



Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. Proverbs 3:5

Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

Galatians 6:2

Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 5:16

I have had several discussions about the struggles of the contemporary church, specifically the challenges of small congregations. Fewer people see attending church as necessary, and others shop for the latest fad. We are fast becoming a post-Christian culture. How can a small congregation survive in this culture?

Many people wonder, "What can we do?" "Should we start a contemporary service?" Should we hire someone to reach out to this or that group?" Should we call members who have stopped attending to invite them back?" Should we expand our online presence?" None of these solutions are wrong. They might be good changes to make, but these changes don't get to the heart of the matter. They are just the frosting on the cake.

The solution to responding to our post-Christian culture is for the congregation to become a vibrant spiritual home, a place where people experience God's love through his people's love.

Of course, that is easier said than done, but I see three vital areas. I can sum up those three areas with three words: **Believe, Belong, Bless**. Let's look at all three.

Believe This first word centers around worship. Do members and visitors encounter the living God when they are worshipping, no matter the style of worship? Do people hear the Gospel, and does the sermon help them to live their lives in the week ahead? In other words, does it help people to trust in their Lord with all of their heart and lean on their own understanding?

Belong is another way of saying fellowship, but this is not only the fellowship of coffee and potlucks but the deep communion of believers helping to bear each other's burdens. Small groups centering on Bible study, fellowship, and prayer are ideal for this belonging to take place. We have started a beta small group and hope to have several small groups going later in the year.

Bless. Finally, bless reaching out to the world around us so that people may see our good works and be attracted to Grace God. I have seen that at St. Paul's: the trip to Feed My Starving Children, the community picnic coming up in August, and scores of individual caring actions done by our members.

Believe, Belong, Bless are keys to a vital Christian life and a vibrant Christian congregation. They are a holistic approach to the faith, and they will lead to an attractive, dynamic spiritual congregation that will be a beacon in our darkening post-Christian world.

In Hope and Joy,
Pastor Carl

The Church Council did not meet in July.

Financial or Memorial information was not available at the time of printing.

2024 Church Council

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

St Paul Attendance

6/30 10am - 120 (Community Worship Service	7/7 9am - 44	7/9 6 pm - 8
7/14 9am - 55	7/16 6 pm - 8	7/21 9am - 54
		7/23 6 pm - 7
		7/28 9am - 53

Please pray for... The family of 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.

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

JOINT SERVICES PLANNED FOR ST. PAUL'S AND ST. JOHNS

The Mutual Ministry Committee of St. Johns and St. Paul Lutheran Churches proposed the two churches worshipping together for part of the summer. Both Church Councils approved the idea and the joint services will begin August 11.

Sunday, August 11, worship at St. Paul's at 9:00 a.m. No service at St. Johns.
Sunday, August 18, worship at St. Paul's at 9:00 a.m. No service at St. Johns.
Sunday, August 25, worship at St. Johns Church at 9:00 a.m. No service at St. Paul's.
Sunday, September 1, worship at St. Johns Church at 9:00 a.m. No service at St. Paul's.
Sunday, September 8th – Rally Sunday with Worship in Riverside Park.

Our worship services are live broadcast on YouTube! Just subscribe to our YouTube Channel by going to 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!



Save the Date for Rally Sunday!



**Sunday, September 8th
in Riverside Park!**

St. Paul Lutheran Choir will be starting back up in September! New members are always welcome! Watch for more information in the bulletin and September Epistle.

August 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	
4 9:00 Worship 10:00 Coffee Talk 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast	5	6 5:00-7:00 Community Night Out Picnic @ Riverside Park 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	7 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast	8	9 2:00 BINGO @ SJLH	10
11 9:00 Worship 10:00 Coffee Talk 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast	12	13 10:00 am Worship at SJLH 6:00 pm Tuesdays in the Chapel Worship 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast 7:15 pm Transition Team meeting	14 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast 7:30 pm Council Meeting	15	16	17
18 9:00 Worship 10:00 Coffee Talk 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast	19	20 6:00 pm Tuesdays in the Chapel Worship with Holy Communion 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	21 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast	22	23	24
25 9:00 Worship at St. Johns Church	26 Pastor gone---	27 6:00 pm Tuesdays in the Chapel Worship 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	28 8:30 am - 1:30 pm Blood Drive 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast	29	30	31

* Indicates Choir Singing.

Worship Service Helpers

Date	Sound & Video	Projection	Reader	Acolyte	Usher	Organist
8/4	Trevor Krebs	Mueller Family	Paul Muske	Bentley Wendt Blake Zihlke	Team 3	Jo Schwartz
8/11	Dove Family	Dove Family	Daniel Kettner	Abbygail Jeppesen Ranee Dombek	Team 4	Jeff Krueger
8/18	Mueller Family	Mueller Family	Jordan Pidde	Lily Groebner Molly Jacobs	Team 1	Jo Schwartz
8/25	Worship at St. Johns Lutheran Church					

August Birthdays!



1 - Harper Borth
1 - Ashley Henning
3 - Jessica Hemiller
3 - Kortney Jensen
3 - Kevin Wendt
6 - Mark Buerkle
6 - Kurt Glaeseman
8 - Bill Vogel
9 - Roger Sargent
10 - Joseph Wendt
11 - Delmar Nelson
13 - Lonny Jensen
15 - Brayden Wendt
19 - Jennifer Asmus
19 - Cody Graff
19 - Gavin Dove
20 - Bob Kratz
20 - Larry Pederson
21 - Sheryl Bloemke
21 - Gary Renner
22 - Emma Wendt
28 - Daniel Groebner
29 - Loribess Valentin
31 - Don Bloemke
31 - Linsey Krueger
31 - Scarlett Lund

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

August Altar Guild

Elsie Groebner—Jordyn Plaster
Sue Hendrickson

August Anniversaries!



8 - Bill & Mel Vogel - 15 years
14 - Craig & Loribess Valentin - 20 years
19 - Kevin & Jo Schwartz - 35 years
28 - John & Dawn Marz - 42 years
28 - Beau & Lauren Steinhaus - 3 years



Tuesdays in the Chapel
Worship will be each
Tuesday of the Summer
at 6:00 p.m..

Park in the North parking
lot and enter through the
door at the top of the ramp.

St. Paul's next blood drive will be Wed., August 28th
from 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Go redcrossblood.org to



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

Community Night Out

FREE

**Tuesday, August 6th
From 5-7 p.m.**

Riverside Park Shelters 2 & 3

This FREE event is open to the public!
Join our Community Night Out Event with
Food and drinks, live entertainment,
fun, and fellowship!

Invite your family, friends, and neighbors!
Burger or brat, coleslaw, chips,
soft serve ice cream, root beer wagon,
and water

Community Night Out
is provided by
St. Paul Lutheran
Church and
St. Johns Lutheran
Church



If inclement weather prevails, this event will be moved to the community center.

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

Postmaster: Dated material
Please Deliver Promptly
Address Service Requested

Calendar Highlights - August 2024
6 - Community Night Out Picnic 5-7
9 - BINGO @ SJLH
28 - 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

Housekeeping: Mary Jo Simonson

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 (September-May)

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