
JANUARY

“...and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh.” – Matthew 2:9b-11

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

They bowed down and worshipped him - a baby. Who is this child, whom the wise men worship and offer extravagant gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh? Gifts fit for a king. The Christ child, the Messiah, the Prince of Peace, the King of Kings!

Epiphany is the season in our church year that we celebrate the revelation of Jesus Christ as our King. A revelation to the wise men, coming from the Far East, that this is the King that was to come. A revelation to all people that a baby born in Bethlehem, wrapped in swaddling clothes, laid in a manger is the Messiah, the Lord of All. Epiphany is truly a season of revelation; the reminder that Jesus was revealed to distant wise men but continues to be revealed both to us and by us each and every day.

Epiphany is also considered a season of light. We celebrate the light of the world that was shown not only to the Magi, but continues to shine brightly in our world today. Epiphany falls on the 12th day of Christmas. Epiphany is often celebrated exclusively on January 6th but the season itself extends until Ash Wednesday, covering four to six Sundays.

Families may celebrate Epiphany in the home by reading aloud Matthew 2:1-12 and then engaging in one or more of the following activities: 1) because stars are a traditional symbol of the festival of Epiphany, you might make aluminum foil covered stars to hang above your crèche, 2) you might bake and decorate star cookies, 3) you might use Epiphany as an opportunity for each family member to talk about how Christ was revealed to them, or 4) you may throw a party and invite friends and family. The party may include a cake with a king cake with a small trinket, most commonly a cake to represent Baby Jesus, hidden inside. The person who gets the piece of cake with the trinket receives various privileges and obligations.

This Epiphany may God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," shine in your hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Star of wonder, star of night
 Star with royal beauty bright
 Westward leading
 Still proceeding
 Guide us to thy perfect light
“We Three Kings of Orient Are”

Epiphany blessings in Christ,

Pr. Tricia Mattson

St. Paul Lutheran Church—Church Council Meeting - December 8, 2021, at 7:45 p.m.

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

Pastor Tricia led the group in a prayer.

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

M/S/P to approve the Financial Report as printed. M/S/P to pay the benevolence for October and November 2021.

Building and Grounds Report:

- Ed had to order a new part for the boiler. The cost was under \$400.

Parish Education Report:

- Sunday School Christmas Program will be on Sunday, December 12 at 10:00 a.m.
- Sunday School and Vacation Bible School teacher/helper gifts will be handed out at the program.
- Sunday School offering for December, January and February will go to Heifer International.
- There will be Sunday School on December 19. There will be no Sunday School on December 26 and January 2.

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.
- Led worship with Holy Communion at The Maples.

Parish Education

- Attended the Parish Education meeting on December 6, 2021.
- Leading Bible Study on Tuesday evenings at 6:00 p.m.
- Leading Bible Study at The Maples on Mondays at 3:00 p.m.
- Attended the Luther League meeting on December 1, 2021.
- Taught a premarital class on December 7, 2021.

Confirmation

- Confirmation classes are going well. We used Zoom for students in quarantine.

Other Business

- Attended the budgeting meeting on November 30, 2021.

Community

- Submitted the article, *Picking Rocks*, to the Advance-Press on December 8, 2021.
- Issued a SAFE voucher to a neighbor in need on November 29, 2021.
- Assisted one neighbor in need using the Good Samaritan Fund.
- Practiced with the Nativity Pageant Choir on November 28 and December 5, 2021.
- Attended the Reiner and Jenniges Trustee meeting on December 3, 2021.
- Volunteered at the SANTA Luncheon on December 3, 2021.
- Attended the SW Minnesota Men's Chorus Concert at our church on December 6, 2021.

Old Business:

- Staff Review Committee will meet on December 14 to prepare for the reviews. Reviews must be done by year end.
- Bill reported that the Nominating Committee is working to fill council and committee vacancies for the Annual Meeting Ballot. They need to fill four council seats, a vice-chairman and a treasurer. One seat is filled so far. Discussion on the size of the Church Council, combining the Secretary & Treasurer positions and

need for all the committee we have.

•2022 Preliminary Budget was presented. It was noted that the Insurance costs have risen quite a bit.

New Business:

- Annual Meeting is set for Sunday, January 30 following the 9:00 a.m. worship service. All committee reports need to be in to Katie by January 14.
- The Audit Committee—Jo Schwartz, Elsie Groebner and Nancy Renner—will meet after January 14 to audit the books.
- M/S/P to present staff with Christmas gifts.
- Housekeeping six-month contract ends on January 13. Discussion on Employee vs. Housekeeping Company options for 2022.

M/S/P to adjourn at 8:50 p.m. Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting will be Wednesday, January 12, 2022 at 7:45 p.m.

~Jeff Krueger, Church Council Secretary

Your 2022 Offering Envelopes are ready to be picked up in the Narthex!

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		

The Annual Meeting will be on Sunday, January 30th, immediately following the 9 am worship service.

All committee reports are due to the church office by Friday, January 14th.

Springfield Area Food Shelf Annual meeting is January 10, 2022 at 12:00 noon in lower level meeting room at the Springfield Medical Center.

New Church Directory! We have a new online church Directory! It is live and ready to view! 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 greatest thing about the new directory is that it can be updated constantly so information should never be outdated! Have a new family picture? Email it to the church office and it can be added instantly! Recently moved and need to update your address? No problem, it will be updated instantly!

If you need an updated picture for the directory, stop in during Katie's office hours and we can snap a picture of you and get it added to the directory.

Be sure to check it out!

St Paul Attendance

12/05/21 9am - 76
12/24/21 6pm - 238

12/12/21 9am - 171
12/25/21 9am - 27

12/19/21 9am - 61
12/26/21 9am - 41

Budget Recap Year-To-Date (01/01/21 to 12/28/21)

Total Funds for Budget	\$190,689.41	Total Operating Funds	\$190,689.41
Budget	\$182,508.56	Operating Exp.	\$175,533.15
Difference	\$8,180.85	Difference	\$15,156.26

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 11/30/21 to 12/27/2021

In Memory:	Given by:	Designated for:
Phil Clennon	Linda Nachreiner	St. Paul Lutheran Church
Gary Schwartz	Jim & Elsie Groebner	St. Paul's Music Fund

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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, 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!

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 and friends of KayLynn Sanderville, The family of Gary Schwartz, The family of Gloria Bielen, Connie Wellner (Marge's daughter), Tina Bittler, 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.

January 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 9:00 Worship 10:00 Coffee Talk 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast	3 3:00 pm The Maples Bible Study 6:30 Parish Ed Meeting	4 6:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	5 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast 6:00 Luther League Meeting 6:30 Confirmation 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	6	7 Office Closed	1 8
9 9:00 Worship 10:00 Sunday School 10:00 Coffee Talk 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast	10 3:00 pm The Maples Bible Study	11 6:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast 7:00 New Member Class	12 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast 6:00 Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30 Confirmation 7:30 Choir Rehearsal 7:45 pm Church Council	13	14 Office Closed	15
16 9:00 Worship 10:00 Sunday School 10:00 Coffee Talk 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast	17 3:00 pm The Maples Holy Communion	18 10:00 am SJLH Worship 6:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast 7:00 New Member Class	19 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast 6:00 Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30 Confirmation 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	20	21 Office Closed	22
23 9:00 Worship 10:00 Sunday School 10:00 Coffee Talk 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast	24 3:00 pm The Maples Bible Study	25 6:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast 7:00 New Member Class	26 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast 6:30 Confirmation 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	27	28 Office Closed	29
30 New Member Sunday 9:00 Worship 10:00 Sunday School 10:00 Annual Meeting & Luther League Breakfast 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast	31 No Bible Study	Pastor on vacation thru February 6th.	St. Paul Lutheran Church, 303 N Cass Ave, Springfield, MN 56087 Church Telephone: 507-723-5880 www.spicspringfield.org Pastor's E-mail: pastortriciamattson@gmail.com Office E-mail: stpaul_lutheran@hotmail.com			

9:00 am Worship Service

Date	Sound & Video	Reader	Acolyte	Usher
1/2	Peter Heitzman	Mel Vogel	Grace Jacobs Tayte Zihlke	Team 3
1/9	John Mueller	Kurt Glaeseman	Noah Mueller Wyatt Mueller	Team 4
1/16	Russell Rogotzke	Jeanette Pidde	Bryan Buerkle Brayden Wendt	Team 1
1/23	Tim Vogel	Paul Muske	Ayvah Wendt Abby Dove	Team 2
1/30	Paul & Jonah	Daniel Kettner	Teagan Steffl Josh Timm	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

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 - Nicole Dove
 Taelyn Salonek
- 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 - 33 years



January 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.

NEW MEMBER CLASS-There will be a new member class starting in January 2022! If you are interested in joining the church or know someone who is, please contact Pastor!
Classes will be on Tuesdays, January 11, 18, 25. New Member Sunday will be on Sunday, January 30th.

St. John's Lutheran Home will be starting up BINGO again in 2022. Our church will need 2 volunteers for each scheduled Bingo day and must arrive at 1:45 pm for 2:00 Bingo. If you are able to volunteer for Bingo, please let Katie know!

Our church is scheduled for:
February 11 April 8
June 10 August 12
October 14 December 9



St. John's Bingo volunteer expectations are:
*Provide a copy of your vaccination card.
*Properly wear PPE. Please bring a mask to wear.
*Stay home if you are sick or not feeling well.

For Sale! We have two 8-foot tables and 12 folding chairs to sell that we no longer use here at church. They will be sold on a first come, first serve basis. You must contact Katie in the office to get your name down for them.
Prices: \$25 per table, chairs will be \$3 each or 3 chairs for \$5

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!



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!

5th Annual Sparkle and Dine Event sponsored by St. Raphael's is set for Monday, February 7th, at the Springfield Area Community Center. Table hostesses are needed! The cost is \$160 per table (\$20 per person) and includes fellowship, beautiful themed tables, and a catered meal. Registration forms are due by January 17, 2022 and can be found outside of Katie's office. This is a fun and elegant evening of socializing, laughing and spending time with your friends!
Proceeds will go towards Laundry Love, a non-profit organization in New Ulm. This organization gives low-income persons access to free laundry services. This ministry also participates in community building through providing a meal and conversations while laundry is being washed.

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

Postmaster: Dated material
Please Deliver Promptly
Address Service Requested

Calendar Highlights - January 2022

11, 18, 25—New Member Class 7pm
30 - Annual Meeting & New Member
Sunday

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)