



ST. PAUL EPISTLE JULY 2026



What is the ELCA?

St. Paul and Immanuel Lutheran Churches have been part of a few denominations in their history. Pr. Roger Asplund knows these histories well, if you ever want to learn more. But both congregations in 1988 joined the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) when the American Lutheran Church (ALC), Lutheran Church in America (LCA), and the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches (AELC) merged. Today, the ELCA has over 2,500,000 members in 8,500 congregations across the United States. Because of its size, the ELCA is divided into “three expressions of the same Church.”

Churchwide is headquartered in Chicago at the Lutheran Center. There, our Presiding Bishop, Yehiel Curry, works with hundreds of others to be the national and international arm of our church. We have 25 colleges and universities, 7 seminaries, and more than 2,000 other schools/early childhood education centers, campus and outdoor ministries, and social service agencies. ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran World Relief sends millions of dollars annually to people and communities in need. And as a member of the Lutheran World Federation, we are tied together with **77 million Lutherans worldwide!** Churchwide does a lot on our behalf, and it is hard work to represent 8,500+ congregations.

Next are the Synods. Synod is a funny word meaning to “gather or meet together.” There are 65 synods in the ELCA, ranging in size from covering entire states to just one city. Synods exist to give local leadership and connection between congregations. Our synod, the Northern Illinois Synod, has 135 congregations across Northern Illinois. Our Bishop is Stacie Fidler. We don’t often see the work our synod staff does. We tend to only call on them when we want something or need help, but synod staff works behind the scenes lifting up new leaders, assisting with congregational vitality, furthering ecumenical relationships, creating resources for leaders, offering workshops, and so much more.

Finally, is the individual congregation. St. Paul and Immanuel Lutheran are two of 8,500+ congregations just like us across the United States. Some are larger and some are smaller, some like traditional worship and others like contemporary music, but together we are the Church. We share the Gospel of Jesus with those in our communities whether they’re urban, suburban, rural, or otherwise! Recently, Wartburg Seminary professor, Dr. Craig Nesson, has started advocating for a fourth (or single) expression of the Church. YOU, the individual, is who makes up the ELCA and best represents our faith in the world. He makes a good point.

Our Church, the ELCA, is the largest Lutheran denomination in the United States. And like the rest of the United States, there exists within us a spectrum of beliefs, both politically and theologically. In the pews at St. Paul and Immanuel on Sunday morning you sit with Democrats, Republicans, the politically uninterested, theological progressives, and diehard traditionalists.

The Church is at its best when we exist *together* as the Body of Christ. Not blindly ignoring our differences but seeking first what we have in common—that we are all beloved children of God for whom Christ died.

If you want to learn more about the ELCA and our beliefs, ask me or Pr. Riley! It is our job to know the denomination in which we are ordained. I put together some info in the “New Member” Handbooks I’d be happy to share. Or look up the Synod or ELCA websites. It’s always best to go to the source.

I know the Church has its flaws and yet I love it. I am proud to be an ELCA Lutheran as we *together* seek to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with all those we meet. Plus, Lutherans have the best food 😊 What do you love about the Church? -Pr. Anthony



Petunia Fest Community Worship

Sunday, July 5th at 9 am

Reagan Stage downtown Dixon

Pastor Anthony is preaching.

There will be *no* worship service at St. Paul July 5th.

A colorful poster for the Petunia Festival Parade Youth Food Tent Fundraiser. The background is white with a sunburst pattern. At the top, it says "Petunia Festival Parade" in black. Below that is a pink oval with a white flower and the words "PETUNIA FESTIVAL". The main text "YOUTH FOOD TENT FUNDRAISER" is in large, bold, blue and red letters. To the left of the text is a red and white striped top hat with stars, a calendar with a red circle around the date "5" and the words "Coming Soon!", and a red and white striped popcorn bucket. To the right is a string of red and white stars, a hot dog in a bun, a water bottle, and a soda can. At the bottom, it says "In support of Immanuel and St Paul youth ministry events and trips." in blue. The event details are: "SUNDAY, JULY 5, 11 AM - END OF PARADE" and "PEORIA AVE. (in front of St Paul)".

Petunia Festival Parade

Coming Soon!

YOUTH FOOD TENT FUNDRAISER

SUNDAY, JULY 5, 11 AM - END OF PARADE

PEORIA AVE. (in front of St Paul)

In support of Immanuel and St Paul youth ministry events and trips.

Worship Assistants Serving in July

Saturday July 4 ~ at Immanuel

Saturday July 11 ~ Joyce Craney

Saturday July 18 ~ at Immanuel

Saturday July 25 ~ Lester Hallquist

Sunday July 5 ~ Community Worship

Sunday July 12 ~ Patti Larsen

Sunday July 19 ~ Linda Patterson

Sunday July 26 ~ Sherry McCarter

Our Summer Worship Challenge is in full swing!
Don't forget to, at least once in July or August,
attend Immanuel's regular Sunday service.
Take note of what is similar or different and see if you
know anyone or make a new friend!
We are two churches united in mission.



Just a Note...

Just a note that Pastor Anthony will be taking an intensive summer class the week of July 13th and will be unavailable from 11 am to 2 pm daily that week. A presentation on what he learns and writes about will, of course, be offered at a later time!

We celebrate July birthdays...

2 Brian Cover
4 Earl Schulte, Eva Cowley
5 Barbara Marco
6 Georgiana Bollman
11 Emmett Peterson, Kristina McWethy
13 Bette Metzen
14 Marian Myers, Bonnie Bollman
16 Sophia Spangler
17 Lindsey Pitchford
18 Cassidy Hussung
21 Ian Spangler, Marian Wagner
23 Ashley Spangler
24 Jody Conley
27 Mark Haberfield
29 Phyllis Sutton
30 Karen Jepson
31 Ryleigh Wolf



Final Pew Movement Update!!!

The final plan for pew movement has been agreed upon by various committees comprised of over a dozen people. Sometime in July the first 6 pews on each side of the sanctuary will be spaced out to 16". This is a doubling of the current distance. This will necessitate removing a pew or two. This additional space will make it easier for everybody to move, access, and be comfortable attending worship. I am confident that after the initial shock of things moving, you will come to appreciate the accessibility—so will the people that need it. As always, please reach out if you have any questions. -Pr. Anthony

WELCA Coffee
Wednesday, July 8th ~ 9 am
in the Gathering Area
Enjoy a delightful time together!
All are welcome!



Thank You!

Dear St. Paul Lutheran Church Family,

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for the countless prayers, cards, meals, monetary gifts, baby clothes, and every act of kindness you have shown our family over these past few months. Your love and support have carried us through one of the most difficult journeys of our lives.

We are so grateful to share that David has been home for a little over a month now after spending time in the PICU and NICU. He is

doing as well as he can and continues to adapt and grow stronger each day. While our journey is far from over, we are constantly reminded of God's faithfulness through the many blessings He has placed in our lives—including all of you.

Throughout this experience, we have witnessed firsthand that prayer truly works, and you are all proof of that. Every prayer, encouraging word, and act of generosity gave us strength when we needed it most.

One Bible story that has stayed close to our hearts is David and Goliath. As it says in 1 Samuel 17:47, "The battle is the Lord's." Our little David has already faced giants much bigger than himself, and with God's help, he continues to overcome them one day at a time.

Thank you for praying for David and for continuing to keep him in your prayers as he faces and conquers his own Goliaths. We are forever grateful for our church family and the love of Christ you have shown us.

With love and gratitude,

Lauren, Jessie, Della, and David Weaver

Joint VBS
and
Worship & Picnic at
Lowell Park

Thank you to all who helped
make these special
events a success!

Your hard work is appreciated!







**ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER AND BUILD
ONE ANOTHER UP, JUST AS YOU ARE DOING.**

1 THESSALONIANS 5:11





SPLC/ILC Youth & Family Newsletter



Immanuel & St. Paul Lutheran Churches | Two Churches, One Mission

What a week we had at Vacation Bible School!

By the generosity of both SPLC & ILC congregations we were able to pull off one amazing VBS this year! We couldn't have done it without everyone's help! We are blessed beyond measure. Youth were able to make 50 LWR baby kits, write cards to nursing homes, paint murals at ILC and share in time and fellowship with each other. What a service they provided for the world, our community and each other. A blessing to be God's hands and feet.



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Pg. 3 Upcoming Events

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2027 ELCA Youth Gathering – Minneapolis, MN

Youth & Young Adults

Get ready for an unforgettable faith-filled adventure! In the summer of 2027, thousands of Lutheran youth from across the country will gather in Minneapolis, Minnesota, for worship, service, learning, music, and community. This incredible event is an opportunity to deepen your faith, make lifelong friendships, and experience the church in a whole new way.

Our youth ministry is beginning the journey now with planning, fundraising, and preparation. If you have a student who will be entering high school by the summer of 2027 or would like to support this life-changing experience, watch for upcoming meetings and events. We can't wait to see where God leads us on this amazing journey!

More Information: Contact **Gerad** or **Somar**.



Gratitude

ILC would like to take a moment and give thanks. We are truly grateful for our community supporters.

CUB SCOUTS - Truly it has been beyond a blessing to share our building with you, but then you go beyond yourself to supply our youth group with snacks for the 2026 - 2027 year - we are truly thankful!

Ryan Gilbert/Scott Johnson/Wickert Insurance - Our youth say, "THANK YOU!" The popcorn machine at this year's Trivia night was just perfect and you all made it happen!! Again, Thank you!!

****Six Flags Picture will be in
next month issue****



CONTACT US

SPLC: Gerad Von Holten
Email: youth@stpauldixon.org

ILC: Somar Bryson
Email: yfdirector@ilcdixon.org

SPLC/ILC July Youth Newsletter

Upcoming Events...



Parade Youth Food Tent Fundraiser

**SUNDAY, JULY 5,
11 AM - END OF PARADE**

In support of Immanuel and St Paul youth ministry events and trips.

at St Paul!

Menu: Brats, hotdogs, popcorn, cold refreshing drinks

YOUTH &
VOLUNTEERS:
arrive by
10:30am to
help



Family Game Night

No Family Game Night in July. Your leaders will be at Lifest.



JULY 9-12

Lifest

SHARING **LIFE** TOGETHER
OSHKOSH WI 2026

Confirmation Class begins in September

ILC and SPLC are excited to kick off a new year of Confirmation classes this September! If your student is entering **6th grade or older**, they're invited to join us as we grow in faith and fellowship together.

A **Parent/Guardian & Student Orientation Meeting** will be held before classes begin. **Date, time, and location will be announced soon, and all families will be contacted.**

Questions? Contact **Gerad** or **Somar**. We look forward to another wonderful year of growing together in Christ!

ILC Sunday School

Back by popular demand.

Sunday School returns
JULY 19th

JULY CHILDREN'S CHANGE/OFFERING

ST PAUL:



LUTHERAN
WORLD RELIEF
SCHOOL KITS

IMMANUEL:



JULY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
28	29	30 9am-7pm Youth Trip (MS & HS) 	1	2	3	4 
5 SPLC - 9am Comm. Worship Petunia Fest Parade Food Booth @ SPLC before & during the parade 	6	7	8	9 	10 JULY 9-12 Lifest SHARING LIFE TOGETHER OSHKOSH WI 2026	11
12 Lifest →	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31  Ms. Somar is on vacation until August 9th.	

JULY 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 1 pm Worship & Music Meeting 3 pm Christian Ed/Faith Formation	2 11 am Joint Book Study 11 am Chair Yoga	3	4 Happy 4 th of July 5:30 pm Worship at Immanuel
5 9 am Community Worship at the Waterfront 11 am - end of parade Youth Food Tent	6 10 am Prayer 5 pm Joint Book Study 6 pm Property Committee	7 9 am Joint Staff meeting at St. Paul 9 am Line Dancing	8 9 am WELCA Coffee 2:30 pm Finance Committee	9 11 am Joint Book Study 11 am Chair Yoga Youth leave for Lifest	10 1:30 pm Liberty Court Worship	11 5:30 pm Worship at St. Paul
12 10:45 am Worship Executive Council Youth return from Lifest	13 10 am Prayer	14 9 am Joint Staff meeting at St Paul 9 am Line Dancing 10 am Social Ministry meeting	15 10:30 am Heritage Square Worship 5:30 Praise Band rehearsal	16 11 am Chair Yoga	17	18 5:30 pm Worship at Immanuel
19 10:45 am Worship Praise Band	20 10 am Prayer	21 9 am Joint Staff meeting at St. Paul 9 am Line Dancing	22 10 am Care Ministry meeting	23 11 am Chair Yoga	24	25 5:30 pm Worship at St. Paul
26 10:45 am Worship	27 10 am Prayer 2 pm Church Council	28 9 am Joint Staff meeting at St. Paul 9 am Line Dancing	29	30 11 am Chair Yoga	31	

St. Paul Lutheran Church
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Phone: 815-288-2757
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Staff

Rev. Riley Reed-Windau & Rev. Anthony Windau
Co-Pastors

Gerad Von Holten - Director of Youth and Family
Ministries

Rhonda Thomas - Secretary

Brenda Nailor & Sharon Colglazier - General Funds
Treasurers

Lorraine Hussung - Special Funds Treasurer

Church Council

Robin Colglazier – President
Linda Patterson – Vice President
Patty Hallquist – Secretary
Jeanette McWethy
Cyndi Starr
Char Huff
Tim Garnhart