



2023

***Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises!***

Psalm 98:4

***Joy to the world, the Lord is come
Let Earth receive her King***

***Joy to World
Isaac Watts***

I recently discovered a new word, "Jollification." I am not making the word up. I recently read it in a book, and it's a real word. My computer dictionary defines jollification as lively celebration with others.

Springfield, as a town, and St. Paul's, as a congregation, is good at jollification. We know how to make a joyful noise. I was delighted to see the decorations going up on the city streets. I am excited to witness the Christmas Pageant and to celebrate the Advent and Christmas season in worship and song.

Our Lord calls us to be more than Jolly. He calls us to be Joyful. Joy is not a temporary emotion. It is instead a spiritual reality. The Great Christmas Carol 'Joy to the World' is based on Psalm 98. The Psalmist calls Israel and all the world to rejoice. Why? You find the answer in verse three of the Psalm: (God) has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Joy is based on our salvation, not our situation. This Christmas, you might have your family around you, and you might give and receive all the right gifts, or you might be struggling with life: grieving over the passing of a loved one, dealing with a health issue, missing people who have moved far away. You might not feel very jolly, but you can still be joyful because the Lord God has remembered His faithful love toward you, and you have seen your salvation in the birth of a babe in a manger.

In Hope and Joy,

Pastor Carl

St. Paul Lutheran Church Council Meeting-November 8, 2023

The November meeting was called to order at 7:33 p.m. in Room 101 at the church. Present were Jo Muske, Sarah Groebner, Kim Graff, Kathy Pederson, Denise Gicker, John Mueller, Jacob Marz, Tim Vogel, Randy Wendt, Pastor Carl Billings and Jeff Krueger. Anita Jensen, Financial Secretary, was also present.

Pastor Carl led the group in devotions and prayer.

M/S/P to approve the October Secretary's Report as printed.

M/S/P to approve the Financial Report as printed.

Building and Grounds

- Waiting to hear back from Jeremy Zihlke on repairing the plexiglass covering on one of the windows on the west side of the church. There may have been additional damage due to hail.
- Waiting to hear back from Jeremy Zihlke on options/solutions for the dampness in the space beneath the ramp on the north side of the church.
- Although there was no visible damage to the church during the October hail storm, Sedgwick Claims Management will come out to inspect the church and the parsonage.

Parish Education

- M/S/P to hold the Sunday School Christmas Program on Sunday, December 17 at 10:00 a.m. Rehearsals will begin soon.
- One former adult leader will work with the Luther League this year, but would like one or two more leaders to be a part of leading the group.

Pastor's Report

- Pastoral activities included connecting and introducing himself to the community (fellow pastors, community leaders, Thrivent, Hidden Treasures).
- Wrote article for the Springfield *Advance-Press*.
- Conducted communion for a member of

the congregation.

- Conducted class sessions for upcoming Baptisms in the congregation.
- Conducted the funeral service for Marilyn Kratz on November 8, 2023.
- Working on transition work for the congregation including Transitional Task Force set-up. Possible Task Force Members were discussed. Once organized, they will meet to set up Cottage Meetings for the congregation. The Cottage Meetings will lead to the Call Committee being formed and put into action.
- Will be in the Twin Cities November 12-17 and in Springfield November 17-22, November 25-December 3 and December 9-17.

Old Business

- Fall German Supper on October 25 was a success. Approximately 475 meals were served. Profits expected to be around \$6,400. Thank you to all who helped with the event.
- Organ/Blower remodel—parts have been ordered and the work will take place over 2-3 days sometime in December.
- Staff Reviews will be scheduled in December. Committee is John Mueller, Denise Gicker and Matt Sargent.
- SW Minnesota Men's Chorus Concert at St. Paul's on Monday, December 4 at 7 p.m. Freewill offering will be collected to help cover cost of the group. Refreshments will be served by St. Paul's Adult Choir.
- St. Paul's sanctuary will be used for the Nativity Pageant Choir rehearsals Sunday, November 26 and Sunday, December 3 at 7 p.m. Jeff Krueger is directing the choir this year.

New Business

- Nominating Committee will begin working on the ballot for next year. We will need a new Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Treasurer. Will put announcements in the bulletin and newsletter.
- Budget Committee will need to meet with Anita before the December Council Meeting to set next year's Church Budget. Members of the committee are Jeff Krueger, Tim Vogel, Kurt Glaeseman, Ed Meidl and Pastor Carl.

- Church Christmas decorating by the Council will take place on Sunday afternoon, November 26 and Saturday morning, December 2. Would like everything to be decorated for the December 4 concert.
- Sunday School treat bags will be assembled by the Council Wednesday evening, December 13 at 7 p.m. preceding the December meeting.
- A few furnishing items needed for the parsonage include a lamp and possibly a new bed. The current bed has some issues and will be looked at. M/S/P for Pastor Carl to look for a new bed for the parsonage, not to exceed \$500.
- Discussion regarding reckless driving and noise on the church parking lot. Kathy will talk to Police Chief John Nicholson to find out how the church should handle the issue.
- Discussion on the disbursement of funds for the church from the Marie Weinberger Trust. There is approximately \$75,000 available. A list will be developed.
- Discussion on possible Thanks for the Harvest offering for Thanksgiving. Will look into it. Individual Giving Statements will be out this month.
- Council members were reminded of the pie/dessert social following the Thanksgiving Eve Service Wednesday, November 22. The Council does the serving and kitchen work.

M/S/P to adjourn at 9:28 p.m. We closed with the Lord's Prayer.
Next meeting will be Wednesday, December 13, 2023 at 7:30 p.m.

~Jeff Krueger, Church Council Secretary

Church Leadership Opportunities: The St. Paul Lutheran Church Nominating Committee is seeking members who are willing to serve on the Church Council for 2024 and beyond. This is a great opportunity to have a voice in the church and lead the future. Open positions include Church Vice President, Church Treasurer, and Church Council members. Please contact Katie, Pastor Carl, Denise Gicker, or John Mueller if you are interested in serving in 2024. Thank you to all the current and past church leaders for their service!

2023 Church Council

John Mueller- Chair	Sarah Groebner
Denise Gicker- Vice Chair	Randy Wendt
Jeff Krueger - Secretary	Jacob Marz
Tim Vogel- Treasurer	Kathy Pederson
Kim Graff	Josephine Muske

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... Bob Rogotzke, The Family of Brenda Hunter, The family of Betsy Rogotzke, The family of Bev Beussman, the family of Marilyn Kratz, the family of Marge Wellner, the family of Steve Polkow (Jill Vogel's brother), Gary Buck(Shawna Jacobs' step dad), Marcia Schiller; these LCMC Congregations: Trinity Lutheran Church, Hallock, MN, Trinity Lutheran, Birchwood, WI, Vernes Lutheran Church, Trail, MN, Wang Lutheran Church, Wang, MN, Zion Lutheran Church - Caroline WI, Zion Lutheran Church - Skanee MI, Zion Lutheran, Buffalo Lake, MN 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 or request is renewed.

St Paul Attendance

10/29 9am - 75

11/5 9am - 71

11/12 9am - 94

11/19 9am - 96

11/26 9am - 79

Budget Recap Year-To-Date (01/01/23 to 11/28/23)

Total Funds for Budget	\$155,972.02	Total Operating Funds	\$155,972.02
Budget	\$194,619.36	Operating Exp.	\$182,728.09
Difference	(\$38,647.34)	Difference	(\$26,756.07)

Memorials Given 08/27/23—11/27/23

In Memory:	Designated for:	Given by:
Joyce Wiese	St. Paul Lutheran Church	Daniel Kettner
Joseph Jenniges	Good Shepherd Scholarship Fund	Rod & Rhonda Larson
Ron Robinson	Good Shepherd Scholarship Fund	Rod & Rhonda Larson
Marilyn Kratz:	<u>Designated for Good Shepherd Scholarship Fund:</u> Rod & Rhonda Larson, Jim & Elsie Groebner, Carol Carlson, Family & Friends <u>Designated for St. Paul Lutheran Church:</u> Bob & Sharon Rogotzke, Lucas & Aimee Marz, Audrey Rositzke, Tom & Brenda Reiner, Paul Pieschel, Ed Meidl, Richard & Lios Zihlke, Daniel Kettner, Don & Denise Wellner, Clayton & Deb Beyer <u>Designated for Portals of Prayer:</u> Family & Friends <u>Designated for Music Fund:</u> Family & Friends <u>Baptismal Faith Chests:</u> Family & Friends <u>St Paul Cemetery Fund:</u> Family & Friends, Barry & Barb Johnson, Curt Krieg, Teresa Lang, La Vonne Hauth, Ruth Potter, Bonnie Wells, Frank & Cindy Schnobrich, Lynn & Patricia Story, Tom Anderson, Lois Graff, Lynn Pfarr	
Steve Polkow:	<u>Designated for St Paul General Fund:</u> Gertie Rosenau, Roger & Kelly Sargent, John & Dawn Marz <u>Designated for Good Shepherd Scholarship Fund:</u> Rod & Rhonda Larson	
Margaret Wellner:	<u>Designated for Good Shepherd Scholarship Fund:</u> Rod & Rhonda Larson <u>Designated for St Paul Lutheran Church:</u> Robert & Sharon Rogotzke, Audrey Rositzke, Family & Friends, Daniel Kettner, Dennis & Karen Doran, Michael & Deborah Carroll, Nick & Vicky Meyer, Arlon & Brenda Pless, Dean Wellner, Joe & Carol Nelson, Ed Meidl, Dalores Stern, Karen Weiss, Curt Krieg, Tim & Jill Vogel <u>Designated for St Paul Music Fund:</u> Jeff Krueger	
Beverly Buessman:	<u>Designated for Good Shepherd Scholarship Fund:</u> Rod & Rhonda Larson, Jim & Elsie Groebner, Family & Friends <u>Designated for St Paul Music Fund:</u> Family & Friends <u>Designated for Sunday School Program:</u> Randy & Kara Platz <u>Designated for St Paul Lutheran Church:</u> Audrey Rositzke, Tom & Brenda Reiner, Richard & Lois Zihlke, Tim & Jill Vogel, Daniel Kettner, Steve & Judith Schotzko, Ed Meidl, Don & Denise Wellner, Judy Weedman, Kurt & Mary Glaeseman, Gertie Rosenau, Roger & Kelly Sargent, John & Dawn Marz, Bob & Sharon Rogotzke, Family & Friends	

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!



December 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 9:00 Worship 10:00 Sunday School 10:00 Coffee Talk 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast	4 7:00 pm SW MN Men's Chorus Christmas Concert	5 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	6 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast 6:30 pm Parish Ed Meeting 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	7	8 2:00 pm BINGO @SJLH	9
10 9:00 Worship 10:00 Sunday School 10:00 Coffee Talk 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast	11	12 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	13 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast 7:00 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 Church Council Meeting	14	15	16
17 10:00 Sunday School Christmas Program 11:00 Coffee Talk	18	19 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	20 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	21	22	23
24 9:00 Worship 10:00 Coffee Talk 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast 6:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship 8:00 pm Ch. 8 Broad- cast Christmas Eve	25 9:00 am Ch. 8 Broadcast Christmas Eve Service	26 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	27 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	28	29	30
31 9:00 Worship 10:00 Sunday School 10:00 Coffee Talk 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast						

* Indicates Choir Singing.

Worship Service Helpers

Date	Sound & Video	Reader	Acolyte	Usher	Organist
12/3 9 am	John Mueller Ashtyn Rudolph	Daniel Kettner	Bentley Wendt Blake Zihlke	Team 4	Jo Schwartz
12/10* 9 am	Paul & Jonah	Jordan Pidde	Grace Jacobs Molly Jacobs	Team 1	Jo Schwartz
12/17 10 am	John Mueller	Jo Muske	Hayden Gluth Ashtyn Rudolph	Team 2	Jeff Krueger
12/24 9 am	Tim Vogel	Mel Vogel	Gabby Schenk Brooklyn Anderson	Team 3	Jo Schwartz
12/24* 6 pm	John Mueller Ashtyn Rudolph	Kurt Glaeseman	Randee Dombek Abbygail Jeppesen	Team 4	Jeff Krueger
12/31 9 am	John Mueller Ashtyn Rudolph	Jeanette Pidde	Jenna Shaw Abigail Shaw	Team 1	Jeff Krueger

December Altar Guild

Rhonda Larson & Ashley Cook

Usher Teams

- 1 - Don Bloemke, John 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

WE COULD ALWAYS USE MORE USHER VOLUNTEERS!!

December Birthdays!



December Anniversaries!



Save the Date!

Sunday, February 4th – Annual Meeting

We have a great need for Altar Guild help!

Please consider helping this group so the same people don't end up having to set up communion for 3 months straight. With enough help, teams will only need to be responsible for 2-4 Sunday's a year.
Please talk to Katie in the office if you can help!



We need 2 volunteers for BINGO on December 8th at 2:00 pm.
Please let Katie know if you can help out!

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

SW Minnesota Men's Chorus holiday concert December 4

The Southwest Minnesota Men's Chorus will return to Springfield as part of its Christmas concert series on Monday, December 4. The holiday concert will begin at 7:00 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 303 North Cass in Springfield. A variety of secular and religious selections will be on the program. Refreshments will be served following the concert.

Springfield residents in the SW Minnesota Men's Chorus are Charles Tews, Gary Renner and Jeff Krueger. Other area residents include Nathan Hesse from Comfrey and Jim Gode from Sanborn. Wendy Johnson, Tracy, is the chorus director.

There is no admission charge for the concert. The performance is part of a series of Christmas concerts with performances on Saturday, December 2 in Currie, Sunday, December 3 in Lamberton and Tuesday, December 5 in Tracy.

Springfield Nativity Pageant set for December 8-9 By Jeff Krueger, Springfield Advance-Press

The Christmas story is one of "good news and great joy" and that beautiful story will be retold in a live Nativity Pageant December 8-9 in Springfield. The pageant will be performed under the stars with one performance at 7:00 p.m. each evening.

The Springfield Area Nativity Theatre Association uses The Christmas Story according to St. Luke. In this familiar story, Mary and Joseph travel from Nazareth to Bethlehem. Because there was no room in the inn, the baby Jesus is born in a stable and placed in a manger. His humble birth is celebrated by choirs of angels and shepherds and He is given precious gifts by the Magi.

The pageant includes Christmas carols and stable scenes with an all-local cast including a family with a baby, a live manger scene with camels and a live community choir. Professional sound and lighting systems enhance the production and large painted backdrops recreate the Biblical aura.

Alexis Huiras and Jesse Deibele and their son, Oliver, will portray Mary, Joseph and Baby Jesus in this year's Nativity Pageant.

The Nativity Pageant will be presented on the east parking lot of the Springfield Area Community Center. There will be ample parking and easy accessibility for motorists and pedestrians. Portable bleachers will be set up for spectators. The pageant time is approximately 40 minutes. Visitors are encouraged to dress warmly and comfortably for cold weather conditions.

The pageant, voted the "Best of Minnesota Live Nativity" by WCCO television viewers in 2017, is presented free of charge—a gift from the Springfield community.

Visitors are invited to join the pageant cast and crew for holiday refreshments in the community center following performances.

The Springfield Area Nativity Theatre Association (SANTA) is the official sponsor of the event, with volunteers from all Springfield churches participating.

SANTA BAKE SALE FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8

The annual Bake Sale supporting the Nativity Pageant will be held on Friday, December 8 at a new location—6 East in Springfield. The sale will begin at 10:00 a.m. and go until sold out or 12:00 noon. Proceeds from the sale go to the Nativity Pageant. It allows the pageant to be presented free of charge each year.

Donations of goodies and cookies would be appreciated for the sale. Donations can be dropped off at 6 East Thursday, December 7 from 6:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. or Friday, December 8 after 6:30 a.m.

St. John's Circle of Care will be collecting Christmas Gifts for residents!

Watch the Narthex for the gift tags to be available!

Each package contains instructions, a bow, a gift tag, and gift ideas. All gifts should be returned to church or St. John's Home. 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!!

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

Postmaster: Dated material
Please Deliver Promptly
Address Service Requested

Calendar Highlights - December 2023

4 - SW MN Men's Chorus Christmas Concert

8 - BINGO @ SJLH

8-9 - Live Nativity Pageant

17 - Children's Christmas Program

24 - Christmas Eve Worship

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: Steve Lyle

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

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