

# ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL CHURCH

October 2023 NEWSLETTER

100 N FREMONT ST | LEWISTON, MN 55952

October  
Be present.  
Let the day flow with grace.  
Expect joy. Be positive.  
Serve with compassion.  
Speak only kindness.  
Impart only love.  
Never forget you're not alone.  
Give thanks for everything.  
See goodness in others. mary davis

Dear Members of St. Paul's Church.

I thought I would start my first newsletter article with a brief bio so you have an introduction and it makes for an ice-breaker...so to speak.

I grew up on a farm and attended kindergarten at the Ridgeway School. Then moved to Eyota and later to La Crescent where I graduated from high school in 1989.

I attended Bethany Lutheran College in Mankato for my freshman year. Then returned to the Winona area and finished my BA degree in English/Writing at UW-La Crosse. I interned as a Technical Writer for a software company while in college and then professionally after graduation.

Pastor's Message	1-2
Members News	3
Council Minutes	4a
Service News Synod Information Church Info	4b-8
Pastor David's Farewell	9-11
Other	12-14

I married my high school sweetheart, who was in the Navy, so we lived in Philadelphia and then San Diego.

In 1997, our first daughter was born, Megan Ellen. She currently lives with her husband of two years just outside of La Crescent.

In 2001, our second daughter, Emily Lin was born and died the same day. This event shifted my life in many ways including toward the ministry. Sadly, my first marriage ended during this grieving period and further led me toward the ministry. Megan and I moved to Decorah, IA.

In 2004, I married Shawn Brooks, who grew up in Rochester. We moved to La Crosse and became involved with the ELCA church near our home.

In 2005, our daughter, Nessa Rose, arrived. She is now in Baltimore, MD attending Goucher College (her second year).

In 2011, Shawn and I moved to Dubuque, IA to attend Wartburg Theological Seminary at the same time! I was focused on service ministry and chaplaincy/pastoral care.

In 2013-14, I completed my Chaplain Residency at Mayo Clinic hospitals while Shawn completed his pastoral internship in Harmony, MN.

Office Hours  
Tues-Thurs  
12:00—4:00 pm

2015, I graduated from Wartburg with a Masters in Service Ministry. We were assigned to the Western Iowa Synod and Shawn was called to serve two churches outside La Mars, IA. I served as Hospice Chaplin with St. Croix Hospice out of their Spencer, IA office.

In September 2015, I was consecrated as an ELCA Diaconal (Service) Minister.

In 2017, I was invited to consider a call to serve two rural congregations near Sioux City, IA. After completing the TEEM program and pastoral internship, I was ordained to the ELCA on May 18, 2019.

In August 2021, I accepted a position as Winona Health Chaplain.

In October 2022, Shawn accepted a Bridge to Settle call at Faith Lutheran in St. Charles and Peace Lutheran in Eyota, and we moved to Eyota.

In August, 2023, I accepted the call to serve as a Bridge to Settle pastor to St. Paul's Church in Lewiston.

This is an exciting and joyous transition for me as I have in recent months discerned in many ways God calling me to minister within a congregation. I look forward to getting to know you all individually and as a church community. I do ask for your prayers as I minister among and with you all.

God's peace be with you today, and always!

Pastor Tami Groth

Lt—Rt.

Megan Ellen

Nessa Rose

Pastor Shawn Brooks

Pastor Tami Groth



## Greeting Cards!

Would you be willing to take a minute to write a card (or color a picture) and send it to one of our elders? The thing that I share when I get to visit our elders who can't always make it to worship is that, "Just because you can't come to church on Sunday, doesn't make you any less a part of the church. We get to come to you!" Would you join me in sending a written greeting as a church-together?

Iris Haake  
20508 Enterprise Valley Dr.  
Lewiston, MN 55952

Ila Musser  
232 S. Fremont Street  
Lewiston, MN 55952

Dick Schultz  
9 Williams Street  
Lewiston, MN 55952

Renata Rislow  
Bremmer Suites Good Shepherd  
803 Home St.  
Apt. # 108 or PO Box 747  
Rushford, MN 55971

## Prayers for those needing strength:

Bobbi Jo Jensen: surgery recovery  
Renata Rislow: recovering from a fall  
Garrett Meisch: deployed to Africa  
Family of Dona Ferguson: mourning her passing on Sept. 25, 2023.

If you want to add to this Prayer List, please inform the church office at 523-2643 or email [stpaullewisston@gmail.com](mailto:stpaullewisston@gmail.com).



**If you cannot find the church service on the St. Paul's website, please check through YouTube as this is where the service is downloaded first before going on to the website. Once in YouTube, search as follows: July 9, 2023 St. Paul's Church, Lewiston, MN. This should get you to the service or within a few clips. Sometimes the day gets away from me before I get to posting it on the website. But it will always be on YouTube.**

## St. Paul's September meeting September 13, 2023

In attendance: John Botten, Jeff Nelson, Jim Olson, Diane Rislow, Pastor David, Sarah Sommer.

Secretary report was unavailable.

Treasurer report: Read and motion made by Diane and seconded by Jim motion carried.

Pastor report

Worship community: Talked about the True Faith troubadours coming twice a year. Talking about continuing the favorite hymns. A schedule for ushers and communion helpers. There is also plan for Reformation Sunday and All Saints Sunday.

Congregational life : no report

Property management : no report

SPY report : Pancake breakfast for September 24 in honor of Pastor David's last Sunday. The first Wednesday, the fellow for Christian athletes meets with four of the leaders being members of St. Paul's.

Outreach and evangelism committee : no report

Parish education : rally Sunday went well.

Old business : the back entry was completed.

New business : looking at the Fisher foundation funds, and how to allocate them.

Motion to adjourn the meeting : by Jeff seconded by Diane motion carried.  
Submitted by. Sarah

### *Dressing up the Church!*

Greeting visitors is an important part when strangers come to church or people looking for a church home. Another important part is how the church looks. By that we mean paraments and banners and flowers.

The Altar Guild is looking for volunteers to help set up communion on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month, and also change banners and paraments when needed. If you would like to take a month and be trained in the communion set-up and change of banners, please let us know by signing up on the Altar Guild sign-up sheet for the desired month. It's an easy job and is much appreciated by others. We'd love to have your help. So think about what works for you....September? October? November?

If interested, contact:

Dianne Rislow: 507-696-4520; Judy Hovelson: 507-450-6132; Beth Olson: 507-251-8857; Mary Botten: 507-523-3777

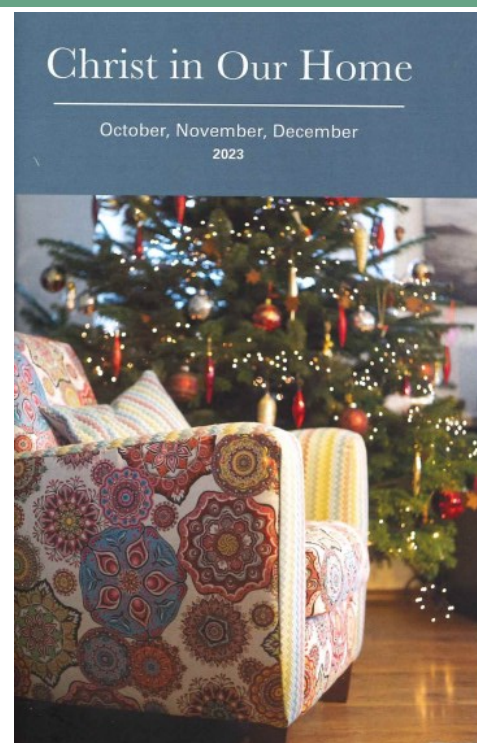


This is what the latest edition of 'Christ in Our Home' looks like which is now located in the narthex literature turn-a-bout. So pretty with a decorated Christmas tree and comfy chair. But most important is the beauty of God's word in daily devotions.

In this edition you'll find titles such as 'Becoming spiritually fit'; 'Times after Pentecost'; and 'Revealing the mystery'. You'll also find devotions for the weeks of Advent, Christmas Day, and New Year's Eve day.

The one thing missing from this picture is a cup of coffee and a piece of pie. Why not take both with a booklet and visit one of our shut-ins. They are listed on page 2 . If you need a phone number, please contact the church office Tues.-Thurs between 12-4 pm. Currently there are five members listed, but if you know of a member who recently became homebound, please let us know so we can add to the list.

One of the greatest gifts you can give is your time. "Whatsoever you have done to the least of these, you have done it do me." This is part of Christian fellowship, too, and wouldn't it be great is we needed to order more books!



# Praise Worship Sunday

October 8 at  
9:00 am

&

Fellowship  
Coffee at 10:00 am

**Don't miss it!**



# SEMN Synod Call Process Overview for Congregations and Councils

## Phase One: Introduction

### *The call process is primarily Spiritual Work*

The time between when a rostered leader announces his or her resignation and the next ‘settled’ roster leader begins his or her call is a special time in the life of the congregation. It is a time filled with hope and expectation, of questioning and experimentation. It can also be a time of anxiety.

The first and foremost task of the congregation and of its leaders during this time is spiritual reflection and prayer. Prayer, bible study, and regular devotions will keep the congregation spiritually centered, responsive to the movement of the Spirit, and focused on what God’s hopes for this congregation and its mission are.

Every gathering of the congregation, whether it be for worship, for meetings, or for social interaction is an opportunity to gird the call process in prayer. Through bulletin announcements, newsletters, and social media people can be invited into deep reflection about the mission and ministry of the congregation.

### *Understanding Call*

At the very core of Lutheran theology is the ‘priesthood of all believers.’ In baptism, God has called us all to be part of the body of Christ. We are all ministers of the Gospel in our daily lives. Within this priesthood of all believers, there are some who are called to serve the people of God through Word and Sacrament ministry (Clergy) or through Word and Service ministry (Deacon).

Rostered Leaders (Clergy and Deacons) are called, *not hired*, to serve congregations. A call to a rostered leader to serve is one element in the church’s seeking and following God’s movement into the future. The call process is not the same as a hiring process in other parts of society. For in a call process, the congregation is seeking and following God’s movement into the future. The congregation engages in an effort to discern what God wants for their setting so that the Gospel may be more fully proclaimed. This call is not just a call to the congregation – it is a call by the whole church to engage in the ministry of the Gospel.

### *The Call to Ministry*

God calls some Christians to rostered ministry. Once that call is discerned, individuals normally devote years to study, training, and preparation under the guidance of the Office of the Bishop, the Candidacy Committee, and the leadership of the seminaries.

Similarly, through the church, God calls rostered leaders to a specific ministry. Local congregations participate directly in the call process. The whole church also participates through the office of the Bishop. Just as the whole church took an active role as individuals prepared for ministry, so now the whole church takes an active role in the call to a specific ministry. This is demonstrated by the process through which a person is approved for rostered ministry in the church. Candidates must receive and accept a call to a specific ministry in order to be ordained as pastors or consecrated as deacons. The rite of ordination or consecration usually occurs in a local congregation, but it is always an action by the whole church. That’s why a Bishop of the Church presides at all ordination and consecration services.

### *The Church, the Congregation and Call*

The work of the call process is not just the work of the local congregation. The whole church has a stake in this process since the whole church is involved in the proclamation of the Gospel, wherever it occurs. The congregational leadership, the call committee, and the congregation all participate in different ways in this process. The Office of the Bishop also participates, representing the commitment of the whole church to the “next best chapter in ministry” for both the congregation and the rostered leader. The Office of the Bishop, the congregation, and the prospective rostered leader work together to insure that this new ministry is faithful to the Gospel, empowers the local congregation in its ministry, and strengthens the witness of the whole church.

## SEMN Synod Call Process cont.

### Phase One: The Leave-taking

#### *Resignation of the Current Pastor*

When the current rostered leader resigns or retires, most congregations want to find a new pastor quickly. No one can determine how long a particular call process will take. Congregations are encouraged to be diligent in their process of calling a new rostered leader. Laying a strong foundation for the next chapter in a congregation's life and calling a rostered leader who can most appropriately lead the congregation are more important than the length of time the process takes.

Usually when accepting a new call, the rostered leader notifies the congregational leadership first and then sends a letter to all members. Normally, the final day of the rostered leader's service is at least thirty days from the time of the announcement and may include accrued vacation time.

During the time between the rostered leader's notification and that person's last day of service, several steps need to be taken:

Members of the congregation council meet with a representative from the Office of the Bishop to review the call process and determine the kind of transition-time pastoral support that will be needed.

The rostered leader and a representative from the Office of the Bishop conduct an exit interview.

The rostered leader and the congregational leadership insure that the congregational records are complete and that all financial obligations on the part of the congregation and the rostered leader are completed.

A celebration of the ministry that the rostered leader and the congregation have shared is planned and on the final Sunday of the rostered leader's service to the congregation, the *Litany of Closure at the Completion of Ministry and Litany of Farewell and God's Speed* (found in the resources at the end of this packet) are included as part of the service.

It is also helpful for the rostered leader to share with the congregation the ethical boundaries regarding pastoral acts by former pastors and deacons. In the ELCA, there is a very clear understanding of these pastoral boundaries. These applies both to rostered leaders who accept another call and to those who retire. Once a rostered leader has left a call, that person *may not*:

Do funerals for persons from the former congregation.

Do weddings for persons from the former congregation.

Interfere in the life, pastoral care or mission of that former congregation.

Return to or engage in the life of the congregation.



**FIELDS OF FAITH**

Our keynote speaker  
for the evening will be  
Brian Bergstrom,  
WSU head football coach!

**October 4, 2023**

Lewiston Altura High School Football Field  
100 County Rd 25  
Lewiston, MN 55952 • 7:00 PM

ONE DAY. ONE MESSAGE. ONE STAND.

**S.P.Y. will be attending the Fields of Faith Event that is put on by the Lewiston Altura Area Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA). This activity will take the place of S.P.Y. and Confirmation.**

**Four of our teens from St. Paul's are leaders in FCA and will be sharing testimonies that night. We are very proud of them for being willing to talk about their faith stories, and being leaders of FCA in our community.**

**Plan on meeting at the LAHS bleachers, if you would like to sit together. It usually lasts about 90 minutes, and teens can be dropped off and picked up in back of the school after the event. Dress like you would for a cold fall night of football. If it rains, we will meet in the gym.**

**It would be great to see parents and many of our congregation members at this event, as the community is most definitely invited. Please consider attending. You'll never regret it.**

*Sunday, October 8th will be Pastor Tami Groth's first Sunday as Interim Pastor of St. Paul's Church.*

*This will be a great opportunity to meet her, and also to give thanks to the Lord for her coming to St. Paul's.*

*(Real bars from a pan will be served with coffee).*



**FAREWELL PASTOR DAVID AND FAMILY ~  
THANKS FOR BEING SUCH A BLESSING TO ST. PAUL'S!**

**Holy Commotion leading our singing \* BIG kids and little kids attending the Spark's Bible story time.**



**Holy Communion \* Releasing Pastor David from his ministry at St. Paul's.**



### A PANCAKE BRUNCH AND A "ROAST"

Our youth group made a delicious pancake brunch and decorated with a Western theme, as Pastor David and his family are moving to Texas. Most wore cowboy hats and bandanas. Decorations included a "Wanted" poster with a silly picture of pastor. After pastor was done with the receiving line after church,



two of our cowboys rounded up the pastor and plopped a cowboy hat on his head to take him to the fellowship hall. There were several people ready to "ambush" pastor with praise, stories, and laughter.

Linda Ballard, our office administrator and Pastor David's "sidekick, presented him with awesome gifts that she had stitched for him.

**TO END OUR TIME TOGETHER WITH A LITTLE HUMOR.**



**LAST BUT NOT LEAST, ELLSWORTH WENT OFF-SCRIPT TO CONCLUDE OUR ROAST.** Ellsworth was hysterical but also talked about our appreciation for all pastor had done for us. Happy Trails to you David.

**A few of our youth, parents, and friends helping with the pancake brunch. Besides the brunch, our teens had a busy morning singing in Holy Commotion and being a part of the roast too.**

**Thanks everyone!**



## October 2023

Matthew narrates one of Jesus' controversial parables in which Jesus says that the reign of God is like that of a landowner who pays his workers the same wage no matter what time of day they began to work. When God changes God's mind about punishing Nineveh for their evil ways, Jonah is angry. Yet God is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love. In baptism we receive the grace of God that is freely given to all. As Martin Luther wrote, in the presence of God's mercy we are all beggars.

Date	Counters	Ushers	Commun Asst.	Acolyte
1	Beth Olson	Sarah J Sommer	Mary Botten	TBA
8	Heather Reps	Jim Mueller & Tara Kreidermacher		TBA
15	Leann Jacobsen	Jim & Beth Olson		TBA
22	Mary Botten	Ann Lubinski		TBA
29	Beth Olson	Pat & Clare Burfeind		TBA

AV: Jeff & Dexter Nelson

Altar Guild: Dianne Rislow

**Total September Contributions / Budget: \$11,606 / \$11,505**

**September Attendance:**

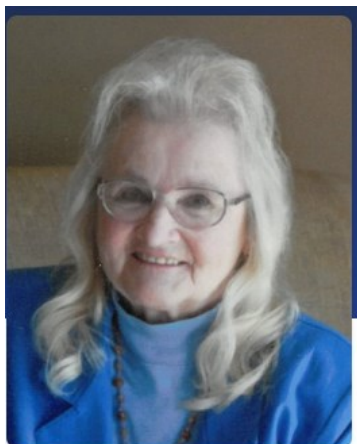
9/3 (27) 9/10 (35) 9/17 (39) 9/24 (86)

### Dates for your calendar

Oct. 1	9:00 am Worship w/communion. Pastor Barb Streed
Oct. 4	Field of Faith @ Lewiston-Altura H.S.
Oct. 8	9:00 am Praise Worship. Pastor Tami Growth
Oct. 11	6-8 pm SPY Meeting
Oct. 12	6:30 pm Church Council Meeting
Oct. 15	9:00 am Worship w/communion
Oct. 18	6:30 pm Confirmation Class?
Oct. 22	9:00 am Worship
Oct. 25	6:30 pm Confirmation Class ?
Oct. 29	9:00 am Worship—Reformation Service (Observed on Oct. 31st)

**October meeting to be determined. Watch for date and time in the bulletin announcements. The colors are green. To donate flowers, please contact Dianne Rislow.**





Dona Ferguson  
 B: October 24, 1929  
 D: September 25, 2023

Funeral services will be at 11:00 a.m., Thursday, October 5, 2023, at St. Paul's UCC/ ELCA church in Lewiston. A visitation will be from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. at church on the day of services. Burial will follow next to Jim in Lewiston Public Cemetery. Memorials can be made to St. Paul's Church. [www.hofffuneral.com](http://www.hofffuneral.com).

GREENFIELD LUTHERAN CHURCH  
 Presents Mike Reicks' Famous

## FRIED CHICKEN



## DINNER

Fundraiser

**Sunday, October 1**

**11 am – 1 pm**

3-piece Chicken  
 Dinner with  
 Broasted Potatoes,  
 Coleslaw and Bar  
 All for \$15



### DINE-IN OR PICK-UP

Advance Tickets Only  
 Ticket Sales End  
 Sunday, September 24th

507-886-3272 [WWW.GREENFIELDLUTHERAN.COM](http://WWW.GREENFIELDLUTHERAN.COM)

GREENFIELD LUTHERAN CHURCH 235 MAIN AVENUE S HARMONY, MN 55939

*Hey, this looks pretty good. Call for tickets and head down there after service on Sunday, October 1st.*

*Be the first in line!*

*If you get a chance to see the inside of Greenfield Lutheran Church, all the better. It is an interesting building.*

*Enjoy the drive and see the beautiful colors before the leaves are gone.*



## October

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

HARVEST  
 SEA  
 WINDY  
 HALLOWEEN

TREAT  
 OCTOBER  
 TENTH  
 HABITAT

SHIP  
 PUMPKIN  
 LEAVES  
 COSTUME

FROST  
 RAIN  
 CROPS  
 TRICK