



January

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

Colossians 3:16

Do you have a junk drawer at home? A place where you put useless items that you think you might need someday. We call it "The drawer where things end up" at our house. Many of us have a Spiritual junk drawer where spiritual thoughts and religious ideas end up: a half-remembered Sunday school lesson from your childhood, a recently heard podcast, or a sermon from a long ago that stuck with you. Some of those ideas are helpful, and others are not as helpful and maybe even harmful. From time to time, it is worth evaluating those ideas.

That is why, in January, we will start a new book study, ***Junk Drawer Jesus: Discarding Your Spiritual Clutter and Rediscovering the Supremacy of Grace***. The book's subtitle describes the book accurately. The book looks at some spiritual ideas that can hinder you from living out your faith in daily life. It deals with some of those thoughts and ideas that hinder us from a close and fulfilling relationship with our loving Heavenly Father. Ideas include seeing God as some heavenly referee watching to ensure that we play strictly by the rules or how we can truly hear God's voice as we live our lives. Here is a quote that gets at the heart of the book,

"The irony, as we will discover, is that apart from the message of Christ crucified and resurrected for sinners, we end up building the very thing we claim to abhor, a system laden with expectation and burdens, blind spots and bigotries. We build something that robs us of joy and drives us further from the peace and hope we're so desperate to find."

The purpose of this book is to help us to clear out those blind spots, burdens, and bigotries from our life.

I am not big into New Year resolutions, but I believe in setting goals for the New Year. Let me encourage you to set a goal to read this book and weave its wisdom into your life. I seldom say this about a book, but I think this book can be life-changing. It will above all help you to *let the word of Christ dwell in you richly*.

To help those of us who would like to explore this book, St Paul's will be starting a book study at the beginning of the New Year. You can sign up at worship or call the office. The book study will begin on January 13, 2025.

In Hope and Joy,
Pastor Carl

**St. Paul Lutheran Church
Council Meeting
December 11, 2024**

Chairman Paul Muske called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m. on Wednesday, December 11. Members present were Paul Muske, Jeff Krueger, Kathy Pederson, Angel Rummel, Sarah Groebner, Randy Wendt, Jacob Marz, Kelly Sargent and Pastor Carl. Kim Graff 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 November 13, 2024 meeting.

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

Pastor's Report

- Conducted three in-home communions.
- Conducted service and communion at St. John's Home.
- Distributed funds from the Good Samaritan Fund to individuals needing financial assistance.
- Teaching Confirmation classes for St. Paul's and St. Johns students. They will begin studying the Apostles' Creed.
- Continuing to conduct worship services at St. Johns Church. They are moving forward with calling Pastor Kelly. Will not be needed at St. Johns for December 15, 24 or 29 services.
- Will begin a new book study in January. Based on the book *Junk Drawer Jesus: Discarding Your Spiritual Clutter and Rediscovering the Supremacy of Grace*.

Parish Education

- Sunday School room updates continue to be worked on.
- Sunday School Christmas Program is set for December 15 at 10:00 a.m.
- There will be no Sunday School on December 22 or December 29.
- Beginning plans for Vacation Bible School. St. Paul's will host this year. Theme will be "True North-Trusting Jesus in a Wild World." Krystal Plaster and Megan Hillesheim will be part of the committee.

Old Business

- Parsonage window replacement has been ordered and painting will be done in the spring. Photos and estimates were sent to the insurance company.
- The outside church doors on the south side of the church will need to be refinished in the spring. Al will do the refinishing work on the doors.
- The Call Committee has been meeting. They had zoom meetings with two candidates and sent them some materials about our church and the community. One is still a seminary student. Will be setting up additional meetings with them.
- Paul and Kathy will do Staff Reviews before the holidays.
- Nominating Committee has been working on filling positions. Gary Renner is helping Paul with the task. Will need to fill Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary positions on the council. Kathy, Jake, Sarah and Randy have agreed to another term. Kim will be asked. Angel and Kelly's terms are not up this year.
- The Budget Committee met and set the budget for 2025. It was reviewed at the meeting. Nothing budgeted to the Epiphany District at this time unless we receive more information from the group. Also decided to cut the landline at the parsonage as most now use cell phones.
- Our budgeted amount of \$750 was sent to LCMC for the year. They had asked congregations to consider donating to them.
- Christmas shut-in visits will take place Sunday, December 22 following worship service. Everyone was encouraged to come and help with the project.
- The Community Treasures Thrift Store budget and business plan was reviewed by the board. At this time, they are just looking for volunteers to help at the store.

New Business

- St. Johns Church is having a speaker from the Mission Pilot Program on December 29. We will have the speaker at our 9:00 a.m. worship service December 29 as well.
- Taylor Milbrath of the EPIC Kids Youth Program made a request for our church to help prepare and serve meals for the

project. It is open to kids in Kindergarten through sixth grade. They meet every Wednesday evening at the school. The consensus was that we will not help with the project at this time.

•Katie Mueller requested permission to use the sofa in one of the Sunday School rooms for set props for the One Act Play at school. Permission was granted and the school can also keep it if they would like.

•M/S/P to give Christmas gifts to the church staff again this year. Paul, Jeff and Anita will work on the project.

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

2024 Church Council

Paul Muske - Chair	
Jeff Krueger - Secretary	Kelly Sargent - Treasure
Randy Wendt	Jacob Marz
Kathy Pederson	Kim Graff
Sarah Groebner	Angel Rummel

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

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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.

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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 2025 and beyond. This is a great opportunity to have a voice in the church and lead the future. Open positions include Church President, Vice President, Council Secretary, and several general Council members. Please contact Katie, Pastor Carl, or Paul Muske if you are interested in serving in 2025. Thank you to all the current and past church leaders for their service!

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St Paul Attendance

11/27 7pm - 73 12/1 9 am - 65 12/8 9 am - 82
12/15 10 am - 158 12/22 9 am - 76 12/24 6 pm - 270

St. Paul Mirror

Giving week 12/15 \$2,014
Wkly amt. to meet budget \$4,335
Budget YTD \$222,108

Gen Funds Rec'd YTD \$182,366
Expenses YTD \$203,294
Difference (\$20,928)

Benevolence Budget \$7,846
Benevolence Paid YTD \$8,452
Thrivent Choice Dollars \$359

Memorials will be updated in the next Epistle.

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!

Annual Meeting Sunday, February 2nd

2025 Offering Envelopes are available in the Narthex.

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...The family of Ardella Wilstermann, the family of Darlene Wilstermann, the family of Maurice Hagen, Jerome Kettner, Mae Meyer, 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.

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 2025

* Indicates Choir Singing.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Office Cloaed 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast	2	3	4
5 9:00 Worship 10:00 Coffee Talk 10:00 Sunday School 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast	6 6:30 pm Parish Ed Meeting	7 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	8 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast 6:15-7:15 Confirmation @ St. Johns 7:15 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 7:45 Council Meeting	9	10	11
12 9:00 Worship 10:00 Coffee Talk 10:00 Sunday School 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast	13	14 10:00 am Worship at SJLH 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	15 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast 6:15-7:15 Confirmation @ St. Johns 7:15 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	16	17	18
19 9:00 Worship * 10:00 Coffee Talk 10:00 Sunday School 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast	20	21 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	22 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast 6:15-7:15 Confirmation @ St. Johns 7:15 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	23	24	25
26 9:00 Worship 10:00 Coffee Talk 10:00 Sunday School 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast	27	28 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	29 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast 6:15-7:15 Confirmation @ St. Johns 7:15 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	30	31	

* Indicates Choir Singing.

Worship Service Helpers


Date	Sound & Video	Projection	Reader	Acolyte	Usher	Organist
1/5	Groebner Boys	Groebner Boys	Paul Muske	Lydia Vogel Wyatt Dove	Team 3	Jeff Krueger
1/12	Dove Family	Dove Family	Daniel Kettner	Jonah Pidde Gavin Brown	Team 4	Jo Schwartz
1/19	Mueller Family	Mueller Family	Jordan Pidde	Bentley Wendt Reagan Plaster	Team 1	Jeff Krueger
1/26	Tim Vogel	Jacobs Family	Jo Muske	Lily Groebner Bobbi Jo Timm	Team 2	Jo Schwartz

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

January Birthdays!


								
	2 - Cody Wendt							
	4 - Levi Serie							
	5 - Grace Jacobs							
	5 - Stacia Rosenau							
	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							

January Anniversaries!



















										
	21 - Paul & Colleen Meidl - 36 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!

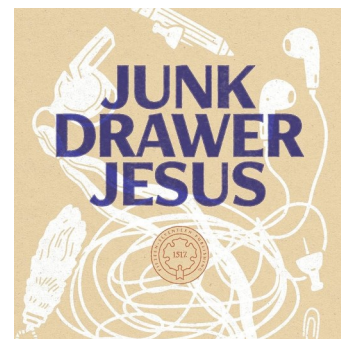

American Red Cross

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

Do you have a junk drawer at home? A place where you put useless items that we think we might need some day. Many of us have a Spiritual junk drawer. Where religious ideas end up: a remembered Sunday school lesson, a recently heard podcast, a sermon from long ago. Some of those ideas are helpful, others not as helpful. It is worth evaluating those ideas.

In January we will be starting a new book study ***Junk Drawer Jesus: Discarding Your Spiritual Clutter and Rediscovering the Supremacy of Grace***. The book study will start in the new year, 1-13-2025.



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.

Community Treasures, a community-based thrift store opening soon in Springfield, is now hiring two part time store managers, up to 20 hours per week, some evening hours and Saturday's. This position involves sales, merchandise sorting, pricing and display set up. To apply send resume to: Community Treasures, 20 E Central St, Springfield MN 56087.

Community Treasures Thrift store needs volunteers to share their time, talent and treasure to ensure the stores success in service to the Springfield Community and surrounding area.

- Time-volunteer to sort and organize donations for store opening and after store opens, assist managers as needed
- Talent-help set up and organize store displays, make signs
- Treasures-monetary donations, clean clothing, household items, furniture, jewelry electrical items in working order. Will start collecting donations at the store December 16, 2024.

For more information or questions please contact any of the following board members-Linda Anderson, Katie Dauer, Karen Brandl, Susan Hendrickson, Duane Feser, Wayne Adamson, Tucker Loomis, Bev Clennon, Cheryl Diede, Marlys Vanderwerf, John Ryan, Lauren Wilson, or Kim Gluth

8th Annual Sparkle and Dine Event sponsored by St. Raphael's is set for Monday, February 10th, 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!

The guest speaker is Gabriel Rohilk.

This year proceeds will go towards Hope Harbor in Marshall, MN. This non-profit supports teens recovering from crisis, giving them the support and tools to build healthy relationships. Registration forms are due by January 20, 2025 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 2025

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