

April

2021

Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. (Matthew 9:35-36)

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As he went throughout the cities and villages, Jesus saw the crowds. Now this is not a minor detail. Many people go through life wondering if anyone sees them. If you have wondered about this, I can assure you that there is one who sees you.

Jesus saw the crowds that followed him, and he recognized that they were “helpless and harassed.” These words could be better translated as “whipped/flayed” and “rejected/thrown down”. The people Jesus saw were beaten down and rejected. Jesus noted they were like sheep without a shepherd, no protector or provider.

Jesus doesn't mention the source of their harassment, but we don't have to look far to imagine. Some are thrown down by injustice and abuse of authority. Others are thrown down by grief or mental illness, particularly anxiety. Some are flayed by disease, economic strain, or isolation. Others are whipped by failure and shame. Each of us is harassed by the devil who tempts us into anger, fear, and self-righteousness. Our problem, in part, is that it is we who do not see. Perhaps we cannot, having never put ourselves in the position to see. Perhaps we will not, refusing to look outside our own lives and our own bubbles. But Jesus sees. He sees the crowds that follow him – really sees them. He sees their helplessness. He sees those who are harassing them, and he does not look away. Neglected, straying, and preyed upon, with no shepherd to give them comfort and assurance, Jesus sees them. This is not surprising, for He is the Son of the One who sees all things—good and evil. As Psalm 139 tells us, “O LORD, you have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away. You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways.”

Yes, Jesus sees us. He sees us in our brokenness. He sees us in our pain, our rejection, and our loneliness. He sees our guilt, our shame, our fear, and our doubt.

Having seen the crowds and each of us, and the heavy burdens that we bear and those we place upon others, how does Jesus respond? He has compassion for us. When Jesus sees us, sheep without a shepherd, his gut wrenches with pain. He is deeply moved in his inward being with merciful kindness and deep compassion.

All of this is to say, he suffers with us. The suffering of Jesus is not limited to the horror of Holy Week. It encompasses his entire ministry. Jesus came among us to suffer *with* us before he suffered on Golgotha *for* us. Jesus took on human flesh and became one of us, with all the human emotions, the bodily pains, and temptations that entailed. After his baptism, when Jesus' ministry began, he began to take our sin, suffering, and disease upon himself and he carried it all the way to the cross. He claimed our sin as his own, as he saw it was the only way to save us. He was whipped and flayed for us – for your sin and for mine. He was rejected in our place. Thrown down into the grave. But the grave could not hold him, and he was resurrected by the Father. This was done for our salvation. Yes, Jesus sees you and you are precious in his sight. See you in church!

Love from your sister in Christ,
Pr. Tricia

St. Paul Lutheran Church—Church Council Meeting - March 10, 2021, at 7:45 p.m.

Chairman Matt Sargent called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m. Members present were Dave Bittler, Matt Sargent, Bill Vogel, Tim Vogel, Doug Jeske, Pastor Tricia and Jeff Krueger. Also present was Katie Mueller, Parish Coordinator. Members absent were Craig Valentin and Angel Clemon.

Devotional prayer was given by Pastor Tricia.

M/S/P to approve the Secretary's minutes from the February meeting.

M/S/P to approve the Financial Report.

Building and Grounds Report:

- Parsonage Basement is ready for paint. Painting by volunteers will be done Saturday, March 13 beginning at 9:00 a.m. The new flooring and trim will be installed after the painting is done.
- There is one bid for the parsonage roof. Bill will get more information on questions concerning the roofing project.

Parish Education Report:

- St. Paul's will host Vacation Bible School June 6-10 from 5:00-8:00 p.m. at Riverside Park. Three shelters have been reserved for the event. Curriculum has been ordered. A meal will be served at the beginning of each evening session.

Pastor's Report:

Visitation

- Visitation with members in their homes, at the nursing home and assisted living.

Worship

- Led Ash Wednesday and Lenten Evening Services on Wednesdays starting February 17, 2021
- Baptized Walker Krueger on Sunday, March 7, 2021.

Confirmation

- Great group of kids! Working on the Second Article of the Creed and learning to read Scripture.

Parish Education

- Attended the Parish Education Committee meeting on March 8, 2021.
- Teaching the seventh and eighth grade Sunday School class.
- Leading Bible Study on Mondays at 3:00 p.m. at The Maples.
- Leading Bible Study on Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m. at church.
- Taught a Baptism Class on March 1, 2021.

Other Committee Business

- Met with St. Paul's Scholarship Committee on February 24, 2021.

Community

- Attended the St. John's Circle of Care Annual Meeting on February 22, 2021. Installed as a new board member.
- Attended the United Way "How to be a Rock Star Board Member" presentation on March 4, 2021.

Old Business:

- All equipment is here and wiring done for the recording/live broadcasting of worship services. Just waiting for installation to get done.
- German Supper will be Wednesday, April 21 from 4:30-6:30 p.m. It will be a drive up-take out event. Menu will include sauerkraut, dumplings, German potato salad and a brat. Katie has volunteers lined up to prepare the food and volunteers lined up to work during the event.
- St. Paul's will host an American Red Cross Blood Drive on Monday, May 24 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the church.
- Easter Worship Services will be at 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, April 4. Suggestion was made to now seat worshippers every-other-pew and still be six feet apart. This will allow more space for those attend-

ing services so no pre-registration will be done for Easter worship.

•Singing hymns and liturgy with masks is going well, so cantors will no longer be used on Sundays.

New Business:

- Chairman Matt will work on Committee Assignments and have them ready for the next meeting.
- Maundy Thursday worship service will be at 7:00 p.m. on April 1.
- Good Friday worship service will be at 1:00 p.m. on April 2.
- Easter decorating will be done at 9:00 a.m. Saturday, April 3. Council members will come and help with the project.
- Decided that worship helpers—readers, ushers, greeters and acolytes—could start up again. Will contact those volunteers to see if they are interested.
- The church was notified that it is now a requirement for any facility with an elevator installed prior to 1997 must install a system to monitor and prevent automatic operation of the elevator with faulty door contact circuits. There will be a five-year window from the next inspection to get this completed and can be quite spendy.
- M/S/P to award a \$1,000 Lutheran College Scholarship on September 1, 2021 to a member per the recommendation of the Scholarship Committee.
- Summer worship services were tabled until next month. There will be no more drive-up worship services at this time.
- Confirmation will be Sunday, May 2, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. Sunday School will be at 9:00 a.m.
- Baccalaureate Service will be on Sunday, May 16, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. worship service.
- Dave Bittler has been building the Baptismal Faith Chests given at each baptism at St. Paul’s. Ed Meidl does the finishing of them. Dave is offering to teach someone else how to build them in the future.
- The Church Directory project was postponed last year due to the pandemic. Katie found another option—Instant Church Directory Online. The whole directory is online and can be updated at any time. Members would submit their own photos. The church pays the yearly fee and is available free-of-charge to our members. Hard copies can be printed at church upon request. M/S/P to proceed with the directory project.

M/S/P to adjourn at 8:45 p.m. Closed with the Lord’s Prayer.
Next meeting will be Wednesday, April 14, 2021 at 7:45 p.m.

~Jeff Krueger, Church Council Secretary

| <u>2021 Church Council</u> | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------|
| Matt Sargent- Chair | Dave Bittler | Angel Clemon |
| Bill Vogel- Vice Chair | Doug Jeske | Tim Vogel |
| Jeff Krueger - Secretary | Craig Valentin - Treasurer | |
| There are 2 vacancies | | |

The Board of Parish Education is seeking 2 new board members. Please talk to Katie in the office of Pastor Tricia if you are interested in joining Parish Ed.

Please pray for... the family of Pastor Stew Carlson and Grace Lutheran Church in Hayward, WI, Gerard Jensen, Helen Burns (daughter of Bill Halter), Delmar Nelson, Crissy Rogotzke, Alice Trebesch; Jesse Kieper, Emily Wendt, Joseph Wendt, Tabor Gluth and all those serving in the military, at home and abroad.

Prayer Chain – If you have a prayer concern you would like passed along to the Prayer Chain, please call Jan Severson (723-6358) or the church office (723-5880). Please specify if you want the concern on (1) the Prayer Chain and/or (2) included in Sunday morning prayers which will be included for **two** Sundays unless otherwise specified or request is renewed.

| St Paul Attendance | | |
|--------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 2/24/21 7pm - 36 | 2/28/21 9am - 13 | 3/03/21 7pm - 36 |
| 3/07/21 9am - 62 | 3/10/21 7pm - 43 | 3/14/21 9am - 33 |
| 3/17/21 7pm - 44 | 3/21/21 9am - 56 | 3/24/21 7pm - 33 |

Budget Recap Year-To-Date (01/01/21 to 3/24/21)

| | | | |
|------------------------|---------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| Total Funds for Budget | \$30,744.05 | Total Operating Funds | \$30,744.05 |
| Budget | \$42,117.36 | Operating Exp. | \$32,116.38 |
| Difference | (\$11,373.31) | Difference | (\$1,372.33) |

Thrivent Financial—As always, St. Paul Lutheran Church is grateful for your consideration when you make charitable giving plans. If you are a Thrivent Financial member eligible to direct Choice DollarsSM, we ask you to consider St. Paul Lutheran as you help direct Thrivent Financials charitable funds.



Do you shop on Amazon? St. Paul Lutheran Church is now listed on AmazonSmile! For eligible purchases at AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to the customer's selected charitable organization. Just select St. Paul Lutheran Church, Springfield, MN and you will be helping our congregation one purchase at a time! Simply enter <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/41-0705873> or go to smile.amazon.com and click on "AmazonSmile" and select St. Paul Lutheran Church, Springfield, MN. Then continue shopping! It's really that easy! Thank you for choosing to support St. Paul Lutheran!

If you would like to set up mobile giving you are welcome to do so by downloading the "Give Plus Mobile" app offered by Vanco Payment Services, search for St. Paul Lutheran Church, or enter zip code 56087. You can give a one time donation or set up a recurring donation through your checking or savings account. You also have the option to set up automatic giving directly with your bank. If you have questions or need help, please talk to Katie in the church office.

Memorials Given From 12/27/20 to 02/24/21

| In Memory: | Given by: | Designated for: |
|-------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| John Gluth | Daniel Kettner | St. Paul Lutheran Church |
| | Peggy Larson | St. Paul Lutheran Church |
| | John & Katie Mueller | St. Paul Lutheran Church |
| | Arland Kettner | St. Paul Lutheran Church |
| | Clayton & Deb Beyer | St. Paul Lutheran Church |
| | Paul & Sharon Pieschel | St. Paul Lutheran Church |
| | Family & Friends | St. Paul Lutheran Church |

April 2021

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|--|---|--|--|--|--------------------------------|
| St. Paul Lutheran Church 303 N Cass Ave, Springfield, MN 56087 507-723-5880, stpaul_lutheran@hotmail.com pastortriciamattson@gmail.com | | | | | | |
| 4 Happy Easter 7:00 am Sunrise Service 9:00 Easter Worship 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast of Easter Service | 5 Pastor Off----- | 6 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast | 7 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast 6:30 Confirmation | 1 Maundy Thursday 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Worship with 1st Communion | 2 Good Friday 9:00 am Ch. 8 Broadcast of Maundy Thursday Worship 1 pm Good Friday Worship 7:30 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast of Good Friday Service | 3 9:00 am Easter Decorating |
| 11 9:00 Worship 10:10 Sunday School 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast | 12 3:00 pm The Maples Bible Study 6:30 pm Parish Ed Meeting | 13 6:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast | 14 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast 6:30 Confirmation 7:45 Church Council Meeting | 15 | 16 Office Closed | 17 |
| 18 9:00 Worship 10:10 Sunday School 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast | 19 3:00 pm The Maples Bible Study | 20 6:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast | 21 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast 4:30-6:30 German Supper 6:30 Confirmation | 22 | 23 Office Closed | 24 |
| 25 9:00 Worship 10:10 Sunday School 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast | 26 2:00 Downtown Estates HC 3:00 pm The Maples Bible Study | 27 6:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast | 28 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast 6:30 Confirmation | 29 | 30 Office Closed | |

9:00 am Worship Service

We are ready to starting adding in our readers, acolytes, and ushers! Of course more volunteers are always welcome to help out. Please let Katie know if you would like to be added to the list!

We also need some new altar guild members and audio/video people! Let Katie know where you are able to help out!

April Birthdays!

1 - Nicholas Groebner
1 - Nathan Groebner
2 - Don Kieper
2 - Matt Sargent
2 - Cale Marz
3 - Jeff Krueger
4 - Mary Sternberg
5 - Travis Gluth
9 - Mandi Stark
10 - McCoy Krick
11 - Ruth Peterson
14 - Ayvah Wendt
14 - Leo Miller
15 - Rhonda Larson
16 - Julia Groebner
16 - Jordan Lund
18 - Saige Trebesch
20 - Adam Groebner
20 - Adam Moret
21 - Justin Haugo
23 - Sharon Renner
23 - June Vogel
24 - Kathleen Konakowitz
26 - Audrey Rositzke
28 - Zach Timm
30 - Tiffani Meidl
30 - Sharon Rogotzke
30 - Randell Streich

April Anniversaries!

9 - Kurt & Mary Glaeseman - 53 years
9 - Travis & Kim Gluth - 16 years
17 - Shawn & Krystal Plaster - 11 years
18 - Delwin & Beverly Beussman - 57 years
22 - Jim & Elsie Groebner - 43 years
28 - Lonny & Elaine Jensen - 20 years

April Altar Guild

Jo Schwartz, Megan
Hillesheim, Jordyn Plaster

If you are unable to help,
please find a substitute or
switch months with

We will not be delivering bulletins to St. John's and The Maples until further notice. Once we are able to visit our members again, Katie will be contacting those who have volunteered to deliver.

Deadlines:

Sunday Bulletin:

Wednesday by 10 am.

Epistle: 20th of each month.

Please call or email the church office with additions or changes for the bulletins or Epistle.

stpaul_lutheran@hotmail.com

Holy Week

March 28 - 9 am, Palm Sunday Service with 1st Communion

April 1 - 7 pm, Maundy Thursday Service with 1st Communion

April 2 - 1 pm, Good Friday Service

Sunday, April 4 - 7 am & 9 am, Easter Services

Worship & Sunday School Update

In-person worship on Sunday's at 9:00 a.m.

*Everyone entering the facility is asked to practice social distancing.

*Face mask usage is required under Minnesota Executive Order 20-81.

***Holy Communion will be on the 1st and 3rd Sunday's or you may contact Pastor for private communion.**

We will continue our Facebook Live of the 9:00 a.m. service. Or you may tune in to Channel 8 at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday for the recorded service.

The recorded service will also broadcast on Springfield's Local Channel 8 on Tuesday's at 7:00 p.m., and Wednesday's at 10:00 a.m.

German Supper – Take-Out Dinner

Wednesday, April 21, 2021 from 4:30-6:30

Menu: Sauerkraut with Pork and Dumplings, German potato salad, grilled brat, and a cookie for \$10.

Drive up and place your order, and we will bring the meal to you.

Delivery for Shut-Ins only.

Monetary donations to cover the cost of food and supplies will be accepted



SAVE THE DATE!

St. Paul's is hosting VBS this summer!

Beginning Sunday, June 6-10

from 5-8pm at Riverside Park!



If you would like to volunteer to help,

please talk to someone on Parish Ed or let Katie know in the office.

Southwest Minnesota Men's Chorus dinner show set for April 12

The Southwest Minnesota Men's Chorus will present a spring dinner show Monday, April 12 at 7:00 p.m. at the Springfield Area Community Center. CDC pandemic guidelines will be in place at the event.

The group has been rehearsing together with COVID precautions since September and is excited to perform their music before a live audience. That hasn't happened since December 2019 due to the pandemic. The chorus is made up of singers from various communities in Southwest Minnesota.

Tickets for the show will be \$25.00 per person which includes the show and dinner catered by Tommy's and served by the chorus members. Only advance tickets will be sold and are available at the F&M Bank, Springfield Advance-Press or from chorus members. No tickets will be sold at the door.



SPRINGFIELD AREA FOOD SHELF UPDATE

New Location! 625 North Jackson St. (Springfield Clinic, lower level)

Orders must be placed over the phone.

Service days are Tuesdays 5-7 PM and Thursdays 9:30-11:30 AM.

If you want groceries Tuesday night, call between 8 am—3pm that day.

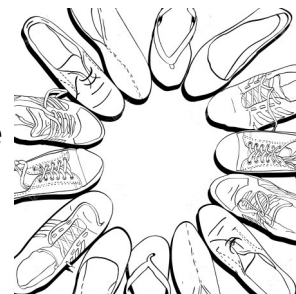
For Thursday morning groceries, call Wednesday and leave your name and number for someone to return your call, 507-723-3663.

Don't throw out your shoes while cleaning out those closets this spring!

St. Raphael Catholic School is hosting a Shoe Drive from now thru May 14th. They have a goal of 7,500 shoes!

Donations of gently worn, used and new shoes will be accepted! Shoes need to be wearable, clean and without holes/missing parts (no broken heels on dress shoes for example). They will take any type of shoe-men's, women's, athletic, sandals, kid's, sport, etc..

DROP OFF is located in the gathering space at St Raphael!



**St. Paul Lutheran
Church, LCMC**
303 N Cass Avenue
Springfield, MN 56087

Postmaster: Dated material
Please Deliver Promptly
Address Service Requested

Calendar Highlights - April 2021

- 1 - Maundy Thursday Worship at 7:00 pm
- 2 - Good Friday Worship at 1:00 pm
- 3 - 9:00 am Easter Decorating
- 4 - Easter Day! Sunrise Service at 7:00 am and 9:00 am
- 21 - German Supper 4:30-6:30

We are on the Web!
www.splcspringfield.org

Phone: 507-723-5880
Fax: 507-723-8712

Office Hours

Pastor: Tricia Mattson
Monday & Thursday 9-noon
Wednesday 1-4
Or by appointment
pastortriciamattson@gmail.com

Parish Coordinator: Katie Mueller
Monday-Thursday 8:00 am-noon
Email: stpaul_lutheran@hotmail.com

Housekeeper: Lisa Prechel

Maintenance: Ed Meidl

Financial Secretary: Anita Jensen
Fin_secretary@newulmtel.net

St. Paul EPISTLE is a publication of St. Paul Lutheran Church.
It is published monthly to keep members and friends informed
of programs and ministries of the church.

Articles may be submitted for publication subject to content.

Worship:

SUNDAY at 9:00 a.m.

*Watch for updates

Coffee Talk cancelled until further notice



Springfield Area Food Shelf hours
Tuesday 5:00pm – 7:00pm
Thursday 9:30am – 11:30am
625 N Jackson Ave - Springfield, MN 56087
(Springfield Clinic Lower Level)
507-723-3663