

MISSION & OUTREACH

Will meet on Wednesday, **March 11 at 9:00 a.m.** (Potluck Lunch)

DO-DAY

Will meet on Wednesday, **March 25 from 9:00 a.m.– 3:00 p.m.** (Potluck Lunch)

PRISCILLA CIRCLE

Will meet on Monday, **March 9 at 2:30 p.m.**

Bible Study: Arlyce O.

Hostess: Carleen K.

BIRTHDAY CLUB

Will meet on **March 19 at 10:00 a.m.**

MEN'S EARLY RISERS

Will meet on **March 4, 11, 18, 25 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.



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

- * **March 4, 11, 18, 25 - (5:00-6:15 p.m.)** Jr. High Youth group will meet. (Meal served)
- * **March 15 - (4:00-9:00 p.m.)** Outreach Night at OLBC-Okoboji.
- * **March 16 - (5:15 p.m.)** Help with Sheldon Unity Meal at Living Water Community Church.
- * **March 15, 22, 29 - (10:15-11:00 a.m.)** Jr. High practice for Easter Sunrise Service.

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

- * **March 4, 11, 18, 25 - (6:30-8:00 p.m.)** Sr. High Youth group will meet.
- * **March 16 - (5:15 p.m.)** Help with Sheldon Unity Meal at Living Water Community Church.
- * **March 15, 22, 29 - (10:15-11:00 a.m.)** Sr. High practice for Easter Sunrise Service.

7th/8th Confirmation

- * **March 4, 11, 25 - (4:00-4:50 p.m.)** Class will meet with Pastor Martin.
- * **March 15 - (4:00-9:00 p.m.)** Outreach Night at OLBC-Okoboji.

5th Grade First Confirmation Class

- * **March 18, 25 and April 1 - (6:00 p.m.)** First Communion Class meets with Pastor Martin.

JAM (1st-5th Grade)

- * **March 4, 11, 18, 25 - (5:00-6:15 p.m.)** JAM will meet. (Meal served)

Sunday School (4 yrs.-6th Grade)

- * **March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 - (10:15-11:00 a.m.)** Will meet.
- * **March 29 - (8:40 a.m.-10:00 a.m.)** SS Students be here for Parade of Palms and sing.

There will be NO Youth Activities on Wednesday, April 1 for Holy Week.



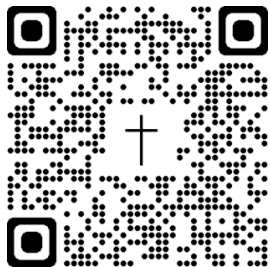
2026 - Open Dates: Sign-up (*In Fellowship Hall*) or contact the office.

Radio Broadcast: March 8, 15, 22; April 12, 26; May 17, 31; July 12; August 9, 16, 23, 30; October 11, 8, 25; November 1, 8, 5, 22, 29; December 24 (5:00 p.m.), 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





A Wounded Savior for a Wounded People

“He was wounded for our transgressions; He was crushed for our iniquities; upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with His stripes we are healed.” -Isaiah 53:5

In my first call, one of my parishioners was a nurse who specialized in wound care. She would often visit patients in their homes who were dealing with surgical wounds, wounds caused by injuries or accidents, or wounds that were sometimes caused by an illness. Regardless of the cause, one thing these wounds all had in common, and what made her job so important was this: if her patients did not properly take care of their wounds, they would be at risk of infection and other serious complications. Thus, if they wanted to heal from their wound, it was important to address them and take care of them.

Many of you have dealt with some type of physical wound during your life. But, the reality is, many of the wounds we often carry with us are not just physical wounds, are they? We also deal with spiritual wounds and emotional wounds. Some of these wounds that we carry with us are known to other people. Some of them are wounds that we carry with us that are deep within that nobody knows about. The reality is, if we don't deal with them, they can very easily fester and begin to infect our lives in very negative ways. We need Someone to help us heal these wounds and make us whole once again. Indeed, because of sin, we are a wounded people.

Lent reminds us of something important. Yes, it is a season in which we “get real” about the sin that is in our lives and the wounds that it has left in its path, whether it's wounds that we carry, or yes, wounds that we have inflicted upon others by our words, our choices, and our actions, whether we were aware of them or not. But, Lent also reminds us of something else: God has done something about all of this. He has put flesh and blood upon His Son, Jesus Christ, to heal our wounds. Indeed, during Lent, we realize that Jesus is a Wounded Savior for a Wounded People!

As we continue our journey through Lent during the month of March, I'd like to ask two things of each and every member of St. Paul. First, make worship both on Sunday morning, and again during our midweek Lenten services on Wednesday evenings, a priority for you and your family. As we continue to listen to the life-giving Word of Jesus that draws us to His suffering, His death, and ultimately, His resurrection from the dead, we see how He has done everything to heal us from the wounds that sin, death, and Satan have brought into our lives. The second thing I'd encourage each member of St. Paul to do is to think of someone in your life, who you could invite to come with you here to St. Paul, and experience the healing power of the Gospel along with you. It could be a member of our congregation you haven't seen in a while. It could be with another family member or friend. It could be a co-worker or someone you know at school. The reality is, we all have wounds in our lives that only the love of God through Jesus Christ can heal. We are often the means that Jesus uses to bring that gift of healing, forgiveness, hope, and life everlasting to others. Who knows? You might be the reason someone finds healing through Christ simply by asking, “Would you like to come to church with me today?”

As we continue through Lent, let's continue to gather regularly around God's Word to us. Let's continue to leave our sin and shame at the foot of the cross of Jesus, and join together in looking forward to the empty tomb, where we see Jesus defeat sin, death, and Satan once and for all, and be the reason that no matter what you may be carrying with you in this life, you have hope for everlasting joy, peace, and life with Jesus!

Your Friend in Christ,

Pastor Christopher Martin

Update on NALC Constitutional Ratification

Some of you will recall at our annual meeting on January 25, you as a congregation here at St. Paul were asked to vote to ratify a series of amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws of the North American Lutheran Church (NALC). The Ratification process is now complete, and the results have been announced by Rev. Dr. Amy Little, General Secretary of the NALC.

335 of the 543 congregations that were members of the NALC at the close of the 2025 Convocation submitted ratification votes. Based on the votes received, the following outcomes were confirmed:

Amendment One: Constitutional and Bylaws/Scrivner's Errors:
APPROVED 334 Yes, 1 No

Amendment Two: Article on the North American Lutheran Seminary:
APPROVED 325 Yes, 10 No

Amendment Three: Article 16-Legal and Financial Matters:
APPROVED 334 Yes, 1 No

These amendments are now in force.

During the final post-ratification review, the NALC Office identified two sub-articles related to the Seminary that were included in the Convocation materials distributed to Convocation delegates in August 2025, that were unintentionally omitted from the congregational ratification packets that were sent to congregations after the Convocation. Because those provisions were not included in the documents presented to congregations for ratification, they are NOT a part of the Constitution and are not in effect at this time. To address this oversight, the omitted sub-articles will be brought forward at a future NALC Convocation for consideration as a constitutional amendment. If approved by a Convocation, they will be submitted to congregations in the normal matter for ratification.

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY - BRI



Middle school - Jr. High Youth Group (6th - 8th) meets on Wednesdays from 5:00-6:15 p.m. with a dinner served. Friends are always welcome at our youth group!

High school - Sr. High Youth Group (9th - 12th) meets Wednesdays from 6:30-8:00 p.m. Friends are always welcome at our youth group! Sr. High youth group will participate in Lent services throughout March. Our meeting time will stay the same, but our format will change slightly. We will start and end with a game, attending the service at 7:00 p.m. in the middle.

Jr. High and Sr. High will begin practice for the Easter Sunday Sunrise service skit on March 15 after church during the SS hour (10:15-11:00 a.m.) and also on March 22 and March 29. Jr. High and Sr. High are in charge of the Easter Breakfast, Sunday, April 5 from 7:45-8:45 a.m. and an Easter Egg Hunt before the 9:00 a.m. worship service. More information will be sent to families in March. All proceeds from the Easter breakfast will go towards our Sr. High Summer Retreat to Lincoln, NE.

Students are excited for the Sr. High Summer Retreat, July 17-19 to Lincoln, NE, for youth going into 9th grade-12th grade. We plan to grow in fellowship with one another and in faith through concentrated time spent in God's word. Please reserve your spot on the retreat with Bri by the end of February.

There are NO Youth Group activities on April 1, due to Holy Week.

Please plan on the St. Paul Youth Pork Supper in early May!

Confirmation Students:

Please plan on the following dates for Outreach Nights at IOLBC (Okoboji) -No cost. We will meet at church at 4:00 p.m. and return by 9:00 p.m.

March 15 - Gargoyles

April 12 - Church vs. Church Dodgeball

- Bri Oetken, Youth Director



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday school (4-yr. old-6th grade) will run from 10:15-11:00 a.m. each Sunday in March. Students will wave palm branches during the Parade of Palms at the beginning of church and sing on Palm Sunday, March 29. Please have students to church by 8:40 a.m.

- Bri Oetken, Sunday School Superintendent

JAM (Jesus And Me)



JAM continues to meet on Wednesdays from 5:00-6:15 p.m. (1st-5th grades) in March. On April 1, there will be NO JAM or Wednesday activities due to Holy Week.

If you are interested in volunteering for JAM during the 2026-2027 school year, please contact Jill or the church office. We will need table parents and people to help us with our different rotation areas: crafts, lesson, and music. Thank you for considering volunteering to participate in this Wednesday evening ministry for our elementary school aged children.

- Jill Cook, JAM Director

MOMCO GROUP

MomCo group will meet on March 7 and March 21 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! We plan to meet on the first and third Saturdays during the school year. This is subject to change based on group needs.



THE MOMCO

FIRST COMMUNION CLASS

First Communion class for St. Paul 5th graders will be held on Wednesdays, March 18, 25, and April 1 at 6:00 p.m. with Pastor Martin. First Communion will be held on Maundy Thursday, April 2 during the 7:00 p.m. service.

PASTORAL ACTS

Graveside Service: Irwin Edward Martin.

YEARLY FINANCIAL UPDATE

JANUARY

Total Income	\$ 16,393.73
Total Expense	<u>\$ -28,260.20</u>
Income Less Expense	\$ -11,866.47
Fiscal Year Income	\$ 16,393.73
Fiscal Year Expense	<u>\$ -29,673.60</u>
Fiscal Year Income Less Expense	\$ -13,279.87



For this year's midweek Lenten worship series, we will be reading and considering Luke's account of the Passion. Each week, Luke will take us to a different place of the Passion. But our focus will not be so much on the physical places we visit through the Word of the Lord. Instead, we will witness what Jesus does at each place. He will share strength. In our moments of weakness and fill us with praise in the midst of sorrow. We will

discover at each place we visit this Lenten season Jesus is waiting for us, willing to share with us a love that was set in place before the foundations of the world.

The weekly theme for this year's Midweek Lenten worship series held on Wednesdays at 7:00 PM:

- February 25—"The Upper Room: A Place of Service"
- March 4—"Gethsemane: A Place of Strength"
- March 11—"The Betrayal: A Place of Eternal Love"
- March 18—"The Courtyard: A Place of Renewal"
- March 25—"The Trial: A Place of God's Will"

Invite a friend to come and join us as we visit "Places of the Passion!"
All Lenten service offerings will go to the General Fund.

"THE UNSHAKEN CROSS"

"*The Unshaken Cross*," is this year's Lent and Easter devotional resource from the North American Lutheran Church (NALC). Pastor Martin was one of 28 writers for this resource. There are several ways to access this free devotional resource. You may watch a video recording of each day's devotion as it is shared to our congregation's Facebook page, download a copy of the resource to read on your own at thenalc.org/lent or text *ReadingTheWord* to 24251 to receive either texts or emails with each day's readings.

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE

The Jr. High and Sr. High Youth groups will share an Easter Skit during the Easter Sunrise Worship service on Sunday, April 5 at 7:00 a.m. They will have an Easter Breakfast (freewill offering) following the Sunrise service from 7:45-8:45 a.m., plus have an Easter Egg Hunt for the kids during this time.



Middle and high school students - please let Bri know if you will be here for Easter Sunday Sunrise service skit. We will begin practicing in March, please communicate if you will be here no later than February 22. High schoolers - remember you can count this towards volunteer hours! Parents are asked to help set up and serve for the Easter breakfast that morning.

LOVE INC

Love In The Name of Christ (Love INC) was established in 2003 in Sheldon and the greater O'Brien County, and has continued to grow and mobilize church volunteers all these years later. At this time, 23 area churches are involved in the ministry of Love INC. According to their website, Love INC's Vision Statement is, "To see Christian churches united in purpose and fully engaged in actively living out their faith by lovingly serving people in need in their communities."

I have served as our Church Coordinator since the beginning, but have recently handed that position to Barb Robideau. Thank you to everyone who has said "YES" when asked to serve. It has been so appreciated and almost always ends up being a blessing to all involved. Please continue to support Love INC and its vision when Barb calls in the future.

Besides the short term requests of rides, help with furniture, meals for kids, etc., St. Paul is also involved in the Bedding Ministry, members have served on the Board of Directors and others have taught some of the Life Together classes. In January alone, Love INC reports that 68 different church volunteers (representing 15 different churches) met various requests resulting in 149.5 hours of service.

This is the very definition of putting our faith into action. Thank you all. - Lori Brown

ST. PAUL TO SERVE UNITY MEAL - MARCH

Mark your calendar for Monday, March 16, as St. Paul will be serving the meal at the Sheldon Area Unity Meal (Living Water Community Church). Watch for more information and sign-up sheets in the fellowship hall!

SHELDON MOBILE FOOD BANK

The Sheldon Mobile Food Bank will be on Thursday, March 12. 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, March 16 from 5:30-6:30 p.m. at Living Water Community Church. Free groceries are also available.

TOUCH OF HOPE - HAITI

St. Paul continues to sponsor Lensley Raymond and his classroom 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.

ST. PAUL - VBS

Save the Date!! St. Paul Vacation Bible School will be held July 13-16!



EASTER FLOWERS: Donations due by Sunday, March 22. You may supply your own flowers or money donated will be used to purchase Easter flowers to decorate the sanctuary.



I/We will provide Easter flowers in memory of/in honor of _____.

I/We will donate money to purchase the Church Easter flowers in memory of/in honor of _____.

Amount of Donation: \$ _____

Name: _____