

February

2022

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

In Luke 4:31-44 an incident is described in which a man who had the spirit of an unclean demon confronts Jesus in a synagogue on the Sabbath. Saying, "Be silent and come out of him!" Jesus overcame the spirit with a powerful word and cast him out of the man.

Many scholars deny the reality of this encounter as it is presented in the Scriptures. They believe that demoniacs are people who were afflicted with some mental disease or were perhaps lunatics or epileptics. They concur that their afflictions were not of a spiritual condition inflicted by the evil one but were instead merely a mental or physical condition. They assume that ancient people were ignorant about such things, whereas modern people, through scientific study, have since gained greater understanding.

This presents a more serious situation, because Jesus either knew or did not know that these were not demoniacs. If he did not know their real condition, then we have a Savior who was as ignorant as were the people of his day. And if he did know that these were not demoniacs yet acted as if they were, then we have a Savior who could act a lie. Some suppose that Jesus accommodated himself to the views of the people in order to help these sufferers, but this denies his omnipotent power as the Son of God and thus brings him down to the level of modern "healers." Nor can anyone show why Jesus and his better knowledge would not enlighten at least his chosen disciples but left them, as is supposed, under the old delusion. The fact is that Jesus never lowered himself to any falsehood whatsoever, no matter how widely or strongly it was held. Jesus is the Way, the *Truth*, and the Life.

While reports of demonic possession is more commonly reported on the continent of Africa, it also happens here in the United States. Leviticus 19:31 warns, "Do not turn to mediums or necromancers; do not seek them out, and so make yourselves unclean by them: I am the LORD your God." Yet people experiment with Voodoo magic, tarot cards, psychics, mediums, fortune-tellers, and other things of the occult, unwittingly open themselves up to demonic spirits. Approximately 15% of Americans have used the services of a psychic, medium, or fortune-teller. But when people experience unexplainable phenomenon after exposure to the occult, they simply do not know where to turn - fearful that they will not be believed or be thought insane.

If someone is experiencing a spiritual attack on their person or in their home, they should speak to their local pastor. The power of Jesus name attached to the preaching of the Word and the administration of the Sacraments are bulwarks of protection for the Christian who struggles under demonic and spiritual attack. Though we provide corporate Confession and Absolution in our weekly services, those who face severe spiritual oppression may find greater help in individual Confession and Absolution. This one-on-one ministry is particularly helpful in battling the evil one who knows how to create doubt in sinners, especially those who are plagued with despair. Hearing the direct forgiveness of sins gives comfort and strengthens faith.

The importance of Holy Baptism for one who is in spiritual danger cannot be overstated. Baptism is our protection, hope, and promise. When we are baptized, the name of the triune God has been added to the water, and we are made children of God. We belong to God, and our Lord will not allow the devil or his demons to snatch us away from him.

While Jesus' spiritual presence is promised whenever his Word is proclaimed, in his Holy Supper the Christian is connected to the bodily presence of Jesus. In the sacrament, the child of God receives the true body and true blood of Jesus in and under the bread and wine. Christ comes to live in us through this sacrament. It is this very body and blood given and shed upon the cross that defeated sin, death, and the devil. The Lord's Supper is the sustaining gift of Jesus' presence for the forgiveness of sins.

Where these three gifts - Absolution, Holy Baptism, and the Lord's Supper- exist, Satan cannot bear to remain. Join us each Sunday as war is waged against the powers of darkness in the name of Jesus Christ!

In Christian love,
Pr. Tricia Mattson

St. Paul Lutheran Church—Church Council Meeting - January 12, 2021 at 7:45 p.m.

Vice-Chairman Bill Vogel called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m. in Room 101. Members present were Dave Bittler, Angel Clemon, Jeff Krueger Bill Vogel and Tim Vogel. Also present was Katie Mueller, Parish Coordinator, Anita Jensen, Financial Secretary and John Mueller. Pastor Tricia was present via Zoom. Matt Sargent, Doug Jeske and Craig Valentin were absent.

Pastor Tricia led the group in a prayer.

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

John Mueller, of Prairie Plans, presented the church's Investment Portfolio Summary for 2021. He predicts that 2022 will be more volatile than 2021.

St. Paul's received a gift from the William and Marie Weinberger Trust. The funds are to be allocated as follows: Bible Camp Scholarships-\$1,000; Luther League Retreat-\$1,000; Thanksgiving Baskets-\$500; North Basement Entry Carpet-\$2,500; General Fund-\$1,000; Faith Chest Materials- \$500; and Sound & Video Upgrades-\$1,500. M/S/P to approve the Financial Report as printed. M/S/P to pay the benevolence for December 2021.

Building and Grounds Report:

- The carpet in the lower ramp entrance is worn and in need of replacement. M/S/P to accept the bid from Miesen's Color Center for carpet and installation of \$2,325.28. Project to be paid by gift from the Weinberger Trust. Installation will be this spring or summer.

Parish Education Report:

- Having some issues with no substitute teachers in classrooms on Sundays.
- M/S/P to go along with Parish Education's recommendation to have the church pay half of camper fees for each person attending Ingham Bible Camp this year and full cost for those attending one-day camp at Ingham.
- The Augustana District Confirmation Retreat is set for March 4-6, 2022. Cost for each confirmand to attend is \$110. M/S/P that the church will pay \$80 of each confirmand's fee and cover the entire cost for the chaperones.

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 on December 21, 2021.
- Led worship with Holy Communion at The Maples on December 20, 2021.
- Led Christmas Eve and Christmas Day worship.
- Presided at the graveside service of Dorene Bakke on Saturday, December 11, 2021.

Parish Education

- Attended the Parish Education meeting on January 3, 2022.
- Leading Bible Study on Tuesday evenings at 6:00 p.m.
- Leading Bible Study at The Maples on Mondays at 3:00 p.m.
- Led the Luther League meeting on January 6, 2022.
- Taught one premarital class on January 10, 2022.
- Taught the first new member class on January 11, 2022 with nine new members in attendance.

Confirmation

- Confirmation classes are going well. We used Zoom as needed.

Community

- Issued two SAFE vouchers to a neighbors in need.

- Assisted one neighbor in need using the Good Samaritan Fund.
- Attended dress rehearsal on December 9, 2021 and sang with the Springfield Nativity Pageant Choir on December 11, 2021.
- Attended the Springfield Public School Winter Band Concert on December 9, 2021.
- Attended the St. John’s Circle of Care Board Meeting on January 3, 2022.

Old Business:

- All items that have been repaired and/or replaced for the Lightning Strike have been paid. Still waiting to have work done on the brick and trim on the outside of the church building.
- Staff Reviews are completed.
- Bill presented the Nominating Committee Report. Three new members, a Treasurer and Vice-Chairman have been secured for the Annual Meeting Ballot. Most committee positions have been filled. Still need two more members to serve on the Council. May have to appoint from the floor at the Annual Meeting.
- Tim and Anita presented the Proposed Budget for 2022. The budget does not include Housekeeping and Benevolence. M/S/P to accept the budget.
- The Audit Committee will meet on January 19, 2022 to go over the books for the Annual Report.
- The church’s Housekeeping Contract with Simply Clean ends on January 13, 2022. Decision was made to not renew as the five hours per week of cleaning is not adequate for the needs of our church building. Simply Clean will be given the required 30-day notice of the contract termination. M/S/P to offer, pending reference and background check, Dani Johnson the Housekeeping position for our church. Mr. Johnson is a new resident of Springfield and resides across the street from the church.

New Business:

- Plans are to have the 150th Anniversary Committee meet and make some plans since we didn’t get to complete all the celebration plans in 2020 due to COVID.
- The SAFE Annual Meeting is set for January 24, 2022 at 7 p.m. at the United Methodist Church. Angel will be council rep on that board this year.
- M/S/P that Ash Wednesday (March 2) and Wednesday evening Lenten Services begin at 7 p.m. The Confirmation students will help lead the services. There will be no Lenten Suppers served this year.
- M/S/P that Maundy Thursday service (April 14) will be at 7 p.m., Good Friday service (April 15) will be at 7 p.m. and Easter service (April 17) will be at 9 a.m. Due to smaller attendance, it was decided to have just one service on Easter this year. The Luther League will be serving Palm Sunday Breakfast so there will be no Easter Breakfast this year.
- The Augustana District put out a challenge to member congregations to increase there normal giving to the organization to help fund the salary and compensation package for the Service Coordinator of the District. M/S/P to add \$250 to this year’s budgeted amount of \$250 for a total of \$500 to the Augustana District from St. Paul’s.
- St. John’s Home has started up Bingo and Birthday parties again at the facility. St. Paul’s is to host bingo six times during the year and the November Birthday Party. M/S/P to donate \$85 to St. John’s Home for these projects.
- Reviewed the December minutes of St. Paul’s Cemetery Board.

M/S/P to adjourn at 9:50 p.m. Closed with the Lord’s Prayer.
 Next meeting will be Wednesday, February 9, 2022 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		

St Paul Attendance

1/02/22 9am - 47
1/16/22 9am - 32

1/09/22 9am - 66
1/23/22 9am - 48

Budget Recap Year-To-Date (01/01/22 to 01/24/22)

Total Funds for Budget	\$4,025.00	Total Operating Funds	\$4,025.00
<u>Budget</u>	\$14,039.12	<u>Operating Exp.</u>	\$11,505.77
Difference	(\$10,014.12)	Difference	(\$7,480.77)

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 12/28/21 to 1/24/2022

In Memory:	Given by:	Designated for:
Roland Richert	Bob & Sharon Rogotzke	St. Paul Lutheran Church
Gary Schwartz	Gary & Nancy Renner	Bible Camp Fund
Diane Bailey	Dalores Stern	St. Paul Lutheran Church

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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, 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 Connie Wellner, 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 otherwise specified or request is renewed.

February 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Pastor on vacation ---	2 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast 6:00 Luther League Meeting 6:30 Confirmation 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	3	4 Office Closed	5
6 9:00 Worship 10:00 Sunday School 10:00 Coffee Talk 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast Pastor on vacation ---	7 3:00 pm The Maples Bible Study 6:30 Parish Ed Meeting	8 6:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	9 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast 6:00 Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30 Confirmation 7:30 Choir Rehearsal 7:45 pm Church Council	10	11 Office Closed 2:00 BINGO @ SJLH	12
13 Choir Sing 9:00 Worship 10:00 Sunday School 10:00 Coffee Talk 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast	14 3:00 pm The Maples Bible Study	15 10:00 am SJLH Worship 6:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	16 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast 6:00 Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30 Confirmation 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	17	18 Office Closed	19
20 Bells Play 9:00 Worship 10:00 Sunday School 10:00 Coffee Talk 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast	21 3:00 pm The Maples Holy Communion	22 6:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	23 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast 6:30 Confirmation 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	24	25 Office Closed	26
27 9:00 Worship 10:00 Sunday School 10:00 Coffee Talk 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast	28 3:00 pm The Maples Bible Study					

9:00 am Worship Service

Date	Sound & Video	Reader	Acolyte	Usher
2/6	Russell Rogotzke	Jordan Pidde	Nicholas Groebner Nathan Groebner	Team 4
2/13	John Mueller	Jo Muske	Gabby Schenk	Team 1
2/20	Peter Heitzman	Mel Vogel	Hayden Gluth Brooklyn Anderson	Team 2
2/27	Tim Vogel	Kurt Glaeseman	Alyssa Shaw Jenna Shaw	Team 3

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

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
- 25 - Tyler Lang
- 27 - Duane Streich
- 27 - Milo Brown
- 27 - Abbygail Jeppesen

February Anniversaries!

26 - Gary & Nancy Renner - 17 years



February Altar Guild

Kari Haugo & Marcia Schiller

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.

We have a lost and found box located in the narthex near the mailboxes. If you have lost something at church, please check the box!



I need 2 volunteers for BINGO on February 11 at 2:00 pm.
 Per St. John's: Volunteers must provide a copy of vaccination card, wear a mask, stay home if you are sick or not feeling well.
 Please let Katie know if you can help with Bingo!



Our Lenten Services will at 7:00 p.m. beginning with Ash Wednesday on March 2, 2022 with a 7:00 p.m. worship service.



American Red Cross

St. Paul's will be hosting Red Cross Blood Drives on March 21st and May 24th from 8 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Go to redcrossblood.org to schedule your appointment!

If you are able to volunteer to help out at the blood drive, please let Katie know!

Church Directory! We have an online church Directory!

- * 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 online directory can be updated constantly, so information should never be outdated! Email updated pictures, address or phone changes to Katie and they can be added instantly!
- Be sure to check it out!



The Springfield Area Food Shelf has had an exciting, challenging, and very busy 2021. We accomplished many goals and continue to move forward to eventually allow clients to do independent shopping. Volunteers will continue to pack up groceries, weigh them, and take them out to their vehicles. We still require clients and volunteers to mask when coming into food shelf per the guidelines set up by the CDC and MN dept of Health.

The annual meeting was held on January 10, 2022. Year- end reports were provided. The number of individuals using the food shelf are beginning to come up post pandemic which is good. Holiday meals were provided in November and December with a grant from Springfield Area Foundation and donations to the food shelf. We have added a baking section, lots of fresh produce, and special diet section such as gluten free, low sodium. During the month of January, personal bags were given to each household. This project was provided by Dave and Linda Carruthers with their Thrivent Dollars. We currently have some quilts for adults and kids that were donated by area churches. We also have some COVID testing kits available to families.

The March Campaign will begin on February 28th-April 15th.

CONSIDER MAKING A CASH DONATION TO THE FOOD SHELF, AND OR A PRODUCT DONATION: CEREAL, SNACKS, COOKIES, TOILET PAPER, PAPER TOWELS, BAKING PRODUCTS, SPECIAL DIET FOODS, CONDIMENTS. (Anything we receive we will use)

Service days are Thursdays 9:30- 11:30 and Tuesdays 5-7 pm. Address is 625 N. Jackson Suite F, PO Box 15, Springfield, MN 56087 (location in the clinic/hospital building on the back side lower level). Name on the door. If you prefer not to come in person you may call order over the telephone and staff will deliver it to your vehicle. Food Shelf phone number is 507-723-3663. Leave a message and we will call you back.

Thank-you for all the support you give to the food shelf in Springfield. The families-clients really appreciate the service that is provided and the groceries they receive. Clients come one time a month.

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

Postmaster: Dated material
Please Deliver Promptly
Address Service Requested

Calendar Highlights - February 2022

11 — BINGO @ SJLH

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