

# Epistle May 2024

*We, as members of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church have come to faith by God's grace and have seen that Jesus came to earth to save us from our sins. We are compelled to grow spiritually and to share this good news with each other, through the Word and Sacraments. We, as our loving response, will present Christ crucified to the world. We apply these truths in our daily lives all to the glory of God!*



While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."

**Luke 24:36**

**Perfect Peace**

In the Middle East, it is common to greet one another by saying, "Peace." That was true already at the time when Jesus rose from the dead. So when he appeared to his disciples and said, "Peace be with you," it could have been understood as a simple greeting.

But it was far more than that. The disciples were unsettled. They were not sure that Jesus had really risen from the dead. They were uncertain whether they had done the right thing at the time of his trial and crucifixion. They did not know where they stood with one another, much less where they stood with Jesus.

All those uncertainties made it important for Jesus to greet them by saying, "Peace be with you." He needed to assure them that his relationship with them was good. Because he had died to take the punishment for their sins because he had risen from the dead to prove that his promise of forgiveness was true, he could calm a whole range of anxiety with those simple words, "Peace be with you."

We also live with uncertainty. We wonder whether we have done the right thing. We don't know how we stand with one another, and we waver in our confidence that Jesus loves us. Because Jesus died to take the punishment for our sins because he rose from the dead to prove that his promise of forgiveness for us is true, we rejoice to hear Jesus say it to us, too. "Peace be with you."

**Prayer:**

Thank you, Jesus, for calming our anxiety by assuring us that we have perfect peace with you. Amen.

Daily Devotions are brought to you by WELS and [www.WhatAboutJesus.com](http://www.WhatAboutJesus.com).

# Executive Council Meeting

Tuesday, April 16, 2024, 6:00PM

Executive Council Chairman: Ron Kraemer

Executive Council Recording Secretary: Joel Wiedeman

Council members present: Joel Wiedeman, Ron Kraemer, Pastor Paul Hirsch, Gary Bretschneider, Mike Mullen, Scott Uecker, and Aaron Markgraf.

Meeting was called to order. (6:02PM)

Opening Devotion: We read Luke 7:36-50 and had a short Bible study.

Agenda: See attachment #1.

Minutes from Previous Meeting: Presented by Joel Wiedeman. (See attachment #2)

1. Motion was to: "Accept minutes from March Executive Council as presented via email."
  - a. Motion was seconded with no discussion.
  - b. Motion was carried with a unanimous vote.

Pastors/Elders Report: Presented by Pastor Hirsch (See attachments #3) (6:07PM)

1. Discussed the Ushers update. Starting to make calls.
2. Discipleship Seminar. Nothing new yet.
3. Area leadership meeting. Started talking with the area 5 congregations. How to share pastoral manpower, etc.? Going to meet again in the future.
4. NE District Convention. Kansas City June 3-5. Aaron Markgraf, Ron Kraemer, and Pastor Hirsch. No cost to St. Paul's. Cost already covered. Looking for a lay delegate.
5. Easter breakfast. Pancakes and sausage and drink. Members bring fruit. Council and Boards?
6. Ixonia Visitors – June 2<sup>nd</sup> Event. An outdoor birthday celebration. Steve Getz on committee from WI. Still looking at a group of 15 folks coming in June. Molly and Lauren are helping to organize. Jamy Prokopec and Pam Handke also going to help. Also inviting the area congregations.
7. May 4/5 Pastor Hirsch gone for daughter's graduation from college. Phil Hirsch will be filling in for services that weekend.
8. BIC-
  - a. A motion was made to: "Recommend accepting the Caskey family, Finch family, and Amanda Garder as members of St. Paul's Lutheran Church via Bible Information Class."
    - i. Motion was seconded and discussed.
    - ii. Motion was carried with a unanimous vote.
9. Confirmation-
  - a. A motion was made to: "Accept the 2024 Confirmation Class as confirmed members of St. Paul's Lutheran Church."
    - i. Motion was seconded and discussed. ii. Motion was carried with unanimous vote.

**Board of Trustees Report:** Presented by Mike Mullen. (No official report) (6:28PM)

1. Talked with Ron Johnson.
2. Working on getting mowing teams lined up.
3. Aaron Geary. Still may have issue with interior tin panels. Looking at how to handle. Get in touch with painter who painted the ceiling awhile ago.

**Board of Education Report:** Presented by Aaron Markgraf. (See attachment #4) (6:31PM)

1. Numbers for next year. K-8 is 79. PreK is 23.
2. Zemlicka family was in town over the past weekend.
3. Laurie Jackson is back in school. BIG THANK YOU to Sherry Kraemer.
4. Track meet recently. We did really good!
5. Working on policy work for new insurance and handbooks.
6. Accreditation coming up soon.
7. Linda Mullen's retirement "celebration" after a church service. Maybe May 19<sup>th</sup>? A church reception?
8. Might be another get together with school faculty.
9. Markgraf's will be out of town on April 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Cemetery Report:** No report tonight.

**Board of Finance Report:** Presented by Gary Bretschneider.

1. Have \$42,000 coming in between the housing fund, radio broadcast, and tuition assistance funds. These funds have had money come in but have not been properly dispersed to the general fund.

**Vision Traction Organizer:** Presented by Aaron Markgraf. Attachment #5 (6:42PM)

1. Went over a few of the issues.
  - a. Regular offerings are below need.
    - i. Have we done anything lately to explain Simply Giving?
    - ii. Need to remind members of the needs of the church.
  - b. Assimilation issues.

**Building Committee:** Presented by Scott Uecker. No official report. (6:53PM)

1. Called Scott Miller with BC Builders. They need current insurance forms. We do have them. Ron Kraemer will handle.
2. Going to start moving dirt again soon.
3. Found a good brick match.
4. Working on final plans from architect.
5. Working on various facets of construction color details.
6. Scott attended a fundraising event at Christ Lutheran to see how they operated.
7. Do we need to have some more help with leading Fundraising Committee? Is there someone out there that can lead this charge?

**Old Business:**

**New Business:**

1. New Insurance Policy
  - a. Separate Policy for school children injuries and church. (Hail)
    - i. Deductible. 1% 130,000 deductible. Total property valued at approx. \$13,000,000. Need a way to get deductible lowered.
    - ii. Do we want to be self-insured up to \$25,000 or \$50,000?

- b. Sexual harassment coverage which is retroactive.
- c. Once construction project is over, insurance agent will revisit to assess site.
- 2. Insure Building Construction Project? (See attachment #5)
  - a. Need St. Paul's listed as additionally insured from BC Builders Zimmerman Insurance.
  - b. Church Mutual Insurance quoted \$7,256 for coverage.
- 3. Bev Kortje. Moving to Fountain Point and is downsizing and has a display of snowmen that she would like to giveaway? Sell? Can she display them in the church basement? Yes.

Upcoming Meeting Dates:

- 1. Quarterly Voter's Meeting April 28<sup>th</sup> after church.
- 2. Board Meetings May 7<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00PM
- 3. Executive Council Meeting May 21<sup>st</sup> @ 6:00PM Closing:
  - 1. Motion was made to: "Adjourn Executive Council meeting." (7:25PM)
    - a. Motion was seconded with no discussion.
    - b. Motion was carried with unanimous vote.

Meeting was closed with The Lord's Prayer.

AMEN. Length of meeting: 1 hour 23 minutes

Respectfully submitted,

Joel Wiedeman

St. Paul's Executive Council Recording Secretary



**May 1<sup>st</sup>** Justin W., **May 2<sup>nd</sup>** Betty P., **May 2<sup>nd</sup>** Sue U., **May 5<sup>th</sup>** Connor Lindahl, **May 5<sup>th</sup>** Brook P., **May 6<sup>th</sup>** Peyton P., **May 7<sup>th</sup>** Harold B., **May 7<sup>th</sup>** Eli S., **May 8<sup>th</sup>** Marianne B., **May 8<sup>th</sup>** David N., **May 9<sup>th</sup>** Cindy R., **May 10<sup>th</sup>** Shelly F., **May 10<sup>th</sup>** Josephine M., **May 10<sup>th</sup>** Eric N., **May 15<sup>th</sup>** John K., **May 16<sup>th</sup>** Madden N., **May 18<sup>th</sup>** Karen N., **May 19<sup>th</sup>** Judy E., **May 20<sup>th</sup>** Kathy J., **May 20<sup>th</sup>** Vicki W., **May 21<sup>st</sup>** Juanita B., **May 21<sup>st</sup>** Pastor Lindke, **May 21<sup>st</sup>** Joel M., **May 21<sup>st</sup>** Levi U., Carley D. **May 23<sup>rd</sup>**, Kalyn K. **May 23<sup>rd</sup>**, Yajaira M. **May 23<sup>rd</sup>**, **May 24<sup>th</sup>** Aaron M., **May 25<sup>th</sup>** Matt R., **May 25<sup>th</sup>** Marian T., **May 26<sup>th</sup>** Jean N., **May 26<sup>th</sup>** Charles S., **May 27<sup>th</sup>** Katie B., **May 27<sup>th</sup>** Jan U., **May 28<sup>th</sup>** Bev D., **May 28<sup>th</sup>** Derek P., **May 31<sup>st</sup>** Don D., **May 31<sup>st</sup>** Flor K.



**May 4<sup>th</sup>** Mr. & Mrs. Gordy Winter, **May 5<sup>th</sup>** Mr. & Mrs. Dave Henning,  
**May 6<sup>th</sup>** Mr. & Mrs. Matt Bachman, **May 20<sup>th</sup>** Mr. & Mrs. Richard  
Gilsdorf, **May 22<sup>nd</sup>** Mr. & Mrs. Eric Nunnenkamp,  
**May 29<sup>th</sup>** Mr. & Mrs. Ed Ortmeier

**Memorials Given for the Month of April to the Building Fund**

*In Memory of Jenni Nichols \$140.00*

*In Memory of Steve Shank (father of Miss Tina Shank) \$305.00*

*In Memory of Ruth Uecker \$300.00*

---

**Church Attendance:** April 6/7 **143** April 13/14 **205** April 20/21 **314** April 27/28 **203**

**Communion Attendance:** April 6/7 **91** April 20/21 **82**

*Blessings on your May 🌿!*