

# December

Dear brothers and sisters 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! On our smart phones, we can add appointments to our calendars that synchronize with our computers. We can enter an address, click it to open Google Maps, and receive turn-by-turn directions. Need to make a shopping list? You can simply say, “Hey Siri, add milk and cat food to my shopping list!” Need to know how to dress the kids for school? “Hey Alexa, what is the forecast today?” Perhaps some of you are “old school” and you prefer a handwritten list? That works too!

Our heads and our hearts are filled with the cares of this world, aren't they? As you read this, perhaps you are remembering an appointment you forgot to put on your calendar. Some days it is all we can do to keep our heads above water.

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 to be ready for the second coming of Christ! Is that what we need to do: set ourselves daily or even hourly calendar reminders so that we can stand ready before Christ on the Last Day? That 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 a reminder as we confess that we believe Christ will come again to judge the living and the dead. Yet, as with everything else, with repetition the urgency is lost.

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”? We can trust in what Christ has done about our inability to ready ourselves for the Day of Judgment. God the Father sent his only Son into the world precisely because we are unable to be alert at all times. Because we are sinners, 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. The Son of Man bowed his head and gave up his spirit to forgive you all your sins, opening up for you the kingdom of heaven! Christ's Word of promise was spoken to you in your baptism when water was poured over your head and you were marked with the cross of Christ forever! The Holy Spirit was given to you to call, gather, enlighten, and sanctify you. The Holy Spirit will keep you united with Christ in the one true faith. On the last day, he will raise you and all the dead and give you all believers in Christ eternal life. This is most certainly true!

Each week in Advent, whether in person or online, you are invited to hear the promises of Christ to prepare you for his return. By his Word, he will strengthen you in the faith until that day when we will see Jesus face-to-face. See you in church!

With love from your sister in Christ,  
Pr. Tricia

**St. Paul Lutheran Church—Church Council Meeting - November 11, 2020 at 7:45 p.m.**

**Present:** Paul Muske, Matt Sargant, Ed Meidl, Pastor Tricia, Tim Vogel, Bill Vogel, Doug Jeske, David Bittler

**Present on Zoom:** Anita Jensen (Financial Secretary), Shawna Jacobs

**Also Present:** Katie Mueller-Church Coordinator

**Absent:** Craig Valentin, Angel Clemon

Call to order 7:45pm by Paul Muske

Devotion/Prayer – Pastor Tricia

M/S/P-Secretary's Report

M/S/P-Financial Report M/S/P-to pay the Oct and Nov benevolence

All paperwork has been submitted for CARES Act loan forgiveness program

Building and Grounds – Ed

Parsonage Basement: Miesen's flooring quote: M/S/P- To accept the bid to paint the laundry room floor and carpet tile the family rooms and commercial carpet on the steps to the laundry room.

Painting the walls, there are volunteers from the church to do this. Katie will assist Pastor in choosing colors for flooring and paint.

Parsonage Roof: Tabled the bids

Had a drain plug at the parsonage bathtub, Baune Plumbing there today 11/11/2020 to fix as Ed was unable to clear the plug.

Parish Education: need to meet to discuss Covid concerns with Sunday school and teachers.

M/S/P- to have a special Council meeting Nov 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:45pm to follow up on Parish Ed meeting.

**Pastor's Report**

Visitation: Visitation with members in their homes.

**Worship**

Baptized Claire Thompson on 11/2.

Gave First Communion to three students on 10/25.

Presided at Holy Communion at Downtown Estates on 10/26.

Presided at one-on-one Holy Communion at SJLH on 11/5.

**Confirmation**

Great questions from students!

**Parish Education**

Led one Maples bible study on November 2 at 1:00 p.m.

Leading bible study on Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.

Attended the Sunday school teacher's meeting on 10/25.

Attended the Parish Ed Meeting on 11/2.

**Luther League**

Attended the Luther League Meeting on 11/11.

**Community**

Submitted the article "Can you vote right?" to the Advanced Press on 10/21.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**COVID-19 Issues –**

Member request to speak the hymns rather than sing/listen

No motion regarding singing-Cantor will continue to sing.

M/S/P-to continue having contemporary worship/music the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month

Christmas Eve Hymns/music

M/S/P- to table the topic of Christmas singing until next month

Reservations to be capped at 100 at this time for each service.

Potential for over flow in Fellowship Halls or utilize the radio transmitter and individuals can listen from their cars.

Candle lighting for Christmas Eve service will be discussed at December meeting

Church Credit Card-no new news

Church Security update – Advanced Security Products, installed last week. Works great!

Katie will make an announcement in the bulletin regarding the system.

St. John’s Auxiliary Rep-

Shawna will follow up with potential volunteer otherwise, need to continue to search for one.

Contemporary Worship one Sunday a month

Schedule Staff Reviews-Postponed to Feb.

Upgrade our recording equipment to support live broadcasting

Still researching and looking into resources to meet our needs.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Christmas Tree Decorating

M/S/P to put up the tree on Nov 28<sup>th</sup> at 9 am

Children’s Christmas Program Treat Bags

M/S/P-to table treat bags until Dec meeting.

Nominating Committee – Matt Sargent, Tim Vogel, Daniel Kettner, need to meet

Mitten Tree-will be put up and Katie will put an announcement in bulletin

Budget Committee-Pastor, Anita, Shawna, Craig, Kurt, Ed

To meet on Nov 17<sup>th</sup> with the 24<sup>th</sup> as a back-up at 7pm in Fellowship Hall.

Host SW Men’s Chorus concert Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup>

M/S/P Due to current Covid restrictions and Governor’s orders, motion to NOT host the Men’s Chorus Concert

Current thanksgiving basket list is not extensive, still accepting names. The Springfield Area Food shelf is also doing thanksgiving baskets.

Motion to adjourn 9:27pm

Submitted

Shawna Jacobs, Council Secretary

**St. Paul Lutheran Church—Special Church Council Meeting - November 18, 2020 at 7:45 p.m.**

**Present:** Paul Muske, Pastor Tricia, Bill Vogel, Tim Vogel, Doug Jeske, Craig Valentin, Angel Clemon, Matt Sargent

**Present on Zoom:** Shawna Jacobs,

**Also Present:** Katie Mueller-Church Coordinator

**Absent:** Ed Meidl, David Bittler, Anita Jensen (Financial Secretary),

Call to order 7:46pm by Paul Muske

Discussed the request from Sunday school teachers. Teachers request to have Sunday School on 11/18/2020 to meet face to face to distribute materials and either cancel or offer virtual classes.

M/S/P to postpone Sunday school until Jan 1<sup>st</sup>. Teachers have the option of providing virtual lessons until Face to face is an option.

If students are not in Sunday school 11/18/2020, parents can stop and get material from Katie, have it mailed, or emailed to the parents.

M/S/P to cancel Worship communion on the 12/06/2020. Topic will be reviewed on the 12/9/2020 council meeting.

Be prepared to discuss in person service in relation to Christmas Services specifically.

M/S/P Adjourn at 8:05pm with the Lord’s Prayers

Shawna Jacobs, Council Secretary

<b><u>2020 Church Council</u></b>		
Paul Muske - Chair	Dave Bittler	Angel Clemon
Matt Sargent- Vice Chair	Bill Vogel	Doug Jeske
Shawna Jacobs - Secretary	Ed Meidl	Tim Vogel
Craig Valentin - Treasurer		

St Paul Attendance

11/1/20 9am - 75    11/8/20 9am - 36    11/15/20 9am - 33    11/22/20 9am - 35

Budget Recap Year to date (01/01/2020 to 11/24/2020)

Funds for Budget	\$128,410.87	Operating Funds	\$150,500.62
CARES Act Loan	\$22,089.75 (can only be used for payroll)	Operating Expenses	\$147,664.05
Total Operating Funds	\$150,500.62	Difference	\$2,836.57
	Budget		\$160,625.32
	Difference		(\$10,124.70)

Memorials Given From 10/26/20 to 11/25/2020

<b>In Memory:</b>	<b>Given by:</b>	<b>Designated for:</b>
Joan Bloemke	Douglas Bloemke	St. Paul Cemetery Fund
	Dean Bloemke	St. Paul Cemetery Fund
	Daniel Bloemke	St. Paul Cemetery Fund
	Barbara Jaborsky	St. Paul Cemetery Fund
Carol Meidl	Del & Bev Beussman	St. Paul Lutheran Church
Joe Gostonczik	Dalores Stern	St. Paul Lutheran Church
	Rod & Rhonda Larson	Good Shepherd Scholarship Fund
	Glenn & Anita Jensen	Baptismal Faith Chest Fund
Gaylord Schueler	Larry & Ruth Potter	St. Paul Lutheran Church
Gary & Marian Schweiger	Glenn & Anita Jensen	Baptismal Faith Chest Fund
	Amanda & Dylan Thompson	Baptismal Faith Chest Fund
Alice Zihlke	Glenn & Anita Jensen	Baptismal Faith Chest Fund
	Richard & Lois Zihlke	St. Paul Lutheran Church
Becky Fairchild	Glenn & Anita Jensen	Baptismal Faith Chest Fund

**Please pray for...** Ed Meidl, Bonnie Wells, Alice Trebesch; 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.

**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 Dollars<sup>SM</sup>, we ask you to consider St. Paul Lutheran as you help direct Thrivent Financials charitable funds.

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.

# December 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 6:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	2 10:00 am Ch. 8 Broadcast 6:30 Confirmation via Zoom	3	4 Office Closed	5
6 9:00 Worship No Sunday School 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast	7 6:30 Parish Ed Meeting	8 6:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	9 10:00 am Ch. 8 Broadcast 6:30 Confirmation via Zoom 7:45 Council Meeting	10	11 Office Closed	12
13 9:00 Contemporary Worship No Sunday School 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast	14	15 6:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	16 10:00 am Ch. 8 Broadcast 6:30 Confirmation via Zoom	17	18 Office Closed	19
20 9:00 Worship No Sunday School 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast	21 2:00 Downtown Estates HC	22 6:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	23 10:00 am Ch. 8 Broadcast No Confirmation	24 Office Closed 5:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship #1 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship #2 9:10 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast of Christmas Eve Worship	25 Office Closed <b>Merry Christmas!</b> 9:00 am Christmas Day Worship 9:00 am Ch. 8 Broadcast Christmas Eve Worship 10:30 am Ch. 8 Broadcast Christmas Day Worship	26
27 9:00 Worship No Sunday School 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast Pastor on Vacation	28	29 6:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	30 10:00 am Ch. 8 Broadcast No Confirmation	31	St. Paul Lutheran Church 303 N Cass Ave Springfield, MN 56087 507-723-5880 stpaul_lutheran@hotmail.com pastortriciamattson@gmail.com	

## 9:00 am Worship Service

We have trained volunteers who are helping with our in-person worship services.

The need for worship service helpers will be developed according to the plan or added as needed, therefore I will not be posting the schedule until further notice.

Thank you for being patient and understanding.

### December Birthdays!

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

### December Anniversaries!

8 - Dustin & Tiffany Trapp - 13 Years  
14 - Larry & Ruth Potter - 57 Years  
19 - Doug & LuAnn Gatzlaff - 10 years

**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

### December Altar Guild

Stacia Rosenau, Colleen Meidl

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



### 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 not be given during worship at this time. 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.

**Sunday School will not be held in person for the time being. Information is being sent to parents.**

The Springfield Area Food Shelf orders must be placed over the phone. Please call 507-227-7387.

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

The Food shelf is located at 804 East Rock St. (Schwanke building) Springfield.

Call Sheri Koll at 507-227-0386/507-723-6120 or Jan Schwanke at 507-227-7387 if you have any questions.

St. Paul Lutheran is in need of an individual to be our St. John's Home Auxiliary Representative as soon as possible. The auxiliary plans birthday parties, bingo, picnics, and other social events that enrich the lives of our St. John's residents. The dues collected and their fundraisers help provide other items needed within the facility. This is a great volunteer opportunity! If you are interested in learning more or would like to volunteer, please contact Katie in the Church office.

## Giving Thanks

**Thank you** to those who donated items for our College Care Packages and to our Luther League Members and Advisors for packing the boxes!

**Thank you** to those who donated to our Thanksgiving Baskets and those who helped pack and deliver the baskets. We were able to deliver 20 boxes with a full Thanksgiving Meal this year!

**Thank you** to our Sunday School Teachers and Helpers for your continued work and dedication through this difficult time. We appreciate all you do in teaching our children about Jesus!

**Thank you** to Pastor, our musicians, the video committee, our ushers and everyone else who helps out during the worship services to help us hear the Word of God either in person, through Facebook, YouTube, or Channel 8!

**Thank you** to our housekeeping and maintenance staff for going above and beyond in keeping our church clean and looking great!

**Thank you** to everyone who continues to send in your offerings

**Thank you** for your patience and understanding with the office staff as we manage the ongoing changes.

St. John's Circle of Care is collecting Christmas gifts for our residents and tenants!

If you would like to adopt a resident at St. John's Circle of Care this Christmas please pick up a zip lock bag located in the Narthex or contact the church office. Each bag contains a bow and a tag with gender and gift ideas.

Please attach the enclosed tag and bow to the wrapped gift prior to returning to the church. We ask that all gifts be returned to church by Sunday, December 13th. If you have any questions, please contact St. John Lutheran Home at 507-723-3200 for more information.



**THANK YOU to everyone that is able to help with this project!**

We are having 2 Christmas Eve Worship services this year due to limited seating due to our Covid Safety Plan. The 5:00 p.m. service is FULL and we are not taking any more reservations for that service.

There is still plenty of space at the 7:00 p.m. service. Reserve your spot soon with the church office via email or phone! Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

**I will need the names of those attending so I can have them on the list for checking in.**

**Like this:**

**7pm Service, 6 people**

**John, Katie, Noah, Wyatt Mueller**

**Lowell & Connie Helget**



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

Postmaster: Dated material  
Please Deliver Promptly  
Address Service Requested

### **Calendar Highlights**

24 - Christmas Eve Worship 5 & 7 pm  
25 - Christmas Day Worship 9 am

**We are on the Web!**  
[www.splcspringfield.org](http://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](mailto:pastortriciamattson@gmail.com)

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

Housekeeper: Lisa Prechel

Maintenance: Ed Meidl

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.

#### **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**  
**804 East Rock Street - Springfield, MN 56087**  
**507-723-4120**