

December

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

It is this time of year that people begin asking, “Are you ready?” Are you ready for Christmas: cards sent; gifts purchased, wrapped, and mailed; house cleaned and decorated; menu planned and...finally...meal cooked? This is how we spend the majority of our time during Advent: getting ready for our upcoming gatherings with family and friends.

But how is it truly that we “get ready” during Advent? The word “advent” is from the Latin word for “coming,” and as such, describes the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ into the flesh. Christ’s “coming” manifests itself in three ways: past, present, and future. The readings which highlight Christ’s coming in the past focus on the Old Testament prophecies of his incarnation at Bethlehem, while his ministry among us today is through his Word and Sacrament during worship.

Here we shall look at the future, his second coming on the Last Day. In Luke 21 Jesus prophesized that natural disasters, wars, insurrections, and persecutions would take place. He said, “Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.” Then he told them a parable, “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near.”

World events continue to frighten us: the Covid-19 pandemic, unrest in Afghanistan, hurricanes, floods, droughts, and the economy. Indeed, Jesus has forewarned us that terrible things will happen before he comes “again to judge the living and the dead.” Jesus also cautions,

“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. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. 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)

Now some, those who are not yet enlightened by the Holy Spirit, hear such prophesies as merely ancient mythical foolishness, and so they continue their pursuit of earthly pleasures, living as if there is no God and no Last Day on which Christ will come “again to judge the living and the dead.” Others read this and perhaps get a little nervous and begin to wonder, “What if I am not ready? What if I am not on guard or not alert? What if the trap does catch me? What if I don’t have the strength? How can I get myself ready?”

The truth is that there is absolutely nothing that *you* can do to get yourself ready for Christ’s second coming. Jesus does it all. Luther writes:

Christ says, “When you see heaven and earth cracking apart, people more and more evil, and everything going out of joint, then be happy, be elated. About whom? About yourself? No, about me, for I am coming; it will be a bit terrifying, for if I am to destroy the world, it will exhibit horror and turn our eyes. But I am there, be not afraid, you will be delivered. This we must keep in mind: we believe that our Lord Jesus Christ will assuredly come, and we shall have eternal life; however, just when this day and hour will come, we actually do not know; but we are pretty close to knowing, for the Lord says, “When these things begin to come to pass, then know that it is not far off.” (Luther’s House Postils, p. 42-43)

So even though the world seems frightening, we rejoice because the kingdom of God is coming to us - we who believe and are baptized. So also we are strengthened in the faith, and forewarned and comforted repeatedly by the Word and the Sacrament. Through these, the Word and Sacrament, our Lord gives himself over to us, giving us his righteousness and readying us for his return. This is a promise! See you in church!

Love from your sister in Christ,
Pr. Tricia

St. Paul Lutheran Church—Church Council Meeting - November 10, 2021, at 7:45 p.m.

Chairman Matt Sargent called the meeting to order at 7:48 p.m. in Room 101. Members present were Dave Bittler, Bill Vogel, Matt Sargent, Tim Vogel, Pastor Tricia and Jeff Krueger. Also present was Katie Mueller, Parish Coordinator and Anita Jensen, Financial Secretary. Members absent were Doug Jeske, Angel Clemon and Craig Valentin.

Pastor Tricia led the group in a prayer.

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

M/S/P to approve the Financial Report as printed. We received an insurance check of \$52,997.79 for the estimates of the lightning strike damage. M/S/P to pay the benevolence for June-September.

Building and Grounds Report:

- Nothing new to report.

Parish Education Report:

- Sunday School Christmas Program will be on Sunday, December 12. M/S/P to have the service/program at 10:00 a.m.
- Luther League will sell cookies as a fundraiser following the program December 12.
- M/S/P to remove Kim Graff's name from the Luther League checking account and add Angel Clemon.
- Luther League would like to attend the Quake Retreat in February 2022. Registration and fee of \$95/student is due by January 19. Rooms would be \$228 for four people. M/S/P to pay for up to 3 hotel rooms using the Spiritual Growth Fund.

Pastor's Report:

Visitation

- Visitation with members in their homes, at nursing homes and assisted living residences.
- Delivered bulletins to residents at St. John's Home, The Maples and Cottonwood Ridge.

Worship

- Led worship with Holy Communion at St. John's Home.
- Led worship with Holy Communion at The Maples.

Parish Education

- Attended the November Parish Education meeting.
- Leading Bible Study on Tuesday nights at 6:00 p.m.
- Leading Bible Study at The Maples on Mondays at 3:00 p.m.
- Attended Luther League meeting where we packed college care packages.
- Went to ValleyScare with the Luther League on October 23, 2021. Had a fun time!
- Taught a baptism class on October 19, 2021.

Confirmation

- Confirmation classes are going well. We used Zoom for students in quarantine.

Continuing Education

- Attended the "Here We Still Stand" Conference in Nevada. I was showered with the Gospel!
- Attended the "Northern Lights Fellowship" meeting via Zoom on October 25, 2021.

Community

- Wrote an article for the *Advance-Press* on October 20, 2021.
- Attended the St. John's Circle of Care bi-monthly meeting on October 25, 2021.
- Participated at St. Johns Lutheran Church's Trunk or Treat with Luther League on October 31, 2021.
- Assisted one neighbor in need using the Good Samaritan Fund.
- Gave out one SAFE voucher.

Old Business:

- Church Lightning Strike Update: Elevator work has started and should be completed in another week. The new phone system is up and running. No action yet on the Live Broadcasting Equipment or the outside building repair work.

- LCMC Augustana District Emerging Ministry Need and Opportunity—the new LCMC congregation in Slayton is doing well and has coverage to the end of the year. Pastor may be asked to help with occasional coverage into the new year.
- Staff reviews need to be completed before the end of the year. Bill Vogel, Matt Sargent and Shawna Jacobs are on the committee.
- SW Minnesota Men’s Chorus concert at our church Monday, December 6 at 7:00 p.m. Open to the public. The church council and adult choir will serve refreshments following. Katie will send out reminders to bring bars and come help work it.

New Business:

- SouthPoint Credit Union Debit Card — M/S/P to take Anita’s name off the account and add Katie along with Matt, Craig and Bill.
- Discussion on Paraphrase Theatre event — will get more information for a possible event this spring.
- The new Christmas tree for the sanctuary has arrived and will be assembled. Tree and sanctuary decorating will be on Saturday, November 27 at 9:00 a.m. Would like to have a lot of the decorating complete before the December 6 Christmas concert by the SW Minnesota Men’s Chorus.
- Children’s Christmas treat bags will be assembled on Wednesday, December 8 at 7:00 p.m. before the next Council meeting.
- Nominating Committee will begin meeting to find council and committee members for next year. Discussion on how difficult it has become to find people willing to serve on the various committees and council. Discussion on possibly cutting down the size of the council again—we have been short two members this whole year—and combining the secretary and treasurer into one position. Will discuss more next month. Would need to be approved at the Annual Meeting.
- The Budget Committee will meet before the December Council meeting.
- The carpet in the north entrance under the ramp has become very worn. Decided to get some quotes for replacement.
- The Mitten Tree will be set up in the lower narthex with the items being distributed locally or in Brown County.
- The Elevator Equipment Room needs to be cleaned out. We cannot store things in it. There are old banquet tables and folding chairs stored there that will offered for sale. Contact Katie in the church office for details.

M/S/P to adjourn at 9:00 p.m. Closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Next meeting will be Wednesday, December 8, 2021 at 7:45 p.m.

~Jeff Krueger, Church Council Secretary

2021 Church Council		
Matt Sargent- Chair	Dave Bittler	Angel Clemon
Bill Vogel- Vice Chair	Doug Jeske	Tim Vogel
Jeff Krueger - Secretary	Craig Valentin - Treasurer	
There are 2 vacancies		

New Church Directory! We have a new online church Directory! It is live and ready to view! 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 greatest thing about the new directory is that it can be updated constantly so information should never be outdated! Have a new family picture? Email it to the church office and it can be added instantly! Recently moved and need to update your address? No problem, it will be updated instantly!

If you need an updated picture for the directory, stop in during Katie’s office hours and we can snap a picture of you and get it added to the directory.

Be sure to check it out!

St Paul Attendance						
10/31/21	9am - 87	11am - 0	11/7/21	9am - 92	11/14/21	9am - 79
11/21/21	9am - 76		11/24/21	7pm - 19	11/28/21	9am - 58

Budget Recap Year-To-Date (01/01/21 to 11/28/21)

Total Funds for Budget	\$159,534.13	Total Operating Funds	\$159,534.13
Budget	\$168,469.44	Operating Exp.	\$156,755.67
Difference	(\$8,938.31)	Difference	\$2,778.46

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.



Do you shop on Amazon? St. Paul Lutheran Church is now listed on AmazonSmile! For eligible purchases at AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to the customer's selected charitable organization. Just select St. Paul Lutheran Church, Springfield, MN and you will be helping our congregation one purchase at a time! Simply enter <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/41-0705873> or go to smile.amazon.com and click on "AmazonSmile" and select St. Paul Lutheran Church, Springfield, MN. Then continue shopping! It's really that easy! Thank you for choosing to support St. Paul Lutheran!

Memorials Given From 10/26/21 to 11/29/2021

<u>In Memory:</u>	<u>Given by:</u>	<u>Designated for:</u>
Phil Clennon	Jeff & Stacey Weisensel	Good Shepherd Scholarship Fund

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 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!

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

Please pray for... the family of Dorene Bakke, Russell Rogotzke, Slayton Community Lutheran Church, William Matzke ; Cylee Graff, Ethan Langseth, Jesse Kettner, 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

December 2021

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

St. Paul Lutheran Church, 303 N Cass Ave, Springfield, MN 56087 Church Telephone: 507-723-5880 www.splcspringfield.org Pastor's E-mail: pastortriciaamattison@gmail.com Office E-mail: stpaul_lutheran@hotmail.com						
5 9:00 Worship 10:00 Sunday School 10:00 Coffee Talk 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast	6 3:00 pm The Maples Bible Study 6:30 Parish Ed Meeting 7:00 SWMN Men's Chorus Christmas Program followed by refreshments	7 6:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	8 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast 6:30 Confirmation 7:30 Choir Rehearsal 7:45 pm Church Council Meeting	9 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast 6:30 Confirmation 7:30 Choir Rehearsal 7:45 pm Church Council Meeting	10 Office Closed 7:00 pm Live Nativity Pageant @ Community Center	11 7:00 pm Live Nativity Pageant @ Community Center
12 10:00 Children's Christmas Program 11:00 Coffee talk and Luther League Bake Sale 12:00 Ch 8 Broadcast	13 3:00 pm The Maples Bible Study	14 6:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	15 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast 6:00 Bell Choir 6:30 Confirmation 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	16 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast 6:00 Bell Choir 6:30 Confirmation 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	17 Office Closed	18
19 9:00 Worship 10:00 Sunday School 10:00 Coffee Talk 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast	20 3:00 pm The Maples Bible Study with HC	21 10:00 am SJLH Worship 6:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	22 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast 6:00 Bell Choir 6:30 Confirmation 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	23 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast 6:00 Bell Choir 6:30 Confirmation 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	24 Office Closed 6:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship 8:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast of Christmas Eve Worship	25 9:00 am Christmas Day Worship Christmas Eve Worship 10:30 am Ch. 8 Broadcast of Christmas Day Worship 3:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast of Christmas Day Worship
26 9:00 Worship 10:00 Coffee Talk 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast	27 No Bible Study	28 No Bible Study 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	29 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	30 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	31 Office Closed	

Pastor off -----

9:00 am Worship Service

Date	Sound & Video	Reader	Acolyte	Usher
12/5	Paul & Jonah	Jeanette Pidde	Nicholas Groebner Nathan Groebner	Team 1
12/12	Russell Rogotzke	Children's Christmas Program	Gabby Schenk Brooklyn Anderson	Team 2
12/19	John Mueller	Daniel Kettner	Alyssa Shaw Jenna Shaw	Team 3
12/24	Peter Heitzman	Jordan Pidde	Ashtyn Christian Wyatt Mueller	Team 4
12/25	Tim Vogel	Jo Muske	Hayden Gluth	Team 1
12/26	Paul & Jonah	Mel Vogel	Brraxton Brown Brayden Trapp	Team 2

Usher Teams
 1 - Delwin Beussman, Don Bloemke, John Marz, Paul Meidl, Mark Rosenau
 2 - Dave Bittler, Doug Gatzlaff, Kurt Kratz, Mike Marz
 3 - Rod Larson, Doug Schiller, Russell Rogotzke, Ethan Langseth
 4 - Mark Buerkle, Tim Vogel, Scott Vogel, Kurt Glaeseman, Bill Vogel

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 - 14 Years
- 14 - Larry & Ruth Potter - 58 Years
- 19 - Doug & LuAnn Gatzlaff - 11 years

December Altar Guild
 The Mueller Family
 If you are unable to help, please find a substitute or switch months with someone.

We have a great need for volunteers for our worship services in the areas of Altar Guild (preparing communion), Ushers, and Sound & Video Recorders!

The Board of Parish Education is seeking 2 new board members. Please talk to Katie in the office of Pastor Tricia if you are interested in joining Parish Ed.

For Sale! We have four 8-foot tables and 24 folding chairs to sell that we no longer use here at church. They will be sold on a first come, first serve basis. You must contact Katie in the office to get your name down for them.
 Prices: \$25 per table, chairs will be \$3 each or 3 chairs for \$5

*Time to order your Christmas Poinsettias - We have 3 poinsettias left to claim for Christmas Decorating! The Cost is \$16 each. If you would like one in your name, please notify the church office. Checks should be made out to St. Paul Lutheran Church.

It's that time of the year again! St. John's Circle of Care is collecting Christmas Gifts for our residents! This year again we are asking for "generic" gifts. Some ideas: Springfield Market Gift Cards, Nonskid socks, cash for resident's "fun" spending accounts, puzzle books, after shave, soft lap blankets, throws, lotions, nail polish, neck pillows, small winter decorations, body wash, 2022 calendars, etc.
Pick up a zip lock bag, which contains a bow and a tag with a gender in the Narthex!
We ask that all gifts be returned to that establishment by 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!!

The Southwest Minnesota Men's Chorus will be performing a Christmas Concert on Monday, December 6 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Springfield. The public is invited to come and enjoy the holiday music by the chorus and by small groups of singers. Local singers in the Chorus are Charlie Tews, Gary Renner and Jeff Krueger. Area members are Nathan Hesse from Comfrey and Jim Gode from Lambertton. Wendy Johnson is the director. The concert is free of charge and refreshments will be served following the concert.

SANTA Luncheon and Cookie Sale is on December 3rd from 11-1 at the Springfield Community Center.
Cookie & goodie donations for the bake sale will be accepted on Thursday and Friday morning for the event.

The **nominating committee** has begun their search for incoming council board members. There will be 7 seats available for the year 2022 on the council with the term beginning in February 2022, with only one of them eligible for re-election. Please consider joining the council for a 2 year term! Talk to Bill Vogel or Dave Bittler if you are willing to serve!

Refund information for Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat provided by Springfield Community Theatre's board and the school district administrative office.

- ALL refunds will be handled through the Springfield Public School district office.
- Patrons must present tickets in order to get a refund; it is recommended that at a family level, one family member collect all tickets and request the return.
- Those who purchased recent tickets with checks—the checks are being held and patron must bring ticket to office to receive returned check. Mention that you purchased the ticket during the last week and paid by check.
- There will be 3 dates when district office staff will be available in the auditorium lobby to accommodate a volume of returns; if possible, and to reduce the volume of traffic through the school's district office, we are hoping that these dates will cover most of the refunds
 - Friday, December 3, 1-2:00 p.m. prior to elementary concert**
 - Thursdays, December 9 & 16, 6:00-6:45 prior to band and choir concerts**
- If these dates absolutely do not work, patrons are free to call the district office (507-723-4283) and make arrangements to stop in with the ticket for a refund.
- We are hoping that all who wish a ticket refund will consider taking advantage of that opportunity before the end of December. In the rare instance that a patron holds on to a ticket, it can be used as a voucher for a new ticket which will be issued for the production during its new performance dates to be announced later.

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

Postmaster: Dated material
Please Deliver Promptly
Address Service Requested

Calendar Highlights - December 2021

3- SANTA Luncheon
6 - SW MN Men's Chorus Concert
10-11 Nativity Pageant
12 - Sunday School Christmas program
24-25 Christmas Services

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: Simply Clean LLC

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.

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