were starting out. Luther Memorial maintained a parsonage for the pastor. Before we arrived with our moving van, the church had been sprucing up the house. But then an electrical fire in the basement sent a fine soot into every corner, and a professional recovery team had to come in to clean up the mess. Our little family grew by two members while we were in Gays Mills, with the last one born in that parsonage.

Gays Mills is situated in a corner of Wisconsin that the glaciers of the last ice age missed. It has rolling hills and stunning beauty. But the town was built on the shores of the Kickapoo River, which often spills into its floodplain. That has caused a lot of loss over the years; finally, the main street moved to higher ground. The people and structures that remain are a small fraction of what used to be there.

Earlier this winter, Neil and Suzie Mandsager let us know that their little church in Florida is also closing. The recovery from the last hurricane season was just too much to overcome with what resources they had.

We call flooding and hurricanes natural disasters. But one wonders if climate change induced storms are in fact natural. And perhaps destruction after building on a flood plain or a hurricane-prone area is the natural outcome. In any event, the closing of a church feels like a disaster. It is an occasion for grief. But it is also an occasion for gratitude. Gratitude flows from the faith that was expressed through the life of the parish. Gratitude remains for the saints who made up the church through the years. And gratitude looks ahead to the new forms and places God's love will shine forth for God's own.

Peace and Joy,
Pastor Leif

Seder

**Thursday, April 17th
5:00 pm
Union UCC
Friendship Hall**



Please sign up on the sign-up sheet in hallway, or RSVP to Union UCC by emailing media.ucchackmn@gmail.com or calling 218-675-6300
Donations to cover cost of the meal will be accepted. Anything over cost will be donated to the Hackensack Food Shelf.

Property Committee

Meeting minutes

Tech Report



St. Paul's March Property Committee Minutes March 4, 2025, 9:30 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Deloris Ressen, Russ Torkelson, Jim Jacobsen, Terry Bergstrom, Shirley Johnson, Dan Knicely, Pastor Leif Espeland, In Person
Chuck Forsgren, Dick Ristow, Zoom
MEMBERS ABSENT: Dave Kahler, Jim Madland, Lewis Schrupp

OLD BUSINESS:

ELECTRONIC SIGN ON HWY. 371: Chuck Forsgren received a phone call from MNDOT requesting the Electronic Sign on the Highway project be removed by May 1, 2025. Discussion followed with the committee recommending the following procedure:

- Jim Jacobson will contact MN Power to have the sign disconnected at their earliest convenience. A need for an Electrical Contractor will be discussed. He will then contact Chuck for further action.
- Chuck will contact Steve Hoopman who has offered his assistance in removing the sign and storing it on Steve's property. Cost and process to be discussed. The cement foundation will not have to be removed.
- Another option would be to Contract with the Sign Company that installed the sign originally to remove and store it at their facility. Estimated cost has been quoted at \$4,000.00.

AED PROGRESS: Chuck has received word that the AED is in transit.

PLANTERS IN FRONT OF NARTHEX. Shirley presented images of planters to replace the current ones that were damaged by winds during the winter. MSP to purchase.

REQUEST FROM HACKENSACK GAME

CHANGERS: St. Paul's has been requested to

donate two more Snowflake Winter Decorations for the new Lighting Fixtures to be installed along Hwy. 371. The request was Deferred to the Trust Fund. The original drive in 2022 for the 1st Street lamp posts was honored by the Trust Fund in the amount of \$500.00.

AARP Requested use of St. PAUL'S FELLOWSHIP HALL. Permission has been granted to AARP to use the Fellowship Hall on March 19, 2025 and March 26, 2025, from 8 AM to 2:30 PM each day.

St Paul's Council will meet on Tuesday, March 18, 2025, at 9:30 AM for their regular monthly meeting.

SIDEWALK REPAIR: A member of the committee suggested we grind the raised portion of the sidewalk from the Kitchen door to the Fire Hydrant area as a fix for the uneven sidewalk. Tabled till Spring.

RAIN GUTTERS ON THE EAST SIDE OF CONFERENCE ROOM & OFFICES: Discussion regarding the water issue. Jim Jacobsen will pursue. This also will be deferred until spring.

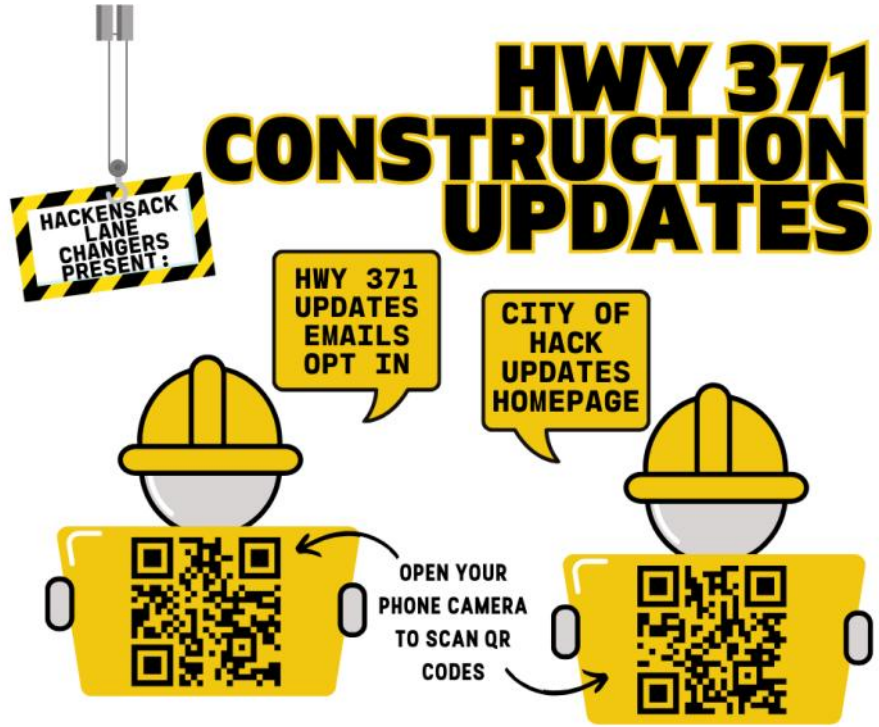
ADJOURN: MSP

NEXT MEETING: APRIL 1, 2025

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"



St. Paul's Lutheran Church ELCA

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PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

