



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

How do you keep things straight in your head when life gets busy? If you are like me, you need a little help. Fortunately there are gadgets and gizmos a plenty! Any smart phone users out there? We can add appointments to our calendars that synch with our computers. We can set a reminder well ahead of time – two reminders if you are me – in order to arrive on time. I set reminders not only for actual appointments, but also to call people, to send emails, to add things to agendas, and even to remind myself to send reminders. We can even enter the address and click on it to open Google Maps, which will give turn by turn directions. All of this is, of course, if you remember to set the appointment in the first place!

Need to make a shopping list? You can simply say, “Hey Siri, or Alexa, put milk and cat food on my shopping list!” Need to know how to dress the kidlets for school? “Hey Alexa, what is the forecast today?” Perhaps some of you are “old school” and you prefer a handwritten list? Each Monday morning when I arrive in my office, I write a “to do” list for the week. I take great satisfaction in checking things off.

Our heads and our hearts are filled with the cares of this world, aren't they? Many of you sitting here are even now remembering an appointment you've forgotten to put on the calendar or are making your grocery list for the week. Most days the best we can do is to keep our heads above water.

So now we arrive in Advent, when life gets even busier, and Jesus is warning us about Judgment Day, “Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.” (Luke 21:34-36)

Hey Siri, set me a reminder about the second coming of Christ! Is that what we need to do? Set ourselves calendar reminders so that we can stand before Christ on the Last Day? Should it be a monthly, weekly, daily, or hourly reminder? Well that really worries me, because when I have a repeating reminder it seems to take the urgency out of it, and so then I just dismiss it and push it out of my head altogether. Our Apostle's Creed is meant as a reminder when we confess that we believe Christ will come again to judge the living and the dead. And yet as with everything else, though we repeatedly say the words, we can become disconnected from what they mean.

So what to do when faced with this seemingly impossible command from Christ to “be on guard” and “alert at all times praying that we may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place and to stand before the Son of Man”? What if we simply cannot do it? What if we prefer to bury our heads in the sand and act as if our lives will go on indefinitely just as they are? What if our hearts are weighed down with worry and the effects of self-medicating against the realities of this fallen world: sin, death, and the devil? What if we don't have the strength to escape the apocalyptic events that are coming? What will happen then when we stand before Jesus on the Last Day?

We gather each Sunday today for this very purpose: to hear what Christ has done about our inability to prepare ourselves for the Day of Judgment. God the Father sent his only Son into the world precisely because we are unable to clear our own hearts and minds of the worries of this world. We are unable to trust that in God's goodness, he will provide all that we need. Jesus promises that heaven and earth will pass away, but his words will not pass away. You were first given his Word in baptism when water was poured over your head and you were marked with the cross of Christ forever. And each Sunday during worship our Lord chooses you again through his Word! He breaks into your everyday life and makes his love known to you! The Son of Man, who bowed his head and gave up his spirit, did so for you. Therefore, your sin is forgiven.

Though Christ's first coming was a quiet, humble entrance, nearly missed by everyone, when Christ comes again, we won't be able to miss it. Though it will be as if the whole creation is falling apart, like the unraveling of the very fabric of the universe, this destruction will usher in a whole new creation. When the Son of God comes in glory, he shall crush the head of the serpent, as God promised in Genesis, and the proud empire of the son of sin will be utterly destroyed once and for all. And then a glorious new heaven and a new earth will be brought forth!

And so when you see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory you *will* stand up and raise your head, because your redemption has drawn near!” You will lift your head in hope and gaze upon the one who has counted every hair on your head. Christ has promised that not one hair on your head will perish.

Please come for Advent worship each Sunday leading up to Christmas to be prepared for Christ's coming by hearing his Word of promise. See you in church!

With love from your sister in Christ,
Pr. Tricia Mattson

St Paul Lutheran Church - Church Council Meeting, November 13, 2019 at 7:30 pm

Present: Ed Meidl, David Bittler, Doug Jeske, Bill Vogel, Paul Muske, Matt Sargent, Angel Clemon, Pastor Tricia, Craig Valentin, Jill Vogel

Also present: Katie Mueller, Church Coordinator & Anita Jensen Financial Secretary, Jeff Krueger Advance Press.

Absent:

Call to order at 7:37pm Ed Meidl

Devotion – Pastor Tricia

M/S/P-Secretary's Report

M/S/P-Financial Report – Anita

Building and Grounds – Ed

Parsonage Window Leaks

Parsonage Basement

Meeting with Jeremy Zihlke for recommendations for walls and floors. Council is asking for an estimate only until Spring to verify the fixes made are adequate and there will not be further water issues.

Sump Pump needs to be hardwired, currently on an extension cord.

The whirly bird on the roof is squealing-Jeremy Zihlke will look at and address.

Parish Education Report –Matt & Bill

M/S/P-December 15th will be 1 service for the Christmas program at 10am.

Pastor's Report

Visitation

Visited homebound, assisted living, hospitalized, and nursing home members.

Delivered bulletins to SJLH, the Maples, and Downtown Estates.

Worship

Led worship with the Lord's Supper at SJLH, Downtown Estates, and the Maples.

Parish Education

Continuing to lead weekly bible studies Mondays at the Maples and Tuesdays at church.

Attended the Parish Ed meeting on 11/4.

Visited a couple of Sunday school classrooms.

Completed the final premarital counseling session of the year.

Confirmation

Took the confirmation students to the SAFS on 10/30. We receive a tour and packed school food sacks.

Luther League

Attended the 11/6 Luther League meeting and helped pack college care packages.

Community

Gave two SAFE vouchers to community members.

Enjoyed lunch with elementary students at school.

Attended and helped at the Bob Lenz Program at SAHS on 10/21.

Attended Norma Freeman's 100th birthday party on 10/26.

Attended Dalores Stern's 90th birthday party on 11/2.

Assisted at the Springfield Public Library Halloween party on 10/31.

Attended the Friends of the Library meeting on 11/7.

Stewardship

Worked on invitation to Thanks for the Harvest & EOY stewardship letter.

Other Business

Attended the SPLC Annual Auction on 10/27.

Attended two 150th anniversary meetings, 10/14 and 11/6.

Continuing Ed

Meeting with Pr. Julie for text study.

Attended the *Here We Still Stand Conference* 10/16-19.

OLD BUSINESS

- Church Auction recap-went well, thank you for the donations, volunteers, and kitchen help-made \$5,373
 - 150th Anniversary-have been meeting and planning
 - *Walking with God
 - *Have month activities
 - *Leaders and assistants basically assigned
 - *Need to develop a budget
 - *Thanks for the Harvest Planning – Stewardship Letter & Giving Statements
 - *Dec 4th service 6pm, meal 6:30pm
 - *Spaghetti meal. Need volunteers
 - *Jensen/Thompson will donate beef
 - *There is Thrivent funds for this meal
 - *Free will offering only
 - *Thanksgiving Baskets, November 24th, between services during coffee talk time
 - *Currently have 22 baskets-effecting 81 people
 - *Please have list in by Sunday, Nov 17th
 - *Staff Reviews – Wednesday, November 20th Start 4pm.
 - *Visits and gifts with Shut-Ins at the nursing home: Dec 21st @ 1pm, meet at church.
 - *Christmas Caroling, December 8th at 1:30 pm, St. John's The Maples, Downtown Estates
 - *Church Credit Card-having concerns with putting individuals' names and having to use social security number to obtain it. Tabled until further information is gathered.
 - *Luther League Mission Trip
 - *M/S/P- \$200 per person to assist in covering the costs of the mission trip to come from
- Undesignated Memorials.
- *Street Assessment-The has been a \$3,000 reduction on the vacant lot because there is no water service.
 - *M/S/P to pay street assessment \$12,779 by 11/15/2019 to avoid interest fees
 - *Pr Duggi's request to support the Lutheran School of Theology in India
 - *Information to be forwarded to the mission committee for the 2020 year.

NEW BUSINESS

- Thank You, Kathy Pederson, for decorating the tree at the Springfield Museum
- Christmas Tree Decorating-
- Thanksgiving décor take down Nov 29th @ 9am
- Nov 30th @ 9am
- Children's Christmas Program Treat Bags
- Dec 14th at 9am
- Nominating Committee – Paul Muske, Matt Sargent, Shawna Jacobs-needs to meet
- Mitten Tree-is up and ready
- Budget Committee-needs to meet
- Thanksgiving Eve service-ice and pie/desserts to be served by council.
- Ice cream donated by Ed
- Motion to adjourn 8:50pm with the Lord's Prayer.

Shawna Jacobs
Church Council Secretary

Budget Recap & Attendance Year-To-Date (01/01/19 to 11/20/19)

Total Funds for Budget	\$143,767.32	Operating Funds	\$155,767.32	Budget	\$150,870.94
Loan From Memorial	<u>\$12,000.00</u>	Operating Exp.	\$149,544.07	Difference	\$4,896.38
Total Operating Funds	\$155,767.32	Payback Memorial	<u>\$6,000.00</u>		
		Difference	\$223.25		

Attendance Worship Services

Sunday, November 3	9am - 92 & 11am - 5	Sunday, November 10	9am - 79 & 11am - 10
Sunday, November 17	9am - 72 & 11am - 14	Sunday, November 24	9am - 84 & 11am - 6

Memorials Given From 10/26/19 to 11/24/19

<u>In Memory:</u>	<u>Given by:</u>	<u>Designated for:</u>
Darla Benusa	Larry & Ruth Potter	St. Paul Lutheran Church
Phyllis Wersal	Mike & Crissy Rogotzke	Good Shepherd Scholarship Fund

2019 Church Council

Ed Meidl - Chair	Dave Bittler	Jill Vogel
Paul Muske - Vice Chair	Bill Vogel	Matt Sargent
Shawna Jacobs - Secretary	Angel Clemon	Doug Jeske
Craig Valentin - Treasurer		

Direct Giving: Church Giving Made Easier

As electronic payment and mobile banking have grown in popularity, St. Paul's has received more inquiries about the ability for members to give through automatic donations / direct giving. The way commerce operates today many people no longer carry cash, preferring to have everything processed electronically or by debit/credit card.

Automatic donations can be beneficial for both the member and the congregation. Members receive the benefit of convenience, easier monthly budgeting, and uninterrupted gifts. For the congregation, automatic donations can provide a steadier stream of income and even result in higher annual gifts, especially during the summer months when members are often traveling out of town. If you are interested in automatic donations / direct giving, a form is available in the church office or in the back of church.

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.

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, use one of the yellow information cards in the church pews, call or email the church office at 507-723-5880 or stpaul_lutheran@hotmail.com. We appreciate you keeping us updated!

Please pray for... Bev Beussman, Taya Beyer, Tanya Hovland; 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.

December 2019

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	9:00 Worship 10:00 Sunday School Coffee Talk 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast 11:00 Worship 7 p.m. Nativity Choir Rehearsal	2 3:16 Bible Study @ The Maples 6:30 Parish Ed Meeting	3 6:00 Bible Study 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	4 10:00 am Ch. 8 Broadcast 6:00 Luther League 6:00 Thanks for the Harvest Service 6:30 Meal 6:30 Confirmation	5	6 Office Closed	7 7:00 p.m. South- west MN Men's Chorus Christmas Concert
8	9:00 Worship 10:00 Sunday School Coffee Talk 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast 11:00 Worship 1:30 p.m. Christmas Caroling 7 p.m. Nativity Choir Rehearsal	9 3:16 Bible Study @ The Maples	10 6:00 Bible Study 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	11 10:00 am Ch. 8 Broadcast 6:30 Confirmation 7:00 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 Council Meeting	12	13 Office Closed 11-1 SANTA Luncheon & Cookie Sale 2:00 BINGO @ SJLH 7 p.m. Nativity pageant @ Community Center	14 7 p.m. Nativity Pageant @ Com- munity Center
15	10:00 Children's Christmas Program Coffee talk 12:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast of Christ- mas Program	16 2:00 Downtown Estates HC 3:16 Bible Study @ The Maples	17 10:00 SJLH Service HC 6:00 Bible Study 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast 3:30 The Maples HC	18 10:00 am Ch. 8 Broadcast 6:30 Confirmation 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	19	20 Office Closed	21 1 p.m. Christmas Shut-in visits
22	9:00 Worship 10:00 Sunday School Coffee Talk 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast 11:00 Worship	23 3:16 Bible Study @ The Maples	24 6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship 8:00 p.m. Ch. 8 Broadcast of Christmas Eve Worship	25 Merry Christmas Office Closed 10:00 a.m. Christmas Worship 10:00 a.m. Ch. 8 Broadcast of Christmas Eve Worship 12:00 p.m. Ch. 8 Broadcast of Christmas Day Worship	26 Pastor on vacation-----	27 Office Closed	28
29	9:00 Worship 10:00 Sunday School Coffee Talk 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast 11:00 Worship Pastor on vacation-----	30 No Bible Study	31 No Bible Study 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast				

9:00 am Worship Service

Date	Sound & Video	Reader	Acolyte	Greeters	Usher
12/1	Shane Clemon	Jo Muske	Tayte Zihlke Kyler Zihlke	Paul & Colleen Meidl	Team 4
12/8	Tim Vogel	Russell Rogotzke	Bryan Buerkle Parker Gluth	Gary & Nancy Renner	Team 1
12/15	Bob Kratz	Children's Christmas Program	Noah Mueller	Janice Kettner Gertie Rosenau	Team 2
12/22	Shane Clemon	Kurt Glaeseman	Alyssa Shaw Keagan Streich		Team 3
12/24	Tim Vogel	Paul Muske	Teagan Steffl Nickolas Rogotzke	Jim & Elsie Groebner	Team 4
12/25	Bob Kratz	Kristin Rogotzke	Brayden Wendt Tayte Zihlke	Bill & Mel Vogel	Team 1
12/29	Shane Clemon	Daniel Kettner	Josh Timm Zach Timm	Richard & Lois Zihlke	Team 2

Sharon Rogotzke has been asked to call Greeters, Readers and Acolytes reminding them of their Sunday. **In order to avoid confusion, please call Sharon at 723-5117 if you will be gone and have found a substitute.**

December Birthdays!

9 - Tenleigh Salonek
 12 - Piper Zihlke
 13 - Crissy Rogotzke
 17 - Wyatt Mueller
 18 - Hayden Gluth Dustin Trapp, Courtney Wendt
 19 - Jeanette Pidde
 23 - Robert Anderson, Robin Groebner
 24 - Alex Larson
 26 - Jacob Micka
 29 - Jean Polkow
 30 - Gavin Brown, Mary Glaeseman, Betsy Rogotzke
 31 - Kay Hagert



December Altar Guild

Kelly Sargent, Stacia Rosenau,
 Dawn Marz
 If you are unable to help, please
 find a substitute or switch
 months with someone.

Delivering bulletins in December

5 - Denise Gicker
 12 - Pastor Tricia
 19 - Carol Carlson
 26 - Jill Vogel

December Anniversaries!

8 - Dustin & Tiffany Trapp - 12 Years
 14 - Larry & Ruth Potter - 56 Years
 19 - Doug & LuAnn Gatzlaff - 9 years

Helped Needed!

- *2-3 members to join the Altar Guild.
- *Members to run the Sound and Video equipment.
- *A few members to be added to the usher rotation.

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.



*The Mitten Tree is up in the Narthex! Bring in your donations of hats, mittens, gloves and scarves. We will be delivering the donations locally.

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!

Blessing and Recognition of Ministries in the Congregation

The time and talents of many people are necessary in order for our congregation to carry out its mission: "Remember the Promise. Live the Faith. Serve the World." Each Sunday at the 9:00 a.m. service, we will invite those ministers of the church to come forward for a blessing, and so that we may offer thanks to God for them.

December 1	Luther League	December 8	Readers
December 15	Sound System/Video	December 22	Ushers and Greeters

Mark Your Calendars

*Friday, November 29th at 9:00 a.m. take down the Thanksgiving decorations
*Saturday, November 30th beginning at 9:00 a.m. Christmas Decorating
*Please come if you are able to help out for a little while!
Wed., December 4, Thanks for the Harvest Service & Dinner at 6:00 p.m.
Sunday, December 8, 1:30 p.m. Christmas Caroling
Sunday, December 15, Sunday School Christmas Program
Saturday, December 21 at 1 p.m., member visits at St. John's Home and The Maples. If you would like to join doing visits, please meet in the church parking lot at 12:45 p.m. that day.
Tuesday, December 24, Christmas Eve Worship at 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday, December 25, Christmas Day Worship at 10:00 a.m.

*The Southwest Minnesota Men's Chorus will present its annual Christmas Concert on Saturday, December 7 at 7:00 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center at Springfield Public School. The concert theme is "Go Where I Send Thee" and features a variety of religious and secular Christmas music by the chorus and small group ensembles.

The Southwest Minnesota Men's Chorus includes 20-25 singers from communities in the southwest part of the state. Local singers include Charlie Tews, Jerry Martius and Jeff Krueger along with accompanists Peggy Martius and Jodi Dalsgaard from Springfield, Nathan Hesse from Comfrey and Jim Gode and Darren Martius from Sanborn.

The concert is free and open to the public. Come enjoy an evening of holiday music by the SW Minnesota Men's Chorus.

*We are looking for someone or a few people to be on the Cheer Committee. The Cheer Committee is responsible for sending cards to members of the congregation who are ill, hospitalized, or shut-in. Also sending congratulations to couples who have just been married or have babies. Sympathy and condolences should be sent to families who have lost loved ones. Funding for the cards and postage will be provided by the General Fund of the congregation. Please talk to Katie in the office if you are able to help!

**Santa's Cookie Sale & Luncheon (fundraiser for the pageant) will be held on Friday, December 13th at the Community Center. Donations of cookies and goodies are needed!
Also, we need 2 volunteers to help with clean up after the luncheon.

The Nativity Pageant is on Friday, December 13 and Saturday, December 14 at 7:00 p.m. on the grounds of the Springfield Area Community Center.

*We still need a few more shepherds!

*Pageant Rehearsals are Sunday, December 8 at 1:00 p.m., Monday, December 9 at 6:00 p.m. and Thursday, December 12th 5:30 p.m.

*Angels are needed from 3rd grade on up. Jill Morality is the choreographer. Contact her at 612-382-3990 if interested. Looking for parents that could help out with it as well.

*Nativity Pageant Choir will have rehearsals on Sunday, Dec. 1 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 8 at 7 p.m. at the United Methodist Church, 205 N. Marshall in Springfield. Hats and robes will be available at rehearsals. New voices always welcome! Any questions, please contact Joyce Schwarzrock at 507-766-3455.

Contact Jeff Krueger, Ed Meidl or Katie if you can help with anything. It will be greatly appreciated. Thank you!



BINGO Helpers are needed for Friday, December 13 at 2:00 pm at SJLH. Please call the church office (723-5880) if you are able to help!

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

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Calendar Highlights - December 2019

4 - Thanks For the Harvest Service & Meal 6 p.m.
8 - Christmas Caroling 1:30 p.m.
13 - BINGO @ SJLH 2 p.m.
13 & 14 - Nativity Pageant 7 p.m.
15 - Children's Christmas Program 10 a.m.
24 - Christmas Eve Service 6 p.m.
25 - Christmas Day Service 10 a.m.

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. & 11:00 a.m.

Sunday School & Coffee Talk at 10:00 a.m.

Springfield Area Food Shelf hours
Tuesday 5:00pm – 7:00pm
Thursday 9:30am – 11:30am
804 East Rock Street - Springfield, MN 56087
507-723-4120