My Dear Brothers and Sisters in God's Kingdom,

It is said that "life is constantly changing." And now we find ourselves in a season of change. The scorching days of summer are giving way to the cooler days of autumn. Soon shorts and short sleeve attire will be packed away and out will come the sweatshirts and sweaters. A drive through the countryside gives evidence of the change taking place as crops which were planted a few short months ago are being harvested. The fields that were plush and green will soon be brown and bare. We display the evidence of change in our own bodies. Our once young, strong and vibrant bodies through the aging process becomes less mobile, agile and firm. I even ask myself, "When did I start making these sounds I hear as groan and strain to lift myself off the living room floor after playing with my grandson?" Change – terrifying change – abounds around us every day. There is no stopping it!

While life is continually changing, I find great comfort worshipping a God who does not change. The message revealed in Holy Scripture is the same today as it was in the days of old. The message that: "God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life." The message that Martin Luther "rediscovered" during the Reformation Era. We are saved by **Grace Alone** through **Faith Alone** revealed in **Scripture Alone**.

Grace Alone: Grace can be defined as: "God's Riches At Christ's Expense." We, as fallen creatures, would only deserve God's wrath and condemnation. Yet God, out of His love for us, sends forth his Son. Peter in his first epistle chapter 3 verse 18 writes: *"For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit."* Paul echoes this thought in his second letter to the Corinthians when he pens: *" 21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."* Peter and Paul clearly pr claims that God in Christ is working on our behalf. God fulfilling his promise to Jeremiah when he says that He is establishing a new covenant with the house of Judah and the house of Israel, not like the old covenant which their forefathers broke. God is doing all the heavy lifting and all the work!

Our role in this new covenant is merely passive participant. We are the benefactors of all God has done in our behalf. And this is the way it has to be! The Psalmist asks a most provocative questions: Who is man that God should be mindful of him? Or what can man offer to God in exchange for his soul? The hymnist writes, Nothing in my hand I bring, simply to the cross I cling. Because the clear and concise answer is nothing. While we find ourselves bartering with God about many things, we have no possession, no grand sacrifice, no faultless life, no pure heart, nor any amount of gold or silver to lay before his throne as bargaining chips in exchange for our lives. We are found to be powerless. We are clothed with weakness. We are left helpless.

Standing in this shroud of darkness, a light shines and illumines the path out of our despair. The Gospel says you are saved by grace. Do not lose heart, you are saved by grace. God acted in your behalf. God paid off your debt of sin, but not with gold or silver. Its debt requirement was the precious blood of his only Son. Through his death, Jesus has set you free from your bondage to sin. You are saved by Grace!

In a world that is constantly changing, God's message of grace has never changed. As it has always been, so it is in this 2026 year of our Lord. God's love for sinful man – for you and for me- is never ending or changing. As we look to next month, we will ponder Faith Alone. In the meantime we stand in His Grace!

Standing with you in His Grace,

Pastor Steven K Benson

Board of Education

September 2, 2026

Members: Jill Davis, Sue Macek, Pastor Benson

Pastor Benson began the meeting with devotion from Luke 12—Don't worry. Seek first the kingdom of God. Pastor ended with prayer. August minutes were approved as written.

Library: Newest book written by Rev R. Lee Hagan titled, "Faithful, Hopeful, and Bold", encouragement for the church, published by Concordia. In these dark times the word of God can give hope to the church. Rev Hagan shares 12 reflections to provide hope and encouragement for the people of God. Book is written to be a discussion for the leaders of the church.

St. Paul: First day of school for M-W-F Pk 3 and 4 on 8/31, Pk 3 T-Th on 9/1, Kindergarten - eighth grade is 8/26.

Catechism & Sunday School report: We will start Unit 4 of Concordia curriculum covering stories from the Old Testament. Sunday School will resume on 9/13. We will also include the Lord's Prayer, Books of the Bible, and the Ten Commandments through the year. The mission for the year will go to Mission Central, Mapleton, IA.

Family Fellowship report: Pending the pastoral call

Wednesday Bible Study: Pending the pastoral call

Cradle Roll: Two children have aged out of the cradle roll and were added to the Sunday School roll.

Old Business: Thanks to all the helping hands at Rev Jerry Raether's retirement dinner.

New business: A great welcome to Rev Steve Benson for assisting our congregation.

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer. Meeting adjourned at 5:40 pm. Next meeting is Sept 2nd at 5:15 pm.

Sue Macek
Chairman

Lutheran Women's Fellowship

September 3, 2026

The Lutheran Women's Fellowship met on September 3 at 1 p.m. Nine members attended. Sally Zuspann called the meeting to order. Sally presented the Mites Devotions "Fear Not, I Will Be With You", "I Will Never Leave You Nore Forsake You".and followed with Mites Prayer. The minutes of August 6th were given out in the meeting, were read, some corrections made and approved. Began meeting with committee reports:

Treasurer Report: $12.05 in checking,$2,212.32 in regular savings, and $2,222.51 in the Extension Fund.
Card Counter Report: checking balance: $754.08.
Funeral Fund: Savings balance: $2,808.56.
Reports all approved.

Old Business
Thank you letter from Pastor Raether LWML gift and retirement event..
Thank you card from Tiffany Peterson, OBRIA, speaker for LWML gift.

New Business
September Funeral Committee. Sally Zuzpann, Sue Macek
September 3 Hostess: Nancy Herzberg, Louellen Steckelberg
Shut-ins' birthday: Billie Jo Matter
Birthdays: Louellen Steckelberg, Sally Zuspann. Missy Huseman
Mites Devotion and Prayer: Hostesses of the month will present Mites Devotion/Prayer. Julie Hughes made motion,Jean Martinson seconded.

St. Paul Lutheran Fall Zone Rally, September 19 Coffee Registration 8:30 AM. Program: 9:00 AM.
Registration: $5, Speaker will be Julie Mann.. Ingathering gifts; sheets, gift cards or monetary donations.

Quilt/Craft/Bake Sale October 10. Time: 10:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M. Missions: Obria Medical Clinics, SALT Center, and Home Missions. Signup sheet was circulated for greeters, ushers/money counters, and kitchen helpers. Lunch; Sloppy Joes, chips, bars, coffee, water. Vicki Escobedo passed out posters to distribute for upcoming Quilt/Craft/lBake Sale.

Adding new monthly mission; OBRIA. Decision on designated month will be done when creating new Women's Fellowship 2027 book.

July 8-11 National Convention, Oklahoma.
Invitation Humboldt Fall Rally, September 23. Time: 9-12 pm. Speaker: Pastor Egger.

Sally Zuspann closed meeting with Lord's Prayer and Table Prayer at 2:00 PM. All in favor of adjourning meeting.

LaVonne Peters
Secretary

The **Lutheran Women's Missionary League** and the **Sewing Group** are hosting a quilt, craft, and bake sale on Saturday, October 10, 2026, from 10:00a to 2:00p. We will be serving sloppy joes, chips, bars, and beverages for a free will offering. Proceeds go to Obria Medical Clinics, The SALT Center, and Home Missions.

We will have sign up sheets for helpers or for donations of crafts or baked goods. Make sure prices are marked on items.

Vicky Escobedo and Nancy Herzberg

ORGAN FUND UPDATE

Received in 2024	$28,453.15
Received in 2025	$ 6,505.00
2026 YTD Received	$ 1,260.00
Reimbursed to Foundation	$31,000.00
Organ Fund	$ 5,078.15

ATTENDANCE

Sunday	Worship	Communion
9/6	37	
9/13	33	33
9/20	30	
9/27	34	31

Taytum Widen-Fuller (10/3), Carter Waddell (10/4), Mary Escobedo (10/5), Mark Christian (10/6), Malory Fowler (10/6), Sue Janssen (10/7), Susan Macek (10/14), Tate Martinson (10/16), Betty Enburg (10/17), Doug Vinson (10/17), Jeanettte Thanupakorn (10/18), Tyler Martinson (10,22), Elizabeth Valley (10/23), Patrick Ferry (10/31)

William & Lori Degelau (51) on October 11
Dellon & Whitney Clawson (9) on October 21
Daniel & Sharie Ball (11) on October 24

Membership Report for September 2026

GAIN

Confirmed + **Baptized +**

LOSS

Confirmed -1 **Baptized –1**

Communicant =153
Baptized (not confirmed) =47
Total baptized souls =200

Financial Report September 2026

Income (Offerings)

Home/Current $5613, Missions Budget $112, Loose Offerings $209, Special Offering $69, Miscellaneous $217.05, Organ Fund $140.

Total Offerings $6360.05

Expenses

Pastor $, Payroll $59, Organist $371.94, Pastoral Expenses $, Ministry Expenses $11.04, Portals of Prayer $147.91, Office Supplies $94.14, Office Equipment $144.44, Water $117.36, Pest Control $42.00, Gas & Electric $671.00, Sanitation $85.60, Miscellaneous $47.45, Missions $112.00, Charities $69.00, Advertising $540.00.

Total Expenses	**$ 3.047.88**
Net Income	**$ 3,312.17**