

MISSION & OUTREACH

Will meet on Wednesday, **September 10** at **9:00 a.m.** (Potluck Lunch)

DO-DAY

Will meet on Wednesday, **September 24** from **9:00 a.m.– 3:00 p.m.** (Potluck Lunch)

PRISCILLA CIRCLE

Will meet on Monday, **September 8** at **2:30 p.m.**
Bible Study: Arlyce O. / **Hostess:** Carleen K.

BIRTHDAY CLUB

Will meet on Thursday, **September 18** at **10:00 a.m.**



Jr. High Youth Group (7th-8th Grade)

- * **September 10, 17, 24 - (5:00-6:15 p.m.)** Jr. High Youth group will meet. (Meal served)
- * **September 21 - (11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.)** Youth/Parents make Sub Sandwiches. Deliver.

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

- * **September 3, 10, 17, 24 - (6:30-8:00 p.m.)** Sr. High Youth group will meet.
- * **September 21 - (11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.)** Youth/Parents make Sub Sandwiches. Deliver.

Confirmation

- * **7th/8th Grade - September 10, 24 - (4:00-4:50 p.m.)** Class will meet with Pastor Martin.
 - * **9th Grade - September 28, October 5, 19 - (10:15-11 a.m.)** Meet with Pastor Martin.
- Confirmation Sunday for 9th Grade Class will be on Sunday, October 26 at 9:00 a.m.

SUB SANDWICH SALES ... August 20—September 14

Contact any Jr./Sr. High Youth OR place your order with them
Before/After Sunday Worship Services



2025 RADIO BROADCASTS/FLOWERS/COFFEE FELLOWSHIP:

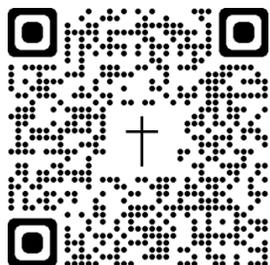
(Sign-up charts (narthex): to sign up for a special date or call the office 324-3049)

Radio Broadcast Dates: (\$95/broadcast) **November 30.**

Coffee Fellowship Dates: Looking for volunteers to help with coffee fellowship!

Flowers On The Altar: Please see the Flowers schedule for open dates.

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





“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of our mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”

(Romans 12:2, ESV)

For 5 years, I was honored to serve the wider church as a part of the national Renewal Team of the North American Lutheran Church (NALC). During that time, our team worked hard to address various ministry needs of our existing congregations across the NALC, in particular, in the area of congregational renewal, and renewal in the life of the individual Christian.

When we talk about “renewal,” we have to ask the question: what does “renewal” mean, and is it something we need in the life of our local congregation, and in our own individual spiritual lives today? The Greek New Testament word that is translated as “renewal” in our verse from Romans 12, that I quoted at the beginning of this article comes from a root word that means “renovation” or “a complete change of heart or mind.”

Theologically speaking, the conversation of “renewal” gets to the heart of the daily life of the Christian! It’s something we need every day. As I reflect on what I see in the world today, I don’t recall a time in my life in which I witness as much personal, political, and social unrest as what I see happening in recent years. It’s also not a coincidence that as this is happening, fewer and fewer people are identifying themselves as Christians, and there is an ever growing segment of our population that claims “no religious affiliation” (often referred to as “the Nones”), and in light of this, we witness the church’s influence in our local communities and in society continue to decline.

If there has ever been a time in which the Church, and individual Christians need renewal, it’s today! We need a spiritual “renovation” or “change of heart or mind” to draw us closer to Christ and His Word and will for us.

As you look at the verse from Romans 12, we’re encouraged to find renewal in our mind through the Word of Christ. What does that look like? It begins as we stay in God’s Word in the Scriptures first by regular worship on Sunday morning and/or Wednesday evening, as well as taking the time to read and study it outside of worship. That Word calls us to renew ourselves as we lay our sins and failings at the foot of the Cross, and receive anew each day God’s gift of forgiveness through the blood of our crucified and risen Savior, Jesus. This is how we find spiritual renewal as we are set free from the world’s demands that can never be satisfied, and we find true peace with Christ. We find the promise of forgiveness of every last one of our sins, and the promise of eternal life in paradise with Christ because of His work for us!

Thus, having been renewed by the Word of the Gospel, our focus in our daily lives changes. Instead of being focused inward on ourselves, we’re focused outside of ourselves, asking how can we share the love and forgiveness of God through Jesus Christ with those in our families, in our church, and in our community?

As we soon resume our full fall schedule of programming here at St. Paul, I ask you to join with me in praying that God will bless our ministry of Word and Sacrament here, that the Holy Spirit through His Word opens our hearts and minds to what God is calling us to do in the year to come, and that we be open to the renewing work of the Holy Spirit through God’s Word in our hearts and minds each day, and in our life together as His people.

Your Friend in Christ,

Pastor Christopher Martin

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY - BRI



High school youth groups will meet on Wednesdays during the school year starting on August 27. High school youth group will meet from 6:30-8:00 p.m. during this school year.

Junior high youth group will start on September 10 from 5:00-6:15 p.m. Junior high youth group will be for 7th/8th grades this year, 6th grade will remain with JAM.

Please fill out a registration form for your student(s) this year if you have not done so already. They can be found in the back of the sanctuary. Sub sandwich sales will begin on August 20 and run through September 14. We will put subs together on Sunday, September 21 at 11:00 a.m. in the fellowship hall. Sub sandwiches will be sold on Sundays (August 31 and September 7) in the Narthex.

High school will go to Scarecrow Farm on Sunday, October 5. We will leave church at 12:00 p.m. (eat lunch before you come!), plan to arrive at 1:00 p.m., and grab dinner in Sioux City afterwards, with an estimated time back home at 6:00 p.m. Please bring money for your own dinner or let me know if funds are needed! We need drivers for this event, no longer are high school students able to drive themselves. Please RSVP by September 28.

The 7th/8th grade students will be taking part in our Confirmation program starting on Wednesday, September 10 from **4:00-4:50 p.m.** They will meet again on September 24, October 1, 8, 22, 29, November 5, 12, December 3, 10, and resume after the Christmas break. A letter will be sent out in the mail. 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 4:00 p.m. and return to church by 9:00 p.m. High school students may join occasionally. **Outreach Nights:** October 12 - Block Party/Kickball; December 7 - Christmas Mystery; February 15 - Hoonting; March 15 - Gargoyles; April 12 - Church vs. Church Dodgeball. **Recharge Weekend:** November 14-16 (IOLBC Okoboji Location) - registration form/\$45. due to office.

- Bri Oetken, Youth Director

SUNDAY SCHOOL



We look forward to Rally Sunday on September 7! Sunday school will run from 10:15-11:00 a.m. We are in need of teachers for the 3rd-6th grade Sunday school group this year. Curriculum and a plan for the day is provided, the teaching time is from approximately 10:35-11:00 a.m.

- Bri Oetken, Youth Director



JAM (Jesus And Me)

As we get ready for the upcoming JAM year, we have some important information for you. This year JAM will run on Wednesdays from 5:00 p.m.-6:15 p.m. for students in 1st through 6th grades. Please watch for an email with a registration form, or request one from the church office. Our JAM kickoff will be September 10 and the forms need to be turned in before that date. We are expecting our enrollment numbers to be great this year and we are so excited about that!

We will continue with rotations of Music, Bible Study, and Craft/Activity, followed by supper. It will be busy but that is what makes it fun! We are also going to continue with a monthly pizza night. There will be a sign-up with sponsorship "slices" available for \$100, which goes a long way towards paying for the pizza we need, and if you sponsor a pizza night, you are invited to come and eat with us. There will also be a dessert sign-up in the narthex and we are grateful for those who volunteer to provide simple, kid-friendly desserts each week.

If you are interested in volunteering to help out Glenda in the kitchen, Nancy with the Bible study, or Emma with the Craft/Activity, or you would like to be a table parent, please let Jill Cook know soon. We would love to have you join us and help JAM run smoothly each week! If you aren't able to commit to every week but would like to be on a list of substitutes, those are needed as well so please reach out and let us know you're interested.

The church is encouraging all parents of JAM members, and requiring all volunteers, to fill out the background check form that is available in the sanctuary, which you can seal in the envelope and return it to the church office or place under the office door. In the interest of the safety of our children, our insurance is requiring this of anyone who will come into contact with our children. There will be a required short training class for all volunteers who are not already current mandatory reporters of child abuse and neglect. Child Protection Training be on October 1 at 7:00 p.m. or October 5 at 10:15 a.m.

As always, we appreciate your prayers and support for our JAM kids, and we appreciate all the volunteers who join us weekly at JAM. It takes all of us, one way or another, to make these programs and activities come together for our kids. God bless!

- Jill Cook, JAM Director

PASTORAL ACTS

Funeral: Lillian Green.

Memorial: Dennis Noack.

YEARLY FINANCIAL UPDATE

JULY

Total Income	\$ 16,900.98
Total Expense	<u>\$ - 25,480.99</u>
Income Less Expense	\$ -8,580.01
Fiscal Year Income	\$ 126,226.64
Fiscal Year Expense	<u>\$ -168,167.61</u>
Fiscal Year Income Less Expense	\$ -41,940.97
Air Conditioner Units Loan	\$ 19,896.57
August Monthly Payment	<u>\$ - 575.00</u>
Balance Due	<u>\$ 19,321.57</u>



ST. PAUL -JR./SR. HIGH SUB SANDWICH FUNDRAISER

Jr./Sr. High Youth Sub Fundraiser! Youth will be taking orders before/after worship services, Sundays in the narthex. Subs (\$5.00 each) will have ham, turkey, roast beef, and two cheese slices. Please contact any Jr. High or Sr. High student to place your order by September 14. (Turn In ALL ORDERS/MONEY on September 14!) Subs will be made and delivered on September 21. Subs can also be picked up after 1:00 p.m. here in the kitchen, if you wish to do so.

ST. PAUL - OFFICE HOURS

St. Paul Offices will be CLOSED on September 1, for the holiday. Please note: The Security Doors are answered daily from 7:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. The Security Doors are NOT answered on holidays.



PASTOR/STAFF APPRECIATION SUNDAY

Please join us on Sunday, October 5, to show our appreciation to Rev. Christopher Martin (Pastor), Bri Oetken (Youth Director/Sunday School Superintendent), Tami Roetman (Office Manager), Kristi Hegenbarth (Assistant Office Secretary), Dee Redinius (Assistant Office Manager), Susan Lichty (Worship Coordinator), and Seth Oetken (Custodian), as we celebrate Pastor/Staff Appreciation Sunday with a Potluck Brunch beginning at 10:45 a.m. Please come and bring your favorite dish to share! Sponsored by St. Paul Council and Fellowship Committee.

CHILD PROTECTION TRAINING

St. Paul Lutheran Church is requiring all volunteers and encouraging all parents of St. Paul Youth, to fill out a Background Check form. They are available from the church office and in the sanctuary. Please return the completed form sealed in the attached envelope and return it to the church office or place the envelope under the office door. In the interest of the safety of our youth, our insurance company is requiring this of anyone who will have contact with our youth. There will be a required short training class for all volunteers who are not already current mandatory reporters of child abuse and neglect. Child Protection Training be on October 1 at 7:00 p.m. or October 5 at 10:15 a.m.

CONFIRMATION CLASS OF 2025



The 9th grade students that have completed their confirmation studies and would like to affirm their faith through the rite of Confirmation, will have that opportunity on Reformation Sunday, October 26 at 9:00 a.m. To prepare for confirmation Sunday, we will meet on Sunday mornings at 10:15 a.m. on September 28, October 5, and 19. We will choose our Bible verses, write Faith Statements, try on robes, and rehearse. Parents need to come with their student for the first class on Sunday, September 28, at 10:15 a.m., to help plan ahead for Confirmation Sunday and answer any questions you may have.

SUNDAY SCHOOL RALLY SUNDAY

Sunday school will kick off on **Rally Sunday, September 7**. Sunday school time will be from 10:15-11:00 a.m. SS is open to all children - 4 year olds/PreK through 8th grade.



BIBLE PRESENTATION TO 4YR. OLDS AND 3RD GRADERS

Bible presentations for the 4 year olds and 3rd graders will happen during the Worship service on **Sunday, September 14**. If you have a student in either of these age groups, please prepare to receive your student's Bible during worship on September 14 at 9:00 a.m.

CEMETERY FLOWERS REMOVAL DEADLINE

The deadline for removal of plants, flowers, etc. at the St. Paul Lutheran Cemetery is **Monday, October 6**. Please make sure all items are removed by this date.

2026 BUDGET REQUEST DEADLINE

Any budget requests for 2026, are due by **Sunday, October 26**. Please make sure to turn all budget requests into the church office by this deadline. Thank you.

COATS FOR KIDS

Sheldon Ministerial Association will be offering Coats for Kids this fall! 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. Distribution of the coats will be held in conjunction with the Sheldon Mobile Food Bank dates on October 9 and November 13 from 4:30-6 p.m.



SCHOOL KITS - MISSION AND OUTREACH

Please help us send school bags to Lutheran World Relief. School supplies are being collected. Each kit contains one school bag. School bags are made by the church sewing ladies.

Each School Kit Contains:

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|--|---------------------------------|
| > 4 70-80 Sheet Notebooks (wide or college rule) | > 1 Pencil Sharpener |
| > 1 Ruler (inches on one side, centimeters on the other) | > 1 Pair - Blunt Scissors |
| > 5 Unsharpened No. 2 Pencils | > 1 2 1/2 in. Eraser |
| > 5 Black or Blue Ballpoint Pens (not gel ink) | > 1 Crayon Box (16 or 24 count) |



PRAYER CHAIN



We are currently in the process of updating the church Prayer Chain lists. If you would like to be added or removed, or have a different phone contact number, please contact the church office by Sunday, September 21. A copy of the updated Prayer Chain list will be put into church mailboxes by the end of September for individuals on the list.

SHELDON MOBILE FOOD BANK

The Sheldon Mobile Food Bank will be on Thursday, September 11. 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, September 15 from 5:30-6:30 p.m. at Living Water Community Church. Free groceries are also available.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



Please prayerfully consider helping with the Worship services on Sunday mornings! We are needing more volunteers to help with the Sound Tech, Video Tech, PowerPoint Tech, Usher, Lector, and Coffee Fellowship! Please, Please, Please... contact the office for more information or to sign up. Training will be given for the Tech positions.

TYPEWRITER WANTED

The Office is looking for a working electric typewriter. Please contact the church office if you have one you wish to donate. Thank you.

IOWA REFUND - CAN/BOTTLE REMINDER

ONLY Iowa Refund cans and plastic bottles should be placed into our IA redemption container outside. Please NO water bottles! Donations go to the JAM fund. Thank you.

TOUCH OF HOPE - HAITI

St. Paul is sponsoring 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.

SHELDON UNITY WORSHIP SERVICE



The Sheldon Ministerial Association invites you to "Together 2025 - A Service of Christian Unity" on Sunday, August 31 at 10:00 a.m. on the RiseFest grounds. Please bring a lawn chair! Volunteers with golf carts are needed to transport guests from the parking lot to the worship area. If you have a golf cart and are willing to volunteer, please contact Ken Snyder at 324-2491.

