

St. Paul Lutheran Church 500 Clark St. PO Box 42 Phone 319-668-1266 stpaullemswburg@gmail.com

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Word of God is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. When everything else in life seems uncertain and falling apart around us, God's Word brings light into the darkness and calms the chaos, leading the way forward. God's Word is always consistent, it doesn't change because God doesn't change. He shows His love for us by sending His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, to die for us and then rise eternally. When fear causes us to doubt God's love or when our guilt and sin tempt us to despair, God comes to us with His Word and He speaks; He tells us that He loves us and that He sent His only Son to die for us to forgive our sins and give us eternal life. He tells us that we've been raised to new life in Jesus through the waters of Holy Baptism. He tells us to eat and drink the body and blood of Jesus for our forgiveness, life, and salvation. We know all of this because God Word has revealed it to us, and God's Word is truth." The eternal truth found in God's Word is unchanging. As the Psalmist wrote: "The entirety of Your word is truth, And every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever."

If the truth of God's Word was not absolute but up for a variety of interpretations and truths, depending on the person or denomination, then where would the certainty of salvation be found in God's Word? Whose truth and interpretation would be right? Thankfully there aren't many or various interpretations of God's Word, but only one right interpretation. This one right interpretation must be taught in its full truth and purity as God has revealed it to us in Scripture. We don't get to interpret God's Word according to our own thoughts and ideas, but according to what God has actually spoken to us in His Word.

As members of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, we believe that our Lutheran Confessions as found in the *Book of Concord* are a right exposition and teaching of God's Word. The Lutheran Confessions keep us from following our own path and interpreting God's Word according to our own reason and understanding. Men go into one of our two LCMS seminaries to study God's Word according to our Lutheran Confessions in order to learn how to rightly teach and preach God's Word and also how to administer the Sacraments as Christ instituted them. After four years of study, these men are examined and declared ready to enter the Office of the Holy Ministry. At that time and according to God's will these men receive a Divine Call to serve a church in the LCMS. At their Ordination and Installation, these men promise to perform the duties of their office in accordance with the Lutheran Confessions, they also promise that all of their preaching and teaching and administration of the Sacraments will be in conformity with Holy Scripture and with the Lutheran Confessions. Through these men God works to bring the gifts of Jesus in His Word and Sacraments to the members under his care for their forgiveness, life, and salvation.

When there is doubt or confusion about something that the pastor taught or preached, we go to God's Word and our Lutheran Confessions in order to make sure we are not interpreting God's Word according to our own thoughts and ideas but rather as God has spoken that Word to us and as confessed in our Lutheran Confessions. God has given you a pastor, sinful and imperfect as he may be, to care for your souls with God's Word taught and preached in its full truth and purity and with the Sacraments administered as Christ gave them to us. If there is confusion or doubt about anything said, taught, or preached, please come to your pastor and talk.

I encourage everyone to own and read the *Book of Concord*. There is a sign-up sheet at church if you'd like to order one. Below is the introduction to the *Book of Concord* as found in, *Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions*. Please read it and consider joining us for "*What We Believe, Teach and Confess*" class beginning Sunday, February 9th after the Divine Service.

A General Introduction to the Book of Concord

This declaration ... is our faith, doctrine, and confession.

By God's grace, with intrepid hearts, we are willing to appear before the judgment seat of Christ with this confession. Intrepid hearts indeed! What could possibly be so important that you would stake eternity on it? What gives a person

such courage and conviction? Only one thing—the truth. This is what this book is all about, the truth of God's Word.

God's people have always spoken this way. For example, the psalmist wrote, "I will speak of Your testimonies before kings and shall not be put to shame" (Psalm 119:46). Peter confessed his faith when Jesus asked him what he believed, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Matthew 16:16). Paul wrote, "Since we have the same spirit of faith according to what has been written, 'I believed, and so I spoke,' we also believe, and so we also speak" (2 Corinthians 4:13).

Lutherans have used the Confessions of faith contained in this book for nearly five hundred years as their public witness and testimony of what the Bible teaches. These Confessions give clear, unambiguous, and certain witness to the Christian faith. They unite all those who bear the name Lutheran and wish to be—and remain—genuinely Lutheran. That is why this book uses the word *Concordia* as a title.

The Meaning of Concordia

Concordia comes from two Latin words meaning "with" and "heart." It describes a commitment to the truth so strong and so deep, it is as if those who share it have a single heart beat. To many twenty-first-century minds, the claim that there is objective truth is regarded with deep suspicion. To suggest that there is one, and only one, absolute truth about God is regarded by many today as absurd, foolish, ridiculous, or the sign of an intolerant and weak mind. Sadly, even many modern Christians now view claims of truth and certainty with a good deal of suspicion.

But truth and falsehood are real. It is possible to know truth and it is necessary to reject all errors that contradict the truth. God reveals absolute truth in His Word, which is precisely what the documents in the Book of Concord assert, with complete and total conviction.

The Bible is the rock-solid foundation for the documents in the Book of Concord. Christians who embrace the documents in this book as their teaching, their belief, and their confession also believe that it is possible for people to know and be certain about truth. They are convinced. They are certain. They are sure. Why? Because of the One who has called them to this conviction: the Lord Jesus Christ. He said, "If you abide in My word, you are truly My disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free" (John 8:31–32).

Genuine, Historic Lutheranism

To embrace the freedom of truth means rejecting the slavery of error. That is why this book uses two phrases to capture the essence of biblical confession: "we believe, teach, and confess" and "we reject and condemn." One cannot believe, teach, and confess the truth without also rejecting and condemning everything that endangers or contradicts the truth. This spirit of "confessional Lutheranism" is what continues to animate people today who hold to this collection of affirmations, professions, and confessions of faith.

Not all churches that go by the name "Lutheran" still regard the Book of Concord as highly as they once did. Some prominent Lutheran Church bodies in the United States and around the world regard these statements of faith as "historically conditioned." They say that the older confessions are not necessarily correct in what they teach about God's Word. These churches have embraced various ecumenical agreements with non-Lutheran churches that contradict what Lutheranism has taught historically.

Confessional Lutheran churches regard these compromises not only as a compromise of historic Lutheranism, but also as an actual denial of the truth of God's Word. (A most serious matter indeed!) It is important to keep in mind this distinction among churches that use the name "Lutheran." This is all the more reason to make sure that these Confessions are not merely historical documents in congregations that are genuinely Lutheran. They must be well known by laypeople and church workers alike.

Historic, genuine Lutheranism holds that the Bible is actually the Word of the Living God. We believe that it is both incapable of error and free from error. We hold strongly to the Lutheran Confessions because we are absolutely convinced that these confessions of faith are a pure exposition and explanation of God's Word. Lutherans agree with the apostle Peter, who said, "We cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard" (Acts 4:20).

When God the Holy Spirit gives the gift of trust in Jesus Christ as the Savior, this gift of faith creates a desire to confess, to bear witness, to testify, to proclaim, and to speak this faith. That is what the documents in this book are all about. They are not musty, old relics from history. They are the living confession of God's people, who have clung to the truths in these documents for nearly five hundred years. Today, we who hold to these Confessions make the Book of Concord our confession, our witness, our public testimony of what the Bible teaches. With Martin Luther, we say, "Here we stand. We cannot do otherwise. God help us. Amen."

Worship service/ Sundays/Communion @ 9:00am, Wednesdays/Communion @ 6:30pm



Altar Guild meeting on February 11th at 6:00pm

The 2025 flower calendar is ready for people to sign up for a special occasion or just because.

Blood Drive here at St. Paul on February 3rd from 3 to 6:00pm

Bible Studies— Adult Bible Study on Sundays right after the worship service Tuesday morning Men's/Women Bible Study at 9:00am

Cancellations due to weather we try to reach out to all, and will put on KCRG, Facebook, In the Loop and asking for people to pass the information to others.

Christian Service Committee News about our Church Family (all addresses are Williamsburg, IA 52361 unless noted) Highlighted Birthdays and Anniversaries for February. We highlight children's, decade, and 80+ birthdays. We highlight the 1st year, each 5 years, and 50+ years wedding anniversaries. Please let us know if you would like other birthdays and anniversaries added to the highlighted list. Complete lists of birthdays and anniversaries are posted on the bulletin board at the west entrance.

- Feb. 1 Henry Zuber, 3 1926 Q Ave., Marengo, IA 52301
- Feb. 3 Davin Harper, 16 1349 Keokuk Iowa Rd., Webster, IA 52355
- Feb. 6 Kali Slaymaker, 30 901 Chatham St
- Feb. 6 Sandy Ficken, 86 100 Village View Circle, Apt 159
- Feb. 7 Sandy Pilkington, 81, 303 West North, PO Box 883
- Feb. 8 Marilyn Murphy, 88 130 Country Club Road
- Feb. 9 Dennis Huedepohl, 85 2282 U Avenue
- Feb 10 Dorothy Lane, 92 120 West Woodbine Drive, North English, IA 52316
- Feb. 12 Gracey Uhlmann, 16 603 Clark St, PO Box 508
- Feb. 12 Ida Strunk, 109 100 Village View Circle
- Feb. 13 Barb Disterhoft, 81 122 Bailey Park Rd.
- Feb. 13 Mark & Kay McMann, 54 112 Bedford Rd
- Feb. 14 Dwight & Brucie Lorenz 43—2869 210th St, South Amana, 52334
- Feb. 15 Presley Gensley, 2 -211 Lafayette St., Harper, IA 52231
- Feb. 17 Charlotte Walsh, 3 132 West Oak, North English, IA 52316
- Feb. 17 Carmen Van Dee, 60 2344 250th Street
- Feb. 21 Myles Kozishek, 4 2342 K Ave.
- Feb. 23 Michael Davies, 30 2266 210th St
- Feb. 23 Ed & Sandy Ficken, 68 100 Village View Circle, Apt 159
- Feb. 25 Henry Long, 11 823 Hampton Dr
- Feb. 28 Renley Wardenburg, 6 308 High St.
- Feb. 29 May Kruse, 89 Colonial Manor, 3207 220th Trail, Amana, IA 52203

Prayers

Arlene Arp Highland Ridge 100 village View Circle, recovering

Alyssa Perry, (Barry & Lori Kahler daughter) treatments

Tom Heitshusen, 533 Hawkeye Dr. Lot 5, surgery now rehab

Nancy Shifflett, 403 Madison St., upcoming hip surgery on February 5th

Karen Von Ahsen, 108 Bailey Park Rd, prayer for her strength for her ongoing treatments for cancer.

Mellissa Zuber, treatments, 1926 Q Ave, Marengo, IA 52301

Prayers and sympathy to the family of Merlyn Huedepohl. Merlyn died on January 16, 2025. Merlyn is the husband to Diane, father to Michael (Jen), Tim (Sherry) Huedepohl, brother to Willard Huedepohl, grandfather to Thomas Huedepohl, Anton Huedepohl. Funeral service was held at Powell Funeral home on January 22, 2025.

Drivers: If you would like to help take church members to doctor appointments in the Williamsburg area, Iowa City or Cedar Rapids, please contact Theresa Heitman at twheitm@gmail.com or 319-530-0548.

If you need food or know of someone who does, the HACAP Food Reservoir Mobile Food Pantry is at the Williamsburg Kirkwood Campus from 3:00-4:00 pm on the 2^{nd} Tuesday of each month.

The HACAP Food Reservoir distributes food boxes at the Presbyterian church from 10-12 on the first and third Thursdays each month.

Iowa County Food Bank – call Suzanne at 319-668-1375, Sherry at 319-551-7452 or Audrey at 319-721-7640.

If you need clothes, check out the following places: Contact each store to find out the dates for their sales.

Crowded Closet 851 Hwy 6 E, Ste 101, Iowa City, IA 52240, 9:30-5:00 M-F, Sat 9:30-4:00 319-337-5924. Colored tag ½ price each week.

Good Will/Coralville 2551 Heartland Place, 319-248-4729

Good Will/Iowa City 985 Highway 6 E, 319-248-4705, 9AM-9PM M-F, Sat. 9-6 PM, Sunday 12-5PM

Once Upon a Child – quality used children's clothing – next to Hy-Vee in Coralville

The Attic, Free clothing – call 668-2288 for an appointment (St. Paul Methodist), the hours are Monday 9-11AM, Thursday 5:30-6:30PM

Salvation Army/Iowa City – 1725 Boyrum St., 9AM-8PM, M-Sat. 319-339-4984

Elders Meeting February 10th at 7:00pm

Evangelism meeting on February 11th at 5pm

"Sunday Undies" are back!! St Paul Evangelism Committee is collecting all sizes of NEW underwear in the basket in the basement until **Feb 2**. (we added a week) These items will be included in our used clothing drive for Orphan Grain Train Worldwide in Clemons.

We will be collecting clothing and other items for **Orphan Grain Train Feb 2-23.** Look for a list of acceptable donation items on the church bulletin board. Bags of your Items may be placed in boxes by the coat racks. Questions may be directed to Bonnie Furler 319 550-0646. Thankyou

Fellowship—is in need of people to sign up to provide a snack/drinks after our Sunday worship service. There is a sign up sheet available on the west entrance on table before the Fellowship Hall.

Highland Ridge service on February 9 at 2:00pm.

Lent— We will be having a light supper being served at 5:00pm, before our worship services starting on March 5th. If you would like to serve a meal contact the church office. The following dates are available March 2nd Ash Wednesday, 12, 19, 26, April 2 and 9th.

<u>Libra</u>ry Adult Book

One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism by Thomas Von Hagel

Paul wrote his letter to the Ephesians while he was a prisoner and reminded them of what Gods great power and grace has done for believers. He refers to the calling of all Christians to faith through the grace of God and states that in order to establish and maintain the unity of the one true Church, we are asked to confess one Lord, one faith, one baptism. This book, a



collection of short, 1-2 page biographies, offers a means to understand history through the heroes of the Christian faith as they confessed the truths of Christ and His teachings. It includes an introduction to the role of the saints in the Church from a Lutheran perspective, the relation between Christian lives, and the life of Christ

Children's Books

God Always Keeps His Promises by Max Lucado

Promises from God covers people and promises from the Bible that Max Lucado explores in the adult book. Promises from God weaves the larger narrative of God's Faithfulness. Through the stories of Adam and Eve, Abraham, Joseph, Peter, Paul, and many more, children will learn about the character and nature of God and His unending love for His children. Recommended for ages 4 to 8 years.

The Lord is my Shepherd illustrated by Gennady Spirin

The Twenty-third Psalm, one of the world as most cherished prayers, is paired with some of the most exquisite illustrations in this inspirational picture book by New York Times Best Illustrator Gennady Spirin. This never-before-created format, made from one large, magnificent painting, gives parents and children an opportunity to share the experience, making prayer time even more profound.

L.I.S. School Board meeting—February 18 at 7:30pm

From the Quilters Corner:

The Piece Makers will begin quilting Feb 3 at 9:00 and every following Monday unless weather or cold temps prohibit. New Members always welcome. Phone Bonnie (319 550-0646) or Jolene Schaefer (319 461-0496) with questions or for more info.

Its time again to decide where you would like your Thrivent Choice Dollars designated to —call 1-800-847-4836, say "Choice Dollars" then press 1, then let them know where you want your Choice Dollars to go. They need to be designated before March 31st.

Parish Ed

Wednesdays —Midweek grades 2nd—6th grade at 5:30pm 7th & 8th grade Confirmation class at 7:15pm LYF will be meeting at 6:00pm

Please contact the church office with any new phone numbers, no longer have a land line, new cell phone number, got married, divorced, moved, had a baby we would appreciate an update on the changes. Thank you!

Valentine's Day February 14th

St. Paul Lutheran Church, Williamsburg, Iowa February 2025

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Voters Meeting 1/19/25

4th Quarter

Chairman Richard Uhlmann called the meeting to order with 70 in attendance at 1:30pm. Pastor opened with an announcement/Romans 12 and prayer.

Pastor: No report.

Adoption of Voters Meeting Minutes: School Board ESA - actual amount available was \$7,826. Motion to accept minutes with correction by Rhonett Wardenburg. Seconded David Dellamuth. Approved.

Review of official acts: Baptisms, deaths, transfers, releases - read by Chairman Richard Uhlmann. Motion to approve by Lyle Grimm. Seconded Russell Furler. Approved.

Cemetery Fund: Report included. No Comment.

Christian Service: Report Included. No Comment.

Elders: Report Included. No Comment.

Evangelism: Report Included. No Comment.

Parish Ed: Report Included. No Comment.

Youth Group: Report Included. Asked if we know how much needed to raise - amount unknown because of hotel stay, number of people attended, etc.

Stewardship: Report Included. Pastor's mileage goes to shut-ins and hospital visits. Pastor will include "tracking" in Pastor's report. Pastor's housing can have 80% of income towards housing.

Trustees: No Report. No Comment.

LIS School Board: Report Included. Asked about tuition - concerns if tuition is significantly higher than ESA; are we concerned it will affect enrollment? Do we have some sort of plan if it does affect attendance? *Answer*: Wanted to maximize ESA to utilize funds that benefit churches and families. Tuition assistance program is still available; separate from ILSTO.

Principal: Report Included. Tuition amounts for member vs non-member? Amount is the same; legally cannot discriminate. Looking for donations of musical instruments to avoid students/parents having to buy.

LIS Proposed 2025/26 Budget: Registration expense pays for books and curriculum. Increase because price keeps increasing significantly; explains why \$10,000 increase. David Dellamuth motioned to

approve the LIS budget. Seconded by Brett Kozishek. Approved by majority vote per Chairman Richard Uhlmann.

Endowment Fund: Report Included. Closed three Thrivent accounts (942400101062, 952400101062, 467400101062) and opened new CD account (9.124E+11) with Thrivent.

Treasurer: Report Included. Did get matching funds from anonymous donor. Need cheerful giving from all members in order for church to survive.

Altar Guild: Report included separately.

Unfinished Business: NA

New Business:

- New Copy Machine: Need new copy machine but a new one is estimated to be about \$2k more Richard Schaefer offered to purchase the new copier. Motion made to approve by Val Snyder.
 Seconded by Eric Wardenburg. Approved.
- St. Paul Church Budget: Budget decrease due to LIS decrease. Requested to use paper ballots to
 vote. Majority rules to approve budget. Motion to destroy ballots by Leon Snyder. Seconded Matt
 Scheafer.
- Youth Group Account: Would like to remove Peggy from account and add Becky Sitas because
 she will be attending the youth gathering this summer in New Orleans. Peggy is taking on
 different responsibilities. Motion to approve by Mike Dellamuth. Seconded by Erica Wardenburg.
 Approved.
- Stewardship: Jolene is asking to step away from stewardship to focus on altar guild and their new members. Jolene has 1 year left of her term. Jenny Garringer has offered to take her place. Motion to accept Jenny on Stewardship to fill Jolene's term by Eric Wardenburg. Seconded by Margaret Wardenburg. Approved.
- Women's Guild: Letter from Loretta Glandorf read by Chairman Richard Uhlmann. Asking to
 dissolve the women's guild and for someone else to take over greeting cards. Youth group
 offering to take that over. Motion to dissolve women's guild by Val Snyder. Seconded Matt
 Schaefer. Approved.

Meeting adjourned at 2:59pm by Chairman Richard Uhlmann. Concluded in Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted, Bri Dellamuth Congregational Secretary



Kindergarten Roundup 2025

All children who will be old enough for kindergarten in the fall are invited to join us for our Kindergarten Round Up event! Our day will be Tuesday, February 18. The kids will join us in the morning and spend time through lunch. More details will be coming as we get closer.

National Lutheran Schools Week

Our annual celebration of Lutheran Education was observed the last week of January. There were many great moments and memories made. LIS is beyond blessed to have the support of our LCMS community, especially our four founding congregations.

Chapel Offering for the Second Trimester

We have begun gathering offerings for our second trimester. Our offerings will be going to an organization called, "Phil's Friends." They send care packages and cards of encouragement to those battling cancer. This is a coordinated effort among all of the Iowa District East schools.

LIS Gala 2025

The Gala committee has set April 26 as the date for our 2nd Annual Gala Event. The committee has begun meeting to structure the event and get information out to supporters. We hope that you will be able to support the event in some way.

Chili Supper

Our annual Chili Supper was a tremendous success! We served over 500 meals this year! In the end, we raised a little over \$12,000 to be used to update the school kitchen. This annual event takes is so successful due to the amazing people who lead it as well as those that volunteer. The biggest of thank yous to all who make this supper the outstanding event it is!!

School Registration

Please note that we are planning to begin our registration for the 25-26 school year soon. The dates are planned as follows:

Feb. 18 – All returning (currently enrolled) students Feb. 20 – Siblings of current students and new students from a sponsoring congregation Feb. 25 – All new students from other LCMS churches

March 4 – Open to all members of the community

Band Teacher

We are very blessed to have Miss Jessica Fisher as our new band instructor. She began the beginning of January and has things up and running.

LIS Basketball

Our basketball season is well underway. Our teams have shown growth over the past month and have mixed in some success as well.

If you would like to watch a game or two from your home, you can watch most of our home games on our YouTube channel. You can get to that by going to the school website, about halfway down on the home page. You can also go to this link: http://www.youtube.com/@lislivevideo1383

Volunteers Needed

We are always looking for volunteers to help with small projects, concessions and other athletics jobs. Please consider helping out and enjoying the satisfaction of lending a helping hand. If you have a grandchild in the school, your time can be used towards volunteer hours.

