

St. Paul Lutheran Church

February 2025

The Cure for It All

By Julia Fehrenbacher

Go gently today, don't hurry or think about the next thing.
Walk with the quiet trees. Can you believe how brave they are- how kind?
Model your life after theirs. Blow kisses at yourself in the mirror
especially when you think you've messed up.
Forgive yourself for not meeting your unreasonable expectations.
You are human, not God- don't be so arrogant.
Praise fresh air, clean water, good dogs. Spin something from joy.
Open a window, even if it's cold outside. Sit. Close your eyes. Breathe.
Allow the river of it all to pulse through eyelashes, fingertips, bare toes.
Breathe in, breathe out. Breathe until you feel your bigness, until the sun rises in your veins.
Breathe until you stop needing anything to be different.

In January, I went on a trip to Holden Village in Washington State. While on this trip, the class that I was taking required us to read a book of poetry and find one that spoke to us to discuss during our class time. The above is the poem I chose. Even in the winter-time when it is cold and blustery, we can find ways to stop, breathe, and take in the creation around us. It's interesting, though, that I write this article on a day where it is 55 degrees out and the sun is shining. It seems a perfect day to go outside and spend time enjoying the weather. We are a part of God's beautiful creation. Remembering that and finding intentional ways to reconnect with the earth may just show us how everything will be alright, especially as we are in the midst of a time where many feel that the world is spinning out of control.

So, as the poet Julia Farenbacher says in this poem, no matter what the world looks like, go outside today and breathe until you stop needing anything to be different. God is with us, in the blowing of the wind, in the squirrels and birds who visit our feeders, in the way the clouds blow through the sky and in the way that the plants rest in the winter and are resurrected in the spring. Take the time to listen, and you will certainly hear what God is saying to you.

Peace,

Vicar Caitlin


Congregation News

february



This Month's Birthdays

Buck Van Wert	Feb. 1
Brittni Hernandez	Feb. 2
Tanner Miller	Feb. 5
Jayde Wikert	Feb. 6
Jay Ketelsen	Feb. 10
Robyn Kofoot	Feb. 13
Mike Cross	Feb. 13
Brenda Van Wert	Feb. 14
Richard Hugeback	Feb. 17
Kent Morton	Feb. 17
Madison Sietsema	Feb. 21
Miranda DeVries	Feb. 24
Darlene Spear	Feb. 29

February 19– Howard and
Kathy Brandt

Happy Anniversary!



Our Thoughts & Prayers are with...

Prayer List:

**Toni Groven, Doug Cross, Josh Miller,
John Sandvig, Leona Meyer, Joy Christensen, Leland Dhondt,
Kelly Bouchard (Robyn Kofoot's sister), Bob Abendschein,
Isaiah Griemann, Justin Mejia, Terry Wheeler, Verna Humburg,
Mike Harmon, (son-in law of Terry and Karen Wheeler)
Jo Klein, and Judy Holbrook.**



Scan this QR code to add someone
To the prayer list.

Reminder:

You can find the church bulletin and the monthly newsletter on the churches website: splchampton.com.

You can call the church at anytime to request to be on the Prayer List. If no one answers please leave a message.

Women ^{of the} ELCA

St. Paul Women of the ELCA News...

Next month during Lent we will begin collecting items for Personal Care Kits. Priscilla Circle on February 20 at 1:30 pm here at St. Paul Lutheran.



Every Wednesday:
Quilting begins at 9:00 a.m.
Coffee and Fellowship at 10:00 a.m.
Everyone is invited.



Thank You!

Thank you to the Youth for serving the meal after the Annual Meeting!

We appreciate You!!!

Summer Camp Registration

Early-bird registration dates for Summer Bible Camp are quickly approaching! Scholarships are available to youth of St. Paul Lutheran to help cover the cost of camp.

Early bird Dates:

February 28



February 15



More information is on the bulletin board near the Fellowship Hall.

Volunteers Needed

Two Delegates are needed for the Conference Assembly on Feb. 23 at 2:00 pm in Roland.

Vicar Caitlin will be going and will drive.

Please visit with Vicar Caitlin if you are interested.

Leadership LAB

**Church Leadership for the Future
Open to High School and College Age**

June 23-28 2025

Augustana College– Rock Island, IL

Lab is a week long conference-style camp geared for students.

Participants engage in interactive, modern worship with the entire community group two times a day and attend three small group “LAB” sessions daily, as well as enjoy meals and free time together. Mostly learning is small group based, designed to foster unity, friendship, and trust as participants explore and grow in their own faith in Christ.

For more information see Vicar Caitlin.

This is an ELCA Youth Event.

Lab’s mission is to be an active Laboratory, practicing church leadership for the future.



**Beginning on Ash
Wednesday, March 5, Vicar
Caitlin will open the church at
6:30am for a short prayer ser-
vice each Wednesday. The
service will follow the
"Morning Prayer" liturgy
found in the ELW and should
last no more than 20 minutes.**

**All are welcome to join
and give thanks for the day
God has given us.**

St. Paul Lutheran Church
Unapproved Minutes Congregational Annual Meeting
January 19, 2025

Council President Jason VanWert called the meeting to order at 10:23 a.m. A quorum was present.

LaDonna Jorges, board secretary, read the minutes from the Annual Meeting held on January 21, 2024. Minutes were declared approved as read.

The treasurer's summary reported a balance of \$364,323.69 through December 31, 2024. Total restricted funds balance is \$124,889.87, which included the endowment fund. The treasurer's report was declared approved as printed.

Audit Report: Report was declared approved as printed.

Parochial Report: Jason VanWert presented the parochial report. Membership as of December 31, 2024, is 259 (voting members is 259). There was 1 baptism, 4 members confirmed, and 3 deaths. The average Sunday attendance is estimated to be 77 in-person. The report was accepted as read.

President's Report: Jason VanWert read the President's report. The report was accepted as read.

Board Reports by Committee:

Board of Stewardship: Chairperson Marcus Kofoot gave a summary of his report.

Board of Worship and Music: Chairperson Evelyn Cross, as printed.

Board of Education: Chairperson Robyn Hill-Kofoot, as printed.

Board of Youth: Chairperson Robin Wagner gave a summary of her report.

Board of Life and Growth: Chairperson Beth Whalen, as printed.

Board of Property and Management: Co-Chairpersons Kent Cramer and Patrick Sietsema, Patrick Sietsema gave a summary of their report.

All the above reports were presented and accepted as printed in the Faith in Action 2024 report.

Elections:

Nominating committee members: Jay VanWert, Sr., Chris Morton, and Amber Morton. Jay VanWert read the names of the nominations.

Treasurer – Steph Korth

Financial Sec – Jeff Jaacks

Board of Education- Rocky Knipfel-Monod

Board of Stewardship – Marcus Kofoot

Board of Worship – Pam DeVries

Board of Youth – Robyn Kofoot

Board of Life and Growth – Beth Whalen

Board of Property and Management – Patrick Sietsema and Kent Cramer

Endowment – Don Latham, Jay Crawford, Amy Holmgaard, Lowell Lange, Jay VanWert, Sr.

Audit – Kent Cramer

Representatives to Northeastern Iowa Synod Assembly: Open Nomination. No names presented. The council will nominate at February meeting.

A motion was made by Sam Showalter to cast a unanimous ballot for all nominees. Seconded, motion carried.

(Continued on the next page.)

Other Reports:

WELCA – Evelyn Coss, as printed.
 Endowment – Don Latham, as printed.

The above reports were accepted as printed in the Faith in Action report 2024.

Budget for 2025

Jeff Jaacks summarized the budget report. A motion was made by Kent Cramer to approve the 2025 budget as printed in the Faith in Action 2024 report. Seconded, motion carried.

Old Business: None
 New Business: None

Open Discussion: Thank you to the Youth for the delicious meal served.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Marcus Kofoot. Seconded, motion approved at 10:49 a.m.

Meeting closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
 LaDonna Jorges, Board Secretary

Thank you!!

Thank you to everyone who attended the Annual Meeting.

Thank you to those of you who volunteer your time and talents for the church.

There are new Time and Talents sheets in the fellowship hall.

We are in need of ushers and greeters.

Please consider helping out the church.



CHURCH COUNCIL

**The February Church
 Council Meeting will
 take place on
 Wednesday, February 19
 At 7:00 p.m.**

Stewardship Report

	Giving
January 5	\$ 3,216.00
January 12	\$ 2,481.00
January 19	\$ 1,705.00
January 26	\$ 4,537.00
Total	\$11,939.00

Totals include general fund, building fund, simply giving, and radio broadcast funds.

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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Living in God's amazing grace

We are called through baptism to be a welcoming community of faith, grounded in worship and prayer, so that we may grow in Christ-like forgiveness and love.

Marked with the cross of Christ forever, we are claimed, gathered, and sent for the sake of the world.