MISSION & OUTREACH

Will meet on Wednesday, **November 12 at 9:00 a.m.** (Potluck Lunch)

DO-DAY

Will meet on Wednesday, **November 19 from 9:00 a.m.– 3:00 p.m.** (Potluck Lunch)

PRISCILLA CIRCLE

Will meet on Monday, **November 10 at 2:30 p.m.**
Bible Study: Donna K. **/ Hostess:** Arlyce O.

BIRTHDAY CLUB

Will **NOT** meet in November.

MEN'S EARLY RISERS

Will meet on **November 5, 12, and 19 at 8:00 a.m.** at Cook's Café.

POP-UP BIBLE STUDY

Will meet according to schedules. Contact Lori Brown (348-2670) for dates/times.

Youth Ministry

Jr. High Youth Group (6th-8th Grade)

* **November 5, 12, 19 - (5:00-6:15 p.m.)** Jr. High Youth group will meet. (Meal served)
* **November 9 - (10:30 a.m.)** Jr. High/Parents set up for Spaghetti Supper
* **November 10 - (6:15-8:00 p.m.)** Jr. High/Parents Help with Spaghetti Supper.
* **November 14-16 (7:00 p.m. Leave/1:30 p.m. Return)** OLBC Fall Recharge Retreat. (Okoboji)

Sr. High Youth Group (9th-12th Grade)

* **November 2 - (4:00-9:00 p.m.)** OLBC Outreach Night. (RSVP ASAP! Drivers needed.)
* **November 5, 12, 19 - (6:30-8:00 p.m.)** Sr. High Youth group will meet.

7th/8th Confirmation

* **November 5, 12 (4:00-4:50 p.m.)** Class will meet with Pastor Martin.
* **November 14-16 (7:00 p.m. Leave/1:30 p.m. Return)** OLBC Recharge Retreat (6th-9th grades)

Sunday School (4 yrs.-6th Grade)

* **November 2, 9, 16, 23 - (10:15-11:00 a.m.)** Will meet. NO Sunday School on November 30.

JAM (1st-5th Grade)

* **November 5, 12, 19 - (5:00-6:15 p.m.)** JAM will meet. (Meal served)

NO YOUTH ACTIVITIES ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 26!

2025 - Open Dates: Sign-up: (balcony board): for a special date or call the office 324-3049.

Coffee Fellowship Dates: December 7, 21, 28. **Flowers Dates:** November 2, 9 16, 23, 30; December 7, 21, 28.

2026 - Open Dates: Sign-up *(In Fellowship Hall)* or contact the office.

Live Stream: February 25; **November** 1, 8, 15, 22, 29.

Radio Broadcast: January 4, 11, 18, 25; **February** 1, 8, 15; **March** 1, 8, 15; **April** 5, 12, 26; **May** 10, 17, 24, 31; **June** 14, 28; **July** 12, 19; **August** 2, 9, 16, 23, 30; **September** 6; **October** 11, 18, 25; **November** 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; **December** 6, 13, 24, 27.

Altar Flowers / Coffee Fellowship: Please sign up or contact the office for a special date you wish to have.

Thank you to all who sponsored the Radio Broadcasts, Live Streams, Flowers, & Coffee Fellowships.

Radio Broadcast on Sundays
at 9:00 a.m. on **KIWA - FM 100.7** and **AM 1550**
Website: **www.stpaulsheldon.org**
E-mail: **pleasant@nethtc.net**
Church Office: **(712) 324-3049**
Pastor: Christopher Martin ~ E-mail: **pastor@stpaulsheldon.org**

From the Pastor… **November 2025**

"Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever." (Psalm 136:1)

Several years ago when my boys were much younger, I was taking Bradon and Zachary to see a hockey game when we heard a loud "bang" come from the engine bay of my car as we were entering the city limits of Mason City, about 45 minutes away from where we were living at the time. Thinking perhaps I had run over something on the road, or had damage to the underside of the car due to a pot hole, I pulled the car into a McDonald's parking lot, where I discovered there was hot motor oil all over the inside of the engine bay and the right front wheel well. As it turned out, due to a manufacturing defect by Hyundai with that particular model of vehicle, a connecting rod had punctured through the engine block leaving my car inoperable and needing a new engine.

I'll be the first to admit, first, when the incident initially happened, and then in the weeks afterward in trying to get the situation resolved with Hyundai since my car was still under warranty, I wasn't very thankful about much of anything. But, as time went on, I discovered that I did have much to be thankful for in the midst of an extremely stressful time. First, I was thankful that when the incident occurred, we were in a populated area and had somewhere safe to pull over, feed the boys, and keep them entertained while I called for assistance and then waited for Lindsay to come and pick us up. I was thankful that my car never caught fire, whereas others who had the same issue with their cars that were of the same make and model as mine had experienced a vehicle fire. I was thankful for the people who were helpful along the way, with moving my car where it needed to be, diagnosing the problem, and helped me navigate the entire process, as well as having a nice rental car to drive while I waited for a resolution. In a number of small, hidden ways, I experienced God's steadfast love and care for me in a very difficult moment of life.

We've all had moments like these, where we are going through something stressful, and it's difficult, if not seemingly impossible, to find reasons to be thankful, or to see the hand of God in the midst of such times. Whether it's when we or someone we love are going through struggles with our health, when hard decisions about care need to be made, when we lose a job, or when death strikes close, it's hard, maybe even seemingly impossible, to live out the words of Psalm 136 that I shared with you. Sometimes, it is hard to give thanks to the Lord, and see His steadfast love for us in the midst of moments of suffering and difficulty.

Yet, when we ponder the suffering of Jesus, we see that we have a God in Jesus Christ who identifies with us in our moments of sorrow and suffering. Jesus knows what it is to suffer as He suffered for our sins on the cross. Jesus offers to us eternal life and salvation, and also promises to be with us always in our everyday lives. Jesus goes with us everywhere we go. He is with you in good moments. He is with you in moments of suffering and grief. He is with us when all seems lost, reminding us of the hope that we have of everlasting life, and that while we are in this life, He promises to provide for us.

As you look at your life this month as we approach Thanksgiving, what are you thankful for? How do you see God at work in your life in seemingly insignificant ways? I would encourage you to take a moment to give thanks to God for all of the ways He provides and cares for you in this life, and for giving you the gift of everlasting life.

I hope and pray that you have a blessed Thanksgiving, and as you celebrate the day, don't forget to make worship a part of the way you give thanks and praise to God for all He has done for you in this life, and for His promises of forgiveness and everlasting life in paradise!

Your Friend in Christ,

Pastor Christopher Martin

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY - BRI

Sr. High school youth group will meet on Wednesdays during the school year from 6:30-8:00 p.m. Jr. High school youth group (6th-8th) meets on Wednesdays from 5:00-6:15 p.m. with dinner. Friends are always welcome at JH or SH youth group!

We're looking to add more times kids are around parents during youth group times. Would you be willing to host the high school youth group at your home during our Wednesday meeting times? This could be a bonfire, hangout space, living room meeting, etc. Bri will bring the message and can bring snacks if you'd like, too! Please let Bri know if you are interested in this, it is very meaningful to the students when parents are present!

We will invite current 8th graders (entering 9th grade next year) to our Sr. High retreat this summer. Please let me know by Thanksgiving if your student would like to attend. We still need another adult male commit to attend as a chaperone before a retreat is booked. If your student would like to attend, please let me know any dates they will not be available to attend.

High school will go to the Outreach Night at IOLBC (Okoboji) on November 2. Dress for outdoor activities but bring layers in case they change to an indoor game! No cost, food will be provided at camp. Please meet at 4:00 p.m. (church) and we will return by 9:00 p.m. RSVP ASAP so we can get an accurate number to the camp. We'll need at least one other high school driver.

Jr. High and Sr. High students will help with the Spaghetti Supper fundraiser on Monday, November 10 (5:00-7:00 p.m.). Students and parents need to help with setting up on Sunday, November 10 at 10:30 a.m., and make sure the 2-jars 45 oz. of Prego spaghetti sauce and your dessert (to serve 2 dozen) is here on Sunday. On Monday, 7th-12th grade students are to help from 6:15-8:00 p.m. Please come and help with this fundraiser to raise money for the Camp Committee Camperships.

Jr. High and Sr. High school students (along with some adults) will provide childcare during our elementary aged outreach event on December 14, from 3:00-5:00 p.m. here at the church. Parents are welcome to drop off potty trained kids who are active in our ministries for a Christmas movie, possible game, and Christmas snacks to have a couple of hours to wrap presents!

Confirmation Students: Please plan on the following dates for Recharge/Outreach Nights at IOLBC Okoboji Location on Sunday evenings. No cost for outreach nights- each scheduled Sunday we will meet at church at 4pm and be back to church by 9pm. High school students may join occasionally.

Recharge Retreat - November 14-16 at IOLBC Okoboji location. We will plan to leave St. Paul at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, November 14 and will return home by 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, November 16.

2025 - *December 7* - Christmas Mystery
2026 - *February 15* - Hoonting *March 15* - Gargoyles *April 12* - Church vs. Church Dodgeball

- Bri Oetken, Youth Director

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday school continues to run from 10:15-11:00 a.m. Please let Bri know if you haven't already, if your student will be in the Christmas program. Christmas program practice will be during the Sunday school hour on November 23, December 7, and December 14. The program will be during church on December 21. There is NO Sunday School on November 30 due to Thanksgiving holiday.

- Bri Oetken, Sunday School Superintendent

JAM (Jesus And Me)

Thank you for the generous donations to the noisy offering on JAM Awareness Sunday, October 19. JAM is deeply grateful for your support! Wednesday, November 26, we WILL NOT HAVE JAM. The next time JAM will meet after Thanksgiving will be December 3, which will be our caroling night with help from the Fellowship Committee. Happy Thanksgiving!

- Jill Cook, JAM Director

PASTORAL ACTS

Funeral: Lorn Wills.

YEARLY FINANCIAL UPDATE

SEPTEMBER

Total Income	$ 16,690.42
Total Expense	$ - 24,430.16
Income Less Expense	**$ - 7,739.74**
Fiscal Year Income	$ 164,679.62
Fiscal Year Expense	$ -220,378.29
Fiscal Year Income Less Expense	**$ -55,698.67**
Air Conditioner Units Loan	$ 16,690.57
September Monthly Payment	$ - 575.00
Balance Due	**$ 16,171.57**

PASTOR/STAFF APPRECIATION SUNDAY—THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone for the Pastor/Staff Appreciation Brunch potluck, cards, gifts, and expressions of appreciation. We are truly blessed to be a part of such an amazing Church family.

- Pastor Chris Martin and St. Paul Staff

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27

Congratulations to Thomas Hegenbarth and Bradon Martin, who were confirmed in the Service of Affirmation of Baptism on Reformation Sunday, October 26. They received gifts from Thrivent Financial–wooden cross; and Parish Ed.–devotion book. Please keep them in your prayers.

THANKSGIVING EVE WORSHIP SERVICE

Please join us for a special worship service - Thanksgiving Eve Worship on Wednesday, November 26 at 6:30 p.m. There will be NO youth activities on this evening. The Thanksgiving Eve offering will go to the general fund.

ADVENT WREATH CANDLE LIGHTING

We are looking for families, couples, or individuals to help during the Worship services with the lighting of the Advent Wreath candles. If you would like to be a part of this please sign up in the fellowship hall for one of the available dates: Worship (9:00 a.m.) - November 30, December 7, 14, 21, or 24 - Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship (5:00 p.m.).

SPAGHETTI SUPPER FUNDRAISER - CAMP COMMITTEE

On Monday, November 10 from 5:00-7:00 p.m. St. Paul Camp Committee will have their Annual Spaghetti Supper fundraiser. Free Will offering. Please join us for a delicious meal and help support our youth with camperships to summer camp! Menu: spaghetti with sauce, meatballs, French bread, salad, dessert, and drinks.

St. Paul youth and parents will help prepare, set up, and serve the meal. Please refer to the letter with information regarding helping with this event. Please contact the office if you would be interested in serving on this committee, as we are looking to add to our committee.

NOVEMBER ST. PAUL OFFICE HOURS

On November 24 and 25, church office hours will be from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. The church offices will be CLOSED Thursday, November 27 and Friday November 28. Please Note: Security Door Intercoms will NOT be answered on November 27 due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

COLLEGE/MILITARY ADDRESSES NEEDED

HELP!! Addresses are needed for any member of St. Paul currently in college or serving in the military. E-mail it to pleasant@nethtc.net or drop it off in the office/office mailbox. We will be putting the Care Packages together in November. If you would like to help, please contact the church office.

COATS FOR KIDS

Sheldon Ministerial Association will be distributing Coats for Kids!
Distribution of the coats will be held in conjunction with the Sheldon Mobile Food Bank date on November 13 from 4:30-6:00 p.m. Donations of new or gently used children's winter coats are needed. Donations can be dropped off at Love INC or here at St. Paul. There is a box labeled "Coats For Kids" in the fellowship hall.

POINSETTIA FUNDRAISER PICK-UP DATE

Thank you to everyone who ordered poinsettias from the Youth Group. Please plan to pick up your poinsettias here at the church on Tuesday, November 25 at 3:00 p.m. unless you have donated them for the Advent season and Christmas Eve service. If you donated them for the Advent season, please note you may take it home after the 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service.

ST. PAUL YOUTH CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

St. Paul Christmas Program will be on Sunday, December 21 at 9:00 a.m. The program rehearsals will be during the Sunday school time(10:15-11 a.m.) on November 23, December 7, 14. We ask for one adult caregiver to stay during each program rehearsal to assist with crowd control, transitions, and readying the costumes if at all possible. More information will be relayed after roles are assigned.

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

Christmas Eve offering, $750 will go to the Sheldon Area Unity Meal and the remaining to the general fund. Any New Year's Eve offering envelope contributions will go to the general fund.

ANNUAL REPORT DEADLINE

ALL ANNUAL REPORTS—DUE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE BY DECEMBER 28, 2025! *PLEASE*...ALL REPORTS MUST BE IN BY THE 28TH UNLESS ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE WITH TAMI TO MEET ANNUAL MEETING DEADLINE.

Poinsettias

Poinsettias for the Christmas season will be purchased by the W.A.M. Committee. If you would like to contribute towards the purchase of Poinsettias, please fill out this form and drop it in the offering box or the church office by Sunday, December 7. Thank you.

I/We will share a Poinsettia in memory of/in honor of: _____

Name:_____ Contribution enclosed: _____

NOAH'S ARK PRESCHOOL/NURSERY SCHOOL

Basket Auction will be November 2-16! If anyone would like to donate a basket to Noah's for the auction, please take it downstairs to Noah's Ark. Baskets will be in the narthex for viewing and to bid.

SHELDON MOBILE FOOD BANK

The Sheldon Mobile Food Bank will be on Thursday, November 13. Please come to the Living Water Community Church, Sheldon, from 4:30-6:00 p.m.

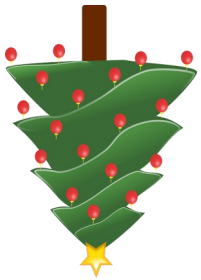
SHELDON UNITY MEAL

The FREE Sheldon Area Unity Meal will be held on Monday, November 17 from 5:30-6:30 p.m. at Living Water Community Church. Free groceries are also available.

REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

St. Paul will be collecting items during the Advent Season for the Love INC and UDMO Food Pantry. Each day add the food item listed on the calendar for that day to a box. On Christmas Eve, donate all the contents to St. Paul Lutheran Church and it will be delivered to Love INC and UDMO. **Please start on November 30** (The first day of Advent). There will be boxes located in the narthex if you wish to bring the items to the church each week. Thank you in advance for your food donations.

November 30: stuffing mix
December 1: instant potatoes
December 2: macaroni & cheese
December 3: can of fruit
December 4: can of tomatoes
December 5: can of tuna
December 6: dessert mix
December 7: jar of applesauce
December 8: can of sweet potatoes
December 9: cranberry sauce
December 10: package of gravy mix
December 11: jelly or peanut butter jar
December 12: can of carrots



December 13: box of cereal
December 14: can of green beans
December 15: can of baked beans
December 16: box of crackers
December 17: package of rice
December 18: package of oatmeal
December 19: package of pasta
December 20: spaghetti sauce
December 21: chicken noodle soup
December 22: tomato soup
December 23: can of corn
December 24: can of mixed vegetables
December 25: Jell-O or instant pudding

ADOPT-A-FAMILY AND SANTA FOR SENIORS

St. Paul helping with the *Adopt-A-Family* and *Santa For Seniors* programs this Christmas season through UDMO. Boxes will be labeled for the family and Senior. The deadline for ALL items to be turned into the church is Sunday, December 7. Please watch for the list for Family# and Senior# in the bulletin.

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

Christmas Eve offering, $750 will go to the Sheldon Area Unity Meal and the remaining to the general fund. Any New Year's Eve offering envelope contributions will go to the general fund.

TOUCH OF HOPE - HAITI

St. Paul continues to sponsor Lensley Raymond and his 5th grade class of the Simonette community. Sponsorship helps with yearly school expenses. To make a donation to this ministry, please write "Touch of Hope-Haiti" in the check memo. Thank you.

MIKE KRUGER BENEFIT

Thursday, November 6 | 5-7pm

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH
1425 PLEASANT CT. DR.
SHELDON, IOWA 51201

Free will donation

Meal: Hamburger, Chips, Dessert, Drink

EARLIER THIS YEAR, MIKE RECEIVED THE DAUNTING DIAGNOSIS OF SCLERODERMA WITH A DERMATOMYOSITIS OVERLAP. THESE ARE EXTREMELY RARE AND AGGRESSIVE AUTOIMMUNE DISEASES THAT HAVE SADLY PROGRESSED RAPIDLY, MAKING THIS A TRULY DIFFICULT AND TRYING FIGHT.

TO GIVE SOME CONTEXT: SCLERODERMA CAUSES HARDENING OF THE SKIN AND INTERNAL ORGANS, WHILE DERMATOMYOSITIS LEADS TO SEVERE MUSCLE INFLAMMATION AND WEAKNESS.
MIKE HAS BEEN HOSPITALIZED SINCE SEPTEMBER 2, 2025. HIS ADMISSION BEGAN WITH A SERIOUS CASE OF PNEUMONIA, A DIRECT COMPLICATION OF HIS COMPROMISED IMMUNE SYSTEM. SINCE THEN, HIS BODY HAS BEEN IN CONSTANT BATTLE AGAINST MULTIPLE INFECTIONS. THIS INTENSE PERIOD OF FIGHTING HAS UNDERSTANDABLY WEAKENED HIS STRENGTH AND STAMINA.
WE ARE NOW FOCUSED ON THE NEXT CRITICAL STEP: TRANSITIONING MIKE FROM THE HOSPITAL TO A REHABILITATION FACILITY. OUR GOAL IS TO GET HIM CLOSER TO HOME, WHERE HE CAN BE SURROUNDED BY THE SUPPORT OF FRIENDS AND FAMILY, WHICH WILL BE A CRUCIAL BOOST FOR HIS SPIRIT AND RECOVERY.

WHILE THERE IS NO CURE FOR THESE AUTOIMMUNE CONDITIONS, AND WE KNOW THE PATH AHEAD WILL BE CHALLENGING, WE HOLD ONTO HOPE THAT THESE TREATMENTS WILL SLOW THE PROGRESSION AND POTENTIALLY ACHIEVE REMISSION.
WE ARE IMMENSELY THANKFUL FOR THE MANY WAYS OUR FAMILY HAS BEEN SUPPORTED THROUGH THIS DIFFICULT TIME. WE ASK FOR YOUR CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR MIKE'S STRENGTH, A SMOOTH TRANSITION TO REHAB, AND THE SUCCESS OF HIS ONGOING TREATMENT PLAN.

Not able to attend? Donations can be sent to:
St. Paul Lutheran Church
c/o Mike Kruger
1425 Pleasant Ct. Dr.
Sheldon, Iowa 51201

HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS AND COLLEGE STUDENTS

The By-Laws of the Endowment Fund Committee state that the committee may appropriate money for "scholarships for members of St. Paul Lutheran Church attending Lutheran educational institutions, including seminaries, universities, colleges, high schools, elementary schools, and preschools or daycare…" To this end, the committee is entertaining requests from member-applicants who will be attending college or university affiliated with the Lutheran Church next fall. These funds could also be requested for a member-applicant attending Noah's Ark Preschool. Qualified persons should also submit an application to the church office which includes the Lutheran school which they will attend this fall. Contact the church office for more information. Applications will be accepted until **Sunday, January 4, 2026.**

REV. DR. KENNETH H. ARNOLD MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

The "Rev. Dr. Kenneth H. Arnold Memorial Scholarship Fund" has been established by St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, Sheldon, Iowa, in deep appreciation for the ministry of Pastor Arnold at St. Paul from 2000-2006, and in recognition of his faithful support of Lutheran colleges and seminaries.

The scholarship fund monies will be invested and only the interest will be used to grant one scholarship per year to:

A member of St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, Sheldon, Iowa, who is attending, full time:

- Lutheran College
- Wittenberg Institute, Lutheran Graduate School of Theology, Everett, Washington
- Trinity School for Ministry, Ambridge, Pennsylvania
- Any Other NALC Related Seminaries

The Church Council will review applications, choose a recipient, and determine the amount of the scholarship each year. Scholarship recipients may reapply each year, but the scholarship will be awarded first to an applicant who has not been a past recipient of this scholarship. Application:

Rev. Dr. Kenneth H. Arnold Memorial Scholarship Application Form

Name: _____

College:_____

_____

For Office Use:
Date Submitted: _____
Received By: _____
Awarded Scholarship: o Yes o No
Amount Awarded: _____

The Rev. Dr. Kenneth H. Arnold Memorial Scholarship Application Form Deadline: Sunday, January 4, 2026.

ENDOWMENT FUND FORM

The Endowment Fund Committee is accepting requests for funds to be used for worldwide missions and for missions in the congregation and/or surrounding community. Forms will be made available in the newsletter and at the back of the church, or you may contact the church office. These funds are not to be used for any normally budgeted operating expenses of St. Paul. Requests should be addressed to the Endowment Fund Committee and sent or delivered to the church office by **Sunday, January 4, 2026.**

Name of individual, group, or organization for which funds are being requested:

_____

Amount Requested: $_____

Date Needed: _____

Proposed use for requested funds:

Additional information:

Contact Person:

Name _____

Phone _____

Recipient's Address:

_____

_____

_____

Date Submitted: _____