

# October

## Newsletter 2024

### Alliance of St. Paul and Settlement Lutheran Churches 2024

Dear Friends in Christ,

It is now officially autumn. The colors are beginning to warm up into yellows, oranges, and reds---a final hurrah before they drop. (A bit like the Rally Day that often happens with patients on hospice when they have a day of energy and joy in their last weeks of life). It is the season of change. As I reflect on the teachings of Jesus, and how our worship follows a seasonal calendar, we get many opportunities to name our losses, explore our griefs, and learn how to die in many different ways in our lives.

Each Sunday, we pray for the saints above, those who have died in the faith and are now gone from our sight. This is the last petition of the prayers of the people, each and every Sunday during worship. Someone we know is dying, or has died, and we are re-mem-bering them. Sometimes, the dying/loss is not a person. It could be a change where we have had a new diagnosis or a drastic change in health, and now we need to measure our energy to decide what is possible for the day. Other times, it could be the death of a relationship.... a friendship that has been important for a time, and now is no longer possible.

Maybe, we are experiencing changes, losses, in our church community, with a new pastor or maybe our congregation is beginning steps towards a closing a building.

In all of these changes, Jesus says over and over to us:

I love you. Fear not. I am with you. I will weep alongside of you. I will sigh with you. I will catch your tears in a bottle.

So the song below is playing in my heart, as I reflect on losses and changes. I wonder how Jesus will help us let go of our losses. This is not about forgetting, this is about the process of grieving. Where

could we see evidence of resurrection? Where do we need to weep?  
Will we allow ourselves to let go or we will stuff our feelings, and  
fears? Jesus goes with us through our Fridays, and Sunday, Easter  
Resurrection, is always ahead. May we hold with hope!

Leaves Don't Drop, They Just Let Go – Carrie Newcomer

[Leaves Don't Drop They Just Let Go \(youtube.com\)](#) click here to listen  
to the music

The truth I learned when I was eight  
My dad swam the length of Spirit Lake  
Yeah and it must have been a million miles  
This I knew was true

My mother sang while hangin' clothes  
Her notes weren't perfect heaven knows  
Yeah but heaven opened anyway  
This I knew was true

'Cause leaves don't drop they just let go  
And make a space for seeds to grow  
And every season brings a change  
A tree is what a seed contains  
To die and live is life's refrain  
I left her with some groceries  
Said check the oil and call me please  
And she said hey Ma I'll be just fine  
This I knew was true

'Cause leaves don't drop they just let go  
And make a space for seeds to grow  
And every season brings a change  
A tree is what a seed contains  
To die and live is life's refrain  
I've traveled through my history  
From certainty to mystery  
God speaks in rhyme in paradox  
This I know is true

And finally when my life is through  
And what I am not what I do  
'Cause it comes down to you and your next breath  
This I know is true

'Cause leaves don't drop they just let go  
And make a space for seeds to grow  
And every season brings a change

**A tree is what a seed contains  
To die and live is life's refrain  
May we sing the refrain of life, the dying and the living, trusting in  
Jesus!  
Pastor Nan**

## **PRESIDENTS LETTER**

Fall is here. Trust us. It's October. We will be celebrating First Fruits Auction at Paul, then our annual meetings at St. Paul and Settlement. We pray the Abelskiver Hot Beef Lunch was a success. This letter is being written prior to the event happening. Monies from this event go toward the food given to Settlement's 8 Angel Tree families.

We are hearing some meetings are not well planned. Agendas will be required for all meetings so they can be timely and stay on task. Please keep your meetings to a maximum of 90 minutes to be respectful of peoples time.

We have many irons in the fire. Please be willing to give of your time and talents. As members of St. Paul and Settlement you are very important to us. We try to be attentive to those around us.

Thank you to all who have served on the Alliance Council and St. Paul/Settlement Councils. Your service is very much appreciated. The business of the church can be daunting. You have helped make this year easier with your service.

With Love, Blessings and Respect,  
Constance Teddy, President Alicia Dombkowski, Vice President  
Alliance/St. Paul Council Alliance/President, Settlement Council

## **COUNCIL CORNER - September, 2024**

\*St. Paul had no quorum

\*Discussion took place on agenda - Alliance

2025 Budget

Joint Service with Bishop Satterlee at Settlement

Long Sleeves with Jesus at St. Paul

\*Settlement Budget

\*Hope Task Force questions and answers - How'd it go

## **WHAT'S NEXT**

### **– Constance Teddy/ Alicia Dombkowski**

There have been many questions regarding the service of Pastor Nan Dehnke. She came to us and has led us through a difficult year. Pastor Nan was on the call list and removed her name from that list to come to us. She is our Pastor.

1) Pastor Nan came to us off the “call” list.....recommended by Bishop Satterlee (Bishop Satterlee has a special love for our congregations and blessed us with this gift. Pastor Nan agreed to serve us.)

2) St. Paul and Settlement had a meet and greet and invited Pastor Nan to come serve our faith communities as a “Transitional” pastor (This is not an interim position. Pastor Nan is our Pastor if she is willing to stay with us)

3) Our next step is to set up a Vision Task Force to research, develop and plan where our congregation’s vision and Pastor Nan’s vision is for our ministry

(The Visioning process will provide opportunities for everyone to be heard)

4) Integrate our vision with Pastor Nan’s vision and commit to each other

5) Special Congregational Meeting to confirm this commitment.

## **October Hymn of the Month Setting 8 Liturgy -This is the Feast**

*Refrain*  
This is the feast of vic-t'ry for our God, for the

Lamb who was slain has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia.

1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be

peo-ple of God. Pow-er, rich-es, wis-dom, and strength, and

hon-or, bless-ing, and glo-ry are his. *Refrain* This is the feast of

vic-t'ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has be-gun his reign. Al-

le-lu-ia. 2 Sing with all the peo-ple of God, and

join in the hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing, hon-or,

glo-ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.

*Final refrain*  
This is the feast of vic-t'ry for our God, for the

Lamb who was slain has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia.

# October 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 2-3 Bible Study 4-5 Grief-SET	2 Mark's Sabbath 7pm Worship at St. P	3 10:40 Prayer SET 11-3 Barrie's SET 11:30 GAMA@ Winter Inn	4	5 9:30 Blessing Animals
6 Stuffed Animal Blessing in Worship	7 Pastor's Sabbath	8 2-3 Bible Study 4-5 Grief-SET	9 Mark's Sabbath 7pm Worship at St. P	10 10:40 Prayer SET 11-3 Barrie's SET	11	12
13 Healing & Anointing	14 Pastor's Sabbath	15 2-3 Bible Study 4-5 Grief-SET	16 Mark's Sabbath 7pm Worship at St. P	17 10:40 Prayer SET 11-3 Barrie's SET	18 11:30 Evangelism	19
20 Annual Meeting	21 Pastor's Sabbath Pastor at SYNOD	22 2-3 Bible Study Pastor at SYNOD	23 Pastor at SYNOD Mark's Sabbath 7pm Worship at St. P	24 10:40 Prayer SET 11-3 Barrie's SET	25	26
27 Reformation Sunday Joint Worship with Bishop 11 am SET	28	29 2-3 Bible Study 4-5 Grief-SET	30 Mark's Sabbath 7pm Worship at St. P	31		

# ***SPIRITUAL GROWTH PAGE FOR OCTOBER 2024***

## **Romans 12:2**

**Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think.**

Babies are constantly changing, teenagers sometimes want changes now and older people often are reluctant to change. The older we get it seems like we dig in and the bigger the hole, the harder it is to climb out. So, the invitation for this month is to put down the shovel, step onto the ladder of prayer and with each rung we climb listen to how God wants us to climb up to the light of new and transforming adventures.

### **Opportunities:**

**Short meditation** on zoom at 1:30 every Friday. 376-200-8063 access code is qS7rfD.

**Enjoying God's creation together.** Wednesday, October 16th A trip to St. Francis Sculpture Garden in Grand Rapids. Carpool from St. Paul Lutheran in Greenville at 10:00. Eat lunch on the way home. Group will determine where. Call Shirley Moerdyk at 989-287-0996 if you are going. (St. Francis Movie on Oct. 11 at 6:00 for those going on trip).

**Celebration of Discipline retreat.** Saturday, November 2nd. 9:15 – 12:00 at Settlement Lutheran in Gowen. The inward disciplines of meditation, prayer, fasting and study.

**Christmas Carol sing-a long** on Sunday, December 8th at Faith Lutheran in Sidney at 6:00.

**Books:** The Women by Kristin Hannah. A novel about women during Vietnam War.

Not Finished Yet by Sharon Garlough Brown. Children's book.

Enjoy, grow and be a part of the transformation God invites.

Shalom

# Ministry Dates

One Church. Two Locations. One Ministry. —

All welcome to participate in the events below.

Sharing the joy of Christ & Transformed by God's grace we share the love of Christ.

## Children Church



Meets in the large classroom for every Sunday 20 minutes after the children's message and before Holy Communion on Sundays.

*Nursery Leaders at St. Paul*

Serving each Sunday of the month

First Sunday of the month	Linda Everest
Second Sunday of the month	Shirley Hartstock
Third Sunday of the month	Amy Smith
Fourth Sunday of the month	Donnie Muzzall

*Coffee Hour Ministry at St. Paul*

*the sign up sheet is on the table at the entrance*

please sign up to serve on a Sunday during the month



**Alcoholics Anonymous  
Settlement Mondays 7pm**



Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of people who come together to solve their drinking problem. Membership is open to anyone who wants to do something about their drinking problem. A.A.'s primary purpose is to help alcoholics to achieve sobriety.



**Al-Anon**

Settlement  
Mondays at 7pm

Al-Anon is a mutual support program for people whose

*Blessing of the Animals*





## *Blessing of the stuffed Animal*

bring a stuffed Animal to be blessed  
on Sunday.

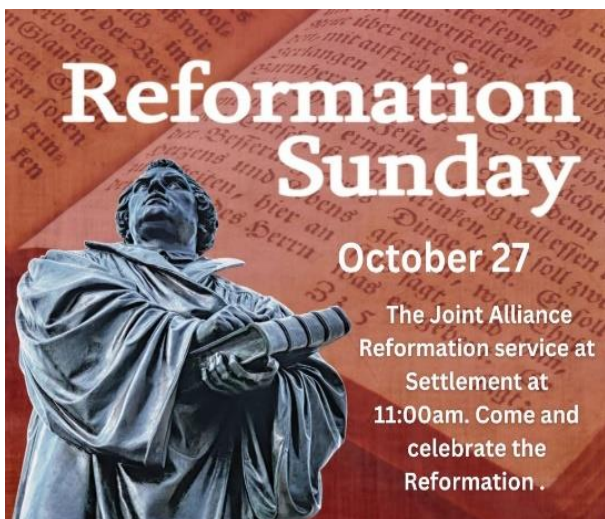


October 6th, 2023

9:30am



during the children's message



# Reformation Sunday

October 27

The Joint Alliance Reformation service at Settlement at 11:00am. Come and celebrate the Reformation.

## 3rd Sunday Loose Change Offerings

The loose change offerings help provide funding for the children, youth, and family ministries at St. Paul.



This Month the offering is on October 20



## Reading of the Psalms and Labyrinth Walk

**O**n September 14th the Shalom group hosted the reading of the psalms and labyrinth walk at St. Paul. It was great day with lots of sun and a cool breeze. The participants received a booklet to follow along with the readings as participants sat and prayed while listening or walked and prayer in the labyrinth.



### **Aebleskiver & Hot Beef**

September 21st Welca hosted there Aebleskiver & Hot Beef dinner to raise funds for the perishable food items for the Christmas family's that united life styles gives them for the angel tree. There was a constant flow of visitors from 2:45-4:00pm and 4:30-6:00pm. There were 5 turners for the aebleskiver, when people came to the pie table, they looked over whelmed by the thirteen choices of pie to choose from.



**HALLOWEEN EXTRAVAGANZA**

Halloween Extravaganza on Saturday October 26<sup>th</sup>

At St. Paul Lutheran Church

9844 SW Greenville rd.

5:00-7:30pm

The Alliance ministry at St. Paul invites you to the 18<sup>th</sup>  
annual Halloween Extravaganza  
on October 26<sup>th</sup>

The Halloween Extravaganza offers games and activities for all ages to play. Like Pumpkin bowling, face painting, a free meal, etc. Come to St. Paul Lutheran Church October 26<sup>th</sup> for a free and Safe fun family event.

This is a Thrivent Action team event and open to the whole community and is free to all.

*on October 26<sup>th</sup>*

## Barrie's House Ministries



Provides meals, food, and clothing every Thursday to those in need.

**Lunch Served at 11:00am.**      **Food and Clothing Distribution 11:00am - 3:00pm**



## *God's Work Our Hands Room at Settlement*

God's  
Work Our  
Hands  
Room

The God's Work Our Hand's room is always open. The projects that can be worked on are canvas crosses, birthday bags, book marks, and cards to stamp.



This room also serves as a gathering place for donated birthday bags items, feminine and incontinence supplies, personal care items for Barrie's House as well as books for our little free library. Any supplies for Barrie's House is welcome.

## Short Meditation



Shalom Group sponsored short meditation every Friday afternoon. The meditation starts at 1:30 pm on zoom.

ID. 376-200-8063. Access code q57rfD



## Senior Citizen Fellowship

October 29, noon

Senior Citizens Fellowship at Settlement, please bring a dish to pass and a \$5 gift bag for Bingo.

# FIRST FRUITS SILENT AUCTION: SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13

While we've been enjoying lazy summer days, God has been at work in His creation. As the Fall Harvest draws near, we are reminded of these good gifts and of His abundant love. The First Fruits Silent Auction is an opportunity to be grateful and to celebrate that abundance together as a church family. Auction items can reflect our own God-given gifts: homemade, homegrown, or handcrafted items, food, or shared skills that show our love to one another and for God. The event takes place following worship on **Sunday, October 13**. Please bring auction items/ideas prior to the service that day. Proceeds from the auction will go directly to the Greenville Area Ecumenical Food Mission.

## Mental Health and the Holiday Season:

### Finding Calm in the Chaos

As September ends and October begins, we start to approach what many experience as a loud, hectic season—Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's. For some, this season is full of joy, but for others, it brings stress, anxiety, and even loneliness. (And for those living above the southern states, the cold winds and snow are also on their way.)

It can feel as though we are leaving the quieter part of the year and heading straight into the noisiest, both audibly and visually. October kicks off the holiday season with Halloween, quickly followed by Thanksgiving and, for some, the chaos of Black Friday shopping. Everything culminates with Christmas and New Year's celebrations.

During this time, we are bombarded by decorations, bright lights, sounds, music, and social obligations. While some people are surrounded by family and friends, others may feel isolated due to the absence or distance of loved ones. Adding to this, daylight grows shorter with each passing day, sometimes intensifying feelings of stress and frustration.

The pressure to create the "perfect" holiday experience for ourselves and others can feel overwhelming. It is important to remember that you are not alone in feeling this way. Many people struggle with mental health triggers during this time of year. To help, I have compiled some articles and resources that offer helpful ways to cope:

- [7 Ways to Fight Depression on Halloween | Thriveworks](#)
- [Giving Thanks Can Make You Happier | Harvard Health](#)
- [How To Manage Your Mental Health on Thanksgiving | Madison Avenue TMS & Psychiatry](#)
- [9 Ways to Beat the Holiday Blues | Healthline](#)
- [Mental Health During the Holidays: Five Tips to Ease the Struggle | Mental Health First Aid](#)
- [5 Ways to Manage Your Mental Health During the Holidays | Verywell Mind](#)

Additionally, our ministry is planning a "Blue Christmas" service to offer a space for peace and reflection during this season. Please look for details in upcoming newsletters. Mark and Pastor Nan are also available to listen and offer support during this time.

For moments of stress, here is a helpful resource with **five quick meditations** to guide you through the chaos of the season: [5 Quick Holiday Stress Meditations | The Everygirl](#). These can offer calm when you feel overwhelmed, with your blood pressure rising and the world feeling chaotic around you.

Please remember to use these resources during moments of stress. Whether it's the constant music, flashing lights, or lack of sunshine, know that taking time for yourself and connecting with God can help you find your center and calm during the holiday bustle.

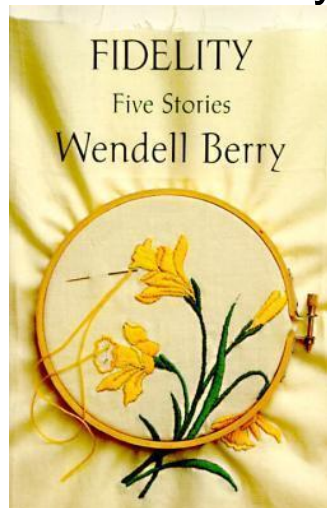
Mark Dombkowski, Director of Ministries

# October Birthdays

Emma McCallum 2  
Julia Kent 2  
Ron Billmeijer 4  
Wesley Hartstock 5  
Jack Bileth 7  
Jeff Dolphin 9  
Richard Kubec 10  
Ila Mortensen 14  
Sandy Cote 1  
Lorayne Lehigh 17  
Channing Gough 18  
Larry Ross 19  
Karen Hopkins 21  
Lyndsey Fleser 21  
LouAnn Dombroski 26  
Joan Chadwick 28  
Joann Crooks 29  
Amber McConnell 29  
Michael Brown 31

## Come Read together with the Alliance

October Book of the Month **Fidelity** : Five Stories by  
Wendell Berry



## St Paul Serving Calendar

<b>Date</b>	<b>Assisting</b>	<b>Lector</b>	<b>Sound</b>	<b>Lead Usher</b>	<b>Nursery</b>	<b>Counters</b>
<b>10/6</b>	Rocky H	Josh S	Lee H DianeC Karen H	Curt B	Linda E	Joanne B Karen H
<b>10/13</b>	Connie T	Barb B	Diane C Paul R Deb R	John C	Shirley H	John C Lisa B
<b>10/20</b>	Deb R	Deb R	Lee H Diane C Lisa B	Bob K	Amy S	Shirley H Connie T
<b>10/27</b>	Joint Worship					Kevand S Lori M

## **Settlement Serving Calendar**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Lector</b>	<b>Sound</b>	<b>Lead Usher</b>	<b>Musician</b>	<b>Coffee</b>
10/6	Barb J	Aaron R	Heather & Assistant	Sarah	WELCA
10/13	Sara M	Aaron R	Heather & Assistant	Linda	WELCA
10/20	Vickey	Aaron R	Heather & Assistant	Sarah	WELCA
10/27	Dorinda K	Aaron R	Heather & Assistant	Ryan	WELCA

**ALLIANCE ST. PAUL & SETTLEMENT**

# **PRAYER LIST**



**HEALING** – Amanda Tiepel, Christine Kubec, Cole Erlhert, David Keating, Dennis Dombkowski, Lisa Johnson, Michael Johnson, Max Morris, Sandy Stowe, Debbie Otis, Diane Utt, Duane Klas, Gerri Messacar, Jim Veresh, Larry Ross, Lisa Anderson, Lloyd Stearns, Lois Davis, Lucille Petersen, Max Morris, Rey Ramirez, Rick Richards, Ron Elhert Jr, Sarah Sabinas Kacprzyk, Sarah Trebilcock, Sherie Barnes, Terry Horst, Ward Varns.

**MILITARY** - Brian Blomstrom, Callie Kiaunis, Chad Wynsma, Chris Miller,  
Hanah MacMillen, JD Johansen, Kaleb Gotwalt, Marcus Roy, Ryan Treynor, Sophia McCollom, Steve Kowalewicz, Troy Thornburg, Tyler Markum, Vaughn Misner, Victor Rivera, Vinnie Baza, Wyatt Thorington, Anthony Ferrer

## **THOUGHTS FROM BARRIE'S HOUSE.**

As the ELCA, we talk about doing God's Work with Our Hands. Being there for our Community when they show up on Thursdays is God's work. Doing God's work gives some glimpses of the face of God. Here are a few examples:

- A man who was in tears because I asked him if he wanted cookies. He said he had never had to get help to feed his family and was so happy to get some basic food. He looked at me and said "You mean to tell me you have cookies for us?" Our cookies made him feel loved. Isn't this a lesson many of us learned from our Grandmothers?
- A call from a nearby local church that had to close their doors, asking if they could give us a freezer. They followed this up by our



many other things they wanted us to be able to use. Then they sent an amazingly generous unexpected check saying “please use this to further your mission of helping others”. Through the years they have been generous to us and as they closed their doors and liquidated their assets they gave to Barrie’s House. They were sad and hurting and grieving and chose to give. What an incredible example to us and our whole community.

- The smiles on so many faces as they enjoy their take-out lunch and say “This is so good!”
- A sweet woman who, on her first visit to Barrie’s House, asked me my name and asked if we ever needed any volunteers. Sometimes the “gift” we give is letting others give.
- Seeing the creative energy and love poured into Christmas gifts for kids as they are lovingly gathered and packaged on a hot September afternoon. I believe God’s work can be evidenced in a book about animal poop.
- Understanding from our task force that it is a priority for the work of Barrie’s House to continue. We don't know what that will look like but I find it helpful to remind myself that it is God’s Work. We need to let Him do some of it! I’ll buy eggs and set up tables and make copies and think about where to fit a freezer. My hands and the hands of so many others get the sacred privilege of doing God's Work. If we are paying attention, we also get to see the face of God in each other.

In closing, I ask for the prayers of all in the Alliance as we dream and plan and listen and wait and move forward in the ministries of Barrie’s House. May we not let grief and frustration get in the way of giving to and meeting the needs of our neighbors.

Sara McCallum, Barrie’s House at Settlement



# All Saints' Day Roses

All Saints' Day will be observed Sunday, November 5 during worship.

White roses are placed on the altar for each deceased member of the church, and others that you may choose to remember.

You may purchase roses in honor of loved ones or in memory of loved ones. The names of those being remembered will be included in the bulletin. You may purchase as many roses as you wish and you may take your purchased roses home after the Nov 5th service.

There are forms for ordering on the back table of both churches Please include your order form and payment in the envelope provided when you place your order. This year the price of roses is \$4.50 for each rose you order.

Order forms must be received by Sunday October 22nd.

Please see Margaret Bradley, Diane Veresh or Joyce Scott if you have questions.

## Barrie's Christmas

### BARRIE'S HOUSE – CHRISTMAS FOR KIDS

The volunteers for this outreach began collecting items the week after Christmas in 2023 for 2024. If anyone is interested in helping with donations, the gratefulness precedes. Here are the items that are needed:

Men's size socks and black gloves

Older Boys and Girls (12 and up) Games, bodywash, loofahs and gift items (jewelry, flashlights, etc.)

Gift cards for older kids (like McDonald's etc.) and/or Gift card for the volunteers to buy gifts for the children and young people

School Supplies including: tablets, pencils, pens, crayons, colored pencils, sharpeners, etc.

We could also use coloring books for the younger kids.

\*Items can be left at Settlement's Sunday School wing entrance.

Please mark them clearly: Barrie's Christmas for Kids.

You may also contact: Carol Word, 616-984-2090 or

Barbara Jensen 616-984-2613 to have anything picked up.



# Remember to Fall Back on November 3<sup>rd</sup>

## Office Hours

**Monday:** Closed

**Tuesday:** 9:00a.m.-2:00p.m.

**Wednesday:** 9:00a.m.-2:00p.m.

**Thursday:** Closed

**Friday:** 9:00a.m.-2:00p.m.

**Saturday:** Closed

## Church Staff

Pastor Nan Dehnke ..... 317.464.9434 [pastorstpaulandsettlement@earthlink.net](mailto:pastorstpaulandsettlement@earthlink.net)

Mark Dombkowski, Ministry Coordinator ..989.352.5900 [luke15youth@gmail.com](mailto:luke15youth@gmail.com)

Bethany Wheeler, Office Administrator ..... 616.754.6676 [office@stpauelca.org](mailto:office@stpauelca.org)

Linda Hansen, Musician Team coordinator ..... [linda13680@sbcglobal.net](mailto:linda13680@sbcglobal.net)

Sarah Fruchey, St. Paul Musician Team ..... [sarahfruchey@gmail.com](mailto:sarahfruchey@gmail.com)

Ryan Holley-Mallo - St. Paul Musician Team ..... [RyanMalloDnp@gmail.com](mailto:RyanMalloDnp@gmail.com)

## **Church Council**

**St. Paul:** Connie Teddy, Ray Bremer, Kari Johnson, Paul Richardson,  
Lisa Brown, John Chadwick

**Settlement:** Alicia Dombkowski, John Johansen, Jeff Dolphin, Dorinda  
Kirshman, Celia Ehlert, Hayley Brooks, Alyssa Quick

**Alliance of St Paul and Settlement Lutheran Churches**

**<https://stpaulsettlementelca.org>**