

(Jesus) also said, “This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. 27 Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. 28 All by itself the soil produces grain—first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. 29 As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come.”

Mark 4:26-29

I love this time of year. The trees spout leaves, and flowers pop from the ground. I particularly enjoy watching the countryside turn from barren patches of dark brown earth to green fields covered in newly planted crops.

The growing of plants and produce is the Bible's favorite metaphor for how the Gospel works in both the life of the believer and the Church. Psalm 1, Mark 4:1-8, John 15, and the above-quoted parable are just several examples of many.

Mark 4:26-29 makes clear that farming always involves a partnership between the farmer and God. This is true whether the farmer realizes it or not. The farmer plays a part in planting and tending the crop, but the actual growth depends on God.

The Kingdom of God works in the same way. You can't force the Kingdom of God. You can only scatter the Gospel seeds and watch them grow as the Holy Spirit works. There is a sense of mystery and awe regarding farming and the Church.

Over the past several months here at St Paul's, we have been doing the work of a spiritual farmer, planting and tending Gospel seeds: the work of the transition team, the cottage meetings, the mutual ministry team looking at ways we can work together with St. John's, the mission outreach events planned for this summer.

How can you help? Get involved:

- Attend and worship regularly on Sunday or at 'Tuesdays in the Chapel' at 6:00 PM.
- You can sign up to help at one or both of the mission outreach events this summer: the Feed My Starving Children Day Trip or the Community Picnic in August.
- Sign up to help at VBS.
- Look for other ways to be of Service.

Each of these events is a way of planting spiritual seeds. God is faithful and will bring a harvest from the seeds that we are planting.

In Hope and Joy,

Pastor Carl

St. Paul Lutheran Church Council Meeting-May 8, 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, Kathy Pederson, Kelly Sargent, Jacob Marz, Randy Wendt, Kim Graff, Sarah Groebner, Pastor Carl Billings and Jeff Krueger. Angel Rummel was absent. Katie Mueller, Parish Coordinator was also present.

M/S/P to adopt the agenda.

Pastor Carl led the group in devotions and prayer.

M/S/P to approve the Secretary's Report of the April 10, 2024 meeting.

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

Kathy Pederson reported that last day of Sunday School celebration is Sunday, May 12. Most of the Sunday School staff will return for next year but they are looking to split up the combined classes so will need more staff.

The new refrigerator has been installed in the church kitchen.

M/S/P to accept the Consent Agenda.

Pastor's Report

- Conducted one memorial service.
- Conducted several home visitations.
- Conducted two Baptism instructions and baptized Oliver and Joseph
- Confirmed seven youth on May 5.
- Will be conducting Confirmation at St. Johns Lutheran on May 12.
- Continue to work with the Call Committee, Mutual Ministry Committee and Transition Team

Old Business

- Work on area under ramp by Salonek's will be done in the near future. The vents and new door have been ordered.
- Schmidt Brothers will be shingling the church and parsonage in mid May. M/S/P to choose "Brownwood" colored shingles for the church and "Onyx Black" colored shingles for the parsonage.

•Tuesday, August 6 will be community picnic sponsored by St. Paul's and St. Johns Churches. Committees are being formed. Burgers will come from Springfield Market. Brats will come from Schweiss Meats in Sleepy Eye. Lingen Dairy Ice Cream Truck has been booked. Jeff will work on getting background entertainment lined up.

•Bus trip to Feed My Starving Children site in Chanhassen will take place on June 19. Bus has been reserved and asking people to sign up. M/S/P to pay \$50 per participant and the cost of the bus out of funds set aside from the Weinberger Trust.

•Transition Team: Will host coffee bar before May 19 worship service and would like to continue it the third Sunday of each month with people signing up to serve it before the worship service; working on alternative summer worship on Tuesday evenings beginning May 28; setting up small congregational groups and service groups.

•Marie Weinberger Trust money has been put aside for updates in the Sunday School wing, fellowship hall and sanctuary. Jan Kratz, Dawn Marz, Jeanette Pidde, Krystal Plaster and Malorie Kral will serve on the committee.

•Call Committee has met and started working on church information updates and preparing a congregational call description for St. Paul's.

•M/S/P to purchase a new television and wall brackets for the chapel. The Smart TV will be used to help conduct summer worship and other events as needed.

•M/S/P to purchase a new television for the church kitchen. The old one "fried" when the church was hit by lightning. A memorial gift of \$350 has been given toward this purchase.

•Discussion on worship service. Going to try to come up with some alternate Worship ideas to use for some variety each month. Worship and Music Committee is meeting to discuss this.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer. M/S/P to adjourn at 8:45 p.m.

Next meeting will be Wednesday, June 12 at 7:30 p.m.

~by Jeff Krueger, Council Secretary

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!

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

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

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.

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!

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!

- 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 Attendance

5/5 10am - 164

5/12 9am - 133

5/19 9am - 44

5/26 9am - 52

<u>Budget Recap Year-To-Date (01/01/24 to 5/28/24)</u>			
Total Funds for Budget	\$56,663.96	Total Operating Funds	\$59,663.69
Budget	\$95,380.12	Operating Exp.	\$79,283.06
Difference	(\$35,716.43)	Difference	(\$19,619.37)

Memorials Given 4/28/2024 - 05/27/2024

<u>In Memory:</u>	<u>Given by:</u>	<u>Designated for:</u>
Elizabeth Vanderwerf	Family & Friends	St. Paul Lutheran Church
	Ed Meidl	St. Paul Lutheran Church
	Ronald & Sandra Wersal	St. Paul Lutheran Church
Margaret Doom	Richard & Lois Zihlke	St. Paul Lutheran Church
Duane Kasten	Rod & Rhonda Larson	Good Shepherd Scholarship Fund
Jolene Danielson	Rod & Rhonda Larson	Good Shepherd Scholarship Fund
Joan Carruthers	Rod & Rhonda Larson	Good Shepherd Scholarship Fund
Todd Wells	Rod & Rhonda Larson	Good Shepherd Scholarship Fund
Connie Bluhm	Rod & Rhonda Larson	Good Shepherd Scholarship Fund

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.

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!



June 2024

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

2	9:00 Worship 10:00 Coffee Talk 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast	3	4	5	6	7	8	1
9	9:00 Worship 10:00 Coffee Talk 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast	10	11	12	13	14	15	
16	9:00 Worship 10:00 Coffee Talk 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast 5:30 VBS Supper 6-8:15 VBS	17	18	19	20	21	22	
23	9:00 Worship 10:00 Coffee Talk 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast	24	25	26	27	28	29	
30	10:00 Worship In the Park Pastor on Vacation - July 5th							

5
10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast

4
6:00 pm **Tuesdays in the Chapel** Worship with Holy Communion
7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast

12
10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast
7:30 pm Council Meeting

11
10:00 am Worship at SJLH
6:00 pm **Tuesdays in the Chapel** Worship
7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast

19
Feed My Starving Children
10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast
5:30 VBS Supper
6-8:15 VBS

18
5:30 VBS Supper
6-8:15 VBS
6:00 pm **Tuesdays in the Chapel** Worship with Holy Communion
7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast

26
10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast

25
6:00 pm **Tuesdays in the Chapel** Worship
7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast

27
6:30 p.m.
Women of the Word @ St. John's Church

Pastor on Vacation - July 5th

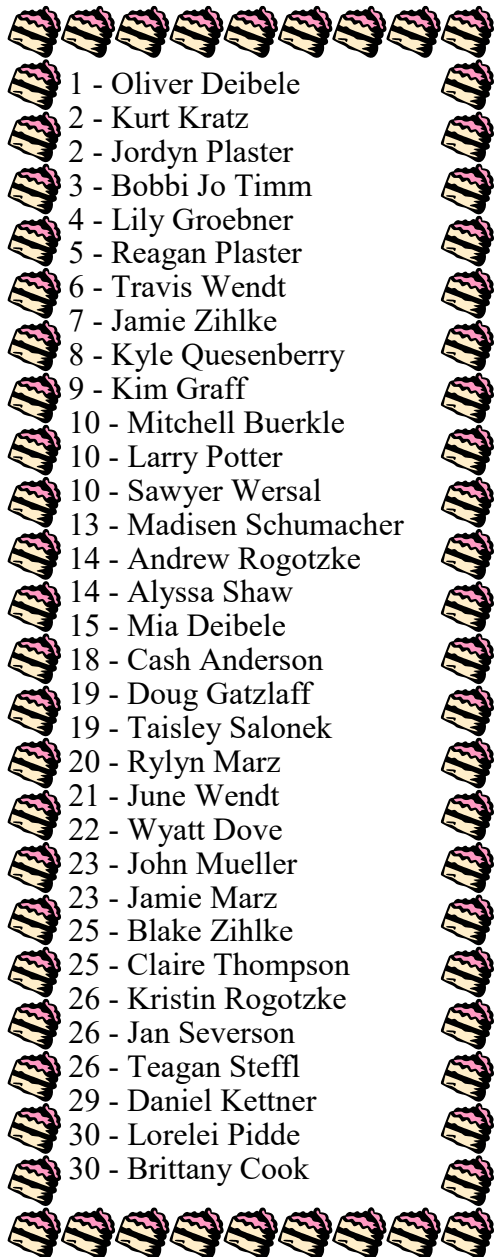
Pastor on Vacation - July 5th

* Indicates Choir Singing.

Worship Service Helpers

Date	Sound & Video	Projection	Reader	Acolyte	Usher	Organist
6/2	Mueller Family	Mueller Family	Brittany Cook	Ali Trapp Lily Groebner	Team 2	Jo Schwartz
6/9	Tim Vogel	Jordan Pidde	Paul Muske	Blake Zihlke Molly Jacobs	Team 3	Jo Schwartz
6/16	Paul & Jonah	Jordan Pidde	Daniel Kettner	Abbygail Jeppesen Ranee Dombek	Team 4	Jeff Krueger
6/23	Nick & Nathan Groebner	Grace & Molly Jacobs	Jordan Pidde	Abigail Shaw Bobbi Jo Timm	Team 1	Jeff Krueger
6/30	Riverside Days—Worship in the Park @ 10:00 a.m.					

June Birthdays!



1 - Oliver Deibele
2 - Kurt Kratz
2 - Jordyn Plaster
3 - Bobbi Jo Timm
4 - Lily Groebner
5 - Reagan Plaster
6 - Travis Wendt
7 - Jamie Zihlke
8 - Kyle Quesenberry
9 - Kim Graff
10 - Mitchell Buerkle
10 - Larry Potter
10 - Sawyer Wersal
13 - Madisen Schumacher
14 - Andrew Rogotzke
14 - Alyssa Shaw
15 - Mia Deibele
18 - Cash Anderson
19 - Doug Gatzlaff
19 - Taisley Salonek
20 - Ryn Marz
21 - June Wendt
22 - Wyatt Dove
23 - John Mueller
23 - Jamie Marz
25 - Blake Zihlke
25 - Claire Thompson
26 - Kristin Rogotzke
26 - Jan Severson
26 - Teagan Steffl
29 - Daniel Kettner
30 - Lorelei Pidde
30 - Brittany Cook

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

June Altar Guild

Jo Schwartz
Megan Hillesheim
Crissy Rogotzke

June Anniversaries!



1 - Harmon & Megan Quesenberry - 28 years
12 - Donald & Darlene Wilstermann - 69 years
15 - Travis & Kaitlyn Wendt - 5 years
17 - Tim & Megan Hillesheim - 7 years
18 - Mike & Crissy Rogotzke - 30 years
18 - Nick & Brooke Kratz - 2 year
20 - Paul & Jo Muske - 54 years
21 - Justin & Jennifer Asmus - 27 years
21 - John & Katie Mueller - 21 years
22 - Rod & Rhonda Larson - 33 years
23 - Matt & Tasha Sargent - 6 years
25 - Nate & Jennifer Krueger - 2 year
30 - Jeremy & Nicole Dove - 23 years

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR COMMUNITY PICNIC COMMITTEE

Plans are in the works for St. Johns and St. Paul's Churches to host a Community Picnic 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.

We are planning a Mission Trip to Feed My Starving Children in Chanhassen, MN on Wednesday, June 19th. We have space for 56 participants and have invited St. John's Lutheran to join us. We will be taking a motorcoach bus and working 2 shifts. We will leave from church at approximately 7:00 a.m. and return approximately 4:00 p.m. We will be packing meals for children throughout the world. If you would like to participate, please let Katie know or sign up using the QR Code.



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. John's is hosting
VBS this summer!
Dates are June 16-20.

Volunteers are still needed! Registration
Forms need to be turned in asap so we
have a count for meals and supplies!



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.

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



We need 2 volunteers for BINGO on June 14h at 2:00 pm. Please let Katie know if you can help out!

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

Postmaster: Dated material
Please Deliver Promptly
Address Service Requested

Calendar Highlights - June 2024

Tuesdays- Worship in the Chapel 6:00 p.m.
16-20 - VBS @ St. John's
19 - Feed My Starving Children
30 - Riverside Days-Worship in the Park

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