

St. Paul's Epistle

May 2025

Church Council Minutes—April 3, 2025

Those in attendance: Richard Christie, Leonard Morrison, Kristen Wold, John Hopkins, Dave Wright, Neil Manninen, Tony Lucek, Tim Anderson, RaNae Whitbeck and Stephanie Morrison

Chairman Tim Anderson called the meeting to order and gave the opening prayer. There were no changes to the agenda.

The Minutes were read and approved. The Treasurer's report was approved.

Briefs: 1) Steve and Leonard will lead the Easter morning worship. 2) The trustee's worked on the fluorescent lighting in the sacristy and back entrance. 3) Call Day at Fort Wayne Seminary is April 29, and Call Day at the St. Louis Seminary is April 30th. Both services are at 7 p.m. and will be broadcast on the seminaries websites. 4) The parsonage will be open in the mornings when the church office is open for garage sale donations. 5) LWML is buying the groceries for the Easter breakfast. Men are needed to help with the breakfast. 6) Pastor Moeller is leading Maundy Thursday worship. 7) Hygiene kits are being packed this week. 8) The work on the roof project will resume when the weather warms up.

Membership changes: Removed by death— Byron Blake on March 17, 2025.

The meeting ended with prayer.

Submitted by ~ RaNae Whitbeck, Acting Secretary

Quarterly Meeting Minutes—April 13, 2025

Vice Chairman Richard Christie called the meeting to order and gave the opening prayer.

The Minutes, Treasurer's Reports and Financial Secretary's Reports were reviewed and approved.

Briefs: 1) The Elders are working on the vacancy, and paperwork was submitted for a spring candidate from one of the US seminaries. 2) The church lot purchase will be finalized in August. 2) Fencing will be installed around the tree on our front lawn to deter deer. 3) Sound system has been installed and will be dedicated in August. 4) Church garage sale is May 9th and 10th. 5) Shawn Steele will be working on the stucco portion of the roof project when the supplies are bought and weather warms up enough.

Membership changes were printed.

The meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by ~ RaNae Whitbeck, Acting Secretary

On April 25 we received word from our District President, Brady Finnern, that our joint parishes will NOT be getting a candidate from either Seminary. We will be holding a joint parish meeting in May to discuss our plans for moving forward with the Call process. Please watch your bulletins for the date.





Thank God for Mother's Love

There is no love, like a mother's love,
no stronger bond on earth...
like the precious bond that comes from God,
to a mother, when she gives birth.

A mother's love is forever strong,
never changing for all time...
and when her children need her most,
a mother's love will shine.

God bless these special mothers,
God bless them every one...
for all the tears and heartache,
and for the special work they've done.

When her days on earth are over,
a mother's love lives on...
through many generations,
with God's blessings on each one.

Be thankful for our mothers,
for they love with a higher love...
from the power God has given,
and the strength from up above.
~ Anon

Mother's Day is May 11th.

Ladies Friendship Night

All ladies of the congregation and Church of the Lutheran Hour, are invited to attend our Annual Friendship Night on Tuesday, May 20th at 5:30 p.m. at church. We'll be having a potluck meal, and everyone is asked to bring their favorite salad. Please sign up on the bulletin board by Sunday, May 18th if you'd like to attend.



CHURCH GARAGE SALE

May 9-10, 2025 7 a.m. to Noon

Donations can be dropped off at the parsonage on weekday mornings, the back door will be open. No clothing or shoes, please. Help is needed May 5-8 in the mornings to help sort and price items, and to help during the sale itself. If you'd like to donate baked goods to be sold at the garage sale, please individually wrap them and drop them off at church by May 8th.

Thank you!



May Birthdays

These members are celebrating their special day in May!

May 1: Mae Arveson & Rowen Quast

12th: Adam Lucek

2nd: Heidi Swenson

15th: Richard Vance

3rd: Luke Wright

22nd: Jon Hasser & Jeremy Toth

4th: Bryant Koenig

24th: Joe Christie

5th: Tony Lucek

29th: Luke Leerssen

8th: Evelyn Martel





Jesus' Hands

Revelation 1:4a, 5b-6, 9a, 10b-11a, 12b, 13b-18 - John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is to come ... To Him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by His blood and made us a kingdom, priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. ... I, John, your brother ... was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet saying, "Write what you see in a book and send it to the seven churches ..." Then I [saw] ... One like a Son of Man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around His chest. The hairs of His head were white, like white wool, like snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire, His feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and His voice was like the roar of many waters. In His right hand He held seven stars, from His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword, and His face was like the sun shining in full strength. When I saw Him, I fell at His feet as though dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying, "Fear not, I am the first and the last, and the Living One. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades."

One of the difficult things about living with God is that He's just too much for us. Look at John here—he sees Jesus and falls at His feet as though dead. And I don't blame him—I couldn't cope with someone who is like a flame of fire, like the roar of many waters, like the sun shining in full strength. That's just terrifying!

And knowing He is good doesn't help a whole lot. Because I'm not good, and I know it. To be in the presence of perfect goodness and holiness—well, it makes all my own darkness stand out, and I want to hide.

Maybe that's why Jesus lays His hand on John to strengthen and comfort him. Because what does that hand look like? Right. It has a nail hole in it—the mark of His crucifixion. This same holy, perfect, terrifying God is the One who "loves us and has freed us from our sins by His blood."

This is the same Lord Jesus who lived among us as an ordinary human being, serving and caring and being patient with sinners like us, day after day—putting up with our arguments and complaints, even our outright lies, and why? Because He loves us. Because He knows exactly what we are, and He still wants us, so much that He will do whatever it takes to bring us safely home to the family of God—rebels no longer, but now beloved, forgiven children of the Father.

That's why we don't need to stay terrified by His goodness and holiness. We can stand before Him, even in His glory—because He came to us first, to forgive and to save and to heal us. And if ever we forget that, we can look at His hands. They are marked by His love for us forever.

WE PRAY: Lord, when I'm afraid of You, remind me of Your love. Amen.

This Lutheran Hour Devotion was written by Dr. Kari Vo.



