



Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances. 1st Amendment of the Constitution

We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. 2 Corinthians 5:9

July 4 is just around the corner so I thought I would do something a little different and give some reflections of on the 1st Amendment and the freedom of religion. Before I make any comments please notice several things:

- Nowhere in the amendment does the phrase "separation of Church and State" appear.
- The amendment does two particular things: first it prohibits congress from establishing a specific religion as the state religion like in Europe at the time. Second it prohibits congress from interfering with the free expression of religion
- The same amendment that guarantees the freedom of religion also guarantees the freedom of the press and of peaceable assembly.

So why is this important? Then last several decades there has been a concerted effort by secularist to silence people of faith. Organizations such "Freedom From Religion" and The ACLU have try to interpret the Constitution to say that the 1st Amendment should keep people of faith from expressing their opinion and their faith in the public arena. Their goal is to make faith simply a private and personal expression that has no bearing on public policy. That is precisely the opposite of what the Constitution guarantees. People of all faiths have the right to express their faith and opinion. Much like the press has the right to express their thoughts and observations through the media.

The questions becomes how do we do it? The first thing to remember is that we are not only citizens of the United States but more importantly citizens of the Kingdom of God. When we venture out into public sphere with our faith, like Paul, we are ambassadors for the Kingdom of God. As ambassadors how should we act? Well any good ambassador stay in touch with his government; any good ambassador chooses his words careful in order to speak the truth clearly and with gentleness; any good ambassador through action and words tries to be a noble and winsome representative of his country.

Those are good guidelines. We should remain in contact with God through prayer and study. Letting our Lord and King mold us into his ambassador. When we speak we should choose our words carefully so that we might as Paul says in Ephesians, "Speak the Truth in Love". Finally we should let our actions speak as loud or louder than our words, so that "people might see our good works and glorify our Father in heaven."

This election season don't be afraid to speak as a person of faith, but when you do, speak as an ambassador for your Lord and Savior Jesus the Messiah.

In Hope and Joy,
Pastor Carl

St. Paul Lutheran Church Council Meeting-June 12, 2024

Chairman Paul Muske called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 8 in Room 101 at the church. Members present were Paul Muske, Kim Graff, Angel Rummel, Jacob Marz, Randy Wendt, Sarah Groebner, Pastor Carl and Jeff Krueger. Kathy Pederson and Kelly Sargent were absent. Parish Coordinator Katie Mueller and Church Financial Secretary Anita Jensen were also present.

M/S/P to adopt the agenda.

Pastor Carl led the group in devotions and prayer based upon Psalm 1.

- M/S/P to approve the Secretary's Report of the May 8, 2024 meeting.
- M/S/P to approve the Financial Statement as printed.
- The Parish Education Board did not meet in the month of June.
- M/S/P to accept the Consent Agenda.

Pastor's Report

- Conducted memorial service for Alvin Matzke on May 19, 2024.
- Conducting pre-marriage counseling for two couples.
- Conducting midweek services on Tuesdays at 6 p.m. in the chapel. Average attendance is 10.
- Conducted first small group study session with four individuals. More will join in July.
- Participated in the Mutual Ministry team meeting with St. Johns and St. Paul's on May 21, 2024.
- Will be on vacation June 25-July 6. We will need pulpit fill for Sunday, July 7.
- Invited to be one of the speakers at the LCMC Retirement Retreat August 26-29, 2024.

Old Business

- Work on area under ramp by Salonek's will be done in the near future. All the supplies have arrived to complete the project.
- Schmidt Brothers will begin shingling the parsonage the week of June 17 and move

onto the church following that. Discussion on other possible storm damage at the parsonage (window and siding) and the gutters at the church. Will look at the insurance quote again and investigate.

- Possible tree removal at the parsonage. Will continue to monitor it.
- Tuesday, August 6 will be community picnic sponsored by St. Paul's and St. Johns Churches. Committee has been formed: Darlene Trapp and Lisa Arnoldi from St. Johns and Paul Muske, Katie Mueller, Angel Rummel, Kim Graff, Jill Vogel and Jeff Krueger from St. Paul's. Will meet soon to make preparations.
- Bus trip to Feed My Starving Children site in Chanhassen will take place on June 19. 35 have signed up to go so far and we have opened it up to the community.
- Transition Team: Has begun forming some small congregational groupings. Pastor suggested bringing back the Work Groups from the past as part of our Fall Stewardship Program.
- The committee for the updates to the Sunday School rooms/fellowship hall/sanctuary has not met. Would like to make improvements to Sunday School rooms during the summer.
- Call Committee has updated the church's website and is ready to post the open position for a pastor. They will meet again in the near future.
- The Worship and Music Committee is working on a few changes to our worship experiences. For the summer, some contemporary music is being added to the worship service for preludes, offerings, communion distribution, etc. Would like to begin in the Fall one Sunday per month for a Praise Service—contemporary praise songs and a simple liturgy and message—and rotate it with the traditional liturgy service Sundays and WOV Sundays. The changes are to make the worship experience more appealing to the younger congregation members and will not take away any of the traditional service offerings—just add some variety.
- The new televisions in the chapel and in the kitchen have been installed. The chapel television has worked well for the summer midweek services.

New Business

- Katie will be on vacation and out of the office July 13-21.
- Church was notified that the Culligan Water Softener service we now receive is changing and will become more expensive. The general consensus was to look into installing our own water softener and just purchasing softener salt as needed. Al will look into the options.
- Pastor Carl informed the council that he is going to use the ESV Bible translation for worship rather than the NRSV we have been using. It is more traditional and is what we present to our confirmands each year.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer. M/S/P to adjourn at 8:15 p.m.
Next meeting will be Wednesday, July 10 at 7:30 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

Please pray for... Sharon Rogotzke, Ashley Cook, Dalores Stern; 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.

Church Directory! We have an online church Directory!

- * 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 online directory can be updated constantly, so information should never be outdated! Email updated pictures, address or phone changes to Katie and they can be added instantly!

- 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!

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!



St Paul Attendance

5/28 6 pm - 10 6/2 9am - 68 6/4 6 pm - 9 6/9 9am - 42
 6/11 6 pm - 3 6/16 9am - 49 6/18 6 pm - 12 6/23 9am - 47 6/25 6 pm - 7

<u>Budget Recap Year-To-Date (01/01/24 to 6/26/24)</u>			
Total Funds for Budget	\$84,828.41	Total Operating Funds	\$84,828.41
Budget	\$112,721.96	Operating Exp.	\$93,667.83
Difference	(\$27,893.55)	Difference	(\$8,839.42)

Memorials Given 3/28/2024 - 4/27/2024

<u>In Memory:</u>	<u>Given by:</u>	<u>Designated for:</u>
Jean Youngerberg	Jim & Elsie Groebner	Good Shepherd Scholarship Fund
Luella Nachreiner	Linda Nachreiner	St. Paul Lutheran Church
Art Kettner	Roger & Kelly Sargent	St. Paul Lutheran Church
Duane Kasten	Family of Duane Kasten	Good Shepherd Scholarship Fund
	Carol Carlson	Good Shepherd Scholarship Fund
	Ed Meidl	St. Paul Lutheran Church
	Richard & Lois Zihlke	St. Paul Lutheran Church
	Tim & Jill Vogel	St. Paul Lutheran Church
	Gertie Rosenau	St. Paul Lutheran Church

Memorials Given 05/28/2024 - 6/26/2024

<u>In Memory:</u>	<u>Given by:</u>	<u>Designated for:</u>
Todd Wells	Daniel Kettner	St. Paul Lutheran Church
	Richard & Lois Zihlke	St. Paul Lutheran Church
Lorna Weedman	Rod & Rhonda Larson	Good Shepherd Scholarship Fund
David Herbig	Rod & Rhonda Larson	Good Shepherd Scholarship Fund
Alvin Matzke	Daniel Kettner	St. Paul Lutheran Church
	Scott & Wendy Love	St. Paul Lutheran Church
	Peggy Stern	St. Paul Lutheran Church
Lois Dion	Jeff & Stacey Weisensel	Good Shepherd Scholarship Fund
Linus Deibele	Peggy Larson	Good Shepherd Scholarship Fund

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!

July 2024

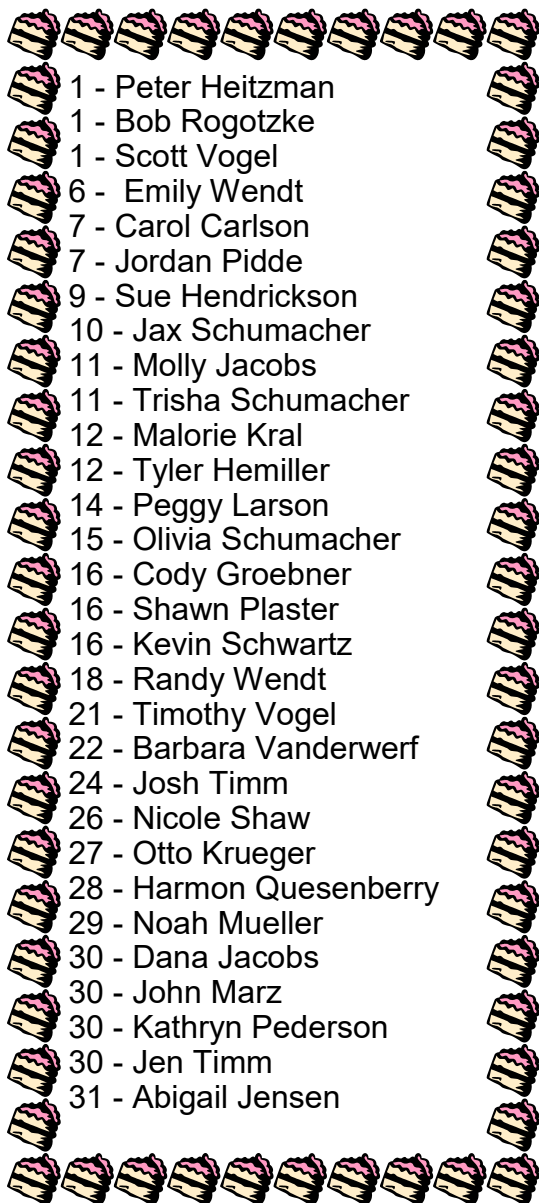
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Pastor on Vacation	2	3 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast	4	5	6	
7 9:00 Worship 10:00 Coffee Talk 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast	8 6:00 pm Tuesdays in the Chapel Worship with Holy Communion 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	9 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast 7:30 pm Council Meeting	10 11	12	13	
14 9:00 Worship 10:00 Coffee Talk 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast Katie Vacation	15 10:00 am Worship at SJLH 6:00 pm Tuesdays in the Chapel Worship 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	16 17 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast	18 6:30 Women of the Word @ St. John's Church	19	20	
21 9:00 Worship 10:00 Coffee Talk 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast Katie Vacation	22 23 6:00 pm Tuesdays in the Chapel Worship with Holy Communion 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	24 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast	25	26	27	
28 9:00 Worship 10:00 Coffee Talk 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast	29 30 6:00 pm Tuesdays in the Chapel Worship 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	31 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast				

* Indicates Choir Singing.

Worship Service Helpers

Date	Sound & Video	Projection	Reader	Acolyte	Usher	Organist
7/7	Mueller Family	Mueller Family	Mel Vogel	Lily Groebner Blake Zihlke	Team 3	Jeff Krueger
7/14	Paul Muske	Jordan & Jonah Pidde	Kurt Glaeseman	Abbygail Jeppesen Ranee Dombek	Team 4	Jeff Krueger
7/21	Tim Vogel	Grace Jacobs	Jeanette Pidde	Molly Jacobs Abigail Shaw	Team 1	Jo Schwartz
7/28	Nick & Nathan Groebner	Nick & Nathan Groebner	Brittany Cook	Bobbi Jo Timm Ali Trapp	Team 2	Jo Schwartz

July Birthdays!



1 - Peter Heitzman
1 - Bob Rogotzke
1 - Scott Vogel
6 - Emily Wendt
7 - Carol Carlson
7 - Jordan Pidde
9 - Sue Hendrickson
10 - Jax Schumacher
11 - Molly Jacobs
11 - Trisha Schumacher
12 - Malorie Kral
12 - Tyler Hemiller
14 - Peggy Larson
15 - Olivia Schumacher
16 - Cody Groebner
16 - Shawn Plaster
16 - Kevin Schwartz
18 - Randy Wendt
21 - Timothy Vogel
22 - Barbara Vanderwerf
24 - Josh Timm
26 - Nicole Shaw
27 - Otto Krueger
28 - Harmon Quesenberry
29 - Noah Mueller
30 - Dana Jacobs
30 - John Marz
30 - Kathryn Pederson
30 - Jen Timm
31 - Abigail Jensen

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

July Altar Guild

Mueller Family
Jena Veenstra

July Anniversaries!



3 - Carter & Ashley Cook - 3 year
11 - Don & Sheryl Bloemke - 43 years
11 - Daniel & Jena Veenstra - 9 years
14 - Kurt & Janice Kratz - 40 years
14 - Jacob & Jamie Marz - 12 years
16 - Derek & Nicole Shaw - 19 years
23 - Scott & Maggie Vogel - 2 years
30 - Tyler & Jessica Hemiller - 2 years

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

COMMUNITY PICNIC

Together with St. John's Lutheran Church. We are hosting a Community Picnic on Tuesday, August 6 in Riverside Park. It will be a free event and open to the entire Springfield community. We need some working volunteers who would be willing to be on a committee to help plan, organize and facilitate the event. Please contact Katie, Pastor Carl, Paul Muske or Jeff Krueger if you are interested in serving on the committee.

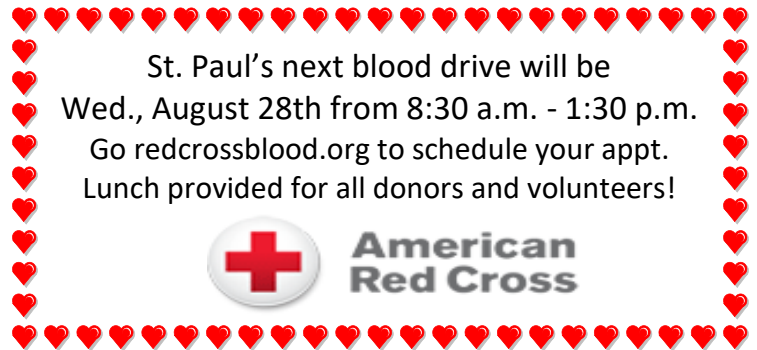
Graduating Seniors and College Students don't forget to apply for the Good Shepherd Scholarship. **Applications must be received by July 15th.** For a copy of the Eligibility Rules and Application go to www.splcspringfield.org/Scholarships or email Katie in the office at stpaul_lutheran@hotmail.com

Springfield Food Shelf is conducting at Cereal Drive for the month of July. A box will be placed in the Narthex for your donations! Thank you for supporting the Food Shelf!



Tuesdays in the Chapel Worship will be each Tuesday of the Summer at 6:00 p.m..

Park in the North parking lot and enter through the door at the top of the ramp.



St. Paul's next blood drive will be Wed., August 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



St. John's Lutheran Church would like to extend an invitation to the women of St. Paul Lutheran (*confirmation age and older*), to join in their Women of the Word Ministry (WOW). WOW is held at 6:30 p.m. on the 3rd Thursday of each month at St John's Church.

Come and enjoy an evening of Bible Study and Conversation.

Brown County United Way's Stuff The Backpack Program! Drop off any NEW school supplies between now - July 23rd at St. Paul's Church! A collection box is in the narthex or you can bring to the office! Last year, Brown County United Way was able to fill more than 450 backpacks with age appropriate school supplies and distributed them throughout Brown County. Below is a list of supplies that are needed!

#2 Pencils

Crayola 24 Count Crayons

Crayola Colored Pencils, sets of 12

Ultra Fine Tip Sharpie Markers

Highlighters

Pencil Bags & Boxes

Composition Notebooks

Disinfecting Wipes

2-Pocket Folders

Crayola Broad Tip Markers

Dry Erase Markers

Fiskars Kid Scissors - pointed

Large Pink Erasers

Hand Sanitizer

Facial Tissue - we need a lot

Scotch Tape

3-Ring Binders

Spiral Notebooks - wide ruled

Elmer's Glue- 4 oz bottles

Glue Sticks

Pencil Top Erasers

Post-it Notes



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

Postmaster: Dated material
Please Deliver Promptly
Address Service Requested

Calendar Highlights - July 2024
15—Scholarship Application Due

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