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

JUNE/JULY 2026 NEWSLETTER

Saturday June 6, The 2026 C-3 Conference at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Waverly, IA . Beginning at 9:00 am

Saturday, June 20-Northeastern Iowa Women's Gathering at Our Saviour's (Registration begins at 8:00 am-Welcome and Worship at 9:00 am)

Saturday, June 27 Cannonball Day Root Beer Stand begins at 11:00 am

Saturday, July 4 Independence Day

Thursday through Sunday July 16-19 -Women of the ELCA Triennial Gathering, in Des Moines Iowa
"I Am Worthy" For more information go to welcatg.org.

Be Good Soil for God

Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up and yielded a crop, a hundred times more than was sown. - Luke 8:8

This Bible verse was in a recent devotion that I read one morning and struck me so strongly, I knew I had to use it for our newsletter. It reminds me of a song that we have sung before the Gospel reading during Sunday worship, "Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil".

Lord, let my heart be good soil,
open to the seed of your word.
Lord, let my heart be good soil,
where love can grow and peace is understood.
When my heart is hard, break the stone away.
When my heart is cold, warm it with the day.
When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.
Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

- Handt Hansen

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Not only is the tune an easy one to learn and so lyrical, the words always touch me and mean so much.

At this time of year when gardens have just been planted in good soil and are starting to grow, this Bible verse relates even more to me, a farm girl. Farmers are so reliant on God's goodness, starting with the good black soil of Iowa. As good stewards, each farmer takes care of the land in his or her care, to ensure the good soil takes care of not only their family, but also many other families across this country and even the world.

We believers in Christ must also take care of our soil, our hearts, to make sure that we provide a 'good soil' to grow our faith ever stronger. As our faith continues to grow it, too, will ensure the growth of faith for those around us and take care of us in both good and bad times. It also helps take care of those in our communities, nation, and world through all God's works that we do because we believe in His Word. The kits our congregations put together, the quilts, all the donations of time and goods for Meals on Wheels and Community Kitchen and the area food pantries are just some of the visual results of our faith. The unseen outcomes include how others' hearts become open to His Word as a result of being recipients of that caring and the gifts.

May each of us continue to enrich our 'soil' by reading the Bible, worshipping together, and doing His works every day.

Master Gardener, please help me produce good fruit from good soil. In your son's name we pray, Amen.

April Council Meeting
St Paul Lutheran Church
Minutes of April 19, 2026.

1. Call to Order. President Beyerhelm Huey called the meeting to order at 11:29 a.m. Members present: Beyerhelm Huey, Dahl, Marsh, Black, Lundblad, Koopman, Aves.

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

3. Pastor's Report: N/A

4. Treasurer's Report: Lundblad reported expenses were a little higher and offerings a little lower, however March did not get deposited until April. He advised there was nothing unusual this month and reviewed the expenses, noting his goal was to not take any money out this year.

Protocol for collecting/storing/depositing offering money and money received by the office was outlined.

4. Old Business: Aves advised Ken Truka (electrician) would be looking at lighting in the fellowship hall this month. She also requested approval to clean the carpets in the fellowship hall, noting they had not been cleaned since they were installed in 2015. The cost was approximately $525.00. Motion, Black; Beyerhelm Huey to proceed with carpet cleaning. AYES: All (Motion carried.)

WELCA: Aves updated the Council on the Mother/Daughter Tea in May and the cost of shipping the quilts.

The Council discussed the nice Shabbat service, and it was decided to donate to The Chosen Ministries. Motion, Koopman; 2nd, Lundblad to give $300.00 to the ministry. AYES: All (Motion carried.)

5. New Business: The position of Vice President will remain vacant at this time.

Band Festival and Cannonball Day were discussed and acted upon in the Joint Council Meeting preceding this meeting.

Northeastern Iowa Synod Conference: Motion, Aves; 2nd Marsh to pay half of the fee for those interested in going. AYES: All (Motion carried.)

Adjourn: President Beyerhelm Huey adjourned the meeting at 11:50 a.m.

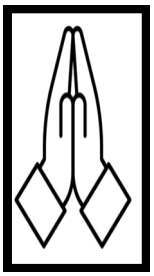
JUNE SPECIAL OFFERING: We will be collecting a special offering throughout June for The House. The House is a nonprofit organization providing low-barrier stabilization and hospitality for people experiencing homelessness. They seek to operate a safe, welcoming space for rest and support without eligibility requirements. The House is entirely volunteer-run. They are looking for a permanent space for warmth, safety, food, and community for the unhoused in Mason City. We will pass the special offering pot once at St. Paul, once at Our Saviour's, then have it located near the regular offering plates the last two Sundays of the month. Thanks for your generosity in helping our neighbors.

MERGER/CONSOLIDATION CONVERSATIONS: As we continue to work towards becoming one congregation, Pastor Kristen Corr-Rod from the Northeast Iowa Synod office will facilitate some conversations to answer questions, share our concerns and dreams, and understand the process of joining together as one. We will have these discussions during Fellowship Time after worship on the following dates:

- June 28
- July 26
- August 23

Christian Women's Luncheon Date is Changed

The June Christian Women's Luncheon will be held on Tuesday, June 9, at noon, at the Columbia Club on Taft Avenue. The meal costs $12.00. If you are interested in attending, RSVP is required. Simply contact Nancy Nielsen before Friday, June 5.



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.

JOINT COUNCIL MEETING

April 19, 2026

Members present: Sue Aves, Mary Beyerhelm Huey, Diana Black, LaVern Dahl, Jerry Koch, Martha Koch, Linda Koopman, Ron Lundblad, Gale Loveless, Nancy Marsh, Art Martell, Nancy Nielsen, Mike Olson, Ron Rachut and Dave VanDeventer. Absent:
Mary called the meeting to order. Dave V had opening prayer of courage for the year ahead.
Motion was made to approve the March 8, 2026 Joint Council Meeting minutes. Motion/ Second, Sue A/Ron R, motion carried.

Call Committee Report: (Lori Angell, Martha Koch, Ron Lundblad, Art Martell, Jan Nelson, Micah Stockberger) We are looking for a part time pastor with Synod guidelines for salary. No candidates are available at this time.

Exploratory Committee Report: (Lori Angell, Jerry Koch, Art Martell, Lee Olson, Megan Slocum, Deb Stockberger) Synod representative, Pastor Kristen, will preach several Sundays and is open to a meeting following service to answer any question concerning merger/ consolidation.

Worship Schedule: Pulpit supply is full through June. They are working on the schedule for July-September.

Community Involvement: Diane M asked about the possibility of giving a gift to the community of free food this year at the Band Festival, May 23rd. A motion was made by Diana B./Gale L to have free food, motion carried. There will be a free will donation opportunity with proceeds supporting the schools food bank. A motion was made by Art M/ Diana B to approve that the school food bank receive the proceeds, motion carried. We will have a stand at Cannonball Day. A motion was made by Diana B/Martha K that the root beer floats will be free to the community, motion carried. A motion was made by Diana B/Dave V that the freewill donations will be given back to Cannonball, motion carried. The Pride Festival is July 18th, a motion was made by Art M/Gale L to support the festival with a booth, motion carried.

Monthly local/global giving: Keep bringing your change for the "noisy pot" and Thank You for these donations! The "noisy pot" will be passed on the first two Sundays each month and the third and fourth Sundays be put by the offering plates for your donations. March donations of $182.92 are given to Samaritan's Purse. April's donations are for Personal Care Kits. The shipping costs for these personal care kits are $4.00 per kit. May donations are for shipping these Personal Care Kits. (If we have 300 kits = $1,200) June Noisy Pot donations will go to The House.

Newsletter Articles: It was suggested to have an inspirational/encouraging article in the Newsletter. (The space Pastor Jane's article was printed). Thank you Nancy M for writing the April/May article. We would like volunteers to write each article, please contact Mary B-H if you are interested.

Our next meeting is May 17th, at St. Paul in the lounge following the worship service. Gale L will give the opening prayer/devotion.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Nielsen, Secretary

Our Saviour's April 19 Council Minutes

Present: Pres. Mike Olson, Vice-Pres. Gale Loveless, Secretary Nancy Nielsen, Jerry Koch, Martha Koch, Art Martell, Ron Rachut, and Dave VanDeventer. Absent: Treasurer Dale Karsjens, The meeting was called to order by President Mike Olson.

Approval of Minutes: Motion made to approve March 8th, 2026, Council Meeting minutes. Motion/Second, Ron/Dave, motion carried.

Financial Report: Motion made to approve March, 2026, financial report, Motion/Second, Art/ Jerry, motion carried. It was suggested to make paper copies of the financial reports for our meetings. If anyone wants digital copies, not to have the complete account numbers printed, use just the last few digits for confidentiality on the internet.

President's Report: A motion was made by Art/Martha to send a $300.00 donation to Chosen People Ministries earmarked for Sergey Brosov, our guest speaker on April 12, as he shared the Jewish Passover Celebration, motion carried. The 2026 C3 Conference will be held June 6 th at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Waverly. Registration is $50.00 each and a motion was made by Martha/Dave that the Church pay half the registration fee, motion carried. Those expressing a desire to attend so far are Ron R, Donna V, Mike O, Gale L, Marilyn M, Jan N, and Nancy N.

Old Business: Jerry, Dave, and Mike are moving forward with the insurance coverage surveys. Dave reported that the paperwork is completed and are now waiting for an electrician and plumber to complete inspection. Mike and Jery will inspect the roof. Mike will have the north-side gutters cleaned this summer. Dave suggested the sidewalk/first step outside the church entrance be repaired soon for safety and liability. Outside spring clean-up is May 1st at 9:00 am. Please bring your own rake, gloves, etc. Call Jerry K with questions. Thank You volunteers!

New Business: Mike will contact the custodian about the possibility of going to an hourly wage rather than a salary. Mike, Marilyn and Nancy will make a suggested list of duties to be completed. A motion was made by Dave/Art for Mike to contact Mark about mowing/ trimming the lawn this summer, motion carried. Mike will check if Mark is still interested and we agree on an hourly wage. Mike will dig up the sewer line to repair the plumbing/sewer for the toilets. Mike removed the carpet at the middle door entrance following the rain and cleaned out the area and resealed the carpet. We have two containers for Absolute Waste and it was decided only one is necessary at this time. Mary Beyerhelm Huey approached us about the possibility of having an area for a "refrigerator shed" to be built with electricity and heat for the winter. We are open to the possibility but need additional information.

Our next meeting is Sunday, May 17th, 2026, at St. Paul, following the Joint Council meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,
Nancy Nielsen, Secretary

It is time again for the annual root beer float stand at Cannonball Days in East Park on Saturday, June 27. We will be setting up at 9:00 am and will sell until 4pm or until the ice cream and root beer is gone. This year we will be in the grassy area and will be closer to the other food vendors with our freezer. This is always fun day, and we will all pray for sunshine and a light breeze. There will be a sign-up sheet available beginning the first Sunday in June. All proceeds will be donated to Friends of the 457 who support this wonderful treasure in Mason City.

Thank you to everyone that supported the Band Festival food stand! Whether you donated water, pop or money for supplies, baked treats, helped with setup and tear down or worked the stand you made this all possible. This year we did things a little different by having free will donation buckets rather than charging a set price. **It was a huge success with donations totaling $964.60.** All proceeds will support the food pantries in each of the buildings of the Mason City School District to help with food insecurities in our community.

Make a Note-Both churches will begin gathering items for the
Lutheran World Relief School Kits
approximately the middle of July or when the school sales begin.
Items needed for the school kits are:
70 count spiral notebooks- 24 count Crayola Crayons-Unsharpened pencils
Blue or Black pens (Bic etc.) -Large erasers -Blunt children's scissors
12 inch rulers (cm/inch)- Pencil Sharpeners (SP)-Money to purchase items
More info will be posted in the church bulletins and on the Facebook pages for each church.

Prayerfully consider helping a child attend school throughout the world.

Dear Ladies,

First of all I want to apologize again for the incorrect version of the registration that I previously sent. It was a draft version that was misnamed, and so was sent as a final version. I've included the appropriate version here.

Also there are new details (directions to the church, hotel contacts, etc.) for you. Note that Mason City has closings of major streets, hence the directions of the best routes to use.
Don't forget to get any resolutions emailed to Alice Greimann at alice.greimann71@gmail.com if your unit/group has written one. See the January email for the proper format for resolutions.

Last, but not least, I am emailing the May newsletter. Due to waiting for the Board meeting before I sent it (in case there were additions or changes) it comes to you a bit late. The editor Diane Wills did get it to me on April 30, so don't blame her! I've also included the In-Kind donations list for the convention's charity.

Northeast Iowa Synodical Women's Organization (NEISWO) Convention

The women of Our Saviour's are hosting the Northeast Iowa Synodical Women's Organization (NEISWO) Convention on Saturday, June 20 th , beginning at 9:00 with coffee and worship. A concise business meeting will be held to elect new Board leaders and Board members as well as vote on an amendment to the constitution limiting the terms of those women. Interest sessions where you can create a prayer book, share ways to pray, and learn two of Mason City's crisis centers – Northern Lights and the Beacon House Warming Shelter. In-kind donations for Northern Lights are being collected from now until June 14th. Registration forms for the convention must be mailed in before June 1 st and are available from Chris VanDeventer. Our Saviour's women's registration fees will be covered by a special donation. Other guests and attendees registration fee is $30. In-kind donations for Northern Lights are being collected from now until June 14th. Ideas include: Treasure: Financial and Material Gifts Financial gifts are essential for operating costs, but material donations meet the immediate, daily needs of people in the shelter.

Material Donation Wish List

Please note: For health and safety, all donated items (excluding coats, which should be clean) must be new and unopened.

Warmth & Clothing

- Socks-High-priority! New, thick, warm, and durable socks for men, women, and children.
- PADS-Pants, Adult Diapers, or adult disposable absorbent products.
- Pants & Slacks—We accept new men's & and women's jeans and casual pants, as well as
- Outerwear-Coats (seasonal priority), hats, scarves, and gloves (especially waterproof gloves).
- Undergarments | New, in-package underwear and bras for all genders and sizes.
- Hygiene & Personal Care
- Oral Care - Toothbrushes, full-size toothpaste, mouthwash, dental floss.
- Hair & Body - Bar soap/body wash, shampoo, conditioner (full- and travel-size), combs/brushes, hair ties.
- Shaving | Disposable razors, shaving cream/gel.
- Feminine Hygiene - Pads and Tampons (various absorbencies), and individually packaged, feminine wipes.
- Essential Needs - Deodorant, unscented lotion, lip balm, travel-size hand sanitizer.
- Foot Care - Small first-aid kits, foot powder, antibiotic ointment, bandages.
- Cleaning & Facility Supplies
- Multi-Purpose Cleaners - All types of multipurpose cleaner, surface wipes, spray disinfectants.
- Laundry Supplies | Laundry detergent (liquid or pods), bleach.
- General Supplies - Toilet paper, paper towels, trash bags (kitchen and large sizes), new bath towels and

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.

This year we have 7 garden plots planted thanks to many hands helping. Everything was donated, including tomato and pepper plants donated by the ladies that work at Mills Fleet Farm, not Mills but the ladies. The North Iowa Action Team helped with the planting, will also help with the weeding and harvesting for the less fortunate. Our work in the gardens for the hungry is just as important as doing for Lutheran World Relief. They are both important. There will be plenty for our Church members also. Think of ways you can freeze or can produce for your own use this coming winter Lets get ready to eat. Any questions, ask Ron or Donna.

Try to be a rainbow in someone's cloud.
Maya Angelou

A Peep from the Pantry

School is out for Summer so kids will be needing snacks during their extra time at home. Snack crackers, granola bars and as always , cereal , are perfect items to donate . Also peanut butter and jelly are always a good choice, easy for the kiddos and no need to use the stove!

Reminder - Menards Rebate Receipts can be donated to the Little Free Pantry . Bring them to Our Saviour's and put them in the designated envelope in the fellowship hall. We will use them to purchase grocery or hygiene items for the LFP. Thank you all SO MUCH for your generosity to keep this ministry going strong .

Thank You

Many thanks to Brenda Simon for informing us of a "Feed My Starving Children event in Northwood in March. Several members of Our Saviour's and St. Paul packaged meals and made money donations.

Thank you Madi S and Amelia and Remy S for all your help in so many areas of our worship and fellowship. We appreciate you reading the lessons, helping with communion and helping to set up meals.

Many people worked together to make our Easter worship meaningful and bring us closer to our Lord. We thank you all for both the worship service and amazing Easter Brunch.

April 12, Mike Olson brought Sergey Brosov a representative of Chosen People Ministries to present "Messiah in the Passover" and explain the meaning of elements of the Passover. Thank you Mike and Sergey, we learned so much about the history of our own faith through the presentation.

We appreciate the hard work of Art Martell and Diane Murphy, who have been leading our Wednesday night study of "The Chosen".

Our churches donated 60 quilts and 300+ personal care kits to Lutheran World Relief, May 16. Thank you to all who donated items and money for the kits/shipping, assembled, loaded and took them to First Lutheran in Albert Lea.

Thanks to all who helped with spring yard work at both churches-trimming, replacing mulch, raking, etc. Both yards are lovely. Special thanks to Mike and Cody Olson for replacing broken sidewalks at Our Saviour's.

In the past months, "noisy offerings" to Samaritan's Purse, Hawkeye Harvest Food Bank, and Lutheran World Relief were given. God bless your generosity.

JUNE

6/5 Heather Brown

6/8 Lori Angell

6/9 Rowen Ruiz

6/11 Frank Stearns

6/15 Martha Koch

6/18 Tammi Oetken

6/21 Linda Karsjens

6/24 Joel Dahlen

6/27 Pam Stephenson

6/28 Sara Janssen

6/29 Michele Thenhaus

6/30 JoEllen Bailey, Ed Simon

JULY

7/2 Shad Schmitt

7/3 Nancy Marsh, Lee Olson

7/8 Pat Steinfort

7/10 Amy Schmitt

7/11 Jim Murphy

7/18 Ian Stockberger

7/19 David Pope

7/20 Myra Karsjens

7/22 Kamin Smith

7/23 Remy Slocum

7/27 Carol Davies

7/29 Dave Janssen

June 2026

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

July 2026

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