



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Do you ever feel like you are hanging on by a thread? If you are the parent of a teenager, you probably understand. You are trying to raise your teenage child faithfully in a world that looks so different from your high school days. You are aware (you hope) of the temptations and dangers he faces as a resident of “Digital Babylon.” Yet, no matter how hard you try to reason with him, he seems incapable of learning any way but the hard way. You have heard stories of other children who went off the deep end and you desperately want to steer yours safely to adulthood. But each step forward costs two steps back. It feels like you are hanging on by a thread.

It is not only parents of teenagers, of course. It is the single parent trying to make ends meet in a time of high inflation. It is the octogenarian couple and their never-ending string of appointments with specialists. It is the leadership of the small congregation who cannot reach the members who have fallen away from the church.

Most of us know this feeling. There seems to be no way to catch a break. It appears to be impossible to get ahead of the curve.

There are three such people in Mark 5:21-43, who are hanging on by a thread. There is the little girl who stood at the end of her short life. We don’t know the severity of her suffering or how long she has been sick. All we know is she is only twelve years old, and she is at the point of death.

Then there is her dad. Like any parent whose child is sick, he is desperate to find someone who can help. Fighting his way through the great crowd, he finally reaches Jesus. With no thought for his dignity as a leader of the synagogue, he falls to his knees like a beggar at Jesus’ feet and pleads with him to heal her.

Finally, there’s the woman plagued by a bleeding condition. Suffering has been her constant companion. For twelve years she has sought relief everywhere. But even Mayo clinic couldn’t help her. Not only did the doctors not help her, but she is worse, and she’s paid out all she had in doctor’s fees. Because her bleeding made her unclean, she’s shunned by her community and cut off from God’s Word. She’s lonely, poor, and sick.

All three were desperate. All three had great need. All three were hanging on by a thread. It’s a precarious position to be in.

Unless, of course, the thread on which you are hanging is connected to Jesus. That is how it was for these three. Metaphorically for Jairus, and literally for the woman, the thread to which they reached out was wrapped around the Son of God. Reasoning that even Jesus’ clothes could help her, the woman touched his threads and found healing. Believing Jesus had the power to heal his daughter, Jairus reached out to Jesus and fell at his feet. The little girl simply heard him speak and was restored to life. Each of them found the help they needed in Jesus. They offer us tangible images of saving faith, which is a gift of God.

All of us who believe in Jesus are hanging on by a thread, which is another way of saying we are living by faith in Jesus. We face great challenges. Our futures may sometimes seem bleak, but each of us has received the promise of Christ. He has promised healing—if not now, then when he returns. He has promised resurrection—as he raised Jairus’ daughter in our text and as he himself rose on Easter morning. By his promise, we too can cry out to Jesus for help, trusting that he has already come for us, and he will come again.

Each week, we come in all our brokenness to be strengthened in our faith in the one who was sent that we may be healed of our affliction. We gather to hear the promise of Christ, who takes us by the hand and raises us from death to life by his Word. Then, strengthened in our faith, we go forth confident in the knowledge that the thread by which we hang will be enough.

This Holy Week, please come and hear the story of Jesus - the story of our salvation. Hear about Christ’s triumphant entry on Palm Sunday, and see it dramatized by our Sunday school students, then enjoy breakfast served by our Luther League. Join our fifth graders as they receive their First Communion on Maundy Thursday. Hear the tale of Christ’s great love on Good Friday. Rejoice in Christ’s victory over death on Easter Sunday!

In Christian love,
Pr. Tricia Mattson

St. Paul Lutheran Church Council Meeting-March 8, 2023

President John Mueller called the February meeting to order at 7:48 p.m. in Room 101. Members present were John Mueller, Kathy Pederson, Jacob Marz, Tim Vogel, Kim Graff, Sarah Groebner, Jo Muske, Denise Gicker, Pastor Tricia and Jeff Krueger. Also present was Katie Mueller, Parish Coordinator and Anita Jensen, Financial Secretary. Randy Wendt was absent.

Pastor led the group in a prayer.

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

M/S/P to approve the Financial Report as printed.
M/S/P to pay the February benevolence.

Building and Grounds Report:

- There has been some "clanging" in the radiators of the offices in the educational wing. Baune Heating & Plumbing is working to alleviate the problem.

Parish Education Report:

- St. Paul's is hosting VBS this year. The committee would like to present each student attending a t-shirt as was done last year. The money that was budgeted from the Spiritual Growth Fund for the Confirmation Retreat is available as the students did not attend the retreat. M/S/P to offer those funds to the VBS committee to use, possibly toward the t-shirts. They are also looking for volunteers to help with VBS.
- Luther League is requesting \$750 to help cover costs to attend the Quake Youth Event in the Twin Cities this month. M/S/P to use Spiritual Growth Fund to supply requested funds for the event.
- Luther League will be serving a pancake breakfast after worship on Palm Sunday, April 2.

Pastor's Report:

Visitation

- Visited with and gave Holy Communion to members in their homes, at nursing homes and at assisted living residences.

Worship

- Led worship with Holy Communion at The Maples on February 20, 2023.
- Led worship with Holy Communion at St. John's Circle of Care February 21, 2023.
- Baptized Shay Hannah Kieper on February 19, 2023 and attended her baptismal party.

- Baptized Wyatt & Odin Krueger on February 26, 2023.

- Led Lenten worship on March 1, 2023 in partnership with confirmation students. Parish Education

- Leading Bible Study at The Maples on Mondays at 3:00 p.m.

- Leading Bible Study on Tuesday evenings at 6:00 p.m.

- Teaching confirmation on Wednesday nights. The students will help plan and lead Lenten worship.

- Leading the Lutheran Difference Adult Study on Sundays at 10:10 a.m.

- Attended the Parish Education meeting on March 6, 2023.

- Taught New Member Orientation session on February 14, 2023.

- Taught the first communion class for three fifth grade students on February 18, 2023.

- Attended the Vacation Bible School planning meeting on February 28, 2023.

Luther League

- Attended the Luther League meeting on March 1, 2023.

Community

- Issued two SAFE vouchers to neighbors in need.

- Purchased gasoline for one neighbor in need from the Good Samaritan Fund.

- Completed two grant applications for SAFE for the Pieschel Family Foundation and the Springfield Area Foundation.

- Submitted a devotional to Camp Ingham Okobojo on February 20, 2023.

- Attended the St. John's Circle of Care Annual Meeting on February 20, 2023.

- Helped with bingo at St. John's Circle of Care on February 10, 2023.

- Prepared food and helped serve the Lenten meal hosted by the choir on March 1, 2023.

- Attended Rep. Torkelson's Q&A session at St. John's Circle of Care on March 3, 2023.

Old Business:

- Results were reviewed of the survey regarding changing worship services to 10:00 a.m. with Sunday School at 9:00 a.m. Three-fourths of the responses did not want to change the times, so worship will remain at 9:00 a.m. with Sunday School at 10:00 a.m.

- Church Council will serve the Lenten Meal on Wednesday, February 15. Turkey Supreme-Anita; Buns-Pastor Tricia, Jacob, Randy; Salads-Jeff, Kim, Muellers; Chips-Kathy, Denise; and Dessert-Jo, Tim, Sarah. Serving 5:30-6:30 p.m.

•German Supper was scheduled for April 19 but has been changed to April 26 due to scheduling conflicts in the community. Will be dine in or take out from 4:30-6:00 p.m. Committee will do the planning and ask for help as needed.

New Business:

- M/S/P to accept the recommendations of the benevolence breakdown as presented by the Mission Sponsorship Committee: 15% St. John's Home, 10% Ingham Bible Camp, 10% SAFE, 10% Food For Kidz, 10% Food For the Poor, 10% NUMAS House, 10% Invisible Wounds Project, 10% Luther House of Study, 10% Springfield Area Food Shelf, 5% Military Bible Stick Program.
- M/S/P to notify local financial institutions of the changes to Church Council officers to put on the signature cards. Secretary Jeff signed the letters that will be sent.

M/S/P to adjourn at 8:30 p.m. Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting will be Wednesday, April 12, 2023 at 7:45 p.m.
~Jeff Krueger, Church Council Secretary

2023 Church Council

John Mueller- Chair	Sarah Groebner
Denise Gicker- Vice Chair	Randy Wendt
Jeff Krueger - Secretary	Jacob Marz
Tim Vogel- Treasurer	Kathy Pederson
Kim Graff	Josephine Muske

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

- Notice: Please update your phone numbers and/or email address with the church office!
- Several of the numbers we have are disconnected and we need to know how to get a hold of you!
- You can leave a note in the box outside of Katie's office, call or email the church office at 507-723-5880 or stpaul_lutheran@hotmail.com. We appreciate you keeping us updated!

St. Paul Lutheran Church
German Supper
Dine In or Take Out

Wednesday, April 26, 2023
Serving from 4:30-6 or until sold out

Sauerkraut with Pork, Dumplings,
Brats, German Potato Salad, dessert

\$12 in advance or \$13 at the door

Delivery for Shut-Ins only.

Volunteers are needed to help with planning, preparing, and serving the German Supper. Please let Katie know if you would like to help!

Items needed as donations:

Sugar, bacon, 1 can salt, white flour, vinegar

*Monetary donation can be brought to the church office marked "German Supper Donation".

St Paul Attendance

Feb 26 ~ 96	March 1 ~ 51	March 5 ~ 69	March 8 ~ 67
March 12 ~ 81	March 15 ~ 52	March 19 ~ 81	March 22 ~ 51

Budget Recap Year-To-Date (01/01/23 to 03/26/23)

Total Funds for Budget	\$49,341.86	Total Operating Funds	\$49,341.86
Budget	\$52,709.41	Operating Exp.	\$51,816.25
Difference	(\$3,367.55)	Difference	(\$2,474.39)

Memorials Given 02/25/23—03/27/23

<u>In Memory:</u>	<u>Given by:</u>	<u>Designated for:</u>
Rosella Groebner	Gertie Rosenau	Good Shepherd Scholarship Fund
Richard Bloemke	Doris Bierman	St. Paul Lutheran Church
Bob Beussman	Robert & Sharon Rogotzke	St. Paul Lutheran Church

Please pray for... Troy Hanson (Katie's brother-in-law), The family of Jason Becker (Jo Muske's nephew), Bud Wendt, Arland Kettner, Larry Potter, Dalores Stern, Linda Fisher (Delmar Nelson's daughter), Marcia Schiller, Sherry Fenger, Faith Fellowship Church - Odessa, TX, Faith Lutheran - Moline, IL, Faith Lutheran Church - Hutchinson, MN, Faith Lutheran Church - Monticello, MN, Falls Community Church - Sioux Falls, SD, First Lutheran Church - Clear Lake, WI, First Lutheran Church - Britton, SD, Fron Lutheran Church - Roslyn, SD; Cylee Graff, Shane Clemon, Ethan Langseth, Emily 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, 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.

Church Directory! We have an online church Directory!

- * Go to <https://members.instantchurchdirectory.com/> and create a log-in account with your email the church office has on file. If you can't log in, let Katie know so we can get it entered!
- * If you don't have access to the internet and would like a printed copy of the directory, let Katie know.
- * Those with smartphones can easily download the Instant Church Directory app in the Apple App Store or Google Play Store and have the directory at their fingertips!
- * The online directory can be updated constantly, so information should never be outdated! Email updated pictures, address or phone changes to Katie and they can be added instantly!

Bring your empty egg cartons to the church kitchen or drop off at Katie's office.

April 2023

Sun **Mon** **Tue** **Wed** **Thu** **Fri** **Sat**

St. Paul Lutheran Church, 303 N Cass Ave, Springfield, MN 56087 Church Telephone: 507-723-5880 www.splspringfield.org Pastor's e-mail: pastortriciamattson@gmail.com								1
2 Palm Sunday 9:00 Worship 10:00 Sunday School 10:00 Luther League Brunch 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast	3 3:00 pm The Maples Bible Study 6:30 Parish Ed Meeting	4 6:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	5 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast 6:00 Luther League Meeting 6:30 Confirmation 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	6 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Worship with First Communion 8:30 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast of Maundy Thursday Worship	7 Office Closed 9:00 am Ch. 8 Broadcast of Maundy Thursday Worship 7:00 pm Good Friday Worship 8:30 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast of Good Friday Worship	8 9:00 am Ch. 8 Broadcast of Good Friday Worship		
9 Easter Sunday 9:00 Worship No Sunday School No Coffee Talk 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast	10 3:00 pm The Maples Bible Study Pastor off-----	11 6:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	12 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast 6:30 Confirmation 7:30 Choir Rehearsal 7:45 Council Meeting	13	14 Office Closed 2:00 BINGO @ SJLH	15		
16 9:00 Worship 10:00 Sunday School 10:00 Coffee Talk 10:10 Lutheran Difference Study 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast	17 3:00 pm The Maples Holy Communion	18 10:00 SJLH Worship 6:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	19 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast 6:30 Confirmation 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	20	21 Office Closed	22		
23 9:00 Worship 10:00 Sunday School 10:00 Coffee Talk 10:10 Lutheran Difference Study 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast	24 3:00 pm The Maples Bible Study	25 6:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	26 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast 4:30-6 German Supper 6:30 Confirmation 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	27	28 Office Closed	29		
30 Baccalaureate Sunday 9:00 Worship 10:00 Sunday School 10:00 Coffee Talk 10:10 Lutheran Difference Study 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast								

Worship Service Helpers

Date	Sound & Video	Reader	Acolyte	Usher	Organist
*4/2	Peter Heitzman	Jeanette Pidde	Abby Dove Nathan Johnson	Team 3	Jeff Krueger
*4/6	Paul & Jonah	Paul Muske	Grace Jacobs Molly Jacobs	Team 4	Jeff Krueger
4/7	John Mueller	Daniel Kettner	Nicholas Groebner Nathan Groebner	Team 1	Jo Schwartz
*4/9	Russell Rogotzke	Jordan Pidde	Hayden Gluth Brooklyn Anderson	Team 2	Jeff Krueger
*4/16	Tim Vogel	Jo Muske	Brayden Trapp Ali Trapp	Team 3	Jo Schwartz
4/23	Peter Heitzman	Mel Vogel	Randee Dombek Abbygail Jeppesen	Team 4	Jeff Krueger
4/30	Paul & Jonah	Kurt Glaeseman	Bobbi Jo Timm Russell Johnson	Team 1	Jo Schwartz

Usher Teams

- 1 - Delwin Beussman, Don Bloemke, John Marz, Paul Meidl, Nic Mays
- 2 - Doug Gatzlaff, Kurt Kratz, Dave Bittler
- 3 - Doug Schiller, Russell Rogotzke, Mark Buerkle, Jeremy Dove
- 4 - Tim Vogel, Scott Vogel, Kurt Glaeseman, Bill Vogel

April

Altar Guild

Kelly Sargent & Dawn Marz

* Indicates Holy Communion

April Birthdays!

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

April Anniversaries!

- 9 - Kurt & Mary Glaeseman - 55 years
 - 9 - Travis & Kim Gluth - 18 years
 - 16 - Trevor & Cassie Krebs - 7 years
 - 17 - Shawn & Krystal Plaster - 13 years
 - 18 - Delwin & Beverly Beussman - 59 years
 - 22 - Jim & Elsie Groebner - 45 years
 - 25 - Ben & Kristel Jeppesen - 18 years

We need 2 volunteers for BINGO on April 14th at 2:00 pm. Please let Katie know if you can help out!



Luther League meets on the 1st Wednesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.
All members grades 7-12 are invited to attend!

Open House Bridal Shower



honoring



Ashley Rogotzke

Bride-to-be of Ben Henning

Saturday, April 8, 2023

9:00-11:00 am

At Gold Club

*Parents: Mike & Crissy Rogotzke &
Charlie & Jolene Henning*

*The couple is registered at: Target,
Amazon, Miesen's Color Center and
Runnings in Springfield*

St. Paul's is hosting Vacation Bible School this summer, June 11-15, 2023. Parish Ed is looking for volunteers to help with VBS. If interested in helping, speak to a member of Parish Ed or let Katie know.

The Southwest Minnesota Men's Chorus will present a spring dinner show Monday, April 17 at 7:00 p.m. at the Springfield Area Community Center. 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, the Springfield Advance-Press or from chorus members until Monday, April 10. No tickets will be sold at the door.

The chorus is made up of singers from various communities in southwest Minnesota. Springfield residents in the chorus are Gary Renner, Jeff Krueger, and Charlie Tews. Other area singers include Nathan Hesse of Comfrey, Jim Gode of Sanborn and Craig Steffen of Lamberton. Wendy Johnson of Tracy is the group's director. Come enjoy a night of food and good music!



**American
Red Cross**

**St. Paul's next blood drive will be
May 1st from 8 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Go to redcrossblood.org to schedule your
appointment!**

2023 Summer Bible Camp opportunities at Ingham Okoboji Bible Camp!

St. Paul's Spiritual Growth Fund and Parish Education will be issuing scholarships to those who register for one of these camps at Ingham Okoboji!

Parish Ed will cover half of the cost and the Spiritual Growth Fund will cover one fourth of the cost of the Pathfinders, Trailbalzers, and Jr. High Camp, and they will cover the full cost of the Camp-in-a-Day camp.

Proof of registration should be sent the church office so I can mark you down for a scholarship! Brochures are located at the entrance to the sanctuary or you can check dates and register online at www.okoboji.org/register

2023 MARCH CAMPAIGN WILL RUN FEBRUARY 27th-APRIL 9th.

The Minnesota FoodShare/March Campaign brings together organizations, businesses, faith communities, and individuals to help keep 300 food shelves statewide stocked throughout the year. Minnesota FoodShare has distributed over \$18 million to March Campaign participating food shelves via the Minnesota FoodShare Food-Fund. 100% of donations received by Minnesota FoodShare during the March Campaign go into the Food-Fund.

Please consider making a monetary donation or food donation to the Springfield Area Food Shelf during this campaign. Collection boxes have been placed in the local churches in Springfield/Comfrey as well as the local Springfield Market. Please do not put money donations in the collection boxes. Mailing address is PO Box 15, Springfield, MN 56087. If you have any questions, please call Shari Koll at 507-227-0386.

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

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Calendar Highlights - April 2023

April 2-Palm Sunday & Brunch
April 6-Maundy Thursday Worship
April 7-Good Friday Worship
April 9-Easter Sunday
14-BINGO @ SJLH
26-German Supper
30-Baccalaureate

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

Housekeeping: Steve Lyle

Maintenance: Al Groebner

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.

Sunday Schedule:

9:00 a.m. Worship

10:00 a.m. Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Coffee Talk



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 (FOOD)

We are on the Web!
www.splcspringfield.org