

Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

1st Corinthians 13:7

So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

Pursue love,

1 Corinthians 13:13-14:1a

Halfway through the month of February, we celebrated St. Valentine's Day, which in our contemporary society has been to celebrate the ideals of love. What do we mean when we say "love"? The word love is one of the most used and abused words in English. We might say to our wife or husband, "I love you." In the next breath, we might say, "I love chocolate". So, what does the word love actually mean? For us as Christians, that word has added depth. Scripture talks about the love of God. So, how should we define the word love? And how should we live our lives in light of that of the definition?

Koine Greek, the original language of the New Testament, had three words for that word love. The first word is *Eros*. It is where we get the word erotic. It is the intimate physical love shared between two people. Erotic love is not evil. It includes intimate physical affection between a husband and wife. Of course, it can be twisted and turned to evil purposes, but it is not evil in and of itself. It is a gift from a good God. Most people celebrate this type of love on Valentine's Day.

The second Greek word is *Philia*. It is most commonly translated as friendship. Philadelphia is two Greek words that literally mean "the city of friendship" or the more common phrase, the City of brotherly love. Of course, friendship is another gift from a good God. There can be, however, a transactional nature to friendship. In other words, we are friends to some people and not to other people for good reasons. Sometimes those reasons are manipulative. "I am friends with Tom because he can help me advance my career. At other times, they can be for noble reasons. I am friends with Teresa because she understands me. Whether noble or manipulative, there are always reasons we make friends.

The final Greek word is *Agape*, Which is God's love. It is the love mentioned in the above two passages. What is the difference? God's love is never transactional but sacrificial. It is the love that led Jesus to die on the cross; it is the love that God shows to you, and hopefully, it is love that we can nurture and pursue in our congregation because it is the love that is eternal.

In Hope and Joy,
Pastor Carl

St. Paul Lutheran Church Council Meeting

January 8, 2025

Chairman Paul Muske called the meeting to order at 7:48 p.m. on Wednesday, January 8. Members present were Paul Muske, Jeff Krueger, Kim Graff Angel Rummel, Sarah Groebner, Randy Wendt, Jacob Marz, Kelly Sargent and Pastor Carl. Kathy Pederson was absent. Parish Coordinator Katie Mueller and Financial Secretary Anita Jensen were 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 December 11, 2024 meeting.

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

Pastor's Report

- Conducted five in-home communions. Putting together a list of those receiving in-home communion to leave for the next pastor.

- Conducted four counseling sessions.

- Put together policy to guide himself and next pastor on the disbursement of funds to those in need (Good Samaritan Fund and Pastor's Discretionary Fund).

- Teaching Confirmation classes for St. Paul's and St. Johns students.

- Continuing to conduct worship services at St. Johns Church. They voted on January 5 to call Pastor Kelly Wasburg and he will start some time in February.

- Will begin a new book study on January 13. Based on the book *Junk Drawer Jesus: Discarding Your Spiritual Clutter and Rediscovering the Supremacy of Grace*.

Parish Education

- Committee did not meet in January.

- Shawna Jacobs addressed the board regarding Luther League. They had a successful cookie sale December 15 and profited \$445. They are planning events for the remainder of the school year. Would like to do a lock-in/movie night at church sometime in February. M/S/P to allow them to have the lock-in. There will be some other parent supervisors involved, too.

Prairie Plans Investment Report

- John Mueller, Prairie Plans, addressed the council, reporting on results of our investment portfolio in 2024. The portfolio performed well. He went over each of St. Paul's accounts. M/S/P to print the report in the 2024 Annual Report. M/S/P to move from MWP to SAM (in house) management of our portfolio funds in 2025.

Old Business

- Parsonage window replacement has arrived and will be installed along with painting in the spring. Photos and estimates were sent to the insurance company but have not heard back from them.

- The outside church doors on the south side of the church will be refinished in the spring.

- Going to get price quotes to repaint the altar area in the sanctuary. Also to look at issues around vents in the sanctuary ceiling.

- The Call Committee had a second Zoom meeting with a potential candidate but have not heard back. Will follow up and also work on the search.

- Staff reviews were completed. M/S/P to approve the suggested raises for the staff: Raise to \$18.00/hr. Katie, Anita and Al and to \$17.50 for Mary Jo. M/S/P to approve an additional week of vacation for Parish Coordinator (10 years of service).

- Nominating Committee has been working on filling positions with little success. Kathy, Jake, Sarah, Kim and Randy have agreed to another term. Angel and Kelly's terms are not up this year. Need to fill Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary positions.

- M/S/P to approve the 2025 budget with the salaries and insurance figures added to it. The 2025 benevolence percentage will be voted on at the annual meeting.

New Business

- The Church Council will be installed at the 9:00 service on Sunday, February 9.

- The SAFE Annual Meeting will be held Sunday, January 12 at 2 p.m. at the United Methodist Church. Our reps, Angel and Sarah, were encouraged to attend.

- Discussion on the Praise Service held the second Sunday of each month. There has been negative and positive feedback. Many like the change. The negatives tend to deal with the fact that it is not a traditional service and music is not familiar. Consensus was to continue with the services.
- The Agenda for the 2025 Annual Meeting was reviewed and approved.
- Luther League will serve refreshments at the Annual Meeting.
- The Church Council will take down the sanctuary Christmas tree following the 9:00 a.m. service January 12.

We closed with the Lord’s Prayer. M/S/P to adjourn at 8:25 p.m.
 Next meeting will be Wednesday, January 8 at 7:45 p.m.

~by Jeff Krueger, Council Secretary

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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!

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 “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.

Annual Meeting Sunday, February 2nd

2025 Offering Envelopes are available in the Narthex.
 Your year end giving statements are in your church mailboxes.

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!



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

St Paul Attendance

12/29 9 am- 65 1/5 9 am - 74 1/12 9 am - 76
 1/19 9 am - 83 1/26 9 am - 73

Budget Recap Year-To-Date (01/01/25 to 1/29/25)

Total Funds for Budget	\$7,121.59	Total Operating Funds	\$7,121.59
Budget	\$17,341.84	Operating Exp.	\$17,847.16
Difference	(\$10,220.25)	Difference	(\$10,725.57)

Memorials Given 11/26/2024—1/29/2025

<u>In Memory:</u>	<u>Given by:</u>	<u>Designated for:</u>
Lois Baur	Larry & Ruth Potter	St. Paul Lutheran Church
Greg Jensen	David & Jean Klabunde	Baptismal Faith Chests
	Colleen & Pat Windschitl	Baptismal Faith Chests
	Mathiowetz Construction	Baptismal Faith Chests
	Ed Meidl	St. Paul Lutheran Church
Betsy Rogotzke	David & Melanie Rogotzke	St. Paul Music Fund
Ardella Wilstermann	Roger & Kelly Sargent	St. Paul Lutheran Church
Roger Kaehler	Gertie Rosenau	St. Paul Lutheran Church

Direct Giving opportunities are available all year long here at St. Paul's! Enjoy the convenience of not having to find your envelopes and write out a check each week. These direct gifts are set up through your bank and can be customized by amount and frequency to fit your needs! If you are interested in signing up for Direct Giving talk to Katie in the office or contact your bank today!

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.

Please pray for...Kurt Glaeseman, Jerome Kettner, Doug Rositzke, Dale Peterson; 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.

* Indicates Choir Singing.

February 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>St. Paul Lutheran Church, 303 N Cass Ave, Springfield, MN 56087 Church Telephone: 507-723-5880 www.spicspringfield.org stpaul_lutheran@hotmail.com</p>						
<p>2 9:00 Worship * 10:00 Annual Meeting 10:00 Sunday School 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast</p>	<p>3 6:30 pm Parish Ed Meeting</p>	<p>4 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast</p>	<p>5 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast 6:15-7:15 Confirmation @ St. Johns 7:15 p.m. Choir Rehearsal</p>	6	7	8
<p>9 9:00 Worship with Council Installation 10:00 Coffee Talk 10:00 Sunday School 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast</p>	<p>10 6:30 pm Bible Study</p>	<p>11 10:00 am Worship at SJLH 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast</p>	<p>12 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast 6:15-7:15 Confirmation @ St. Johns 7:15 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 7:45 Council Meeting</p>	13	14	15
<p>16 9:00 Worship 10:00 Coffee Talk 10:00 Sunday School 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast</p>	<p>19 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast 6:15-7:15 Confirmation @ St. Johns 7:15 p.m. Choir Rehearsal</p>	20	21	22
<p>23 9:00 Worship 10:00 Coffee Talk 10:00 Sunday School 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast</p>	<p>24 6:30 pm Bible Study</p>	<p>25 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast</p>	<p>26 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast 6:15-7:15 Confirmation @ St. Johns 7:15 p.m. Choir Rehearsal</p>	27	28	

* Indicates Choir Singing.

Worship Service Helpers

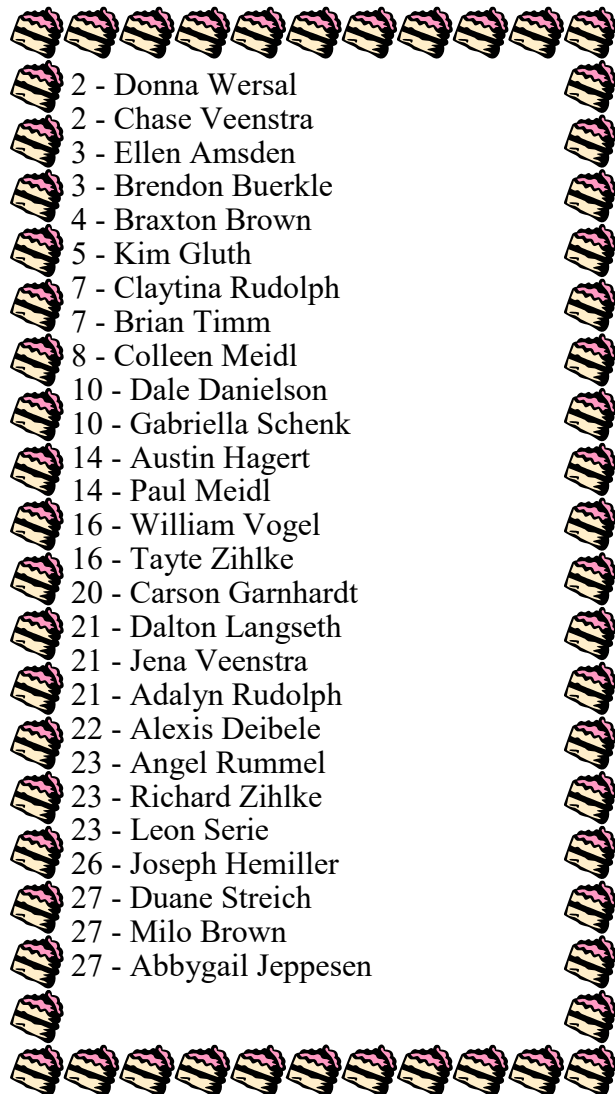
Date	Sound & Video	Projection	Reader	Acolyte	Usher	Organist
2/2	Paul & Jonah	Jordan Pidde	Mel Vogel	Ali Trapp Leo Kral	Team 3	Jo Schwartz
2/9	Trevor Krebs	Mueller Family	Kurt Glaeseman	Adalyn Rudolph Abbygail Jeppesen	Team 4	Jo Schwartz
2/16	Groebner Boys	Groebner Boys	Jo Muske	Rylyn Marz Blake Zihlke	Team 1	Jeff Krueger
2/23	Dove Family	Dove Family	Brittany Cook	Randee Dombek Madisen Schumacher	Team 2	Jeff Krueger

February Altar Guild
Kari Haugo

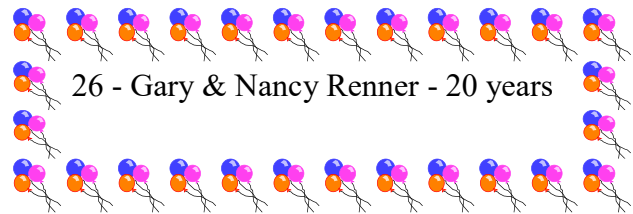
Usher Teams

- 1 - Don Bloemke, John Marz, Jake Marz, Paul Meidl
- 2 - Doug Gatzlaff, Dave Bittler, Peter Heitzman
- 3 - Doug Schiller, Russell Rogotzke, Mark Buerkle, Jeremy Dove
- 4 - Tim Vogel, Scott Vogel, Bill Vogel

February Birthdays!

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- 2 - Donna Wersal
 - 2 - Chase Veenstra
 - 3 - Ellen Amsden
 - 3 - Brendon Buerkle
 - 4 - Braxton Brown
 - 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
 - 20 - Carson Garnhardt
 - 21 - Dalton Langseth
 - 21 - Jena Veenstra
 - 21 - Adalyn Rudolph
 - 22 - Alexis Deibele
 - 23 - Angel Rummel
 - 23 - Richard Zihlke
 - 23 - Leon Serie
 - 26 - Joseph Hemiller
 - 27 - Duane Streich
 - 27 - Milo Brown
 - 27 - Abbygail Jeppesen

February Anniversaries!

- 
- 26 - Gary & Nancy Renner - 20 years

St. Paul's next blood drive will be
Wed., April 28th from 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Go redcrossblood.org to schedule your appt.
Lunch provided for all donors and volunteers!



**I need a few volunteers to help work
at the blood drive.**

We need 2 volunteers for BINGO on
February 14th at 2:00 pm.
Please let Katie know if you
can help out!



Help us keep our Church Directory up to date! We would like to get updated pictures of each member family for the directory. Katie will be taking pictures on Sunday, February 2nd before and after church to be used for the directory. If you have a nice family photo you would like to use instead, you can email a copy to Katie at stpaul_lutheran@hotmail.com at any time.

2025 Summer Bible Camp opportunities at Ingham Okoboji Bible Camp!

Early Bird Registration ends on March 1st, so register today! Proof of registration should be sent the church office so I can mark you down for a scholarship! Brochures are located at the entrance to the sanctuary or you can check dates and register online at www.okoboji.org/register

Community Treasures in Springfield (Formerly Good Neighbor Thrift) is opening on Monday, February 3rd. Hours are Monday 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.; Tuesday and Thursday 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.; and Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Donations will be accepted during business hours.

Ingham Okoboji Bible Camp Adult Camp Opportunities

Marriage Celebration Retreat February 14-16, 2025

Whether you've been married many years or just one year, life happens. Things change. We change. Join us and take time to laugh, remember, and re-vision your marriage together. Enjoy a wonderful weekend with a banquet dinner, evening entertainment, free couples photo shoot, and great sessions.

Crafting Retreats Spring Retreat: May 2-4, 2025

Set aside some time just for you to do what makes you happy. Fill up your car with all the materials and tools you need and come to camp for a weekend of creativity, relaxation and spiritual growth. Also enjoy delicious food, soothing massages and great people as you unwind from your busy life and have some ME time! Bring a friend along. They may have a totally different project than you. That's okay. You can do your own thing right along side each other. Through out the weekend there will be several times set aside to gather together to encourage each other and grow in your faith.

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

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Please Deliver Promptly
Address Service Requested

Calendar Highlights - February 2025
2 - Annual Meeting
14 - BINGO @ SJLH

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: Mary Jo Simonson

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 (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