



**ST. PAUL**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
ANAMOSA, IOWA

CREATIVELY CONNECT • INTENTIONALLY GROW • JOYFULLY SERVE



**May 2020**

Church: 201 N. Ford St. Anamosa, IA 52205

Mailing/Offices: 103 E. Cedar St. Anamosa, IA 52205

Website: [www.stpaulanamosa.com](http://www.stpaulanamosa.com)

Phone: (319) 462-4841

## Springtime Awakens

Springtime awakens the fallow lands  
Awaiting the new seeds with promise of life.  
The soft gentle rains moisten the soil  
And gives life to all around.

The sun rises higher in the sky  
Sending its warming rays  
The green plants absorb and creates  
And gives life to all around.

New life is seen in the budding trees  
The birthing of springtime creatures  
And the blades of grass spritzed  
With flowers and buzzing bees.

Springtime, a time of hope  
A time of renewal  
A time of looking forward  
A promise of life all around.



Lois Ocenosak 4/21/2020

## Happy Mother's Day

May 10, 2020



In the hopes of bringing the beloved community of St. Paul together in this Easter time, the Worship Team is posting services, prayers, and reflections for you. We encourage you to check in on a daily basis to see what is new. Each of the services will have aspects that will invite your response and/or interaction. Go to [www.stpaulanamosa.com](http://www.stpaulanamosa.com) 'Media/Resources' Tab—'Pastor Sermon' section in the drop down menu.

Face Mask Challenge/ Camperships	2
Pastor's Page	3
Youth & Family Page	4
WD4 update	5
Council Minutes	6-7

Simply Giving, Regular & Special Giving	8
Proposed Upcoming Events	9
H.S. Senior Photo & Info Request	10
Financial Reports	11
May Birthdays	12

## Lutheran World Relief Issues Facemask Challenge



Join the 75,000 Face Mask Challenge! COVID-19 is threatening vulnerable communities, and Lutheran World Relief urgently needs cloth face masks to send to them. The cloth mask you sew in your living room will provide love and protection to a neighbor in need halfway around the world.

For more information go to <https://lwr.org/masks>

### Make sure you scroll down to see: Frequently asked questions

When's the deadline?  
 Where and when will the masks be distributed?  
 What materials do I need to make a face mask?  
 Where can I find resources to make cotton face masks?  
 I used a different pattern to make masks. Will you accept them?  
 How do I get my masks to Lutheran World Relief?  
 Will I be able to track where my homemade face masks traveled?  
 I am concerned about going to the post office. What should I do?  
 How is LWR responding to coronavirus around the world?



**"Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me." -John 12:26**

This is just a sample of recent generous gifts shared by members at St. Paul. If you have been a generous giver and your name is not listed, please know, as a community we could never glorify and proclaim the Good News without your faithful stewardship. Your brothers and sisters in Christ thank you! Can you think of someone you would like to acknowledge? Contact the church office and we will add them to our Generous Giving list in the next Pulse.

### Generous Giving We are grateful for:

All who found many different ways to "Creatively Connect". Zoom drop In for one.

Everyone, who has continued giving in this challenging time! So very much appreciated!

Ed & Virginia and other ALY & HACAP volunteers who kept the food flowing to those in need.

All the mask makers and distributors, your generosity is appreciated!

The Worship Team producing meaningful worship services.

The letter writers.

The Creative Spirit surging through us.

Time for reflection and prayer!

**St. Paul is offering our Campership Program** again this year to Children & Youth within our community. The Campership Program is intended to bring the camp experience to children and youth who would not otherwise have access to Camp EWALU. This is done through the award of **Camperships**, a scholarship to one of the Summer Camp Programs at EWALU. It includes partial tuition of \$100 for a camp program term per summer. EWALU offers programs starting with those completing 1st grade through those completing 12th grade.

- If you register through EWALU by April 20th they offer a \$15 discount
- They also offer a Sibling Discount of \$15 for each additional camper

**Please email CYFM if you have any further questions or would like to inquire about a Campership for your child.**

[cyfmstpaulanamosa@gmail.com](mailto:cyfmstpaulanamosa@gmail.com)

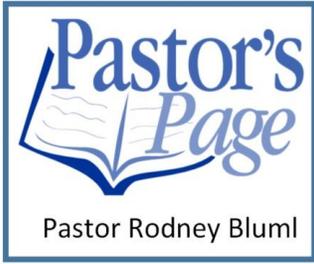
### Pray for Our Military

Please pray for our men and women currently serving in the military:

- Jeremy Fall
- Allen Gilbert
- Kalib Seeley



Please call the church office if you would like to be added or deleted from this list.



When I ponder the story of Thomas from John's gospel, as we did the Sunday after Easter, I am left with the question, "In what ways is Thomas my/our twin?" There is much to be learned from him about coming to faith out of our human

condition. It was his absence from the group that opened Thomas to conversion, to seeing in a new way. It was his struggle with doubt and denial that led him to a new belief; that there is life beyond the suffering and death.

Perhaps we are being asked to probe our own doubts and fears during this time of "absence and separation?" Are we being encouraged by our Lord to think less about winning the battle against, in favor of learning from the suffering that there is a different way of being in relationship with Creation, the Creator, and each other? Was there a lack of Shalom in our Home that required a new breath be unleashed upon us; with our one common home, Mother Earth, with our overly busy minds, with our creative selves, with our physical need for rest? These are very personal questions and the answers have tremendous impact on the community around us.

As parents, what do you do to inspire behavior change in your children? Could it be that our cosmic parent is putting us into a time out, or stymieing us into sabbath, so our behavior might change for the sake of communal life? What positives will you take away from this time of exodus called "sheltering at home?"

Tradition has it that Thomas went from his encounter with the Risen Christ to preach the Gospel in India and perhaps China. He reportedly wrote a gospel as well, but it was not accepted into the Roman Canon, the Bible we read today. How will your encounter with God during this Easter quarantine help you bring Good News to others? Write it into your planner and on your heart.

In the spirit of this reflection and the Beatitudes, I'd like to share this prayer from Alan Hommerding found in the April 17, 2020 edition of Pray Tell. It encourages us to think of those Twins (Didymus) in our lives as blessed. Name the blessed people in your life about whom it is speaking. Claim the blessedness when it refers to you.

"Blessed are all who believe,  
no matter the route they take.

Blessed are the absent who empower us  
to give witness upon their return.

Blessed are those unafraid to enter the doubter's  
debacle, expressing what the timid fear to.

Blessed are the troublemakers, who beckon a  
Divine greeting of "Peace!" into our midst.

Blessed are the ones brave enough to have  
their hearts and minds opened; they show us the  
path of conversion.

Blessed are the voices that cry out with joy  
at newfound insight: "My Lord and My God!"

Blessed is the lineage of  
Insolent Abraham  
Unbelieving Sarah  
Deceptive Rebekah  
Trickster Jacob  
Evasive Moses  
Murderous David  
Questioning Mary  
Denying Peter

ancestors allowed to move on from their weak or  
worst human moments.

Blessed are those who behold the nail prints,  
penetrate those marks, plunge their hand into the  
water-blood font; these have revealed the  
entrance into the Body of Christ—a wounded  
place.

Blessed are those wounds, still present, not healed  
but glorified; Blessed are those wounds still  
present that heal and glorify.

Blessed are you, Believing Thomas,  
in whom we often see our twin:

absent  
defiant  
demanding  
accepting  
faith-filled.

Pray with and for us, Blessed, Believing Thomas.  
Amen."

**Blessed are . . .**  
Blessed are . . .



Welcome to Mars and Beyond! While at Mars and Beyond, our mission will be to explore where God's power can take you and the children and youth of St. Paul. **We are hoping to be able to have our VBS June 29th- July 2nd** but as of now we are not advertising any set dates due to COVID19. We are looking for VBS volunteers to accept the mission of serving in VBS. You would be giving your time, talents, gifts and energy to provide a solid biblical foundation for faith development for the children and youth of St. Paul and community! We are needing volunteers to help with Decorating, Registration, Snack Prep and Service, Group Leaders and

Helpers and Anyone who would like to be apart of Something Out of this world! We are looking for Youth and Adults of All Ages.

**Please feel free to text or call Kaileen Weaver at 951-553-5728 or email Kaileen Weaver at : [cyfmstpaulanamosa@gmail.com](mailto:cyfmstpaulanamosa@gmail.com) if you'd like to sign-up or with any questions.**

### **Taking Faith Home in our Faith Five Step Series:**

In last month's Pulse we listed the first two steps in our five step series. This month we are going to talk about steps three through five. With the social distancing still very much a part of our everyday lives I find this series especially helpful! I hope you and your family are able to find ways to apply these steps in your Home Based Faith Journey over the next few weeks. Feel free to reach out and let me know if you found this helpful and if you would like to see more of these types of series in the future.

#### **Step 3: TALK about how the verse might relate to your highs and lows**

This is the step where God's holy text meets our day to day life.

Dissect the verse a bit. What does it mean in your own words? Wonder together about how it might relate to where you are today in your highs and lows.

#### **Step 4: PRAY for one another's highs and lows**

Offer your hearts and minds in prayer. Simply talk to God, thank Jesus for the good, and ask the Holy Spirit for guidance in specific problems.

Take turns leading prayer. Ask each person to thank God for 3 things they are thankful for and then pray for the person to their right. If word's just seem too hard at first Google "Evening Prayer". The point to this is that nothing you pray about is wrong. You have a God who is up at any time of day and is willing to listen to you, All you have to do is Pray.

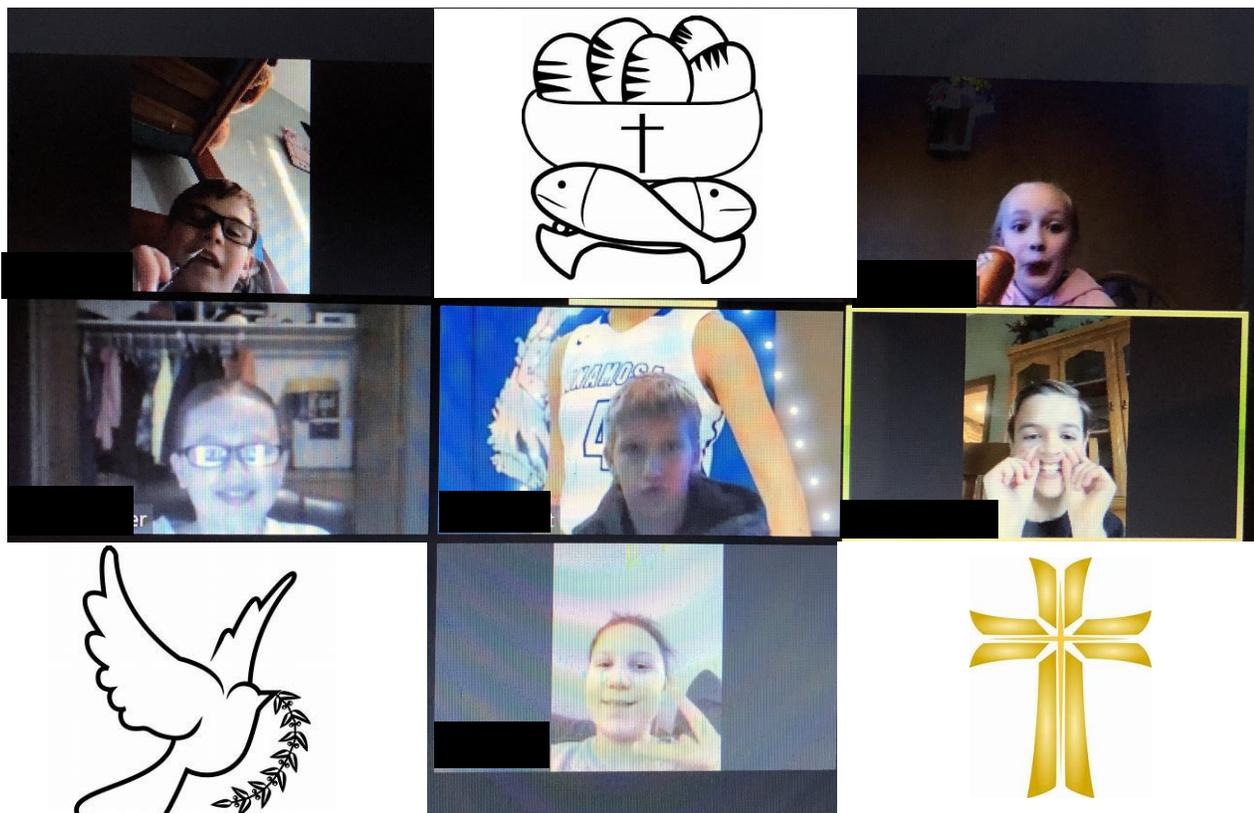
#### **Step 5: BLESS one another**

Trace the sign of the cross on one another's forehead or palm as a reminder that you belong to God and to one another. Make eye and heart contact as you share words of blessing such as "Jesus loves you and so do I" or "The Lord bless and keep you" or "You are a beloved child of God".

### WD4 Update

The PreK-8th graders have been participating in weekly games via Zoom with Kaileen and Barb. They have been able to take part in several scavenger hunts and play Scattergories, reverse charades and Pictionary. It has been such a fun and rewarding experience to be able to gather together during this difficult time!

Charades: Ingrid, Elijah, Regan, and Garrett try to act out a rollercoaster for Tobi, in a game of reverse charades.



Funny faces: Garrett, Ashtyn, Ingrid, Elijah, Noah and Tobi making funny faces as they wait for the rest of the group.

## Council Minutes      April 13, 2020

**Council Members Present:** Rodney Bluml, Nancy Stout, Stacie Sullivan, Barb Wilson, Angie Thomas, Jason Geltz, Tom Sabotta, Shawn Countryman, **Not Present:** Colin Stiffler, Doug Fairbanks

**Non-Council attendee:** Michele Countryman (Executive Secretary), Nancy Lyons Douglas (Finance)

**Approve Agenda/Minutes from March meeting:** Motion made by Tom Sabotta to approve the March minutes and seconded by Angie Thomas. Ayes Carry.

### Pastor's Report to Church Council:

1. Funeral:
2. New Members:
3. Baptism:
4. Wedding:
5. We have completed preparation for baptism with Marshall Fowler and Curtis, Naomi, Aydin and Bruce Weaver. We will plan for that celebration once the social distancing is lifted.
6. We also completed preparation for the sacrament of Holy Communion with seven youth: Arianah Tjaden, Noah Smith, Emma Gregorich, Connor Paulsen, Bruce Weaver, Naomi Weaver, and Aydin Weaver. Thank you to Kaileen and Barb W. for their extra efforts in providing materials to homes and via Zoom.
7. The confirmation candidates are asked to meet (online) with a Church Council member to share their faith statements and complete preparation for Affirmation of Baptism by talking about how they have grown this year through reflection on the Beatitudes, service, sermon notes, and study. Thanks to the Council members for agreeing to hold this important, affirming conversation.
8. All celebrations of sacraments, confirmation, and receiving new members are on hold..... We have much to look forward to!
9. The Synod Assembly with election of the new bishop has been rescheduled for August 7/8, 2020. Ed and Susan are still able to be our representatives.
10. Thank you to everyone for the patient and attentive ways you have responded to the needs of the community during this time of pandemic. This is when character and faith truly show themselves.
11. I sent invitations for leadership discernment out to 16 members in the first week of Lent. I will be contacting them in the weeks following Easter to see where the discernment has led them.
12. Lois has done a remarkable job holding communication together from her home.
13. We have held semi-weekly Zoom Room Drop Ins for people from St. Paul to just say hello and ask questions. Typically there have been about 15 in the chat at a time. The extroverts are grateful!
14. A Holy Week Bulletin and service guide was distributed via email, website, and mail for in-home use. Additional prayer resources were posted on the website under Portrayals and Pastor's Sermons for those with the technology to access them.

### Financial Reports:

- Automated giving – only one person has requested information about it. Information for signing up will be added to the upcoming newsletter. **Action Item:** Barb Wilson will work with Nancy Lyon Douglas and Lois to create a new online form to add to the website.
- It was noted that it is important to continue to support our church during the quarantine and social distancing, as the expenses aren't going away.
- Nancy Lyon Douglas made sure the application has been submitted to the bank to get a loan to extend money for payroll services (PPP). If the application is approved, we would get loan coverage for two months of payroll. The loan may be forgiven if we do not lay off any employees. The money is coming from the SBA, not the bank.
- The financial reports have been rerun so the Vanguard report added in an adjustment that was originally missed. Motion to approve the March Financial Reports by Jason Geltz and second by Tom Sabotta. Ayes carry.

- Nancy Lyon Douglas made some preliminary budget assessments on behalf of the council. The budget needs to be approved by May 1st. Doug Fairbanks was not able to be present at the meeting but he would like to set aside a time to specifically discuss the budget. Nancy Stout would like to have another meeting to just focus on the budget. She would like to have Nancy Lyon Douglas attend this meeting as well. Tom Sabotta made a motion to table the budget discussion until Monday, April 27. Stacie Sullivan second the motion. Carried.

### Old Business:

- St. Paul growth timeline and discussion-
  - \***Listeners' team update** – lost some momentum because of social distancing. Many members still have interviews left to complete. This will be extended to the end of April to complete.
  - \***Lumberyard- asbestos abatement** - Nancy Stout indicated the lease termination was delivered and signed. The lumberyard lease will end as of September 1st.
- Time and Talent survey responses- Michele Countryman has the responses and is holding on to them right now until the quarantine concludes.
- Bishop Burk's retirement letter and donation – letter and check were sent two weeks ago.
- Names of other members to be invited to discern a call to leadership- None so far, but Pastor Rodney is going to have follow up phone calls later this week.
- Lenten outreach update- \$437 was collected in the first few weeks of lent to be given to Sleep in Heavenly Peace. Dinner with Friends also collected coins that Tom Sabotta will deliver, to add to the total.
- Town Hall meetings -May 7th and 31st were the original dates selected. Recommend holding a town hall meeting after we are back worshipping again together. **ACTION ITEM:** Will keep this on the agenda for discussion at the next meeting.

### New Business:

- Interviews with confirmands – all received the information from Pastor Rodney. Council members should report back to Pastor Rodney once the interviews have been completed.
- Youth Mission Trip is scheduled for July 26-31 but Pastor Rodney is getting daily updates. As of today, it is still on. The price has been reduced to \$299 instead of \$330. We have 13 candidates and three chaperones. Pastor is still looking for a large vehicle. A 15 passenger would be preferable, but nothing has been secured yet. Jason Geltz will look into further options.
- No updates on Ragbrai yet. Will move this to next month's agenda as well. **ACTION ITEM:** Discuss any Ragbrai updates/plans. **Addendum:** As of 4/20/20 Ragbrai was canceled for 2020. The same route will be in place for 2021. We will host HBA then.

**Updated Constitution was sent out to all members.** Nancy Stout has asked all to review and send it out. **ACTION ITEMS:** Shawn Countryman will send out a copy to all council members.

**Communications (Requests/Responses)** None to date

### Agenda for Next Meeting

### Upcoming Conferences/Meetings/Schedules/Coming Events:

**Time and Date of Next Meeting:** May 11th – If in person, it will be following the All Leadership meeting @6:00. If still meeting via Zoom, will only be a council meeting.

**Budget meeting** with council members will tentatively be next Monday night, April 27th @ 6:30 in the church basement with social distancing and masks.

### Adjourn/Closing Prayer

Motion to adjourn by Tom Sabotta. Angie Thomas second. Meeting concluded at 8:00pm

Dear St Paul Faith Community,

This certainly is a time of transformation and we pray that you are all safe and doing well. We would like to address some questions about regular giving and special giving that have been raised.

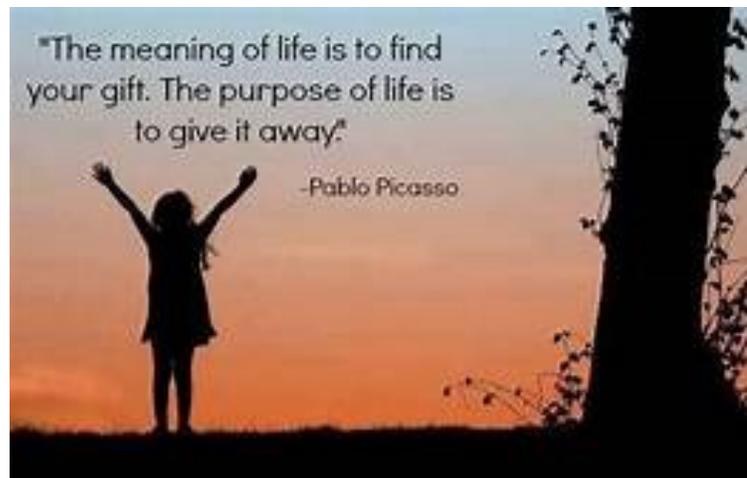
As for regular weekly giving, some are choosing to mail in their weekly/monthly giving or are going to automatic giving through Simply Giving or through their personal bank or financial institutions. Should you want to sign up for Simply Giving, contact Nancy Lyon Douglas and she will send you a form or will sign you up over the phone. Her phone number is 319-551-3358 and her email is [njldouglas@hotmail.com](mailto:njldouglas@hotmail.com). If you mail in your contributions, the deposits are being made for you. (There is also a link to the Simply Giving application process on the website, stpaulanamosa.com under the 'more' tab scroll down to 'give online'.)

For special giving, please send to the office address St Paul Lutheran Church, 103 E Cedar Street, Anamosa, Iowa, 52205. If giving by check, please make the check out to St Paul Lutheran Church and make sure you put the mission you wish to support in the Memo line of the check. Finance will process a check to that organization for all contributions received. If you are sending cash, please put a note in with the money so it can be sent to the proper organization.

If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Lyon Douglas directly or call the church office at 319-462-4841. Your attention to regular giving is very much appreciated because the bills are still being received. Thank you for your generosity and your attention and cooperation to the Coronavirus instructions.

We may be communicating using different methods but the key is, we're in this together and will journey forth with Him in this time of change.

Thank you for your patience and your love of Him,  
St Paul Church Council



## Possible Upcoming Events to calendar

June 7 All Parish Worship (Central Park) 10:00 AM

June 29-July 2 Vacation Bible School

July 12 Annual Meeting

August 30 All Parish Worship (Central Park) 10:00 AM

In keeping with the COVID-19 recommendations for social distancing, all group activities at St. Paul Lutheran are cancelled until further notice.

**But** this is spring time and we await the new life emerging from this fallow time.

- We are still called to pray with and study God's Word.
- We are encouraged to call each other and check in.
- We are asked to continue to generously share financial benefits with the church and through alms.
- We are invited to reflect on those addictions in our lives that are being transformed by the love of God. This indeed is a time of change and much of it can be positive.

The ELCA Churchwide staff are working on resources for At-Home Worship during the Easter season. We will make these available as soon as we can.

In the meantime, a weekly message and simple liturgy is posted on the St. Paul website under Media/Resources.

Thanks for being Church during these uncertain times. If you have a personal pastoral need, feel free to call the church office at 462-4841 or Pastor Rodney at (319) 389-6153. The messages are checked daily by staff.

Sincerely in Christ,  
The St. Paul Church Council.

St Paul Website: [stpaulanamosa.com](http://stpaulanamosa.com) (bulletin, Pulse and Sermons can be found under the Media Tab)

### Staff Phone Numbers:

Pastor Rodney (319) 389-6153  
Nancy Douglas (319) 551-3358  
Kaileen Weaver (951) 553-5728  
Lois Ocenosak (319) 721-9893

Please put these numbers in your phone to help identify you when you call. Please leave your name and a message if we cannot answer and we will return your call as soon as possible.

St Paul would like to honor our **H.S. Seniors** as we have done in previous years. If you are/or have a St. Paul H.S. Senior please submit a current photo (jpeg if possible) and a short paragraph including your future plans to Lois Ocenosak at stpaulanamosa@gmail.com by May 15th.

A digital copy of your photo is appreciated, however you can also mail one for me to scan if needed.



Thank You!

*Lois Ferreter (Ocenosak) Class of 1976*

*Future Plans: Creatively Connect, Intentionally Grow, and Joyfully Serve.*

---

Ours are not the only  
footprints in the sand...



Genesis 2:1-3 NIV Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array. By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done.

Is God resting the Earth again?

**Balances of St. Paul Bank Accounts as of 3/30/2020**

CHECKING	SAVINGS
<b>General Fund Checking Acct.</b> Beginning Balance \$38,486.09 Ending Balance \$42,175.18	<b>Budget Reserve Savings Acct.</b> Beginning Balance \$273.62 Ending Balance \$273.76
<b>Land Maint &amp; Repair Checking Acct.</b> Beginning Balance \$13,025.73 Ending Balance \$13,478.40	<b>Land Development Savings Acct.</b> Beginning Balance \$32,734.05 Ending Balance \$33,249.63
<b>Luther League Checking Acct.</b> Beginning Balance \$4,564.94 Ending Balance \$4,714.94	<b>Luther League Savings Acct.</b> Beginning Balance \$857.78 Ending Balance \$858.20
<b>Memorial Trust Checking Account</b> Beginning Balance \$4,804.11 Ending Balance \$4,804.11	<b>Seminary Support Checking Acct.</b> Beginning Balance \$809.05 Ending Balance \$809.05
<b>Memorial Money Market Account</b> Beginning Balance \$15,024.93 Ending Balance \$15,032.59	

**Memorial Committee Report**

Memorial Committee received a memorial for Patsy Hardersen this last month.  
 Memorial Committee gratefully appreciates these thoughtful donations.

No memorial funds were distributed this month.

# Shalom in the Home



**Did you know.....**  
 there is a Crisis  
 Text Line for those who are in crisis  
 and want to  
 communicate via texting?  
  
 Volunteers are available 24/7  
 Crisis Text Line: Text HOME to  
 741741

**St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**103 East Cedar Street**  
**Anamosa, IA 52205**

Return Service Requested



**May Birthdays**

Dolores Albrecht	5/2	Carlene Vavricek	5/14	Sylvia Albers	5/27
Nancy Stout	5/2	Larry Theilen	5/15	Cullen Hubler	5/27
Mikayla Schmieg	5/2	Logan Elliott	5/16	Charlotte Goldsmith	5/28
Kate Sander	5/3	Marlaine Wilken	5/18	Carol Stiffler	5/29
Ella Vaughn	5/4	Wilma Anderson	5/21	Valerie Lambertsen	5/30
Nathan Hollett	5/5	Dorothy Kula	5/21		
Luke Fairbanks	5/6	Leonard Stutt	5/21		
Charlie Lambertsen	5/9	Brylee LaDue	5/23		
Harrison Schmitt	5/9	Carol Pate	5/23		
Renee Dooley-Colbert	5/10	Sarah Schmieg	5/23		
Bob Goodyear	5/12	D.J. Condry, Jr.	5/24		
Dan Rickels	5/13	Barb Switzer	5/25		
Ashlann Elliott	5/13	John Jones	5/25		

In the event we return to services in May.  
**May Bread Baker**  
**Pat Merritt**  
**May Food Bank Rotation**  
**Jerry Stolte**

*If your birthday was omitted from this list, we do not have the date in our records! If you would like your birthday listed in our newsletter, please call Lois at 462-4841 or email her at stpaulanamosa@gmail.com and she would be happy to include it.*