

"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. But how are they to call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who preach good news!' So faith comes by hearing, and hearing comes through the word of Christ." Romans 10:13-15,17

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Greetings! The joke around Springfield these days is, "The last pastor out, please close the door." Likely you've heard that Pastor Bennett at St John's has resigned his call, along with his wife, Jennifer, who pastored the Jeffers and Storden LCMC congregations. UMC and St. Ray's are also getting new pastors soon. In addition, the newly formed LCMC congregation in Slayton is still seeking a pastor, as are New Hope in Comfrey and Our Savior's in Lamberton, who both currently have interim pastors. A clergy shortage is sweeping our nation and hitting especially hard close to home.

There are many factors that are contributing to the shortage. A very large percentage of pastors have or are about to reach retirement age. Many pastors decided to retire during the pandemic. Seminaries in general are struggling to recruit new students. And many of the students they do enroll are far older than was typical, which means that those seminary graduates will only be in the ministry for a limited number of years. The rate at which our culture is becoming secularized is increasing and directly impacts how many people feel "called" to the ordained ministry.

The Romans passage above reminds us that saving faith is dependent upon hearing the Word of Christ. No matter what we attempt, it is all in God's hands. There is no magic bullet, winning strategy, or singular "answer" to address the clergy shortage. We may think that our Lord should fix our clergy shortage right now. Yet Luther reminds us:

"The clock cannot strike one before it has struck twelve; there cannot be any summer until winter is past, nor can it be evening until it is day; one cannot be old until one has been a child. Everything is fixed in a time. . . It is not man's thought that rules. God must give everything its time. We cannot go out and pick berries at Christmas; we must wait till they are in season. Hence it is the time that gives the fruit, rather than the field or the garden; for the field is there all year, but if its season has not come, there is no yield; that must have its time." (Luther on Vocation, Gustaf Wingren, p. 216-217)

Due to the clergy shortage, LCMC pastors in our area recently met to brainstorm ways to assist local congregations who are without a called pastor now and in the future. The plan is to also gather congregational leaders soon to discuss opportunities to serve neighboring churches so that they can hear the Word of Christ and be sustained in their faith. Watch for more information in the coming months.

St. Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 12:26, "If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it..." The connection between people as members of the Body of Christ is designed by God to be like the connection between our human body parts. It is at such a time as this that we are called to support our fellow members, so that the Body of Christ does not suffer and weaken. See you in church!

In Christ love,

Pr. Tricia Mattson

St. Paul Lutheran Church
Council Meeting-May 10, 2023 7:00 p.m.

President John Mueller called the May meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in Room 101. Members present were John Mueller, Randy Wendt, Jacob Marz, Tim Vogel, Sarah Groebner, Jo Muske, Denise Gicker, Kathy Pederson, Kim Graff, Pastor Tricia and Jeff Krueger. Also present was Katie Mueller, Parish Coordinator.

Pastor led the group in a prayer.

M/S/P to approve the Secretary's minutes from the April meeting.

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

M/S/P to pay the April benevolence.

Building and Grounds Report:

- There was nothing to report on Building and Grounds.

Parish Education Report:

- The last day of Sunday School will be May 14. The students will provide special music during the worship service. Treats, scholarships and Sunday School Awards will be handed out during Coffee Talk. The Council thanked everyone involved with Sunday School this year.
- St. Paul's will be hosting VBS in June. Registration forms have been sent out. They are still looking for helpers for the event.

Pastor's Report:

Visitation

- Visited with and gave Holy Communion to members in their homes, at nursing homes and at assisted living residences.

Worship

- Led worship with Holy Communion at The Maples on April 17, 2023.
- Led worship with Holy Communion at St. John's Circle of Care April 18, 2023.
- Led the Baccalaureate Worship Service April 30, 2023 where we blessed our six graduates.
- Baptized Lilith Serie on April 23, 2023.

Confirmation

- Taught confirmation on Wednesday nights.
- Led multiple meetings with confirmands and

parents to prepare for their Affirmation of Baptism.

- Hosted the end of year party for the confirmation students on May 3, 2023.

- Confirmed six 8th Graders on May 7, 2023.

Parish Education

- Leading Bible Study at The Maples on Mondays at 3:00 p.m.

- Leading Bible Study on Tuesday evenings at 6:00 p.m.

- Leading the Lutheran Difference Adult Study on Sundays at 10:10 a.m.

- Attended the Parish Education meeting on May 1, 2023.

- Led the VBS planning meeting on May 2, 2023.

- Met with two couples for premarital counseling.

Community

- Issued four SAFE vouchers to neighbors in need.

- Helped one neighbor in need fill his tank with gasoline using the Good Samaritan Fund.

- Attended the St. John's Circle of Care Board Meeting on April 24, 2023.

- Submitted an article to the Advance-Press on April 26, 2023 entitled "A Tour of the New Jerusalem."

- Planning the June 25, 2023 Riverside Days Community Worship Service with the Ministerium.

- Attended the Ministerial meeting May 2, 2023.

- Attended scholarship meetings at SAHS to determine SJCC scholarship award recipients.

- Helped with the German Supper on April 26, 2023.

Old Business:

- German Supper was held April 26. Sold out within an hour. As of May 7, profit is \$4,513.42. Katie was thanked for the all the work she did in getting it organized.

- Riverside Days Community Worship Service will be held Sunday, June 25 at 10 a.m. in Riverside Park. Gospel Express will provide special music. Aaron Tomschin will be in charge of sound.

New Business:

- Discussed possibility of forming a joint strategic planning committee with St. Johns Lutheran Church. Committee would explore a future partnership and/or merger with them sometime in the distant future. Talked about sharing some activities with them. St. Johns has been talking about it as well. With the shortage of available

pastors to fill vacant positions, this is a distant stepping stone. Also talked about other rural churches like New Hope in Comfrey and Our Savior's in Lamberton.

•Faith Chests are presented to a family at the time of a baptism at St. Paul's. The project was started by the Men In Mission years ago. Ed Meidl and Dave Bittler took over the project. Now John Mueller makes the chests but would like to pass that project on to someone else. Will put notice in the bulletin.

M/S/P to adjourn at 7:52 p.m. Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting will be Wednesday, June 7, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. (NOTE: This is change due to VBS)

~Jeff Krueger, Church Council Secretary

2023 Church Council

John Mueller- Chair	Sarah Groebner
Denise Gicker- Vice Chair	Randy Wendt
Jeff Krueger - Secretary	Jacob Marz
Tim Vogel- Treasurer	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

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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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Please pray for... Alvin Matzke, Jaylen Brownlee (LaCole Weisensel's fiancé), Donna Wersal, Marcia Schiller, Sherry Fenger, His Light Ministries, Miami, FL, Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Maple Lake, MN, Hope Lutheran Church, Fosston, MN, Hope Lutheran Church, Huron, SD, Hosanna Lutheran Church, Watertown, SD, Kensington Lutheran, Kensington, MN, Lake City Lutheran Church, Lake City, SD, Living Word International Christian Fellowship, Lauderdale, MN; Jesse Kettner, Cylee Graff, Shane Clemon, Ethan Langseth, Emily Wendt, 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, 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.

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

St Paul Attendance			
4/30 9am—99	5/7 10am—95	5/14 9am—93	5/21 9am—25

Budget Recap Year-To-Date (01/01/23 to 05/23/23)

Total Funds for Budget	\$76,548.61	Total Operating Funds	\$76,548.61
Budget	\$85,145.97	Operating Exp.	\$81,816.69
Difference	(\$8,597.36)	Difference	(\$5,268.08)

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.

Memorials Given 04/27/23—05/26/23

<u>In Memory:</u>	<u>Given by:</u>	<u>Designated for:</u>
Karen Conors	Jeff & Stacey Weisensel	Good Shepherd Scholarship Fund
Daniel Skarp	Jeff & Stacey Weisensel	Good Shepherd Scholarship Fund
Arland Kettner	Dalores Stern	St. Paul Lutheran Church
Moe & Shirley Weber	James & Elsie Groebner	Good Shepherd Scholarship Fund
	Audrey Rositzke	St. Paul Lutheran Church
	Ed Meidl	St. Paul Lutheran Church
	Clayton & Deb Beyer	St. Paul Lutheran Church
	Tim & Jill Vogel	St. Paul Lutheran Church
	Daniel Kettner	St. Paul Lutheran Church

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!

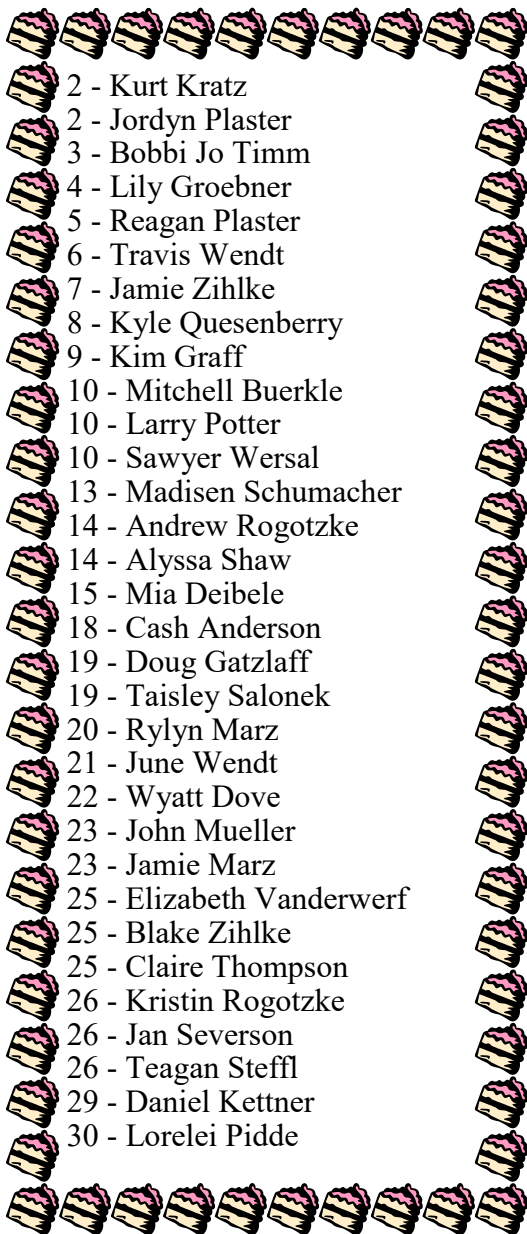
June 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
St. Paul Lutheran Church, 303 N Cass Ave, Springfield, MN 56087 Church Telephone: 507-723-5880 www.splespringfield.org Pastor's e-mail: pastortriciamattison@gmail.com Office e-mail: stpaul_lutheran@hotmail.com						
4 9:00 Worship 10:00 Coffee Talk 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast	5 3:00 pm The Maples Bible Study 6:30 pm Parish Ed Meeting	6 6:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broad- cast	7 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast 11:00-1:00 & 4:30-6:30 SANTA Burger Blast @ Community Center 7:00 Church Council Meeting	1	2 Office Closed	3
11 9:00 Worship 10:00 Coffee Talk 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast 5:30-8:15 VBS	12 3:00 pm The Maples Bible Study 5:30-8:15 VBS	13 5:30-8:15 VBS 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broad- cast	14 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast 5:30-8:15 VBS	15 5:30-8:15 VBS VBS Program	16 Office Closed	17
Vacation Bible School						
18 9:00 Worship 10:00 Coffee Talk 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast	19 3:00 pm The Maples Holy Communion	20 10:00 SJLH Worship 6:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broad- cast	21 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast	22	23 Office Closed	24
Katie on vacation						
25 10:00 Ecumenical Worship Service in Riverside Park	26 3:00 pm The Maples Bible Study	27 6:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broad- cast	28 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast	29	30 Office Closed	

Worship Service Helpers

Date	Sound & Video	Reader	Acolyte	Usher	Organist
6/4	Paul & Jonah	Jo Muske	Hayden Gluth Brooklyn Anderson	Team 2	Jo Schwartz
6/11	John Mueller	Mel Vogel	Randee Dombek Abbygail Jeppesen	Team 3	Jo Schwartz
6/18	Russell Rogotzke	Kurt Glaeseman	Jenna Shaw Ali Trapp	Team 4	Jeff Krueger
6/25	Ecumenical Worship @ Riverside Park at 10:00 am				

June Birthdays!



Usher Teams

- 1 - Delwin Beussman, Don Bloemke, John Marz, Paul Meidl, Nic Mays
- 2 - Doug Gatzlaff, Kurt Kratz, Dave Bittler
- 3 - Doug Schiller, Russell Rogotzke, Mark Buerkle, Jeremy Dove
- 4 - Tim Vogel, Scott Vogel, Kurt Glaeseman, Bill Vogel

June Altar Guild

Jo Schwartz
Megan Hillesheim
Jordyn Plaster

June Anniversaries!



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

Nativity Pageant Fundraiser June 7

The Springfield Area Nativity Theatre Association (SANTA) will hold its annual summer Burger Blast Fundraiser Wednesday, June 7 at the Springfield Area Community Center. SANTA's workers will be serving the popular SANTA burgers with chips, potato salad and a beverage. Get the meal deal or just the burger for dine-in or take-out. The cost of the meal is \$10.00; burger only is \$5.00. Frozen yogurt treats will also be available. Serving times are 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Come out and enjoy lunch, supper or both for a worthy cause.

The Springfield Nativity Pageant is presented each year free of charge as a gift from the community. There are, however, expenses connected to the production including lighting, sound and advertising. The entire cast and crew are local volunteers. Fundraisers like the Burger Blast help sustain the pageant each year. The 2023 Springfield Nativity Pageant is scheduled for Friday, December 8 and Saturday, December 9.

SANTA Burger Blast Fundraiser is Wednesday, June 7th

We still need volunteers for the event!

1 worker to work the first shift (10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.)

1 worker to work the second shift (4:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.)

Contact Jeff Krueger or Katie Mueller if you are able to help!

*We need a few volunteers to be ushers for the Community Worship Service on Sunday, June 25th. If you would be able to help, please let Katie know.

*The Cemetery will not be sprayed until fall due to the wind and rain recently. The water is turned on and you are welcome to plant flowers.

*We are in need of someone who would like to make the wooden Baptismal Faith Chests. Funds are available to purchase building supplies. If interested or if you would like more information, please contact Katie or John Mueller.

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. The \$5.00 membership may be left at the St. John Lutheran Home front desk or given Jo Schwartz. The dues help with special programming and enhance employee morale!

We need 2 volunteers for BINGO on June 9th at 2:00 pm. Please let Katie know if you can help out!



**American
Red Cross**

St. Paul's next blood drive will be
August 30th from 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Go to redcrossblood.org to schedule your appt.

****2-3 volunteers are needed!****

Please let Katie know if you are able to help!

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

Postmaster: Dated material
Please Deliver Promptly
Address Service Requested

Calendar Highlights - June 2023

9 - BINGO @ SJLH

11-15 VBS

**25 - 10:00 Ecumenical Worship Service in
Riverside Park**

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

Housekeeping: Steve Lyle

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