



## The Art of Waiting

*That the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. <sup>22</sup> For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. <sup>23</sup> And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. <sup>24</sup> For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? <sup>25</sup> But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.*

**Romans 8:24-25**

The average person spends over six months of their life waiting in line. And over a month waiting on hold for customer service. Those two statements are internet facts, so take them with at least a grain of salt. Whether the above two facts are entirely true or not, we do a great deal of waiting in our lifetimes. We wait in line and on the phone. We wait for relatives to arrive and for a spouse to get ready so we can leave. We wait to see the doctor and the dentist. We do a lot of waiting.

This time of year, the waiting intensifies as we wait for Christmas. Children can hardly wait until that special day. Parents often have that same excitement as they anticipate their children's response. You might be waiting to see someone's reaction to a gift you have bought them. Or you might just be waiting for all the hoopla and hullabaloo to be over, so you can return to your normal schedule.

The season of Advent is all about waiting, and not just waiting to celebrate Christmas, but rather, the type of waiting that Paul talks about in the eighth chapter of Romans. Underneath all our normal everyday waiting is a profound desire you might be unaware of. It is the desire for the creation and our lives to be set right. The fulfillment of that desire, whether we know it or not, is what all of us are waiting for. It is the hope of the Gospel.

But how, as Paul says, do we wait for it with patience? We can learn from the Old Testament prophets how to wait. They can teach us attitudes that help us wait with patience, whether that waiting is mundane or profound.

This Advent the sermon series is, "What Are You Waiting For, attitudes and habits from the Old Testament Prophets to help us wait." I can't wait to start it.

Be Hope filled, Stay Strong, and God Bless  
Pastor Carl

**St. Paul Lutheran Church  
Council Meeting  
November 13, 2024**

Chairman Paul Muske called the meeting to order at 7:50 p.m. on Wednesday, November 13. Members present were Paul Muske, Jeff Krueger, Jacob Marz, Kim Graff, Angel Rummel, Randy Wendt, Kathy Pederson, Sarah Groebner and Pastor Carl. Kelly Sargent was absent. Parish Coordinator Katie Mueller was also present.

Pastor Carl led the group in prayer.

M/S/P to accept the Consent Agenda.

M/S/P to approve the Secretary's Report of the October 9, 2024 meeting.

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

**Pastor's Report**

- Conducted two pre-Baptism meetings.
- Conducted three baptisms on November 10 for Addison & Briella Thompson and Kentyn Salonek.
- Conducted new member orientation for two families.
- Conducted funerals for Sharon Rogotzke and Greg Jensen.
- Conducted two in-home communions.
- Teaching Confirmation classes for St. Paul's and St. Johns students. They are now studying the ten commandments.
- Continuing to conduct worship services at St. Johns Church. Also doing pastoral care for those activities that intersect with the worship service at the church.

**Parish Education**

- Sunday School room updates continue to be worked on.
- Sunday School Christmas Program is set for December 15. Parts will be handed out on November 17. Rehearsals will be November 24 and December 8. There will be no Sunday School December 1 due to the Thanksgiving holiday.
- Plans are in the works for a combined Luther League youth group with St. Johns Church. Shawna Jacobs (St. Paul's) and Brenda

Anderson (St. Johns) will be leaders.

- The Luther League checkbook needs to be set up with two signers on record at the bank. M/S/P to remove current signers and have Shawna Jacobs and Katie Mueller be the new signers of the checkbook at this time.

**Old Business**

- Sue Hendrickson gave an update on revitalizing the local thrift store. It will be called Community Treasures and will operate as a 501(c)(3) business.
- Parsonage window replacement has been ordered and painting will be done in the spring. Photos and estimates were sent to the insurance company.
- The outside church doors on the south side of the church will need to be refinished in the spring. Will ask Al if he would like to do the job or have us hire someone to complete it.
- It was noted that some of the brickwork around and above the south doors needs to be cleaned up with a pressure washer in the spring.
- The Call Committee has been meeting. They have scheduled Zoom Calls/Interviews with two perspective candidates in the near future.
- M/S/P to accept the snow removal quotes for the church and parsonage by Saw Works, Inc.
- M/S/P to set the Christmas Eve service at 6:00 p.m. December 24.
- Thanksgiving Eve Service will be at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, November 27. St. Johns Church will join us. There will be a dessert potluck following. Church Council members were asked to help with serving and clean-up.
- Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service and Dinner will be November 24 at 5:00 p.m. at Community Center. St. Paul's will furnish buns and butter for the dinner. Everyone is asked to bring a dessert or salad to share at the meal. Volunteers are needed that day at 1:00 p.m. to help set up the Center for the service and dinner.

**New Business**

- Staff reviews will be scheduled in December. Paul asked for some volunteers to serve on the committee. Kathy Pederson agreed to be part of it.
- Nominating Committee will need to begin meeting. Katie will get list ready of who will be needed for the Church Council positions. Paul asked for volunteers for the committee.

- Budget Committee will begin meeting. Members are Kelly Sargent, Anita Jensen, Ed Meidl and Kurt Glaeseman. Jeff Krueger volunteered to be Council rep on Budget Committee.
- M/S/P to decorate the church for Christmas immediately following the 9:00 a.m. worship service December 1.
- M/S/P to assemble the Sunday School treat bags at 7 p.m. Wednesday, December 11.
- Kathy reported that eight shut-ins were visited in October and November by St. Paul's shut-in committee. The Church Council will assist with the December visits on Sunday, December 22. A small gift will be part of each visit.
- M/S/P to hold the Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 2, 2025, following the 9 a.m. worship service.
- A letter was read from LCMC with an appeal for additional funding from the member congregations. Pastor Carl will get some more information regarding this and report at the December meeting.
- We have been having problems with pastor's body mike used at worship services. The cost to make repairs was more than a brand-new microphone. M/S/P to purchase a new microphone that is compatible to our sound system.
- Jeff inquired on thoughts regarding the Praise Service format being used the second Sunday of the month of each month. The general consensus was that everyone liked them and thought the change was good.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer. M/S/P to adjourn at 8:40 p.m.  
 Next meeting will be Wednesday, December 11 at 7:45 p.m.

~by Jeff Krueger, Council Secretary

**2024 Church Council**

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

**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](mailto:stpaul_lutheran@hotmail.com)

"St Paul's Cares" meals are in the kitchen freezer. The meals are each labeled with a post card message and prayer on the front and cooking instruction on the back of the card. The idea is that any member of St. Paul's may take a meal and deliver it to someone who could use it. Some examples would be during an illness or death, welcoming a new baby home, enduring some hardship, etc. Thanks to the use of a Thrivent Action Team card, we have been able to provide this service to our community. Please let Katie know if you have any questions.

**Church Leadership Opportunities:** The St. Paul Lutheran Church Nominating Committee is seeking members who are willing to serve on the Church Council for 2025 and beyond. This is a great opportunity to have a voice in the church and lead the future. Open positions include Church President, Vice President, Council Secretary, and several general Council members. Please contact Katie, Pastor Carl, or Paul Muske if you are interested in serving in 2025. Thank you to all the current and past church leaders for their service!

St Paul Attendance

11/3 9am - 123      11/10 9am - 102      11/17 9am - 86      11/24 9 am - 96  
 11/24 5 pm - 160 Ecumenical Thanksgiving

Budget Recap Year-To-Date (01/01/24 to 11/26/24)

Total Funds for Budget	\$172,453.64	Total Operating Funds	\$172,453.64
Budget	\$208,108.08	Operating Exp.	\$190,304.32
Difference	(\$35,648.44)	Difference	(\$17,850.68)

**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.

Memorials Given 10/17/2024 - 11/25/2024

<b>In Memory:</b>	<b>Given by:</b>	<b>Designated for:</b>
David Schiller	Daniel Kettner	St. Paul Lutheran Church
Sharon Rogotzke	Audrey Rositzke	St. Paul Cemetery Fund
	Richard & Lois Zihlke	St. Paul Lutheran Church
	Jim & Deb Miesen	St. Paul Lutheran Church
	John & Katie Mueller	St. Paul Lutheran Church
	Audrey Rieck	St. Paul Lutheran Church
	Jerry & Cheryl Diede	St. Paul Lutheran Church
	Ed Meidl	St. Paul Lutheran Church
	Roger & Kelly Sargent	St. Paul Lutheran Church
	Gertie Rosenau	St. Paul Lutheran Church
	Kurt & Mary Glaeseman	St. Paul Lutheran Church
	Tim & Jill Vogel	St. Paul Lutheran Church
	Jeff & Stacey Weisensel	Good Shepherd Scholarship Fund
Greg Jensen	Roger & Kelly Sargent	St. Paul Lutheran Church
Elizabeth Vanderwerf	Family of Elizabeth	St. Paul Lutheran Church
Yvonne Loomis	Richard & Lois Zihlke	St. Paul Lutheran Church

Please pray for... Doug Rositzke, Dale Peterson, Pastor Maurice Hagen; 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.

**Our worship services are live broadcast on YouTube! Just subscribe to our YouTube Channel by going to [www.youtube.com](http://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 2024

\* Indicates Choir Singing.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	9:00 Worship 10:00 Christmas Decorating 10:00 Coffee Talk 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast 5:00 pm Nativity Choir Rehearsal @ Community Center	2 6:30 pm Parish Ed Meeting	3 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	4 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast 6:15-7:15 Confirmation @ St. Johns 7:15 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 7:15 p.m. Luther League	5 5:00 p.m. Nativity Pageant Rehearsal	6 7:00 p.m. Nativity Pageant	7 7:00 p.m. Nativity Pageant
8	*9:00 Worship 10:00 Christmas Program Practice 10:00 Coffee Talk 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast 7:00 p.m. SWMN Men's Concert @ St. Johns	9	10 10:00 am Worship at SJLH 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	11 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast 6:15-7:15 Confirmation @ St. Johns 7:00 p.m. Pack Children's Treat Bags 7:15 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 7:45 Council Meeting	12	13 11:00 S.A.N.T.A. Luncheon & Cookie Sale	14
15	10:00 Children's Christmas Program 11:00 Coffee Talk 12:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast	16	17 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	18 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast No Confirmation 7:15 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	19	20	21
22	9:00 Worship 10:00 Coffee Talk 10:00 a.m. Shut-Ins Christmas Visits 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast	23	24 <b>6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship</b> 8:00 p.m. Ch. 8 Broadcast	25 Office Closed 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast No Confirmation No Choir Rehearsal	26	27	28
29	9:00 Worship 10:00 Coffee Talk 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast	30	31 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	1 January 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast No Confirmation No Choir Rehearsal	St. Paul Lutheran Church, 303 N Cass Ave, Springfield, MN 56087 Church Telephone: 507-723-5880 www.spicspringfield.org stpaul_lutheran@hotmail.com		

\* Indicates Choir Singing.

## Worship Service Helpers

Date	Sound & Video	Projection	Reader	Acolyte	Usher	Organist
12/1	Groebner Boys	Groebner Boys	Daniel Kettner	Abigail Shaw Leo Kral	Team 4	Jo Schwartz
12/8	Trevor Krebs	Mueller Family	Jordan Pidde	Bobbi Jo Timm Reagan Plaster	Team 1	Jeff Krueger
12/15	Dove Family	Dove Family	Jo Muske	Ali Trapp Adalyn Rudolph	Team 2	Jeff Krueger
12/22	Mueller Family	Mueller Family	Mel Vogel	Abbygail Jeppesen Rylyn Marz	Team 3	Jo Schwartz
12/24	Tim Vogel	Jacobs Family	Kurt Glaeseman	Blake Zihlke Ellie Jensen	Team 4	Jeff Krueger
12/29	Trevor Krebs	Mueller Family	Brittany Cook	Molly Jacobs Cash Anderson	Team 2	Jo Schwartz

**December Altar Guild**  
Mueller Family, Jena Veenstra









### 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

### December Birthdays!

									
	6 - Gene Thorston								
	6 - Beverly Thorston								
	9 - Tenleigh Salonek								
	12 - Piper Zihlke								
	13 - Crissy Rogotzke								
	13 - Hunter Jeppesen								
	13 - Samantha Salonek								
	15 - Lauren Steinhaus								
	17 - Wyatt Mueller								
	18 - Hayden Gluth								
	18 - Dustin Trapp								
	18 - Courtney Wendt								
	19 - Jeanette Pidde								
	19 - Lilith Serie								
	23 - Robert Anderson								
	23 - Robin Groebner								
	24 - Alex Larson								
	26 - Mary Jeppesen								
	27 - Amber Meidl								
	27 - Randee Dombek								
	30 - Gavin Brown								
	30 - Mary Glaeseman								
	31 - Kay Hagert								

### December Anniversaries!

										
	8 - Dustin & Tiffany Trapp - 17 Years									
	14 - Larry & Ruth Potter - 61 Years									
	19 - Doug & LuAnn Gatzlaff - 14 years									
										

We need 2 volunteers for BINGO on  
December 13th at 2:00 pm.  
Please let Katie know if you  
can help out!



Springfield's 38<sup>th</sup> Annual

# Nativity Pageant

Friday, Dec. 6 & Saturday, Dec. 7  
7:00 p.m.

**Springfield Area Community Center Grounds**  
Pageant is 40 minutes ~ Bleacher Seating available

Pageant Hospitality in the Community Center, following each performance

No admission charge, a gift from the Springfield Area Nativity Theatre Association and the community of Springfield

The Springfield Area Nativity Theatre Association (SANTA) Board of Directors are busy planning for Springfield's thirty-sixth annual Nativity Pageant. The pageant will be held Friday, December 6 and Saturday, December 7 at 7:00 p.m. on the east parking lot of the Springfield Area Community Center.

**We are still looking for shepherds, scribes, a slave, townspeople, and someone to help dress the cast members.**

Our next live nativity choir rehearsal is Sunday, December 1 at 5:00 p.m. at the Community Center. Questions about the choir may be directed to Jeff Krueger, director.

St. John's Circle of Care is collecting Christmas gifts for residents! If you would like to adopt a resident at St. John's Circle of Care this Christmas please pick up a bag located in the narthex. Each bag contains a bow and a tag with gender and gift ideas for each resident. 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 your church by Wednesday, December 18th. 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 return to Springfield as part of its Christmas concert series on Sunday, December 8. The holiday concert will begin at 7:00 p.m. at St. John Lutheran Church, 224 North Mary Avenue in Springfield. A variety of secular and religious selections will be on the program. 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 is the chorus director. Kirstie Malmberg and Jodi Dalsgaard are accompanists.

There is no admission charge for the concert. The performance is part of a series of Christmas concerts with other performances in Currie, Lamberton and Lucan.

SANTA COOKIE SALE AND LUNCHEON will be held Friday, December 13 at 11:00 a.m. at the Springfield Area Community Center. A luncheon will feature hot roast beef sandwiches, chips, pasta salad, pickles and beverage.

SANTA is also looking for donations to holiday cookies, candies and treats for the bake sale. Please bring cookies to Springfield Community Center, Thursday December 12 from 8:00am - 8:00pm or 8:00am-9:30am Friday, December 13. **2 people are needed to help price the cookies December 12th at 7pm.**

Cookie sale will start at 11:00am Friday. Proceeds from the bake sale and luncheon benefit the Nativity Pageant, now in its 36<sup>th</sup> year.

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

Postmaster: Dated material  
Please Deliver Promptly  
Address Service Requested

**Calendar Highlights - December 2024**

6-7 - Nativity pageant  
8 - SWMN Men's Christmas Concert  
13 - SANTA Luncheon & Cookie Sale  
15 - 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](mailto:stpaul_lutheran@hotmail.com)

Housekeeping: Mary Jo Simonson

Maintenance: Al Groebner

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.

**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](http://www.splcspringfield.org)