Our Saviour's
Lutheran Church
2502 S. Jefferson Ave.
Mason City, IA 50401
(641) 423-3363
oursavioursmc@msn.com

Council President:
Mike Olson

We are the "Body of Christ" at work in God's beloved world. Because of Christ's love, there is always a place for you here.

Office Hours:
Monday:
9 am-3 pm
Thursday:
9 am -11 am

Together in Christ

Ministry Administrator: Valerie Hasbrouck
Organist: Mary Groh

Worship: Sundays at 9:30 a.m.
St. Paul: 1st and 3rd and 5th Sundays
Our Saviour's: 2nd and 4th Sundays

St. Paul
Lutheran Church
329 East State St.
Mason City, IA 50401
(641) 423-7749
secretary@stpaulmc.com

Council President:
Mary Beyerhelm
Huey

Share God's Love;
Serve all People

Office Hours:
Monday, Wednesday,
Thursday
7:15 am-10:15 am
Tuesday
10:45 am-1:45 pm

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2026 NEWSLETTER

CONVERSATION WITH PASTOR CORR ROD: On August 23 Pastor Corr Rod will lead us in worship, and then facilitate a conversation regarding merger/consolidation during the fellowship time at Our Saviour's.

A few years ago, Donna and I were invited to a Confirmation at St. James Lutheran. Pastor Sid's sermon was from the Gospel of John, the 21st chapter. The only part that I remember was from verse 17 as Jesus was talking to Peter " Jesus said, Then feed my sheep" Those words have stuck with me and are very appropriate in this day and age. I take them both literally and figuratively. Jesus also knew that for people to accept food for the soul, they also needed food for the body. Along with his preaching, he did miracles with water, a couple of fish and a few loaves of bread. Those miracles are still happening today. I plant one kernel of corn and God gives me an ear with 100 kernels. I plant a seed so small that it takes 400,000 to make one pound of seed and God takes that tiny seed and grows it into a two pound dicer carrot. God's miracles bring me to today and the need for his abundance. In Iowa , according to the Food Bank of Iowa, 385,000 Iowans are food challenged. This is 1 in 9 Iowans and 1 in 6 children. We are so fortunate to have members from both OSL and St. Paul working with the North Iowa Impact Team growing food in our church gardens and sharing it with the people of our community. We are not alone. The Mason City Challengers 4-H Club is also donating the vegetables growing at their garden plot at the Fair Grounds. I hope you will stop and see what these young adults are doing for others. It is by the one room schoolhouse. I was reading about our economy. The article said that the rich are getting richer. The poor are getting poorer. And sadly, more of the middle class are falling into the poor class. The need for Church's to work in the communities will only grow. The Gospel never changes but how we present it does. God's miracles of an ear of corn or a handful of green beans speak volumes. Let us spread the word both in the Church and outside the Church. Ron Rachut

St Paul Lutheran Church
Minutes of June 14, 2026.

1. Call to Order. President Beyerhelm Huey called the meeting to order at 11:20 a.m. Members present: Beyerhelm Huey, Dahl, Black, Koopman, Aves.

2. March Minutes: Motion, Aves; 2nd, Dahl that the March Minutes be approved. AYES: All (Motion carried.)

3. Pastor's Report: N/A

4. Treasurer's Report: Lundblad was unable to attend, however it was reported that the Band Festival free will offering brought in $1,014.60.

Beyerhelm Huey mentioned there was a 2nd phone line and asked if the Council was okay with getting rid of that 2nd line (believed it was for the Pastor) since there was a fee associated with it and most people used their cell phones.
It was the consensus of the Council to proceed.

5. Old Business: Aves thanked Dahl for his recommendation, advising Bushbaum had done the work for $57.00 and would come back in the fall. She also stated she completed the painting (at her own cost) on the front, north side of the church. In addition, she mentioned she would be planting some small plants with Dahl stating they should not be planted too close to the church wall. The Council was in agreement that the flowers she had planted in the past looked very nice.

WELCA: Aves reported there were no updates.

5. New Business: As no one has volunteered the position of Vice President would remain vacant at this time.

Beyerhelm Huey stated she has tried to reach out to the contact person with "Friends of the Family" regarding the rental space with no success.

Adjourn: Motion, Black; 2nd, Aves to adjourn the meeting at 11:32 a.m.

Serving Together

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church Council Minutes
June 14, 2026

Present: Pres. Mike Olson, Vice-Pres. Gale Loveless, Secretary Nancy Nielsen, Treasurer Dale Karsjens, Martha Koch,
Jerry Koch, Art Martell, and Dave VanDeventer. Absent: Ron Rachut.
The meeting was called to order by President Mike Olson.
Approval of Minutes: Motion made to approve May 24, 2026, Council Meeting minutes. Motion/Second, Martha/Dave,
motion carried.
Financial Report: Motion made to approve May 2026, financial report, Motion/Second, Dave/ Jerry, motion carried. A
motion was made by Dave/Martha to put $10,000 in a CD at Clear Bank and Trust for a short term. When ELCA Mission
Fund CD# 8694 matures January 11, 2027, withdraw that money and add the $10,000 short term CD and invest that
combined amount with ELCA Mission Investment Fund, motioned carried.
President's Report: John, the custodian, is doing a good job, there are many comments about how clean things are and
is much appreciated. Mike will talk to Mark about weed whacking and trimming around the sidewalk and foundation.
Old Business: When completing the Church Mutual survey for Electrical, Tony Klobiska suggested the GFI outlets outside
should be replaced. A motion was made by Martha/Gale to have Tony replace the outlets, motion carried. Jerry will
contact Tony. A motion was made by Art/Jerry to purchase a cordless vacuum cleaner with two batteries and a
charger for up to $1,000, motion carried. Mike will talk to John and then purchase the vacuum.
New Business: Dave volunteered to spray the grass growing between the sidewalk cracks, thank you. Two lights in the
Fireside Room need to be replaced, Dave and Jerry will do that. Dave and Jery will look into replacing the accordion
door in the upstairs quilting room. There will be a Joint Council Meeting July 12 th , but no OS Council meeting following.
Our next meeting is Sunday, August 9, 2026, at Our Saviour's following the Joint Council meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,
Nancy Nielsen, Secretary

He who laughs at himself never runs out of things to laugh at.

It is not what happens to you, but how you react to it that matters.

Epictetus

Our Saviour's-St. Paul Joint Council Minutes

June 14, 2026

Members present: Sue Aves, Mary Beyerhelm Huey, Diana Black, LaVern Dahl, Jerry Koch, Martha Koch, Linda Koopman, Gale Loveless, Art Martell, Nancy Nielsen, Mike Olson, and Dave VanDeventer. Absent: Ron Lundblad, Nancy Marsh, and Ron Rachut.

Mary B-H called the meeting to order. Diana B had opening prayer thanking God for guidance, patience, understanding, and keeping united in making decisions.

Motion was made to approve May 24, 2026, Joint Council Meeting minutes. Motion/Second, Martha K/Diana B, motion carried.

Pastoral Report: 1 Funeral- SP. 1 Baptism-OS, 2 Celebrations of Life-OS

Call Committee Report: (Lori Angell, Martha Koch, Ron Lundblad, Art Martell, Jan Nelson, Micah Stockberger) The Synod was contacted and asked if it was possible for Becky Elsbernd to take her Internship here and, if interested, in accepting a Call following her ordination. The Synod had no objections. There is a meeting set for Steve Brackett from the Synod, Becky E, Mary B-H, Mike O, and Art M to meet June 24th to discuss this possibility.

Exploratory Committee Report: (Lori Angell, Jerry Koch, Art Martell, Lee Olson, Megan Slocum, Deb Stockberger) A yes/no questionnaire was passed out to the congregation in Church 6/14/26 asking If you would continue to support and worship at the recommended building? Also a place for comments. We are asked to prayerfully consider this and return the questionnaire next week. The committee is asking for your thoughts and concerns so please write a comment. They are also working on a grid with the plus/minus of each building to help make a recommendation to the Joint Council in the Fall.

Worship Schedule: Pulpit supply is full through June. Just need 5 more Sundays covered through September.

Community Involvement: Band Festival food stand made $964.00 that will be donated to support the schools food bank. Cannonball Day is June 27th. Ron L and Mike O volunteered to be the " go-to" people that day, please sign up for a time slot to make root beer floats. Mary B-H met with other ecumenical leaders who will be involved for the Pride Festival on July 18th, St. Paul /Our Saviour's will provide a presence 12-2 pm and 2-4 pm, and a handout or activity of some kind. A motion was made by Art M/Martha K to continue membership in the Chamber, motion carried. A motion was made by Martha K/Mike O to not have an ad in the Chamber Welcome Home publication this year, motion carried.

Monthly local/global giving: Keep bringing your change for the "noisy pot" and Thank You for these donations! The "noisy pot" donations for June will go to The House. July donations will be for local veterans locations. August donations will go the ELCA Youth Leadership Gathering. The registrations are free for the Gathering but the additional cost of housing is needed. They are seeking to raise $15,000 to cover the housing costs.

2026 C3 Conference: We had seven representatives from OS/SP churches attending the **A**biding, **B**elonging, **C**reative, **C**ollaborative, **C**ongregations (A/B/C3) gathering in Waverly. It was a good meeting with a *Shrink- Smart* program. Nine counties in Iowa have 50% of the population. Rural people are moving off the farms to metro areas. 80% of Iowa towns have a population of fewer than 10,000. Communities and churches need to help change the mindset and accept the decline in population. Quality of life is in our control and we need to keep our current residents our first priority. Our churches need to have programs and opportunities for the members attending. Building belonging through bridging- - Building Relationships.

Newsletter Articles: Ron R will write the August/September article and Diana B the October/ November article. We would like volunteers to write each article, please contact Mary B-H if you are interested.

Our next meeting is July 12th at Our Saviour's Fireside Room following the worship service. Mary B-H will give the opening prayer/devotion.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Nielsen, Secretary

Our Saviour's - St Paul Joint Council Minutes
July 12, 2026

Members present: Sue Aves, Mary Beyerhelm Huey, Diana Black, LaVern Dahl, Jerry Koch, Linda Koopman, Gale Loveless, Nancy Marsh, Art Martell, Nancy Nielsen, Mike Olson, and Dave VanDeventer. Absent: Martha Koch, Ron Lundblad, and Ron Rachut.

Mike called the meeting to order. Mary B-H had opening prayer thanking God for guidance, patience, understanding, strength and keeping united in making decisions.

Motion was made to approve June 14, 2026, Joint Council Meeting minutes. Motion/Second, Sue A/Mary B-H, motion carried.

Pastoral Report:

Call Committee Report: (Lori Angell, Martha Koch, Ron Lundblad, Art Martell, Jan Nelson, Micah Stockberger) Nothing to report at this time.

Exploratory Committee Report: (Lori Angell, Jerry Koch, Art Martell, Lee Olson, Megan Slocum, Deb Stockberger) The committee will meet July 14 to read the survey result. There was a good response. Kristen Corr-Rod met with the congregations following June 28th worship. They highlighted the positives of each building.

Worship Schedule: Pulpit supply is full through September. Kristen Corr-Rod will lead worship and the merger/consolidation discussion on July 26 and August 23. Please try to attend these meetings to keep informed. We will have a Bible study/discussion group in the fall.

Community Involvement: Mary B-H, Martha K, and Dave V will represent St. Paul /Our Saviour's for the Pride Festival on July 18th.

Monthly local/global giving: Keep bringing your change for the "noisy pot" and Thank You for these donations! The "noisy pot" donations for July will be for Fareway gift cards to local veterans through the Veteran Affairs Office at the Court House. August donations will go the ELCA Youth Leadership Gathering for additional housing costs. They are seeking to raise $15,000 to cover these housing costs.

Newsletter Articles: Diana B will write the October/November article. We would like volunteers to write each article, please contact Mary B-H if you are interested.

Our next meeting is August 9th at Our Saviour's Fireside Room following the worship service. Martha K will give the opening prayer/devotion.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Nielsen, Secretary

St Paul Lutheran Church
Minutes of July 12, 2026.

1. Call to Order. President Beyerhelm Huey called the meeting to order at 11:06 a.m. Members present: Beyerhelm Huey, Dahl, Black, Koopman, Aves, Marsh.

2. March Minutes: Motion, Marsh; 2nd, Koopman that the June Minutes be approved. AYES: All (Motion carried.)

3. Pastor's Report: N/A

4. Treasurer's Report: Lundblad was unable to attend, so the Council held off review of the Report, but it was noted that the 2nd phone line was cancelled at a savings of approximately $40.00 per month.

5. Old Business: Properties Committee Report: Aves mentioned she had finished planting and pulling weeds. All plantings were graciously provided by Aves.

WELCA: Nothing to report.

Cannonball Day Report: Aves reported that everything went well.

6. New Business: As no one has volunteered the position of Vice President would remain vacant at this time.

Beyerhelm Huey stated she initially had the wrong number, but when she was able to reach the contact person with "Friends of the Family" regarding the rental space she was informed they were about 18 months out and intended to either buy or rent. Future discussions would take place at a later date.

Council Person of the month for August is Marsh.

Adjourn: Motion, Marsh; 2nd, Black to adjourn the meeting at 11:15 a.m.

AUGUST SPECIAL OFFERING

In preparation for the ELCA National Youth Gathering next summer, we will contribute to the lodging costs for those youth participating in the pre-events - **MYLE** (Multicultural Youth Leadership Event) and **the tABLE** (for youth living with disabilities). "When we invest in these young people, we are living into our shared calling and resonating deeply with our synod's mission."

Gathering School Supplies for
LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF SCHOOL KITS
will continue until August 30.

Items needed for the school kits are:
70 ct spiral notebooks-24 count Crayola Crayons-Unsharpened pencils
Blue or Black pens (Bic etc.)-large pink erasers-
Blunt children's scissors-12 inch rulers (inch/cm)-
Pencil sharpeners **(SP)-** Money to purchase items & for shipping

Check the church bulletins for more info and each church's FB pages
Our Saviour's greatest needs (spiral notebooks, rulers, crayons, pens)

Prayerfully consider helping the children all over the world attend school.

A sincere note of thanks to all who keep this ministry going with food and monetary donations , no matter the season . We couldn't do it without you !! Let's finish the summer strong with kid friendly items like granola bars , peanut butter , crackers and other snacks , and as always cereal .Also , a reminder that you can donate Menards rebate receipts to the pantry. Just place them in the designated envelope in the fellowship hall at Our Saviour's and we will use the rebates to purchase needed pantry items .

Thanks & Blessings !!

"Sounds like a Youth Gathering for Women! "was a comment made to me as I described our experience at the WELCA Triennial Gathering, I AM WORTHY, in Des Moines, July 16-19 with Jan N, Nancy N, Bettylou M, Chris VanD and myself attending. The weekend was filled with music, worship, Bible Studies, Breakout Learning Sessions and Fun & Fellowship (think Conga Lines). Marilyn M

Here are some comments from other attendees.

"As a first-time attendee, I really enjoyed the fellowship of all those women. The main speakers and the Bible Study leaders were easy to listen to and so inspirational." Chris VanD

"It was wonderful to meet so many women from other parts of the country and walks of life during my first time at a Gathering. One workshop was, What to Expect when you weren't Expecting This-Taking your Mental Health Field Guide Home by Elise Seyfried. She asked us to divide our life into seasons: Spring-childhood, Summer-teens, Fall-30-50 years old, and Winter-retirement. With a show of hands, it was found that most ladies were happiest when they were raising a family. After we wrote down song titles that brought back memories for us, the songs were played and volunteers shared their stories associated with the song. We made journals with stickers of the 4 seasons and made a list from A to Z with words descriptive of ourselves. Her parting comment, "Give yourselves permission to take time to rest." Nancy N

"There were a lot of different workshops that sparked my interest. One was Cultivating Courageous Leadership: The Diakonos Solutions Story by Dr. Susan Rose. These facts from it were most alarming-the disparity in the call process and in pay between men and women pastors. Also, there were clips of comments made to female pastors; one was called an extremely derogatory word, another asked when they were going to have a baby or another told she was looking good after losing 15 lbs. with an inappropriate pat or told we called you because we could afford you. The disparity will continue until we all stand up and demand that congregations offer women pastors the same pay guidelines just like their fellow male counterparts from the first call." Jan N.

The combined Prayer Chain Ministry continues with approximately 20 people from both churches. **Anyone** who has a prayer concern can email oursavioursmc@msn.com or contact Marilyn Martell at 641-425-9048 or email her at iowamartells@gmail.com with your request. **If you want to be a part of this ministry with prayer requests emailed or texted to you, contact Marilyn Martell or a member of the prayer chain.

Women of the ELCA

QUILTING: We can always use more help making quilt tops and backs and cutting middles. We tie quilts on most Monday mornings. Contact Sue Aves (or just show up) if you can help or if you would like to participate but need to arrange a more convenient time for you. (You don't need to know how to sew or quilt.)

MEETING TIMES: WELCA members meet in the Fellowship Hall on Mondays at 9:30 a.m. to make quilts for Lutheran World Relief and Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. for meetings and work on other projects. We hope you will join us. However, if you are interested in making quilts or working on our other various projects and this time doesn't work for you, please contact Becky Lundblad, Tanya Dahl, Shelly Thenhaus, or Sue Aves, and perhaps another time can be worked out.

Thank You

We appreciated the work done to plan, set up and work at the Northeastern Iowa Women's Gathering held at Our Saviour's June 20. Thanks for the donated items to Northern Lights and The Beacon House Warming Shelter. Thank you especially, Chris VanD and Jan N for leading the effort.

Together, you all manned the Root Beer Stand at Cannonball Days the end of June. The efforts raised more than $653 that was given to The Friends of the 357.

With summer such a hot one, we appreciate and thank everyone who's worked in the community garden plots: weeding, harvesting, and placing produce in Little Free Pantries around Mason City. It is truly a labor of love by you all.

Thank you Dave VanD, Jerry K, Mike and Cody O for all your special efforts to keep the building and grounds at Our Saviour's in good order. Sue A, we see and appreciate the work of your hands in the care of the St. Paul flowers and grounds.

Different lay people have been writing articles for the newsletters instead of Pastor Jane. They've been filled with words of faith and God's love, touching our hearts. God bless you!

In June and July, "noisy offerings" were given to "The House (a local non-profit seeking to operate a safe space for rest and support for the unhoused) and also to veterans locally thru gift cards. Thank you.

CREATION
Word Search

H P G O D B S H B Y N T
L C L I G H T S P E C C
I I Y I C H W D V Q Z L
S X V E G E T A T I O N
G U B I O W E R P H O S
V E N E V H D K Z O R X
S J R L A N D N M A D D
O P V Z E S U E T X T A
G C X Q D A T S M D R Y
F B W A T E R S L O E H
S E A C R E A T U R E S
E D L T E I M Q H X S X

God
Heaven
Earth
Light
Darkness

Day
Night
Waters
Dry Land
Vegetation

Trees
Sun
Moon
Stars
Sea Creatures
Beasts

AUGUST

8/1 Randy Gourley

8/10 Judy Latch, Chris Wallace

8/11 Karol Wallskog

8/17 Javon Smith

8/18 Barb Austinson

8/20 Jim Bailey, Carolyn Scheppler

8/23 Beth Rozen

8/24 Harold Gaiser

8/30 Jerry Ginder, Felix Mejia

8/31 Tanya Dahl

SEPTEMBER

9/7 Pam Gourley, Mary Groh

9/9 Dave VanDeventer

9/10 Lilly Stockberger

9/11 Larry Harris

9/13 Becky Lundblad

9/17 Diana Black

9/19 Carol Piippo

9/22 Dale Karsjens

9/23 Greg Klemesrud

August 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9:30 Worship SP	3 9 Quilters OS 9:30 Quilters SP	4	5 9:30 M&M's SP 5 Bell Choir	6	7	8
9 9:30 Worship OS 10:30 Joint Council	10 9 Quilters OS 9:30 Quilters SP	11 11:30 Worship Planning	12 9 Comm Kit. OS 9:30 M&M's SP 5 Bell Choir	13	14	15
16 9:30 Worship SP	17 9 Quilters OS 9:30 Quilters SP	18	19 9:30 M&M's SP 5 Bell Choir	20 4 Comm Kit SP	21	22
23 9:30 Worship OS	24 9 Quilters OS 9:30 Quilters SP 10:45 Meals on Wheels OS	25	26 9:30 M&M's SP 5 Bell Choir	27	28	29
30 9:30 Worship SP	31 9 Quilters OS 9:30 Quilters SP					

September 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 9:30 M&M's SP 5 Bell Choir	3	4 9 Comm Kit OS	5
6 9:30 Worship SP	7 **Labor Day** No Quilting Offices Closed	8	9 9 Comm Kit OS 9:30 M&M's SP 5 Bell Choir	10	11	12
13 9:30 Worship OS 10:30 Joint Council	14 9 Quilters OS 9:30 Quilters SP	15	16 9:30 M&M's SP 5 Bell Choir	17 4 Comm Kit SP	18	19
20 9:30 Worship SP	21 9 Quilters OS 9:30 Quilters SP	22	23 9:30 M&M's SP 5 Bell Choir	24	25	26
27 9:30 Worship OS	28 9 Quilters OS 9:30 Quilters SP	29	30 9:30 M&M's SP 5 Bell Choir			