

February

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Perhaps you've heard horror stories about the terrible damage caused by identity theft. We work hard to protect our social security, credit card, and bank account numbers. We shred our financial papers. We keep a close eye on our purses. We might even sign up for identity protection services to protect against financial loss.

In the waters of baptism, Christ gives us our identity as children of God. His Father becomes our Father. The Father speaks to us the promise spoken to Jesus at his baptism in Luke 3:22, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

Once this promise is spoken, the devil immediately sets to work to steal our identity, so we forget who we are and whose we are. The devil especially likes to attack us during times of misfortune, when we are at our weakest. When we lose our job, when our health is threatened, when our family is breaking apart, when addiction wreaks havoc: this is when the devil tries to draw us into despair. During this time of pandemic, the devil considers us ripe for the picking!

In our suffering we are left asking, "If you really love me, Father, why are you allowing this to happen? Don't you care?" We may begin to assume, "I must not be the beloved child of God but forsaken by God."

Alternately the devil may tempt us with prosperity, drawing us into pride and self-sufficiency. He steals our identities as beloved child of God, offering instead identities based on riches, power, authority, honor, pleasure, or control over others. Such identities might be self-made man, pillar of the community, or Supermom. Our identities are then based upon what we do, not whose we are.

The devil can find some success in stealing our God-given identities, simply because we cannot (and in fact do not want to) believe that God's good pleasure comes apart from our actions. But the thing is that Jesus didn't come into the world for those who have it all together. As Jesus said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick." Jesus didn't come for those who are winning the fight against temptation, because such a person does not exist. He came for the losers. Robert Farrar Capon wrote, "Grace doesn't sell; you can hardly give it away, because it only works for the losers and no one want to stand in their line."

For your sake, Jesus held fast to his Father's promise, resisting the devil's temptation. Unlike us, Jesus knew who he was and who's he was. Jesus is the Son of God, the beloved, with whom God is well-pleased. Jesus lived out that identity by doing the will of his Father for us. He humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death-- even death on a cross. Jesus bore our sins in his body on the cross and defeated them to set us free.

In your baptism, through Christ's death and resurrection, you were adopted by God. Your true identity - now and forever more - is beloved child of God, and it will never be stolen from you. God the Father is pleased with you for Jesus' sake.

In Christian love,

Pr. Tricia

St. Paul Lutheran Church—Church Council Meeting - January 13, 2021 at 7:45 p.m.

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

Present on Zoom: Anita Jensen (Financial Secretary), Shawna Jacobs, Doug Jeske, Craig Valentin, Angel Clemon,

Also Present: Katie Mueller-Church Coordinator

Absent: All accounted for

Call to order 7:46pm with a M/S/P the agenda by Paul Muske

Devotion-Pastor

M/S/P-Secretary's report

M/S/P-Financial Report

The PPP loan has been forgiven.

Will look into the future loan, but doubt we qualify.

Giving statements will be going out in the mail next week.

Surplus from 2020

M/S/P-add to the annual meeting options for the allocation of the stimulus/CARES Act funds.

Prairie Plans portfolio summary presented by John Mueller

M/S/P-to accept the portfolio report from John Mueller and to include it in the annual meeting report.

Anita also reports we have a savings account (\$34,268) and CD (\$26,805) at Red Rock Bank.

Buildings and Grounds

Parsonage basement

Miesen's flooring has been picked out. Jim to meet to get final measurements

Painting-Pastor and Katie picked out paint. Jim will notify when it is ready-should be any day.

Trim around the windows will be complete once the painting is complete.

Parsonage Roof Tabled until Spring

Parish Education

M/S/P- to approve the request to purchase 3 more thermometers-making 1 per classroom. Amazon has for approx. \$20 each.

M/S/P-to amend Covid policy: Temperature checking will happen at the classroom rather than at the church entrance.

M/S/P-to approve Luther League outdoor trip to Mount Kato, assuming they maintain appropriate Covid procedures.

Pastor's report

Visitation

Visitation with members in their homes, one at the nursing home, and one on Facetime.

Calling our elder members to pray.

Able to do SJLH visits again on 1/14/21.

Worship

Presided at two Christmas Eve services and a Christmas Day service.

Confirmation

Happy to be meeting in person again! Teaching on the Apostle's Creed.

Parish Education

Attended the Parish Ed Meeting on 12/4.

Teaching the 7th & 8th Grade Sunday school.

Leading bible study on Tuesday nights at 6:00 p.m.

Community

Submitted the article "Jesus is making you ready" to the Advanced Press on 12/9.

Submitted the article "Christmas Peace" to the Advanced Press

Old Business

Covid-19 issues

M/S/P-to resume Communion on the 1st and 3rd Sundays.

Staff review/Christmas Gifts

Did not complete face to face reviews

Recommend to include in the budget a 3% raise across the board for all staff.

Consider someone to work with/cross-train with Ed: daily, weekly, monthly, annual tasks; as well as updating a job description.

M/S/P-to include in the budget 3% raise for all staff in the 2021 budget for the annual meeting.

M/S/P-to approve Christmas gifts for the staff, \$50 Chamber bucks.

Upgrade to recording/live broadcasting-Randy to run wiring. He will connect with Ed when he is ready to run the wire. This expense will come from Memorial Fund.

Nominating committee report- Matt Sargent, Tim Vogel, Daniel Kettner

Need 1 more person for either Vice Chair or Council chair position.

Need a St. John's rep to the board.

Need ballot for Annual meeting

Budget committee report-Pastor, Anita, Shawna, Craig, Kurt, Ed

M/S/P-to approve the proposed budget with the update to the payroll (3% increase)

New Business

Audit Committee to meet-Jeanette Pidde, Jo Schwartz, and Nancy Renner

Annual Meeting-All Committee reports due to Katie by Friday, January 15, 2021

Annual Meeting Agenda

Report on the Parsonage Basement.

Annual meeting will be held in the sanctuary on January 31st 2021.

M/S/P- to approve the agenda for the annual meeting.

Ingham Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp

Visit: Will be reviewed with Parish Ed

Potential Options

Meet individually with each classroom

Potentially meet as a closing in the sanctuary

Lenten Kid/Teen packs

M/S/P- purchase Lent Camp Packs for Youth from Ingham Okoboji Camp for the Sunday school children.

Motion to adjourn 8:52pm with the Lord's Prayer

Church Council Secretary

Shawna Jacobs

*The Annual Meeting will be on Sunday, January 31st, immediately following the 9 am worship service.

*Installation of the 2021 Church Council will be on Sunday, February 14th, during the 9:00 am Worship Service.

St Paul Attendance

1/3/21 9am - 24

1/10/21 9am - 35

1/17/21 9am - 51

1/24/21 9am - 19

Budget Recap Year-To-Date (01/01/21 to 1/25/21)

Total Funds for Budget	\$4,731.00	Total Operating Funds	\$4,731.00
<u>Budget</u>	<u>\$13,670.24</u>	<u>Operating Exp.</u>	<u>\$8,294.20</u>
Difference	(\$8,939.24)	Difference	(\$3,563.20)

Memorials Given From 12/27/20 to 01/24/21

In Memory:	Given by:	Designated for:
Norman Krebs	Richard & Lois Zihlke	St. Paul Lutheran Church
	Ed Meidl	St. Paul Lutheran Church
	M & N Schmidt	St. Paul Lutheran Church
	Larry & Ruth Potter	St. Paul Lutheran Church
Judy Moritz	Jeff & Stacey Weisensel	Good Shepherd Scholarship Fund
Lorraine Hellickson	Jeff & Stacey Weisensel	Good Shepherd Scholarship Fund
Lenore Krueger	Larry & Ruth Potter	St. Paul Lutheran Church
	John & Katie Mueller	St. Paul Lutheran Church
	Rod & Rhonda Larson	Good Shepherd Scholarship Fund
Hazel Meinert	Larry & Ruth Potter	St. Paul Lutheran Church
Ralph Petersen	Larry & Ruth Potter	St. Paul Lutheran Church
	Rod & Rhonda Larson	Good Shepherd Scholarship Fund
Romona Toll	Rod & Rhonda Larson	Good Shepherd Scholarship Fund

Please pray for... The family of John Gluth, June Wendt, Crissy Rogotzke, 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 DollarsSM, 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.

February 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 3:00 pm The Maples Bible Study 6:30 pm Parish Ed Meeting	2 No Bible Study 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast Pastor on Vacation	3 10:00 am Ch. 8 Broadcast 6:30 Confirmation	4	5 Office Closed	6
7 9:00 Worship Ingham Okoboji Bible Camp Visit 10:10 Sunday School 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast Pastor on Vacation	8	9 6:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	10 10:00 am Ch. 8 Broadcast 6:30 Confirmation 7:45 Council Meeting	11	12 Office Closed	13
14 9:00 Worship Installation of Council 10:10 Sunday School 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast	15	16 6:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	17 Ash Wednesday No Confirmation 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Worship 8:30 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast of Ash Wednesday Worship	18	19 Office Closed	20
21 9:00 Worship 10:10 Sunday School 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast	22 2:00 Downtown Estimates HC 3:00 pm The Maples Bible Study	23 6:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	24 6:30 pm Lenten Worship 6:30 Confirmation 8:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast of Lenten Worship	25	26 Office Closed	27
28 9:00 Worship 10:10 Sunday School 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast						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.

February Birthdays!

- 1 - Don Wilstermann
- 2 - Donna Wersal
- 2 - Chase Veenstra
- 3 - Ellen Amsden
- 3 - Brendon Buerkle
- 4 - Braxton Brown
- 4 - Jacob Gatzlaff
- 5 - Kim Gluth
- 7 - Claytina Rudolph
- 7 - Brian Timm
- 8 - Colleen Meidl
- 10 - Dale Danielson
- 10 - Gabriella Schenk
- 14 - Austin Hagert
- 14 - Paul Meidl
- 16 - William Vogel
- 16 - Tayte Zihlke
- 19 - Troy Gramentz
- 21 - Dalton Langseth
- 21 - Jena Veenstra
- 21 - Adalyn Rudolph
- 23 - Angel Clemon
- 23 - Ardella Wilstermann
- 23 - Richard Zihlke
- 23 - Leon Serie
- 27 - Duane Streich

February Anniversaries!

26 - Gary & Nancy Renner - 16 years

February Altar Guild
Kelly Sargent, Dawn Marz

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

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

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 be on the 1st and 3rd Sunday's or you may 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.

Our Lenten Services begin with Ash Wednesday, February 17, 2021 with a 7:00 p.m. worship service.
Wednesday's February 24-March 24, services will be at 6:30 p.m.

Confirmation class will follow worship.



SPRINGFIELD AREA FOOD SHELF UPDATE

The Springfield Area Food Shelf now has a dedicated phone number, 507-723-3663.
Please leave a message with your name and number for someone to return your call.

Orders must be placed over the phone.

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

If you want groceries Tuesday night, call between 8 am—3pm that day.

For Thursday morning groceries, call Wednesday and leave your name and number.

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

Please call 507-723-3663.

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



St. John's Circle of Care Annual Meeting will take place

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2021, at 5:30 p.m.

at the Springfield Community Center's Parkview room.

Masks will be required for this meeting.

St. John's Delegates and interested parties are welcome to attend.

The Administrator's report can be found on pages 14-15 in our annual report.



St. Johns Lutheran Church will be hosting a blood drive on

Friday, February 26th from 12 - 6 p.m.

(Location) - 224 Mary Avenue-Springfield.

Please register on-line at redcross.org

St. Raphael Church

Grab and Go Pulled Pork meal

Saturday, February 6, 2021

4:45 pm—7:00 pm

St. Raphael Church Gathering Space

\$5.00 per meal ~ Meal includes:

Pulled pork sandwich, chips and cookie.

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

Postmaster: Dated material
Please Deliver Promptly
Address Service Requested

Calendar Highlights - February 2021

7-Ingham Okoboji Bible Camp Visits
14-Installation of 2021 Church Council
17-Ash Wednesday
24-Lenten Worship

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.

*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
507-723-3663