



A Word About Sabbath

“Observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy,”

Deuteronomy 5:12

Summertime is vacation time. It is in this season of the year that we take time to get away: family vacations, time up at the cabin, road trips. This summer I want to encourage you to make room in your vacation (and really the rest of your life) for some Sabbath time. You see, sabbath is more than a day. It is any time that you set apart for a special purpose, which, by the way, is the original meaning of holy.

The question is for what purpose? I see three purposes go into Sabbath time. The first purpose is simply rest. The instructions from God was that ***“On it (Sabbath) you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant”***. That rest is important because it is a reminder that your life doesn’t depend on you. We can turn our abilities, our talents, and ourselves into idols thinking that our life depends on what we do and how we work. God is not against hard work but we need to have regular times that we stop, rest, and realize that ultimately our life depends on God’s graciousness. In Deuteronomy 5:15 God reminds the Israelites that they were slaves in Egypt and could not rest until God brought them out of Egypt. Their life depended on God’s action not their ability to work.

Second connecting with God is, of course, an important part of Sabbath time. The Sabbath commandment is part of the commandments dealing with our relationship with God: ***You shall have no other God’s before me, You shall not use the Lord your God’s name in vain***. It is times of Sabbath that reminds us to keep God central in our life and to honor that special relationship. Whether it is taking time to thank God for the beauty of nature as you fish on your favorite lake or special time of family devotion during family vacation or just spending a little extra time in God’s word, connecting with God is an important time of Sabbath.

Finally, take time to connect with other family and friends. I always loved the family vacation because it was a special time to bond as a family. An important part of that was to acknowledge that the Lord God was also part of our family. It is not an accident that the next commandment is “Honor your Father and Mother.” The two go together in making a healthy family. In fact, times of Sabbath and rest are important for any community. So, as you are out and about this summer I want to encourage you not just to go on vacation but to mark out times of Sabbath rest.

Be Hope-filled, Stay Strong,
Pastor Carl

**St. Paul Lutheran Church
Council Meeting
June 11, 2025**

The meeting was called to order by Jake Marz at 7:00 pm

Members Present: Jake Marz, Kim Graff, Angel Rummel, Andy Renner, Paul Muske, Randy Wendt, and Pastor Carl Billings (virtually)

Absent: Sarah Groebner, Katie Mueller, Kathy Pederson, Kelly Sargent and Anita Jensen

Opening Prayer: Pastor Carl

Consent Agenda -- M/S/P by Paul Muske and Angel Rummel

Secretary's Report – Approved

Pastor's Report – Approved

OLD BUSINESS:

Financial Report – M/S/P Randy Wendt & Andy Renner

Building & Grounds -- Sanctuary Paint/Ceiling – Tabled – Andy is going to contract Bisbee on status.

Call Committee Report: Our offer was declined by other candidates. Received "New" inquiry graduate from Masters Institute.

LCMC Gathering: October 5-8, 2025: Pastor Carl & Jeremy Dove will be attending

Riverside Days Community Worship: June 29, 2025 -- Pastor Carl will be presenting sermon.

St Paul's Church will be location if inclement weather is expected.

Lawn Mower for Cemetery: M/S/P by Paul Muske & Randy Wendt -- to designate up to \$5,000 from the Undesignated Memorial Funds to the General Cemetery Funds to purchase a new lawn mower for the cemetery.

NEW BUSINESS:

Feed My Starving Child: July 1st Sign-up still available

Community Night Out: August 5, 2025 – M/S/P Kim Graff & Angel Rummel. Will set up a committee again for this year.

Closing Prayer: -- The Lord's Prayer

Adjourned: -- 7:45 PM

Submitted by Kim Graff, Council Secretary

2025 Church Council

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

St Paul Attendance

5/27 6pm - 8 6/1 9am - 53 6/3 6pm - 5 6/8 9am - 55 6/10 6pm - 7
 6/15 9am - 52 6/17 6pm - 9 6/22 9am - 53 6/24 6pm - 11

Budget Recap Year-To-Date (01/01/25 to 6/24/25)

Total Funds for Budget	\$86,079.76	Total Operating Funds	\$91,079.76
Memorial Loan	<u>+\$5,000</u>		
	\$91,079.76		
Budget	-\$114,393.25	Operating Exp.	-\$110,556.69
Difference	(\$23,313.49)	Difference	(\$19,476.93)

Memorials Given 5/28/2025 - 6/27/2025

In Memory:

Rose Salonek

Given by:

Linda Nacheriner

Designated for:

St. Paul Lutheran Church

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.



Tuesdays in the Chapel Worship will be each Tuesday of the Summer at 6:00 p.m. Holy Communion will be on the first and third Tuesday.

We are now offering a new way for giving! A recent upgrade to our member database that we use, "Servant Keeper", now offers us an online giving platform that is included in the program.

The link to give to the General Fund is: giving.servantkeeper.com/StPaulLutheran
 You can give a one-time donation or set up scheduled giving by using your credit/bank card or by bank transfer. These gifts will go directly into your church giving statement, saving you checks, and us time! Give it a try!

*The church office needs to have your email address on file for you to set up your giving this way. Please note that newulmtel.net or nuvera.net emails do not work for this set up. If you have any questions, please talk to Katie.



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

Help us keep our Church Directory up to date! We would like to get updated pictures of each member family 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.

• 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!

"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.

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. John's Circle of Care auxiliary's mission is to help enhance the lives of both the residents and staff. The auxiliary has contributed monetarily to dozens of projects and given countless hours to volunteer time in faithful fulfillment of its mission. New members are welcome, everyone (men, women and children) are invited to join to support the auxiliary. The \$5.00 membership may be left at the St. John Lutheran Home front desk, given Elsie Groebner, or brought to the church office. The dues help with special programming and enhance employee morale!

Please pray for...Jerome Kettner, Doug Rositzke; 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.

July 2025

* Indicates Choir Singing.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 6:00 pm Tuesdays in the Chapel with Holy Communion 6:30 Parish Ed. Meeting 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	2 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast	3	4 Office Closed	5
6 9:00 Worship 10:00 Coffee Talk 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast 12:00 Community Night Out Meeting	7	8 10:00 am Worship at SJLH 6:00 pm Tuesdays in the Chapel 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	9 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast 7:00 pm Council Meeting	10	11 Office Closed	12
13 9:00 Worship 10:00 Coffee Talk 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast Katie vacation	14	15 6:00 pm Tuesdays in the Chapel with Holy Communion 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	16 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast	17	18 Office Closed	19
20 9:00 Worship 10:00 Coffee Talk 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast	21	22 6:00 pm Tuesdays in the Chapel with Holy Communion 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	23 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast	24	25 Office Closed	26
27 9:00 Worship 10:00 Coffee Talk 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast	28 Katie out of office	29 6:00 pm Tuesdays in the Chapel with Holy Communion 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	30 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast	31 Office Closed	St. Paul Lutheran Church, 303 N Cass Ave, Springfield, MN 56087 Church Telephone: 507-723-5880 www.splcspringfield.org stpaul_lutheran@hotmail.com	

* Indicates Choir Singing.

Worship Service Helpers

Date	Sound & Video	Projection	Reader	Acolyte	Usher	Organist
7/6	Mueller Family	Mueller Family	Kurt Glaeseman	Rylyn Marz Lydia Vogel	Team 1	Jeff Krueger
7/13	Paul Muske Jonah Pidde	Jordan Pidde	Jeanette Pidde	Blake Zihlke Ellie Jensen	Team 2	Jeff Krueger
7/20	Groeber Boys	Groeber Boys	Brittany Cook	Jonah Pidde Lily Groeber	Team 3	Jo Schwartz
7/27	Trevor Krebs	Mueller Family	Paul Muske	Gavin Brown Wyatt Dove	Team 4	Jo Schwartz

July Birthdays!



Usher Teams

- 1 - Don Bloemke, John Marz, Jake Marz, Paul Meidl
- 2 - Doug Gatzlaff, Dave Bittler, Peter Heitzman
- 3 - Doug Schiller, Russell Rogotzke, Mark Buerkle, Jeremy Dove
- 4 - Tim Vogel, Scott Vogel, Bill Vogel

July Altar Guild

The Mueller Family

July Anniversaries!



Community Treasures in Springfield

Store Hours: Monday & Friday 1 pm - 6 pm;
 Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 10 am - 3 pm;
 Saturday 10 am - 1 pm; Donations can be dropped
 off any time during business hours.

COMMUNITY NIGHT OUT PICNIC

Save the Date for our second
Community Night Out Picnic
On Tuesday, August 5, 2025
in Riverside Park.

This free event is open to the entire
Springfield community. There will
be food, ice cream, entertainment,
and fellowship!

We need volunteers who would be
willing to help facilitate the
event. Workers needed include:
greeters, servers, grillers, root beer,
set up and clean up.

Please contact Katie Mueller, Paul
Muske, Jill Vogel, or Jeff Krueger if
you are able to help out!



CHURCH GREETERS WANTED!

We will be bringing back having greeters before each church service again! This was something that went away during the covid pandemic, and we are excited to bring it back!

If you would like to be a greeter, you can sign up in the Narthex, Fellowship Hall or let Katie know by either phone 507-723-5880 or email stpaul_lutheran@hotmail.com

Like in the past, greeters will be on a rotation. We need two people per service that will greet people as they enter church. Sign up today!

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 email Katie in the office stpaul_lutheran@hotmail.com or go to www.splcspringfield.org/Scholarships

St. Paul's next blood drive will be
Wednesday, August 27th 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.

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

Postmaster: Dated material
Please Deliver Promptly
Address Service Requested

Calendar Highlights - July 2025

July 1-Trip to Feed My Starving Children

Phone: 507-723-5880

www.splcspringfield.org

Office Hours

Pastor Carl Billings carlbillings@me.com

Monday & Tuesday 9-11 a.m.
or by appointment

Parish Coordinator: Katie Mueller

Monday-Thursday 8:00 am-noon
stpaul_lutheran@hotmail.com

Financial Secretary: Anita Jensen

Fin_secretary@newulmtel.net

Housekeeping: Mary Jo Simonson

Maintenance: Al Groebner

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



**Give
Today!**



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)