



St. Paul News

St. Paul Lutheran Church

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February

2025

Pastoral Care: Visiting the Sick

¹⁴ Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵ And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. ¹⁶ Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. (James 5:14-16)

During the month of January, it ended up being that I had quite a few hospital visits. On account of this, I believe it a good time to talk about what my goals usually are during a hospital visit.

First off, keep in mind that it is important for you and/or your family to let me know if someone is in the hospital. Although some hospitals have an option on the admission form to have a pastor contacted, this doesn't always happen. Do not rely on the hospital to contact the church. So, in the event someone is in the hospital, let the pastor know via the church phone or his personal phone. With that in mind, this is my process.

Assess the situation:

The first thing I do is make a visual assessment. If the door is shut, I will ask a nurse to see if it is okay to step in. If the individual is asleep, I don't always wake them up. In some situations, hospital staff get very irritated when a patient is awoken because it is so difficult to get them to sleep. I also look to see if there is a family member present.

Assess the person:

I find out how they are feeling, what they know about their care plan. Quite often this is easier when family is present. Sometimes the patient doesn't know why they are there.

Have Casual Conversation:

If the person is alert, or family is present, I might have some more casual conversation. The reason for this being that so often time spent in a hospital can be very long. Some people don't need much conversation, but for others it is appreciated as they are feeling a little lonely and isolated. If staying at a hospital outside of town, the pastor represents a small piece of home that they no doubt miss. (Amount of conversation varies from person to person and situation to situation.)

These conversations sometimes can also be quite helpful in developing relationship between pastor and congregation members.

Spiritual Care

This is the primary purpose for the visit. The pastor will read some scripture, sometimes share a devotion, and say a prayer. If it is a long-term hospital stay that takes place past a communion Sunday, the pastor might offer communion. Keep in mind that the pastor's visit isn't just for the patient, but also for the patient's family.

End-of-Life Spiritual Care

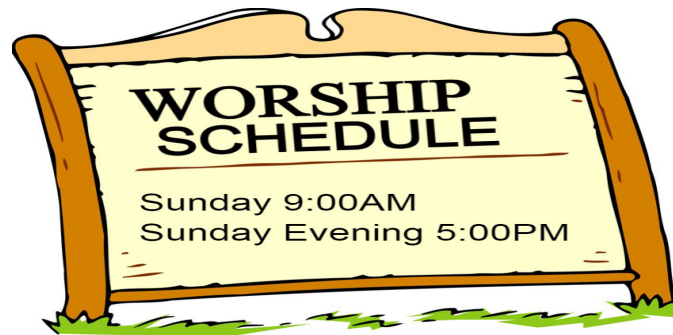
If it is known that a person's death is very near, it is important to call in the pastor. The Pastor will come to the bedside of the individual, if possible along with family. If there is family present, the patient doesn't necessarily need to be fully alert. The pastor will lead those present through the Commendation of the Dying. A service designed to bring comfort to the dying and their family through the power of God's word.

Frequency of Visits

When there are number of pastors and size of congregation can cause variation in frequency. However, in an ideal situation: Horn Hospital visits would be every other day, Sioux City visits would be every 2-3 days, Omaha or Sioux Falls Visits would be twice per week. Busyness of the pastor's schedule will impact this visit frequency. Sometimes a pastor will rely upon area chaplains to help with the visitation.

We never want ourselves or our loved ones to end up in the hospital, but it inevitably will happen at certain points of life. As a pastor it is a privilege to bring God's word and prayer to those who are sick, and to provide spiritual care for the patient and the patient's loved ones. In a person's time of need, don't be afraid to call upon this care for yourself or your loved ones.

God's Blessings,
~Pastor Neil Wehmas



OFFERING BOXES In order to help with the overall flow and length of the worship service. we will be collecting the offering via the offering boxes in the Narthex. There will be no in-service offering collection. The main wooden offering box will still be available on the Welcome Center, there will be boxes available by each door that enters the Sanctuary.



COMMUNITY BASKET DONATIONS for COMMUNITY BASKET DONATIONS for February: , etc.. Place your donation in the shopping cart in the Narthex or hallway. All items are appreciated as well, as they can always use donations. The Community Basket is open on Thursdays (except 3rd Thursday), from 2:30-5:30PM. ****They can always use toilet paper, laundry soap, shampoo & conditioner, canned vegetables, canned fruits & canned soups. Mobile**

Food Pantry will be on Thursday, February 20 at the Arthur Community Center, from 4:30-5:30PM. We encourage individuals and families to bring a laundry basket or box to hold the food that is distributed.

The Whole Story has begun, as we read the Bible in a year. Suggested Apps below if that is how you like to read **the daily readings** and included in this newsletter, and the month of **February daily readings** will be on the Welcome Center,

When you post on your personal Facebook, Twitter, Instagram or Snapchat Use the #thewholestory25 and #stpaulidagrove

WE HOPE YOU GRABBED YOUR FLAT JESUS, they are still available in the Narthex.



FLAT JESUS We encourage everyone (all ages) to take a Flat Jesus and carry Flat Jesus with you, keep him in your car, or at work, etc.. We also encourage you to share Flat Jesus with someone you know, grand kids, other adults. We also encourage you to have Flat Jesus with you as you read through the Bible this next year, which will begin at our New Year's 6:00PM Worship Service. Take him with you any time you're out having lunch, dinner, driving, etc..If you would like to take a picture of him by your Bible, Tablet, computer or at your lunch table, dinner table, or car, etc..Send in your pictures we would love to post them or share them on the screens, with our announcement slides stpaulidagrove@gmail.com



Cross Explorations & Catechism Classes

3rd – 5th Grades

Class Time is 4:00-5:00PM

They can walk up after right after school

There will be snack time

If they need to stay til 5:15PM to wait for a sibling,
an adult will be present with them

6th, 7th & 8th Grades

Class Time is 4:00-5:15PM

On Early Out school day's it will be from

1:30-2:30PM 3rd – 5th grades

1:30-2:45PM 6th-8th grades

Early Outs in February on Wednesday, February 5 and Wednesday, February 26
Class will be at 1:30PM on those days.

REMINDER OUR WEATHER CANCELLATION POLICY FOR WEDNESDAY

CLASSES: If school is dismissed early or cancelled it automatically cancels Midweek classes for grades 3rd - 8th grades

Also watch our Facebook page for those announcements as well St. Paul Lutheran Church, Ida Grove, Iowa LCMS



SUNDAY 10:15AM-11:15AM

4yr old Preschool – 2nd Grade in Nursery upstairs

3rd & 4th Grade in same classroom as last year on lower level

5th & 6th Grade in same classroom as last year on lower level

7th & 8th Grades are to attend Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall

9th -12th Grades in Youth Room

Valentines for kids

Valentine's Day isn't just for schoolchildren and sweethearts. Loving parents should strive to give their children these life-changing gifts during February and beyond.



- **Acceptance:** Say and show that you love children for who they are. Give this gift with a kiss.
- **Self-confidence:** Help boost kids' trust in themselves. Give this gift with a hug.
- **Peace:** Model how to give your worries to God. Offer this present with laughter.
- **Gratitude:** Help children be genuinely thankful for each new day and for all of life. Give this gift as they go

out the door.

- **Faith:** Introduce children to Jesus, the best friend they'll ever have. Do this by taking them to church and Sunday school regularly.

JR High and SR High Youth Pancake Breakfast



The next time the Youth will serve
Pancakes will be
on Sunday, March 2, 2025 come and enjoy

FREE WILL OFFERING FUNDRAISER FOR YOUTH ACTIVITIES,
YEARLY GATHERINGS AND NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING



The Highway Sr High Youth (9th-12th)
Meets 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 7PM



The MidWay Jr High Youth (6th-8th)
Meets 2nd Wednesday of month 5:15-6:15PM

ASK THE PASTOR – LAST SUNDAYS OF THE MONTH "Have questions to ask Pastor Wehmas? He will attempt to answer a few questions as part of the services, during the last Sunday of the month. Submit your questions in the white box in the Narthex." A good way to get a question answered!!



UPDATING INFORMATION: we always ask to update our records with any new addresses, even if its been within 6 months – year, any changes in phone numbers, etc.to make sure we have all correct information of birthdates and anniversaries. Also if you would not like your birthday or anniversary publicized in the weekly bulletin or the monthly newsletter please let the church office know. stpaulidagrove@gmail.com or 712-364-2918

MONTHLY NEWSLETTERS AND CALENDAR are always available to be picked up at the church in the narthex. If you would like to view online our website is www.stpaulig.org
If you would like it emailed to you please contact the church office, email us or fill out the “update our information form” Copies of the form to update information is available on the Welcome center and can be placed in the wooden offering box

HOSPITALIZATION REMINDER : if you are admitted to any hospital please let us know or have a family member or a friend let Pastor Neil or the church office know, so we know you are there to visit, or would just want prayers from Pastor.



FEBRUARY Birthdays

February 1 Aubree Frank
 Kent Krager
 Kenny Streck
 Aubree Zimmerman
 February 2 Sherry Smith
 February 3 Dylan Malone
 Kylie Petersen
 February 4 Misti Baker
 Shelbi Conover
 Cindy Hausman
 Derrick Wessel
 February 5 Gina Schau
 February 7 Marlene Zobel
 February 10 Julie Schiernbeck
 February 12 Lindsey Straus
 February 13 Brad Hansen
 February 14 Abby Kearns
 February 17 Delores Peffer
 February 18 Megan Montgomery
 February 19 Erin Rasmussen
 Breanne Wilcox

February 20 Elaine Bubke
 John Konrady
 Pat Phillips
 Savannah Wych
 February 21 Jillian Groves
 Karsen Stehr
 February 24 Hailey Ackerman
 Robyn Devitt
 Jay Greenwald
 Tristian Senhen
 February 25 Cecile Bargar
 Beverly Godbersen
 February 27 Doug Hanson
 Cole Uhl
 Earleen Uhl
 February 28 Linda Bubke
 Parker Rasmussen
 Ranea Rehse
 Kim Schreiber

FEBRUARY Anniversaries

February 5 Greg & Lorna Steenbock
 February 8 Russ & Clara Bennigsdorf
 February 14 Doug & Peggy Hanson
 Jeff & Geneva Miesner
 Dustin & Julie Schiernbeck
 February 15 Andy & Deb Brosius
 February 19 Zach & Megan Montgomery
 February 28 Larry & Lori Boysen



Skating Party

FAMILY & YOUTH SKATING PARTY ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2025 from 4:30-6:30PM at the Skate Palace, Ida Grove. Free Admission and all ages are welcome and bring a friend! We will be providing hot dog & drink.