

JANUARY

2024

***And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good,
for those who are called according to his purpose.***

Romans 8-28 ESV

At the beginning of 2024, I will be celebrating my one-year anniversary of living part-time in Southwest Minnesota. It has been an incredible adventure. There are multiple observations that I could share. I love the 'get 'er done' attitude I've found here. I appreciate the warm welcome that you have given me.

I could go on, and my list would be long, but I want to focus on my chief observation — God's Holy Spirit is working here. I have seen it in the ministries and outreach efforts you made. I've seen it in the care demonstrated by individuals to the less fortunate members of our community. I have seen it in how God works through the call process, preparing St Paul's for their next permanent pastor. I am confident that God is working all things together for good according to his purpose.

We will offer two events in January that will make us more aware of the movement of the Holy Spirit. First, we will join the rest of the Lutheran Congregations in Christ (LCMC) for Three Days of Prayer. On January 9, 10, and 11, I will have the Church open at 7:30 AM and 5:30 PM for a half hour of prayer. We will meet in the chapel. Please join me as we pray for our congregation, our call process, the other congregations of the LCMC, our missions, and the world.

Second, I will be starting a Bible Study on Wednesday mornings from 9:30 to 11:00. The study will begin on January 10, 2024. We will be looking at what it means to be the Church. I am confident that one of the things we will discover is that, in both subtle and obvious ways, God's Holy Spirit is working for our good.

In Hope and Joy,
Pastor Carl

St. Paul Lutheran Church Council Meeting-December 13, 2023

Jeff Krueger called the December meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in Room 101 at the church. Present were Kim Graff, Sarah Groebner, Randy Wendt, Tim Vogel, Kathy Pederson, Jo Muske, Jacob Marz, Pastor Carl Billings and Jeff Krueger. Anita Jensen, Financial Secretary, was also present.

Pastor Carl led the group in devotions and prayer based on 1 Corinthians 13.

M/S/P to approve the November Secretary's Report as printed.

M/S/P to approve the Financial Report as printed and pay the November and December benevolence (approved the December payment so Anita can close the books at year end).

Building and Grounds

- The window has been repaired on the west side of the church. Waiting for the bill.
- No action has been taken on the ventilation problems in space underneath the ramp. Agreement that the door will need to be replaced.
- Reviewed the report on the hail damage to the church and parsonage from Sedgewick. Randy and the Building and Grounds Committee will look into it. Suggested that we ask Schmidt Brothers Roofing to look at the damage and give an estimate.
- Pastor did purchase a new bed for the parsonage. Will present bill to the church.

Parish Education

- Sunday School Christmas Program is December 17 at 10:00 a.m. Coffee Talk will follow the program. Sunday School treat bags have been assembled and will be passed out to the children.
- M/S/P to have Confirmation on Sunday, May 5 and last day of Sunday School on Sunday, May 12.
- Pastor Carl will begin teaching Confirmation class in January. Jo Muske has offered to assist. Will also ask for parental

help, too.

- Will need to look for a new Sunday School Superintendent to fill out the rest of the year.

Pastor's Report

- Conducted three personal communions at St. John's Home
- Conducted Baptisms for Maverick Kratz and Roland Lang
- Conducted Funerals for Beverly Beussman and Betsy Rogotzke
- Did pastoral visits with those individuals who recently lost their spouse
- Working on Cottage Meeting set-up as part of Congregational Transition Steps—Would like completed by Annual Meeting
- Working on organizing a Church Council Workshop the first Saturday following the Annual Meeting
- Need to begin organizing a Call Committee and selecting a Chairman. Two possible pastoral candidates have contacted the church.
- Due to Sunday School Program December 17, will take opportunity to worship with wife in the Twin Cities instead of being at St. Paul's
- Planning to attend Advance Intentional Interim Training January 22-25, 2024.
- Will begin teaching the Confirmation Class in January.
- Working on a possible Wednesday morning Bible Study beginning mid-January.

Old Business

- Discussion on Transition Team. Team members so far are Angel Clemon, Jeremy Dove, Kelly Sargent, Jena Veenstra and Sarah Groebner. Sarah and Pastor will begin organizing the group.
- We met with St. Johns Church Council preceding our meeting. Continued discussions on possible pairing and sharing of the congregations. Setting up a task force—three from each church—to work on ideas and plans. Jeff Krueger volunteered to be one of the members.
- Discussion on the Call Committee. Would like to get it set up before the Annual

Meeting. Need to find a chairman for the committee. Two pastoral candidates have contacted the church—will follow up with them.

- Nominating Committee. No one has stepped up for any positions other than Chairman for next year. We will need a Vice-Chairman (willing to be Chairman following year), Treasurer and one Council Person. There are also other committees that will need members. Will announce in church and put in bulletin.
- Parking Lot Disturbance Issues—Kathy talked with the Springfield Police. The last one was a domestic issue which has been resolved. The police have been told they can again patrol the parking lot. Cameras may be a possibility in the future.
- Marie Weinberger Trust—Paul Muske is working with Anita to distribute the funds to the church for this year. Money will go to the Heritage Fund, Parish Education and Scholarship Funds among others.

New Business

- 2024 Budget: The Budget Committee met and created the budget for 2024 and it was presented to the Council. The benevolence percentage will be determined at the Annual Meeting. There is a section in the Budget set-up for the Interim Ministry. The Pastor figures will not be filled in until we get a new pastor along with his/her contract. Church Staff reviews were discussed and salaries for 2024 determined. M/S/P to accept the 2024 salaries for the staff.
- M/S/P to accept the resignations of John Mueller and Denise Gicker from the Church Council effective immediately. Jeff Krueger has agreed to be the Interim Church Council Chairman.
- Christmas items will be taken down by the Council on Sunday, January 14 at 1:30 p.m.
- M/S/P to give Christmas gifts to Parish Coordinator, Financial Secretary, Housekeeper, Custodian and Pastor. Jeff will take care of putting them together.

M/S/P to adjourn at 9:50 p.m. We closed with the Lord’s Prayer.
 Next meeting will be Wednesday, January 10, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.

~Jeff Krueger, Church Council Secretary

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Church Leadership Opportunities: The St. Paul Lutheran Church Nominating Committee is seeking members who are willing to serve on the Church Council for 2024 and beyond. This is a great opportunity to have a voice in the church and lead the future. Open positions include Church Vice President, and Church Treasurer. Please contact Katie, Pastor Carl, or Jeff Krueger if you are interested in serving in 2024. Thank you to all the current and past church leaders for their service!
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<u>2023 Church Council</u>	
Jeff Krueger - Secretary/Chair	Sarah Groebner
Tim Vogel- Treasurer	Randy Wendt
Jacob Marz	Kathy Pederson
Kim Graff	Josephine Muske

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

12/3 9am - 84

12/10 9am - 103

12/17 10am - 204

12/24 9am - 42

12/24 6pm - 219

Budget Recap Year-To-Date (01/01/23 to 12/28/23)

Total Funds for Budget	\$172,192.83	Total Operating Funds	\$172,192.83
Budget	\$210,837.64	Operating Exp.	\$197,898.50
Difference	(\$38,644.81)	Difference	(\$25,705.67)

Memorials Given 11/28/23—12/27/2023

In Memory:

Designated for:

Given by:

Betsy Rogotzke:

St Paul Music Fund: Gertie Rosenau, Roger & Kelly Sargent, John & Dawn Marz

Good Shepherd Scholarship Fund: Jim & Elsie Groebner

St. Paul Cemetery: Family & Friends

Beverly Beussman:

St. Paul Cemetery: Don & Sherry Bloemke

St. Paul Lutheran Church: Audrey Rieck, Richard & Lois Zihlke, Tim & Jill Vogel, Ed Meidl, Daniel Kettner

Baptismal Faith Chests: Shannon Landkammer


Steve Polkow:

Good Shepherd Scholarship Fund: Peggy Larson


HELP WANTED

Part-time Housekeeper at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Springfield, MN. 10-12 hours a week with flexible schedule. Must be self-motivated and have attention to detail. Duties include, but not limited to general housekeeping and cleaning throughout the church building including, vacuuming and sweeping floors, stairs, rugs, washing floors and windows, dusting throughout, cleaning kitchen/fellowship hall and bathrooms, emptying garbage, replenishing supplies, occasionally assist in setting up tables/chairs, and other tasks as assigned. Occasional weekend work may be needed in the event of funerals, weddings, or other functions. Applications can be picked up at St. Paul Lutheran Church Monday-Thursday 8 a.m. – noon, or online at www.splcspringfield.org.


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... Dalores Stern, Bob Rogotzke, Ardella Wilsterman, Gary Buck(Shawna Jacobs' step dad), Marcia Schiller; these LCMC Congregations: Abounding Joy Lutheran Church, St. Cloud, MN, Albion Lutheran Church, St James, MN, Bethany Lutheran, Covington, MI, Bethany Lutheran Church, Storden, MN, Bethesda Lutheran Church, Dresser, WI, Christ Lutheran Church, Blair, NE, Christ the King Lutheran Church, Hutchinson, MN, Christ's Victory Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls, MN; 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.



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!



January 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 9:00 Worship 10:00 Sunday School 10:00 Coffee Talk 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast	8 9 7:30 a.m. Three Days of Prayer 5:30 p.m. Three Days of Prayer 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	9 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	10 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast 5:30 p.m. Three Days of Prayer 7:00 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 Church Council Meeting	11 7:30 a.m. Three Days of Prayer 5:30 p.m. Three Days of Prayer	12	13
14 9:00 Worship 10:00 Sunday School 10:00 Coffee Talk 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast	15 16 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast Katie on vacation	17 9:30-11:00 a.m. Bible Study 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	18	19	20	
21 9:00 Worship 10:00 Sunday School 10:00 Coffee Talk 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast	22 23 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	24 9:30-11:00 a.m. Bible Study 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	25	26	27	
28 9:00 Worship 10:00 Sunday School 10:00 Coffee Talk 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast	29 30 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	31 9:30-11:00 a.m. Bible Study 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast 7:00 Choir Rehearsal				

* Indicates Choir Singing.

Worship Service Helpers

Date	Sound & Video	Projection	Reader	Acolyte	Usher	Organist
1/7	John Mueller	Katie Mueller	Brittany Cook	Wyatt Mueller Hayden Gluth	Team 2	Jo Schwartz
1/14	Tim Vogel	Jordan Pidde	Paul Muske	Bobbi Jo Timm Bentley Wendt	Team 3	Jo Schwartz
1/21	Trevor Krebs	John Mueller	Daniel Kettner	Ali Trapp Gabby Schenk	Team 4	Jeff Krueger
1/28	Paul & Jonah	Ashtyn Rudolph	Jordan Pidde	Lily Groebner Brooklyn Anderson	Team 1	Jeff Krueger

January Altar Guild
Kari Haugo

Usher Teams
 1 - Don Bloemke, John Marz, Jake Marz, Paul Meidl
 2 - Doug Gatzlaff, Kurt Kratz, Dave Bittler, Peter Heitzman
 3 - Doug Schiller, Russell Rogotzke, Mark Buerkle, Jeremy Dove
 4 - Tim Vogel, Scott Vogel, Bill Vogel
WE COULD ALWAYS USE MORE USHER VOLUNTEERS!!

January Birthdays!

- 2 - Cody Wendt
 - 4 - Levi Serie
 - 5 - Grace Jacobs
 - 5 - Stacia Rosenau
 - 5 - Justina Streich
 - 6 - Kyler Zihlke
 - 9 - Jennifer Krueger
 - 9 - Navada Trebesch
 - 10 - Glenn Jensen
 - 12 - Tasha Sargent
 - 12 - Alan Groebner
 - 14 - Ellie Jensen
 - 15 - Nicole Dove
 - 15 - Taelyn Salonek
 - 20 - Ashlyn Rosenau
 - 20 - Georgia Renner
 - 21 - Megan Quesenberry
 - 21 - Nickolas Rogotzke
 - 23 - Jacob Rogotzke
 - 24 - Parker Gluth
 - 24 - Brad Haugo
 - 24 - Gertie Rosenau
 - 25 - April Sargent
 - 28 - Derek Shaw
 - 28 - Averie Salonek
 - 29 - Maya Cook

We have a great need for Altar Guild help!
 Please consider helping this group!
 We could use 2 more people or families.
 You would be responsible for 2-4 Sunday's a year.
 Please talk to Katie in the office if you can help!

January Anniversaries!

- 21 - Paul & Colleen Meidl - 35 years

Bring your empty egg cartons to the church kitchen or drop off at Katie's office.

Pick up your 2024 Offering Envelopes
in the Narthex!

Do you want to sign up for automatic giving? Talk to Katie or Anita to learn how easy it is!

Pastor Carl will be starting a weekly Bible Study on Wednesday mornings from 9:30-11:00 beginning on January 10, 2024.

We will be looking at what it means to be the Church. I am confident that one of the things we will discover is that, in both subtle and obvious ways, God's Holy Spirit is working for our good.

LCMC's Three Days of Prayer runs January 9, 10, and 11. The church will be open at 7:30 AM and 5:30 PM for a half hour of prayer.

We will meet in the chapel. Please join Pastor Carl as we pray for our congregation, our call process, the other congregations of the LCMC, our missions, and the world.

Annual Meeting Sunday, February 4th

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

Ingham Okoboji Bible Camp Happenings

Marriage Celebration Retreat February 9-11, 2024,

with speakers Pastor Jeremy and Michelle King

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, breakfast café, and great sessions.

Theme: Created for Connection
An Imago Dei approach to marriage
Join us for a weekend of connection as we explore God's heart for marriage and how it bears His image to the world. Using the work of Sue Johnson and Brene Brown we will grow in our Accessibility, Responsiveness, and Engagement (A.R.E.), and practice building story stewardship.

\$219 for the weekend per couple
\$129 commuter rate per couple (breakfast not included)

Crafting Retreats

Winter Retreat: January 26-28, 2024

Spring Retreat: April 26-28, 2024

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.

Cost: \$119 per person

Join us up to 24 hours early! Sign up for Thursday arrival and start crafting as early as noon that day. Early arrival cost includes a simple breakfast and lunch on Friday. \$30 extra for Thursday Early Arrival.

7th Annual Sparkle and Dine Event sponsored by St. Raphael's is set for Monday, February 12th, at the Springfield Area Community Center. Table hostesses are needed! The cost is \$160 per table (\$20 per person) and includes a catered meal, guest speaker, beautiful themed tables, and social time. This is a fun and elegant evening of socializing, laughing and spending time with your friends!

This year proceeds will go towards NUMAS Haus, a women's shelter in New Ulm, dedicated to helping women and their families get back to independent living. They provide housing, classes, and other support aide in long-term stability. Registration forms are due by January 22, 2024 and can be found outside of Katie's office.

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

Postmaster: Dated material
Please Deliver Promptly
Address Service Requested

Calendar Highlights - January 2024
9-11 - 3 days of Prayer

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:

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

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