



JANUARY

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In your heart of hearts, what kind of God do you have? While growing up and well into my adulthood, I thought of God as a stern taskmaster or perhaps a divine policeman in the sky. I feared that God was just waiting to catch me really messing up so he could smite me.

This seems perhaps to be what Paul describes, in Romans 8:15, as having a spirit that makes you a slave to fear. The majority of the Roman Christians that Paul was writing to were of a gentile, pagan background. Paul is taking them back to those miserable days when they had felt obligated to try and earn the favor of their harsh and demanding false gods by bringing the right offerings and living the right kind of lives.

In Genesis 3, the serpent tried to undermine God's character by causing Adam and Eve to question what God said. He insinuated that God wanted to keep them below him, subservient to him, like a slave. He tempted them, "Eat the fruit and you can be free of this tyrant." Ever since, the evil one has been dragging God's name through the mud and turning us against him.

So when the disciples ask Jesus to teach them to pray, he begins by teaching them, and us, what kind of a God we have: he is our Father. Not a stern taskmaster, a lying slave master, a cruel tyrant, or someone just waiting to smite us, but our loving Father.

Now there are obstacles that we can encounter with using the word "father" for God. Some of us may have had cruel fathers, deadbeat fathers, or absentee fathers, who have left scars on us and made it hard for us to trust. But that isn't the kind of father that Jesus speaks of here.

Here Jesus is speaking of his own loving Father in heaven, who is gracious, reliable, and ever present; a Father who is never too busy to have a chat, but who loves nothing more than for you to call upon him, day or night, in your time of need. Children don't stop and wonder whether this would be a convenient time to interrupt what their parents are doing. No, they confidently ask for whatever they need whenever they need it. This is exactly what Jesus is encouraging in the Lord's Prayer.

The Apostle Paul insisted that Christians are those who have the boldness to take on the lips Jesus' own address to God; we "receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" (Gal 4:5-6).

Later, in his powerful Letter to the Romans, Paul would write similarly: "When we cry, 'Abba! Father!' it is with that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God" (8:15-16). We are tagalongs, you might say, taking advantage of the closeness Jesus enjoys with His Father.

How is this possible? It's quite simple really: Jesus took on flesh, became one of us, in order to suffer and die on the cross to save us from our sin. In the waters of your baptism, you were joined to Christ's death and resurrection, and God your Father grasped hold of you, adopting you as his own beloved child. And now your loving heavenly Father will never let you go. Please join us each Sunday to hear of the love our Heavenly Father has for you.

Love from your sister in Christ,

Pr. Tricia

St. Paul Lutheran Church—Church Council Meeting - December 9, 2020 at 7:45 p.m.

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

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

Also Present: Katie Mueller-Church Coordinator

Absent: All accounted for

Call to order 7:45pm by Paul Muske

Devotion Roman 15:13 Hope – Pastor Tricia

M/S/P- Secretary's Report from the Nov meeting and the Special meeting regarding Sunday School

M/S/P-Financial Report

M/S/P-to pay December benevolence as soon as it is calculated.

Building and Grounds – Ed

Parsonage Basement- New windowsill is in, then they will work on painting, followed by flooring

Miesen's flooring quote

Painting

Parsonage Roof-table until spring

Parish Education-Did not meet

Need to wait to see what is happening with public school regarding resuming classes.

Confirmation could resume face to face on the Jan 6th if public school is in session.

Sunday school could resume face to face on Jan 10th if public school is in session.

Pastor's Report

Visitation

Presided at Holy Communion at Downtown Estates.

Calling our elder members to pray with them.

Worship

Led the Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service on November 25.

Presided at Norman Krebs funeral and burial on December 9.

Meeting with individual families to give Holy Communion.

Parish Education

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

Confirmation

Teaching confirmation via Zoom.

Community

Submitted an article to the Advanced Press on December 7 entitled, "Jesus is making you ready!"

Other Business

My laptop's hard drive is failing, so I brought it to Nuvera. Because it is under warranty, a new hard drive is being installed.

Attended the budget meeting via Zoom on November 17.

OLD BUSINESS

COVID-19 Issues –

Christmas Eve singing/music:

Requesting more candlelight: in the windows, in the balcony, maybe additional stands in the front. No additional candles for the congregants.

Cantors need to be min 12' social distance. No congregational singing.

Communion will be permitted for the Christmas Eve service.

Reservations have been taken for Christmas Eve service.

Concerns of overflow/individuals arriving without reservations. Katie has a seating chart for families with reservations and left a couple pews for potential walk ins.

114 reservations for 5 pm service and 48 for 7pm service

M/S/P-to have communion on Christmas Eve only for the month of Dec. 2- nays

Church Credit Card- no progress. Please remove from agenda

St. John’s Auxiliary Rep- nothing yet

Staff Reviews/Christmas Gifts-

Need to get review form to staff and get back to committee for review.

Upgrade our recording equipment to support live broadcasting

M/S/P-to use up to \$3,000 to upgrade the recording equipment to support updated live broadcasting.

Nominating Committee – Matt Sargent, Tim Vogel, Daniel Kettner

Have met and are making phone calls.

Budget Committee-Pastor, Anita, Shawna, Craig, Kurt, Ed

NEW BUSINESS

Audit committee to meet in January

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

Cemetery committee met

Motion to adjourn 8:42pm with the Lord’s Prayer

Shawna Jacobs

Church Council Secretary

<u>2020 Church Council</u>		
Paul Muske - Chair	Dave Bittler	Angel Clemon
Matt Sargent- Vice Chair	Bill Vogel	Doug Jeske
Shawna Jacobs - Secretary	Ed Meidl	Tim Vogel
Craig Valentin - Treasurer		

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, use one of the yellow information cards in the church pews, call or email the church office at 507-723-5880 or stpaul_lutheran@hotmail.com. We appreciate you keeping us updated!

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

All committee reports are due to the church office by Friday, January 15th.

St Paul Attendance

11/29/20 9am - 23 12/6/20 9am - 36 12/13/20 9am - 34 12/20/20 9am - 35
12/24/20 5pm - 106 12/24/20 7pm - 62 12/25/20 9am - 10 12/27/20 9am - 20

Financial report as of 12/13/20

Budget YTD	\$170,878	Gen Funds Rec'd YTD	\$170,203
Benevolence Budget	\$7,693	Expenses YTD	<u>\$154,767</u>
Benevolence Paid YTD	\$10,084	Difference	\$15,436

Memorials

No update on memorials as of print date.

In Memory: **Given by:** **Designated for:**

Please pray for... 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.

January 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Office Closed	2
3 9:00 Worship No Sunday School 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast	4	5 6:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	6 10:00 am Ch. 8 Broadcast 6:30 Confirmation	7	8 Office Closed	9
10 9:00 Worship 10:10 Sunday School 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast	11	12 6:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	13 10:00 am Ch. 8 Broadcast 6:30 Confirmation 7:45 Council Meeting	14	15 Office Closed	16
17 9:00 Worship 10:10 Sunday School 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast	18	19 6:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	20 10:00 am Ch. 8 Broadcast 6:30 Confirmation	21	22 Office Closed	23
24 9:00 Worship 10:10 Sunday School 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast	25 2:00 Downtown Estates HC	26 6:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 SAFE Annual Meeting 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	27 10:00 am Ch. 8 Broadcast 6:30 Confirmation	28	29 Office Closed	30
31 9:00 Worship 10:00 Annual Meeting 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.

January Birthdays!

4 - Levi Serie
5 - Grace Jacobs, Stacia Rosenau,
Justina Streich
6 - Kyler Zihlke
9 - Jennifer Sellner, Navada Trebesch
10 - Glenn Jensen
11 - Moe Weber
12 - Tasha Sargent, Alan Groebner
14 - Ellie Jensen
15 - Taelyn Salonek
16 - Gerard Jensen
20 - Ashlyn Rosenau
21 - Megan Quesenberry,
Nickolas Rogotzke
23 - Jacob Rogotzke
24 - Parker Gluth, Brad Haugo,
Marilyn Kratz, Gertie Rosenau
25 - April Sargent
28 - Derek Shaw

January Anniversaries!

21 - Paul & Colleen Meidl - 32 years

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.

January Altar Guild

Kari Haugo, Marcia Schiller

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

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 not be given during worship at this time. 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.

***Confirmation will resume in person on Wednesday, January 6th.**

***We are planning on resuming Sunday School on Sunday, January 10th. Watch for updates.**

The Springfield Area Food Shelf orders must be placed over the phone. Please call 507-227-7387.

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

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

Call Sheri Koll at 507-227-0386/507-723-6120 or Jan Schwanke at 507-227-7387 if you have any questions.

SPRINGFIELD ADVANCE-PRESS

SIXTY-THIRD YEAR, NO. 49

SPRINGFIELD, BROWN COUNTY, MINNESOTA

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1949

SHOP
Early

ONLY

14

SHOPPING DAYS
'TIL CHRISTMAS

Funeral Services Will Be Held Friday for Ole Olson, 84

A brief funeral service will be held at the Forster Funeral Home or Ole Olson, 84, Friday, after which the remains will be taken to Cokato for a final funeral service and burial. Mr. Olson died Monday noon at St. John's hospital, where he had been confined since August 30, when he fell and broke his hip. He had been in failing health several years.

Ole Olson was born in Varvand, Sweden, May 14, 1865, and came with his parents to America when he was three years of age. They settled at Cokato, where he spent most of his life. He was married to Miss Hulda Moody. Mrs. Olson died in 1909. The Olsons had one son, Marshall, a resident of this city. Mr. Olson made his home with his son in this city for the past thirteen years.

He is survived by two brothers, Otto of Minneapolis, and Willie of Cokato, and his son, Marshall.

Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Gatzlaff and family spent Sunday visiting Mr. and Mrs. Norman Gatzlaff.

Ask to see the
Special Group of
Schlapp Furs
at Special Savings



Ed Is Craftsman With Small Too's

Blacksmith Boelter Makes Yule Toys

BLACKSMITH Edward Boelter has a hidden talent—toy making. Working with only a few simple tools—a hand jigsaw, crosscut saw, planer, files and a jackknife—he fashions toys and miniature building replicas in the basement workshop of his home on South O'Connell avenue.

Upon completion his handiwork goes into the exhibit on the front porch of the Boelter home. With Christmas coming up Ed hopes to turn his art into a profitable hobby.

The floor of the front porch is packed with hand-carved toys that are for sale to the public. Included are merry-go-rounds, toy fire trucks, manure spreaders, grain trucks, wagon boxes, a "traveling blacksmith," circus cage, tractors, doll cribs and an oxen team. The toys are all painted in bright reds, blues and blacks.

"I like to carve and I do a lot of it," Mr. Boelter said. "I've been that way ever since I was a small fry back on the farm."

The Springfield blacksmith was born and raised on a farm three miles northwest of here. He has been blacksmithing in Springfield for the past 48 years.

Mr. Boelter says that it's only been the "last 10 to 12 years" that he really started making toys. He turned to producing little barns, doll houses, tractors and trucks only after he ceased needing his skill for practical purposes.

"Before I was married I made my own furniture," Mr. Boelter revealed. He even included the fancy carving.

The blacksmith's favorite raw materials for his hobby are pine wood and hard oak. "I buy only good lumber—the best I can get," he said.

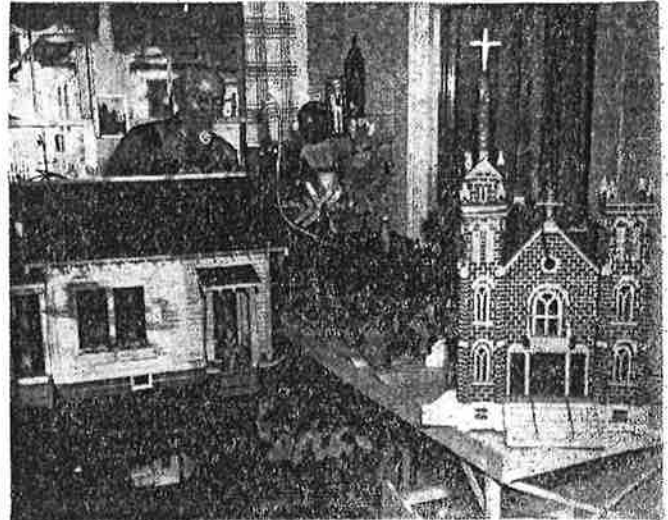
Ed, in addition to "furnishing" the front porch, is also interior decorator of the Boelter home. "I haven't a room of my own in the house," his wife smilingly "complained."

The walls and tables are dotted with Boelter creations. The biggest and most practical items are a fireplace and a handsome oak and pine desk. Being a blacksmith, he can also work with iron. A thin two and a half foot tall giraffe

Get her a TWIN
DEXTER Washing
Machine.

Runcks

HARDWARE & IMPL.



BLACKSMITH EDWARD BOELTER looks over his prize miniature church and doll house creations on exhibition here on the front porch of his home. The church on the right is an exact replica of St. Paul's Lutheran church on Cass avenue. The doll house at left was put together as painstakingly as a regulation size model. Toys that Mr. Boelter made are arrayed on the table and floor. The blacksmith's proud smile is warranted because his church and doll house are indeed works of art.—Photo by Nelson.

ash tray stands in the living room.

Some of the other interesting figurine decorations in the house include a Mexican musical trio, a five-piece band on a band stand, and "Mutt and Jeff." These are expertly carved from wood.

His two masterpieces are an exact replica of St. Paul's Lutheran church on Cass avenue, and a completely furnished doll house. The spire of the church is about two and a half feet tall. It's evident from the workmanship that tedious, pains-taking labor went into both jobs.

Each Christmas eve the lighted miniature church is placed under the tree in St. Paul's Lutheran church. The doll house has been displayed in the window of the Federated store on past Christmases.

The doll house, which houses the figurine family of Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, was put together like a real house and has glass windows. Mrs. Boelter revealed that her husband turned down an offer of \$50 for it.

In the summertime Blacksmith Boelter is also a handy-man about the yard. He attractively decorates his lawn with wooden "lilliput" figurines. Displaying the versatility of his trade, he has also molded stone into pleasing decorations. His rock garden in the back yard has drawn the plaudits of neighbors and visitors. The 10 buildings, now stored in the garage for the winter, were built on the summer resort theme.

But the advent of winter has forced Ed inside and down in-

to his basement workshop. He puts there when work at his blacksmith shop up the street is slow.

He's working on a doll house and a barn right now. The procedure is simple, according to Mr. Boelter. "I look at a few pictures and make my own plans," he said. "I don't use any glue—my work is all solid. After carving out the pieces I put them together with nails, screws or bolts."

Mr. Boelter is all wrapped up in his hobby because he likes to work with his hands and it keeps him busy.

"If I had to do it for money though," he said, "I think I'd give it up."

Mrs. Agnes Miller, Pioneer of Comfrey, Dies In Chicago

Funeral services were held at St. Paul's Catholic Church at Comfrey a week ago Wednesday for Mrs. Agnes Miller, 90, a pioneer resident of the Comfrey community.

The deceased lived on a farm in Mulligan township until 1904 when the family moved to Comfrey where the Millers operated a furniture and millinery store for 20 years.

Mrs. Miller died in Chicago while visiting one of her children.

Surviving children are: Mrs. Anna Armstrong, Chicago; Mrs. Frank Kratchnick (Tessie), Chicago; Mrs. Albert Miller (Lillian), Chicago; Carl Miller, Redwood Falls; Sylvester Miller, Mankato; Edwin Miller, Chicago; also 41 grandchildren.

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

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Calendar Highlights - January 2021
31 - Annual Meeting

We are on the Web!
www.splicspringfield.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
507-723-4120