

JULY

Pr. Tricia Mattson

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings! As many of you already know, at seminary my favorite professor was Dr. Steven Paulson (aka Dr. P). It was during the second half of my second year of seminary when I first heard about the Office of the Keys in my Lutheran Confessions class with Dr. P. Luther's Small Catechism teaches us that the Office of the Keys "is that authority which Christ gave to his church to forgive the sins the sins of those who repent and to declare to those who do not repent that their sins are not forgiven." The words of Christ that give this authority are found in John 20:23 and Matthew 18:18. When Dr. P explained that this authority was not restrict to pastors alone, but that "the church" meant every baptized believer, I was shocked. I wondered how I could have gone through life, and especially a year and a half of seminary, without ever having heard the slightest mention of the Office of the Keys.

Dr. P shared with us the following story told to him by a former student whom he had also taught how to use the Office of the Keys:

Beginning his first call in northern Minnesota, the young pastor met the custodian, the very elderly "Ingrid," as she was mopping the floor. During their conversation, she shared a story from her childhood, which had shadowed the remainder of her life. Ingrid and her family had immigrated from Norway when she was young girl. She was very unhappy to have left her friends and even more upset that her piano had been left in Norway. She sulked about the loss of her piano and she was sullen with everyone, refusing to settle into her new life. Unbeknownst to her, her father arranged to have the piano shipped as a surprise for her. When her father arrived at the train station in his wagon to pick it up, the train was long gone, and no one was around to help. He loaded the piano without help and so damaged his back that he was never able to work again. Ingrid felt deep guilt about her father's injury, as she believed her sulky and sullen behavior was responsible for it. More than 70 years later, that childhood guilt was still shaping Ingrid's everyday life.

Finishing her story, Ingrid told the pastor that she had carried this guilt her entire life. The pastor's response was to say that she was just a young girl and it wasn't her fault. Ingrid said to the pastor, "I thought perhaps you would be the one." When he asked what meant, Ingrid explained that her whole life she been cleaning the church (attempting to pay for her guilt) and waiting for someone who could do something about her guilt. It was in this moment that the pastor realized that what she had been waiting for was the Office of the Keys to set her free from the guilt that she had carried so long. The pastor forgave her sins in the name of Christ. In response, the very elderly and misty-eyed Ingrid relinquished her mop once and for all and went home. She was set free indeed!

How much needless guilt do we carry around with us in our day to day lives? Each Sunday you are called to hear the Gospel, the forgiveness of your sins, to lift your burden of guilt over to Christ. But if you are carrying a heavy weight of guilt that just won't let you go, please get in touch with me and together we can hand that burden over to Christ. You, too, can be set free!

Love from your Sister in Christ,

Pr. Tricia Mattson

St. Paul Lutheran Church—Church Council Meeting - June 10, 2020

Present: Paul Muske, Ed Meidl, Bill Vogel, Tim Vogel, Doug Jeske, Angel Clemon, Pastor Tricia, Shawna Jacobs

Also present: Katie Mueller, church coordinator

Absent: Craig Valentin, Matt Sargant, David Bittler, Anita Jensen, Financial Secretary

Call to order at 7:47pm, Paul Muske

Devotion – Pastor Tricia

M/S/P-Secretary's Report

M/S/P-Financial Report

Please confirm dates on the front page

Building and Grounds – Ed

Parsonage Basement

Randy is going to look at the basement to determine what will be needed for electrical work.

Parsonage Roof-receiving estimates for replacing shingles.

Parish Education

Discussion over VBS opportunities in August

M/S/P-to cancel VBS for this year.

Please let St. John's church know we would host next year.

Pastor's Report

Visitation

Calling our elder members to check in with them.

While practicing precautions to prevent the spread of Covid-19, I have given the Lord's Supper at parishioner request.

Worship

Leading Sunday worship Live on FB at 9:00 a.m. and drive-in worship at 11:00 a.m.

Giving Children's Sermons on Zoom at 10:15 a.m. weekly.

Presided at the graveside service for Carol Meidl on 5/15/20.

Baptized June Elizabeth Vogel after worship on 5/24/20

Parish Education

Leading bible study on Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.

Taught a baptism class.

Met with a confirmation student to hear his memory work via Zoom.

Community

Attended a baptism party on 5/24/20.

Submitted an article to the Advanced Press, Crowning Glory, on 05/27/20.

Attended the drive-by grad parties of Alexis Clemon and Zandar Asmus on 5/31/20.

OLD BUSINESS

- COVID-19 Issues
 - COVID Preparedness and Response Plan-council has reviewed. Concerns with coordinating the plan, volunteers, current concerns with spikes in rates.

Regarding policy-

M/S/P-to continue to have services at 9am Facebook and 11am drive thru, and allow sanctuary use for funerals, weddings, and baptisms in accordance to CDC guidelines and the COVID Preparedness Plan with modifications listed below.

- Would only have 1 restroom available-need trash can outside of restroom for paper towels to open door
- Remove policy info for payroll
- Ushers will be located at the South Entrances and maintain distancing

- The south entrance is the only entrance to be utilized by parishioners/attendees.
- Usher and fill seats front to back.
- Do not specify the stances to be sung by the cantor. The cantor will also social distance by 15' or from the back of the balcony.
- Mask guidelines need to be reviewed and specified better-masks required for staff and volunteers when social distancing requirements cannot be met.
- Policy committee to meet again to review and clean up some of the verbiage.

Please call members to update plans for continued drive in service.

- 150th Anniversary Update-getting the Cemetery walk prepared for July.
 - o Potential Idea for neighborhood theme for Aug -food truck in the parking lot
 - o Church Credit Card-in process
 - o Church Security – quotes TBD-still in process
- Computer Upgrades – Installed and working great

NEW BUSINESS

Motion to adjourn 8:55pm
Close with 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		

Worship Schedule Update

The Policy Committee has met and developed a plan based off the recommendations of the CDC and MN Department of Health. The Council has approved this plan for special events at the church, such as weddings and funerals, but they have decided to not open the building for in person worship just yet. Please know that we will continue to monitor the situation and re-evaluate often. We will let you know once we are planning to begin in person worship again.

Until then, please continue to join us Sunday’s during our Facebook Live Worship at 9:00 a.m., which is also viewable on Channel 8 at 10:30 a.m. and the 11:00 a.m. drive-in worship service in the parking lot. If you are attending the Drive-In Worship service, please tune your **FM radio to channel 89.5**. Enter through the West entrance in the parking lot and you will be directed as to where to park. Everyone is asked to remain inside your vehicle.

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.

If you or your family desire to meet one on one with Pastor Tricia for Holy Communion, please contact her.

Budget not available as of date of printing.

We ask at this time that folks refrain from entering the church building unless the need is urgent, in order to protect everyone's health. Offerings and correspondence may be mailed or put in the drop box in the west side door. Thank you!

Memorials have not been updated as of date of printing.

Please pray for... Bud Wendt, Johnny MacLaren, The Family of Georgiana Hewitt (Dalores Stern's sister); Cylee Graff, Joseph Wendt, Emily Wendt, Ethan Langseth, 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.

Weekly Bible Study

Pastor Tricia will be resuming bible study on Monday's at 1:00 p.m. at The Maples and on Tuesday's at 6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. We are limited to no more than 10 people, so if you are new to bible study and want to join, please contact Pastor Tricia at pastortriciamattson@gmail.com. If needed she can add an additional bible study.

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.

Once again, we appreciate those who have been continuing to send in their offerings. 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. If you have questions or need help, please talk to Katie in the church office.



You also have the option to set up automatic giving directly with your bank. If you would like the form or more information, please contact Katie in the church office.

Please be aware that this schedule could change on a day by day basis. We will do our best to keep you updated. Please email or call the church office if you have questions. stpaul_lutheran@hotmail.com or 507-723-5880. Thank you for your understanding.

July 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 10:00 am Ch. 8 Broadcast	2	3 Office Closed	4 Happy 4ht of July!
5 9:00 Facebook Live Worship 10:15 Zoom Children's Sermon 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast 11:00 Drive-In Worship	6 1:00 The Maples Bible Study	7 6:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	8 10:00 am Ch. 8 Broadcast 7:45 Council Meeting	9	10 Office Closed	11 1-3 Emily Vogel Bridal Shower (see page 7 for more info)
12 9:00 Facebook Live Worship 10:15 Zoom Children's Sermon 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast 11:00 Drive-In Worship	13 1:00 The Maples Bible Study	14 6:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	15 10:00 am Ch. 8 Broadcast	16	17 Office Closed	18
Katie on vacation -----						
19 9:00 Facebook Live Worship 10:15 Zoom Children's Sermon 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast 11:00 Drive-In Worship	20 1:00 The Maples Bible Study	21 6:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	22 10:00 am Ch. 8 Broadcast	23	24 Office Closed	25
26 9:00 Facebook Live Worship 10:15 Zoom Children's Sermon 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast 11:00 Drive-In Worship	27 1:00 The Maples Bible Study 2:00 Downtown Estates HC	28 6:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	29 10:00 am Ch. 8 Broadcast	30 Pastor on vacation thru 8/2	31 Office Closed	

9:00 am Worship Service

We are working on a plan to implement in-person services, but it will take some time to develop the plan and train staff and volunteers. Please watch for announcements for when we will be able to gather again.

The need for worship service helpers will be developed according to the plan, therefore I will not be posting the schedule until further notice.

Thank you for being patient and understanding.

July Birthdays!

1 - Peter Heitzman,
1 - Bob Rogotzke
1 - Scott Vogel
6 - Lenore Krueger
6 - Emily Wendt
7 - Carol Carlson
7 - Jordan Pidde
9 - Sue Hendrickson
11 - Molly Jacobs
12 - Malorie Kral
13 - Marge Wellner
14 - Kurt Krebs
14 - Peggy Larson
15 - Michael Marz
16 - Cody Groebner
16 - Shawn Plaster
16 - Kevin Schwartz
17 - Sherry Fenger
18 - Randy Wendt
18 - Brittany Wersal
21 - Timothy Vogel
22 - Barbara Vanderwerf
23 - Nathan Johnson
24 - Josh Timm
26 - Nicole Shaw
27 - Otto Krueger
28 - Harmon Quesenberry
28 - Noah Solmonson
29 - Noah Mueller
30 - Dana Jacobs
30 - John Marz
30 - Kathryn Pederson
30 - Jen Timm
31 - Abigail Jensen
31 - Lydia Jeske

July Anniversaries!

11 - Don & Sheryl Bloemke - 39 years
11 - Daniel & Jena Veenstra - 5 years
14 - Kurt & Janice Kratz - 36 years
14 - Jacob & Jamie Marz - 8 years
16 - Derek & Nicole Shaw - 15 years

July Altar Guild

Jo Schwartz, Megan Hillesheim, Jordyn Plaster
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

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.

"150 YEARS OF WALKING WITH GOD"

July 2020 - Mission & Prayer Walk
August 2020 - Neighborhood Walk
September 2020 - Walk in the Park
October 2020 - All-Saints Walk
October 11, 2020, Anniversary Celebration
November 2020 - Walking With the Word
December 2020 - Walking Into the Future



ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH
1870 - 2020

Worship On Wednesday (W.O.W) has been cancelled until further notice.

Graduating Seniors and College Students, don't forget to apply for the Good Shepherd Scholarship.

Applications must be received by July 15th. For a copy of the Eligibility Rules and Application go to www.splcspringfield.org/Scholarships Or email Katie in the office at stpaul_lutheran@hotmail.com

STUFF THE BACKPACKS SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

Once again we are participating in the United Way's Stuff The Backpack Program! Drop of any NEW school supplies between now - July 26th at St. Paul's Church. Please have in a bag labeled Stuff the Backpacks. Last year, 380 backpacks filled with age appropriate school supplies were distributed throughout Brown County.

Supplies needed:

#2 Pencils

3-Ring Binders

Crayola Broad Tip Markers

Crayola Colored Pencils, sets of 12

Elmer's Glue- 4 oz bottles

Fiskars Kid Scissors - pointed

Highlighters

Pencil Top Erasers

Scotch Tape

Composition Notebooks

2-Pocket Folders Spiral Notebooks - wide ruled

Crayola 24 Count Crayons

Crayola Thin Tip Markers

Dry Erase Markers

Fine Tip Sharpie Markers

Glue Sticks

Large Pink Erasers

Pencil Bags & Boxes

Post-it Notes

Facial Tissue - we need a lot

**The US Census 2020 is Hiring! Starting wage in Brown County is \$16.50/hour.
Go to 2020census.gov/jobs to learn more or call 720-606-9047.**

The Springfield Area Food Shelf has had to make some changes of operation due to COVID-19. 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 507227-7387 if you have any questions.

Bridal Shower Honoring



Emily Vogel

Bride-to-be of Eric Goblirsch

Saturday, July 11, 2020

1:00 pm - 1:30 pm Drive-Through

1:30 pm - 3:00 pm Come & Go

At Tim & Jill Vogel's Residence, 38390 210th St, Springfield

Parents: Tim & Jill Vogel and Rob & Kathy Goblirsch of Sleepy Eye

*The couple is registered at: Bed Bath & Beyond, Target, Macy's, Amazon,
and Runnings in Springfield*



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

Postmaster: Dated material
Please Deliver Promptly
Address Service Requested

**For the most up to date
information, please visit
our Facebook page!**

We are on the Web!
www.splc.springfield.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. & 11:00 a.m.

*Watch for updates

Coffee Talk cancelled until further notice



Please see update on page 4

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