

MISSION & OUTREACH

Will meet on Wednesday, **May 13** at **9:00 a.m.** (Potluck Lunch)

DO-DAY

Will meet on Wednesday, **May 27** from **9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.** (Potluck Lunch)

PRISCILLA CIRCLE

Will meet on Monday, **May 11** at **2:30 p.m.**
Bible Study/Hostess: Gail P.

BIRTHDAY CLUB

Will meet on **May 21** at **10:00 a.m.**

MEN'S EARLY RISERS

Will meet on **May 6, 13, 20, 27** at **8:00 a.m.**
(Cook's Café)

POP-UP BIBLE STUDY

Will meet according to everyone's schedules.
Contact person: Janice Wielenga



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

- * **April 29 - (5:00-6:15 p.m.)** Jr. High Year-End Party and Pizza Night!
- * **May 1 - (6:00 p.m.)** Students/Parents Set-up and Prep Food for Pork Supper.
- * **May 2 - (4:30-7:30 p.m.)** Students/Parents be at the Church to HELP with Pork Supper.

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

- * **May 1 - (6:00 p.m.)** Students/Parents Set-up and Prep Food for Pork Supper.
- * **May 2 - (4:30-6:30 p.m.)** Students/Parents be at the Church to HELP with Pork Supper.
- * **May 6, 13 - (6:30-8:00 p.m.)** Sr. High Youth group will meet.

JAM (1st-5th Grade)

- * **April 29** - JAM Year-End Party and Pizza Night!

Sunday School (4 yrs.-6th Grade)

- * **April 26 - Celebration Sunday!** Last SS class. Students will sing during 9:00 a.m. service.



VBS - "To Know His Name" ~ Psalm 18:10



St. Paul Lutheran VBS ~ July 6-9 from 1:00-5:00 p.m.

Registration Forms in back of Sanctuary (Turn into office)



Summer is IOLBC Camp Time!  Check your Camp dates!

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

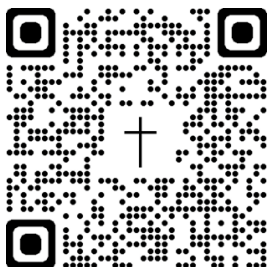


Radio Broadcast: (\$95) **May 17; July 12; August 16, 23, 30; October 8, 25; November 1, 8, 15, 29; December 27.**



Altar Flowers / Coffee Fellowship: Sign up/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@nethc.net
Church Office: (712) 324-3049
Pastor: Christopher Martin ~ E-mail: pastor@stpaulsheldon.org





“Dry Bones”

Several years ago, when I was serving a congregation in rural northeast Iowa, I was “on call” for a neighboring congregation while their pastor was away for vacation. During that time I was on call, a member of their congregation passed away, and I ended up officiating his funeral service at their church. During the service that day, one of the children of the deceased in his remarks on behalf of the family mentioned Ezekiel’s “dry bones” vision recorded in Ezekiel 37:1-14, and how that reminded him of something important on the day we had gathered to bury his father: even when it looks like death has taken everything from us, we still live with hope because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead!

Since we are still in the Easter season, isn’t it appropriate to have this visual from the prophet Ezekiel in front of us, as a reminder of our daily life? What is in your life that has you feeling like you are in that valley of dry bones? For some of us, we are mourning the death of loved ones, trying to get through each day without someone who was such an important part of our lives. For others, sin has broken a relationship that was once so important to your life, and perhaps, the damage that has been done made the breach irreparable. Others of us are suffering in some other way physically, emotionally, and spiritually, either because of sin that we have committed, or the sin of someone else. Perhaps you look at the current circumstances in our world, and you wonder if there is any hope for the future. And there’s simply the reality we live in a sinful, dying world and the aches and pains we experience serve as a constant reminder of the presence and curse of sin in our life and our world.

In the midst of these “dry bones” moments of life, where do we turn? If we look to the world around us that often wants to either redefine what it is, or deny the existence of sin altogether, we’re not going to find hope. If anything, if we choose to follow in the ways of the world, it eventually leads us to that valley of dry bones, a place without hope and life. However, when we turn our eyes toward our crucified and risen Savior, Jesus Christ, we find something different. While our problems in life don’t magically disappear, we are able to endure those “dry bones” moments of life with hope, just as that family at the beginning of this article found hope in the face of the death of their father in a church in small town eastern Iowa. When we listen to the Word that draws us to Jesus, we hear that Jesus is: “the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep” (1 Corinthians 15:20), meaning there is more to come. Through faith in Jesus Christ, living as His disciples, and immersing ourselves in the Scriptures every day, we know there is a day coming when we will be taken out of this valley of dry bones, and brought to a place where new life is brought from death! That changes our outlook on life in that yes, while we still have hard moments, we remember, sin and death don’t get the last word. Jesus does! Thus, we seek to abide in His Word, follow His commandments for our life, and find our hope and source of life in His gift of forgiveness and everlasting life.

I pray that as spring soon gives way to summer, you continue to make your life in Jesus Christ a priority. Seek Him out in His Word where He may be found each day. Make Sunday worship a priority for you and your family. And I hope you find someone in your life who you could invite to join you here at St. Paul to come see the risen Jesus with you, and grow in faith in Him each day. See you in church!

Your Friend in Christ,

Pastor Christopher Martin

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY - BRI



Both youth groups have been studying Acts after Easter. Each student is encouraged to read a chapter of Acts a day to get in the Word! Please encourage your students to have regular Bible reading times- feel free to make it a family affair! I have been greatly encouraged to hear some families spend time reading through books of the Bible a chapter or so at a time in the evenings when everyone is home. It's amazing how much sticks even for young kids and the life change I can see happen over the years! What a great way to start conversations about God- I'm sure pastor would be more than willing to answer any questions that arise during those reading times!

Jr. High youth group will conclude for the year at the end of April. Be on the lookout for summer activities! Current 8th graders are welcome to join the Sr. High group during summer meeting times.

Sr. High youth group will meet from 6:30-8:00 p.m. on Wednesdays during the school year (with the last one on May 13). Sr. High will switch to Sunday evenings from 6:30-8:00 p.m. in the summer. We plan to meet on the following Sundays (subject to change): June 7, 28, July 12, 26, and August 9.

The Pork Supper is scheduled for Saturday, May 2 from 5:00-7:00 p.m. All middle and high school students/families, please have 2 dozen desserts to church by Friday night, May 1. Additionally, middle and high school students and a parent please be at church at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, May 1 to make cornbread muffins, honey butter, and coleslaw.

Middle and high school students and at least one parent are requested to be at church by 4:30 p.m. on May 2, planning to start clean up at 7:00 p.m. and ending the night around 7:30 p.m.

- Bri Oetken, Youth Director

SUNDAY SCHOOL



Sunday school will conclude for the year at the end of April. We will be excited to see you again in the fall!

- Bri Oetken, Sunday School Superintendent



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

VBS is scheduled for July 6-9 from 1:00-5:00 p.m. Our Theme, "To Know His Name" - *Psalm 18:10*. IOLBC staff will join us again to lead our time together as we journey to know God's name. Registration forms can be found on the table in the back of the sanctuary.

JAM (Jesus And Me)

Our last night of JAM for the school year will be April 29. Have a great summer!

- Jill Cook, JAM Director



MOMCO GROUP

MomCo meets on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of each month from 10:45-11:45 a.m. in the fellowship hall and lounge. This ministry is for moms and kids ages 5 and under, we hope you will join us for a mom's Bible study and a fun, faith-filled time for the kids to play!



THE MOMCO

MomCo meets during the school year and will pause during summer break before beginning again next school year. All moms are invited regardless of denomination/church attendance, so please spread the word!

Class of
2026

2026 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

Congratulations to our 2026 High School Graduates!!

Class of
2026

Rees Baatz

Chevy Behrens

Rachel Besaw

Emma Boone

Ethan Hohbach

Jamari Kruse

Sophie Meyer

Bella Michels

Recognition Of Senior Graduates: In honor of the graduating seniors, we would like to recognize our seniors on Sunday, May 24 during the 9:00 a.m. worship service and with a graduation reception.

Sheldon Baccalaureate: The Sheldon Ministerial Association invites you and your family to the Senior Class of 2026, on May 17 at 7:30 p.m. in the Sheldon High School Auditorium.

YEARLY FINANCIAL UPDATE



MARCH

Total Income	\$ 18,851.60	Fiscal Year Income	\$ 58,867.31
Total Expense	<u>\$ -24,928.53</u>	Fiscal Year Expense	<u>\$ -88,063.49</u>
Income Less Expense	\$ -6,076.93	Fiscal Year Income Less Expense	\$ -29,196.18

ST. PAUL YOUTH PORK SUPPER FUNDRAISER



St. Paul Youth Pork Supper will be on **Saturday, May 2**, (5:00-7:00 p.m.) Freewill offering. Menu: smoked pork loin sandwich, cornbread muffins, coleslaw, baked beans, dessert, and drink. Jr. High/Sr. High Youth and at least one parent are requested to be at church by 4:30 p.m. on May 2, to help. We plan to start clean up at 7:00 p.m. and ending the night around 7:30 p.m.

All Jr. High and Sr. High students/families, please have 2 dozen desserts to the church kitchen by Friday, May 1. Additionally, Jr. High/Sr. High Youth students and a parent please be at church at 6:00 p.m. on Friday evening to make cornbread muffins, honey butter, and coleslaw.

STAINED-GLASS WINDOWS REPAIR

A fundraiser has been started for repairing the stained-glass windows in the church sanctuary. Donations may be given through your offering by writing "Stained-Glass Windows Repair" in the memo or by bringing in to the church office. Help us reach our goal to restore our beautiful stained-glass windows.

Goal: \$65,000



ST. PAUL OFFICES

Please Note: St. Paul Offices will be CLOSED on Memorial Day, Monday, May 25.

ST. PAUL CEMETERY

On Memorial Day, May 25, WAM Committee will honor former Pastors who are buried at St. Paul Lutheran Cemetery with a white cross by their grave. Pastors: Flentje, Bischoff, Langholz, Beyer, Dieter, Dieter, Arnold, and Guetzlaff.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER



Theme: "The Prayer at Valley Forge" - Join us on Thursday, May 7 at Sheldon Living Water Community Church at 6:30 p.m. as we observe our nation's 250th and the 75th anniversary of National Day of Prayer.

SHELDON FOOD BANK

Sheldon Food Bank is on Thursday, May 14 from 4:30-6:00 p.m. (Living Water Community Church)

SHELDON UNITY MEAL



FREE Sheldon Area Unity Meal on Monday, May 18 from 5:30-6:30 p.m. (Living Water Community Church) Free groceries are also available.

COLLECTING FOOD FOR PANTRY IN JUNE

St. Paul will be collecting food items for Love INC and UDMO food pantries in June!

TOUCH OF HOPE - HAITI

St. Paul sponsors Lensley Raymond and his classroom of the Simonette community, and includes yearly school expenses. Donations, please write "Touch of Hope-Haiti" in the check memo. Thank you.