

# APRIL

2024

***Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.***

***First Corinthians 15:58***

## Easter Potpourri

One of the ways the dictionary on my computer defines the word potpourri is "as a mixture of things or topics." My April newsletter article is just that. I will share the progress of several projects around the Church, a potpourri of project updates.

First, I wish you a blessed Easter. He has risen. He has risen, indeed. I hope that you will be more aware of the depth and breadth of God's love for you personally.

On to the projects, first on the list is the Transition Team and the results of the Cottage meetings. We were thrilled to see such good attendance at all the Cottage meetings, a testament to your active participation. We want to extend our heartfelt thanks to the hosts of each cottage meeting. The discussions in each group were insightful and productive. The team noticed some common factors across all four groups, a clear indication of our shared vision and commitment. Below is a brief list ordered around Strengths, Internal Challenges, and External Challenges.

**Strengths:** a beautiful church facility, a lively Sunday School program, a dynamic music program, a strong core of committed members

**Internal Challenges:** poor attendance and participation by many members, growth in membership, resistance to change, lack of Adult Education, Lack of understanding the mission of the church, understandable sermons

**External Challenges:** Lack of pastors in the market place, Non-Church activities providing competition, multiple Lutheran Churches in the same town, inflation, more appealing on-line opportunities, smaller communities.

The Transition team is focused on several areas in the next couple of months: The Mission of the Church, Worship and Technology and more opportunities for fellowship and involvement. Speaking of fellowship **the Transition Team is hosting a Coffee Bar this Easter Sunday before service.** Come early and get a treat and cup of coffee.

The next project in this potpourri is the Mutual Ministry Team. Members from both St Paul's Council and St John's Council have met and are looking for ways to do ministry together. Several possibilities have grown out of those meetings. This Easter Sunday I will be preaching at both congregations and both choirs will perform at both congregations. In the future we hope to sponsor a community picnic together.

Finally, the call committee is taking shape and should begin work at the end of this month.

Be Hope-filled, Stay Strong and God Bless,

Pastor Carl

## **St. Paul Lutheran Church Council Meeting-March 13, 2024**

Chairman Paul Muske called the meeting to order at 7:38 p.m. on Wednesday, March 13 in Room 101 at the church. Members present were Paul Muske, Angel Rummel, Kathy Pederson, Kelly Sargent, Jacob Marz, Randy Wendt, Kim Graff, Sarah Groebner, Pastor Carl Billings and Jeff Krueger. Katie Mueller, Parish Coordinator, and Anita Jensen, Financial Secretary, were also present.

M/S/P to adopt the agenda.

Pastor Carl led the group in devotions and prayer.

M/S/P to approve the Consent Agenda.

M/S/P to approve the Secretary's Report of the February 9, 2024 meeting.

### **Pastor's Report**

- Conducted two home communion visits.
- Conducted baptismal instruction.
- Continue to teach Confirmation—teaching students how to read the Bible for themselves. Plan to move Confirmation to Wednesdays in the Fall.
- Transition team has finished up the Cottage Meetings and will bring insights from them to the Council.
- Mutual Ministry Team (St. Pauls/St. Johns) had a good meeting March 2. Will conduct Easter services at both churches (7 a.m. St. Johns and 9 a.m. St. Pauls). There will also be a combined choir.
- Forming Call Committee to be up and running after Easter.
- Planning on attending the Ingham Okoboji Bible Camp Annual Meeting April 19-20.
- Planning vacation to Scotland to visit son June 25-July 6.

### **Old Business**

- M/S/P to approve the Financial Report as printed.
- Reviewed a quote from Salonek's Construction to install more ventilation and a new door for the space under the ramp.

The quote was for \$3,960.00. M/S/P to approve and accept the quote. Funding will come from the Undesignated Memorial Fund.

- Kitchen refrigerator needs to be replaced. It does not cool well anymore. Sarah had checked with New Ulm Wholesale but they no longer sell appliances. Paul and Sarah will look into replacement options.

- Mutual Ministry Team met this month. The goal is to share ministry, education and fellowship with St. Johns Lutheran Church. Top three present goals are to share youth groups, confirmation and Vacation Bible School. Also planning to do a Community Night Out Picnic in August.

- Transition Team met following all of the Cottage Meetings. Approximately 40 members participated in the meetings with good participation and discussion regarding strengths and weaknesses of the congregation. Strengths included the church facility, Sunday School, music program, core committed members and dependable staff. Weaknesses included poor attendance, lack of involvement, membership growth, low volunteer participation, resistance to change, budget, lack of adult education and understanding sermons. External challenges identified included lack of pastors, non-church activities scheduled at church times, multiple Lutheran churches in the community, inflation, more appealing opportunities available online, smaller community and changing theologies. The team will continue to meet and study the findings.

- Pastor put together a list of potential members of the Call Committee. Jeremy Dove and Tiffany Trapp have already agreed to be on the committee. Paul and Kathy will contact others on the list. Would like Call Committee functioning after Easter.

### **New Business**

- Spring German Supper will be held Wednesday, April 24. It will be a dine-in, take-out, drive-up event. Katie will head up the committee. Tickets will be available next month.
- Bible Camp Scholarships—Parish

Education will cover 1/2 of cost for campers. M/S/P to cover 1/4 of each camper's cost from the Spiritual Growth Fund. We usually have around fifteen campers that attend camp each year.

- We are planning a congregational trip to a Feed My Starving Children site in the Twin Cities for early summer. Will plan to take a motor coach. Will invite St. Johns Lutheran to join us.
- Paul informed the Council that money from the Marie Weinberger Trust has been set aside to make some improvements in the church sanctuary, fellowship hall and Sunday School rooms. A committee will be formed to work on the project.
- M/S/P to approve the Benevolence Distributions for 2024 as recommended by the Mission Sponsorship Committee: 15% Springfield Area Food Shelf; 15% SAFE; 15% St. John's Lutheran Home, 15% Ingham Bible Camp; 10% Food for the Poor; 10% Feed My Starving Children; 10% NUMAS House; 5% Military Bible Sticks; and 5% KJLY Christian Radio Station. M/S/P to pay the benevolence for January and February and to automatically pay the benevolence each month.
- Council members were asked to help decorate the church for Easter on Saturday, March 30 at 8:30 a.m.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer. M/S/P to adjourn at 8:50 p.m.  
Next meeting will be Wednesday, April 10 at 7:30 p.m.

~by Jeff Krueger, Council Secretary

**2024 Church Council**

Paul Muske - Chair	
Jeff Krueger - Secretary	Kelly Sargent - Treasure
Randy Wendt	Jacob Marz
Kathy Pederson	Kim Graff
Sarah Groebner	Angel Rummel

**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

St. John's Circle of Care auxiliary's mission is to help enhance the lives of both the residents and staff. The auxiliary has contributed monetarily to dozens of projects and given countless hours to volunteer time in faithful fulfillment of its mission. New members are welcome, everyone (men, women and children) are invited to join to support the auxiliary. The \$5.00 membership may be left at the St. John Lutheran Home front desk, given Elsie Groebner, or brought to the church office. The dues help with special programming and enhance employee morale!

- 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 Attendance

2/28 6:30 pm - 42      3/3 9am - 68      3/6 6:30 pm - 46      3/10 9am - 74  
 3/13 6:30 pm - 48      3/17 9am - 84      3/20 6:30 pm - 51      3/24 9am - 107

**Budget Recap Year-To-Date (01/01/24 to 3/27/24)**

Total Funds for Budget	\$29,302.20	Total Operating Funds	\$29,302.20
Budget	\$56,360.98	Operating Exp.	\$45,920.03
Difference	(\$27,058.78)	Difference	(\$16,617.83)

Memorials Given 2/28/2024 - 03/27/2024

<b>In Memory:</b>	<b>Designated for:</b>	<b>Given by:</b>
Jean Youngerberg:	Daniel Kettner	St. Paul Lutheran Church
Beverly Winkelmann	Richard & Lois Zihlke	St. Paul Lutheran Church
James Lindeman:	Richard & Lois Zihlke	St. Paul Lutheran Church
	Daniel Kettner	St. Paul Lutheran Church
	Family & Friends	St. Paul Lutheran Church
Marcia Schiller:	Jeff Krueger	St. Paul Music Fund
	Glenn & Anita Jensen	Baptismal Faith Chests
	Peggy Larson	Good Shepherd Scholarship Fund
	John & Katie Mueller	Good Shepherd Scholarship Fund
	Richard & Lois Zihlke	St. Paul Lutheran Church
	Daniel Kettner	St. Paul Lutheran Church
	Tim & Jill Vogel	St. Paul Lutheran Church
	Edward Meidl	St. Paul Lutheran Church
	Gary & Nancy Renner	St. Paul Bible Camp Scholarships
Mark Boettger	Rod & Rhonda Larson	Good Shepherd Scholarship Fund
Robert Lamote	Rod & Rhonda Larson	Good Shepherd Scholarship Fund

Please pray for... Rod Larson, Travis Gluth, Dalores Stern; all those serving in the military, at home and abroad: Jesse Kettner, Cylee Graff, Shane Clemon, Ethan Langseth, Emily Wendt, and Tabor Gluth.

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.

**Our worship services are live broadcast on YouTube! Just subscribe to our YouTube Channel by going to [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) and searching for St Paul Lutheran Church, Springfield, MN, or simply scan the QR Code with your smartphone. Be sure to subscribe so you will be notified when we go live!**



# April 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	3 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	4 Office Closed	5	6
7 9:00 Worship 10:00 Sunday School 10:00 Coffee Talk 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast	8	9 10:00 am Worship at SJLH 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	10 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m. Council Meeting	11	12	13
14 9:00 Worship 10:00 Sunday School 10:00 Coffee Talk 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast	15	16 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	17 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	18	19	20
21 9:00 Worship 10:00 Sunday School 10:00 Coffee Talk 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast	22	23 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	24 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast <b>4:30-6:00 pm German Supper</b> 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	25	26	27
28 9:00 Worship 10:00 Sunday School 10:00 Coffee Talk 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast	29 8:30 am - 1:30 pm Blood Drive	30 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast				

\* Indicates Choir Singing.

## Worship Service Helpers

Date	Sound & Video	Projection	Reader	Acolyte	Usher	Organist
4/7	Dove Family	Dove Family	Brittany Cook	Wyatt Mueller Hayden Gluth	Team 2	Jo Schwartz
4/14	Nick/Nathan Groebner	Grace/Molly Jacobs	Paul Muske	Bobbie Jo Timm Bentley Wendt	Team 3	Jeff Krueger
4/21	Mueller Family	Mueller Family	Jordan Pidde	Ali Trapp Gabby Schenk	Team 4	Jeff Krueger
4/28	Tim Vogel	Jordan Pidde	Daniel Kettner	Lily Groebner Ashtyn Rudolph	Team 1	Jo Schwartz

### April Birthdays!



### Usher Teams

- 1 - Don Bloemke, John Marz, Jake Marz, Paul Meidl
- 2 - Doug Gatzlaff, Kurt Kratz, Dave Bittler, Peter Heitzman
- 3 - Doug Schiller, Russell Rogotzke, Mark Buerkle, Jeremy Dove
- 4 - Tim Vogel, Scott Vogel, Bill Vogel

### April Altar Guild

Mueller Family  
Jena Veenstra

### April Anniversaries!



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

St. Paul Lutheran Church

# German Supper

Wed. April 24, 2024

Serving from 4:30-6:00 or sold out

Drive Up ~ Walk In ~ or Dine In

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

Presale \$14 ~ At the door \$15

Delivery for Shut-Ins only.  
Call by April 22<sup>nd</sup> 723-5880

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

\*Monetary donations are appreciated to help cover the rising costs of groceries and supplies. Donations can be brought to the church office or placed in the offering plate marked "German Supper Donation".

## Southwest Minnesota Men's Chorus dinner show set for April 8

The Southwest Minnesota Men's Chorus will present their annual spring dinner show Monday, April 8 at 7:00 p.m. at the Springfield Area Community Center.

Tickets for the show will be \$30.00 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 (507-723-4800), the Springfield Advance-Press (507-723-4225) or from chorus members through Monday, April 1. 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!

## 2024 Summer Bible Camp opportunities at Ingham Okoboji Bible 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](http://www.okoboji.org/register)

Parish Ed will cover 1/2 the cost of the camp and the full cost of the Camp in a Day. St. Paul's Spiritual Growth Fund will cover another 1/4 of the camp cost.



**American  
Red Cross**

St. Paul's next blood drive will be  
April 29th from 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.  
Go to [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) to schedule your appt.

Sign up to donate at

<https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=SPLC>

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

Postmaster: Dated material  
Please Deliver Promptly  
Address Service Requested

**Calendar Highlights - April 2024**  
24 - German Supper  
29 - Blood Drive

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

**Office Hours**

Pastor Carl Billings

Parish Coordinator: Katie Mueller  
Monday-Thursday 8:00 am-noon  
Email: [stpaul\\_lutheran@hotmail.com](mailto:stpaul_lutheran@hotmail.com)

Housekeeping: Mary Jo Simonson

Maintenance: Al Groebner

Financial Secretary: Anita Jensen  
[Fin\\_secretary@newulmtel.net](mailto: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](http://www.splcspringfield.org)**