



March

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

In this season of Lent, we are called to repentance. But what does it mean to repent? In the first of Luther's 95 theses he writes, "When our Lord and master Jesus Christ said, 'Repent,' he willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance."

Repentance isn't just a temporary relief of guilt. Repentance isn't getting your act together. It isn't a turning from a life filled with vices to a life filled with our own virtues. It isn't turning away from drugs and turning towards sobriety. It isn't turning from sleeping in on Sunday mornings and turning towards attending worship.

Instead, repentance is a turning away from anything that is not right in this world or our lives and turning instead towards the one who can make all things right. Repentance is a constant turn towards the one who is merciful. Repentance is turning away from anything that is not Christ and turning instead towards Christ. Repentance is coming home to the Lord.

So how does such repentance take place? Let's review Luke 13:6-9, Jesus' parable of the fig tree which bore no fruit for three years straight. The landowner orders his gardener to cut it down as it is a waste of resources. But the gardener pleads for one more year.

Why would the gardener think that after three years of the tree bearing no fruit, one more year would make a difference? Is the gardener just giving the tree a second chance, while warning it that time is running out, telling it that if it would only shape up and finally squeeze out some good fruit, it might be spared the ax rather than being chopped into kindling? "Repent, tree, repent!"

No. The gardener is not giving the tree a second chance, because a second chance is useless to something that is dead. The tree is dead in itself. What the tree needs is new life: resurrection from death! So, the gardener digs carefully around the tree, aerating the soil. Then he patiently and lovingly tills the manure into the soil.

What does he possibly think will happen after throwing some manure into the ground at the foot of a dead tree? To answer, what do we know about this gardener? Well ... there is only One Man I know who would dive down deep into the muck of this world to raise you from the dead and give you new life: that one man is Jesus Christ, who was thrown into the ground for your transgressions and was raised by the Father for your justification unto eternal life.

Holy Manure! Now there is a promise from our Lord who gives such growth and abundant life that even Miracle Grow couldn't imagine - much less accomplish it!

Please join us at 6:30 p.m. each Wednesday night during Lent to receive your dose of "holy manure" from our loving gardener, Jesus Christ. Through his forgiveness, you are declared a good tree that bears good fruit! See you in church!

With Love from Your Sister in Christ,
Pr. Tricia

St. Paul Lutheran Church—Church Council Meeting - February 10, 2021, at 7:45 p.m.

Vice-President Bill Vogel called the meeting to order at 7:50 p.m.

Members present were Doug Jeske, Tim Vogel, Bill Vogel and Jeff Krueger.

Present via Zoom were Pastor Tricia and Angel Clemon.

Others present were Katie Mueller-Parish Coordinator, and Anita Jensen-Financial Secretary.

Members absent were Matt Sargent, Craig Valentin and Dave Bittler.

Devotions were by Pastor Tricia.

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

M/S/P to approve the Financial Report.

M/S/P to send a gift of appreciation to Ingham Bible Camp for having their director come out and lead our worship service and talk to the Sunday School on February 7.

Building and Grounds Report:

- Parsonage Basement flooring has been ordered and ready to be laid.
- Parsonage Basement paint has been selected and ordered. Will check with Miesen's.
- Parsonage Roof – Discussion on steel vs. shingles and should old shingles be removed. Will ask for bids prior to next month's council meeting.

Parish Education Report:

- Vacation Bible School – St. Paul's will host VBS this summer. Looking at having it at Riverside Park. M/S/P to pay for rent of three-four shelters at the park for the week of VBS.
- Early Bird Registrations are now being accepted for Ingham Bible Camp.
- Ingham Okoboji Lent Packs – 22 participants have signed up which will be \$434.50 plus shipping.

Pastor's Report:

Visitation

- Visitation with members in their homes, at the nursing home and assisted living.

Worship

- Presided at the funeral on Lenore Krueger on January 16, 2021.
- Presided at Holy Communion at Downtown Estates on January 25, 2021.

Confirmation

- Classes are continuing to go well. Learning the Apostle's Creed and how to read Scripture.

Parish Education

- Attended the Parish Education Committee meeting on February 1, 2021.
- Teaching the seventh and eighth grade Sunday School class.
- Leading Bible Study on Mondays at 3:00 p.m. at The Maples.
- Leading Bible Study on Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m. at church.

Community

- Led the SAFE annual meeting at St. Paul's on January 26, 2021.
- Submitted the article *Identity Theft* to the Springfield Advance-Press on January 27, 2021.

Old Business:

- M/S/P to allow singing of hymns and liturgy with a mask during worship services beginning Sunday, February 14. Will continue using Cantors until the next Council meeting and will re-evaluate the situation.
- No update on the upgrade to recording/live broadcasting by Randy’s Electric.

New Business:

- Decided to have a German Supper this spring. Date will be determined. Menu will be minimized and only offered as drive-up take-out. Need a limited number of people to help prepare and serve. Katie will look for volunteers.
- Neighborhood vehicles are being parked in the parking lot and not moved in a timely manner when snow needs to be plowed. They have been talked to but no follow-thru. Katie will talk to local police for help with the matter. The parking lot is private property.
- Red Cross looking for hosts for blood drives. We will ask them to fill out our COVID policy form and present it to the church. Will wait until summer as Sunday School class is set up in the fellowship hall now due to COVID.
- M/S/P to donate \$85.00 to St. John Lutheran Home. \$60.00 to cover the bingo we used to host every other month and \$25.00 for hosting a monthly birthday party.
- Anita reminded us that a Certificate of Insurance needs to be presented every time we have anyone working on church property. This is required by our insurance company. Should be presented with bids being accepted and no payment until proof is presented.
- F&M Bank will issue the church a Debit Card. Katie will be the one to use it with a \$250.00 limit.

M/S/P to adjourn at 8:45 p.m. Closed with the Lord’s Prayer.
 Next meeting will be Wednesday, March 10, 2021 at 7:45 p.m.

~Jeff Krueger, Church Council Secretary

<u>2021 Church Council</u>		
Matt Sargent- Chair	Dave Bittler	Angel Clemon
Bill Vogel- Vice Chair	Doug Jeske	Tim Vogel
Jeff Krueger - Secretary	Craig Valentin - Treasurer	
There are 2 vacancies		

The Board of Parish Education is seeking 2 new board members. Please talk to Katie in the office of Pastor Tricia if you are interested in joining Parish Ed.

Ingham Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp Early Bird Registration ends on March 1st! More information can be found at www.okoboji.org or you can grab an information booklet in the narthex!

Please pray for... Crissy Rogotzke, Alice Trebesch; Emily Wendt, Joseph 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 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.

St Paul Attendance

1/31/21 9am - 34
2/17/21 7pm - 38

2/07/21 9am - 20
2/21/21 9am - 28

2/14/21 9am - 26

Budget Recap Year-To-Date (01/01/21 to 2/24/21)

Total Funds for Budget	\$17,598.05	Total Operating Funds	\$17,598.05
Budget	\$28,078.24	Operating Exp.	\$820,835.72
Difference	(\$10,480.19)	Difference	(\$3,237.67)

Memorials Given From 12/27/20 to 02/24/21

In Memory:	Given by:	Designated for:
Gladys & Charles Bigot	Connie Tell & Carla LaRosa	St. Paul Cemetery Fund
Lenore Krueger	Mike & Christina Rogotzke	Good Shepherd Scholarship
	Thomas & Brenda Reiner	St. Paul Lutheran Church
	Edward Meidl	St. Paul Lutheran Church
	Arland Kettner	St. Paul Lutheran Church
	Daniel Kettner	St. Paul Lutheran Church
	Audrey Rositzke	St. Paul Lutheran Church
	Ken & Sharon Renner	St. Paul Lutheran Church
	Richard & Lois Zihlke	St. Paul Lutheran Church
	Barry & Barbara Johnson	St. Paul Lutheran Church
	Dalores Stern	St. Paul Lutheran Church
	Audrey Rieck	St. Paul Lutheran Church
	Tim & Jill Vogel	St. Paul Lutheran Church
	Ralph & Susie Hillesheim	St. Paul Lutheran Church
	Maurice & Shirley Weber	St. Paul Lutheran Church
John Gluth	Roger & Kelly Sargent	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.

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. You also have the option to set up automatic giving directly with your bank. If you have questions or need help, please talk to Katie in the church office.

March 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 3:00 pm The Maples Bible Study	2 6:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	3 6:30 pm Lenten Worship 6:30 Confirmation 8:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast of Lenten Worship	4	5 Office Closed 9:00 am Ch. 8 Broadcast of Lenten Worship	6
7 9:00 Worship 10:10 Sunday School 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast	8 3:00 pm The Maples Bible Study 6:30 pm Parish Ed Meeting	9 6:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	10 6:30 pm Lenten Worship 6:30 Confirmation 7:45 Church Council Meeting 8:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast of Lenten Worship	11	12 Office Closed 9:00 am Ch. 8 Broadcast of Lenten Worship	13
14 9:00 Worship 10:10 Sunday School 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast Daylight Savings	15 3:00 pm The Maples Bible Study	16 6:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	17 6:30 pm Lenten Worship 6:30 Confirmation 8:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast of Lenten Worship	18	19 Office Closed 9:00 am Ch. 8 Broadcast of Lenten Worship	20 12:00-4:00 1st Communion Class
21 9:00 Worship 10:10 Sunday School 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast	22 2:00 Downtown Es- tates HC 3:00 pm The Maples Bible Study	23 6:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	24 6:30 pm Lenten Worship 6:30 Confirmation 8:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast of Lenten Worship	25	26 Office Closed 9:00 am Ch. 8 Broadcast of Lenten Worship	27
28 Palm Sunday 9:00 Worship with 1st Communion 10:10 Sunday School 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast	29 3:00 pm The Maples Bible Study	30 6:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	31 6:30 Confirmation	St. Paul Lutheran Church 303 N Cass Ave, Springfield, MN 56087 507-723-5880, stpaul_lutheran@hotmail.com pastortriciamattson@gmail.com		

9:00 am Worship Service

We have trained volunteers who are helping with our in-person worship services.

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

Thank you for being patient and understanding.

March Birthdays!

3 - Jessie Micka
3 - Sarah Riederer
4 - Arland Kettner
9 - Kate Quesenberry
11 - Ethan Langseth
12 - Lacey Groebner
15 - Justin Asmus
15 - Ali Trapp
15 - Mike Rogotzke
18 - Angie Meine
19 - McKenzie Jensen
20 - Katlin Gatzlaff
20 - Jo Muske
21 - Keagan Streich
25 - Katelynn Clemon
30 - Duane Nachreiner
31 - Paul Muske

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.

March Anniversaries!

27 - Tim & Jill Vogel - 27 years
28 - Dana & Shawna Jacobs - 12 years

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

March Altar Guild

Kelly Sargent, Dawn Marz

If you are unable to help, please find a substitute or switch months with someone.

Holy Week

March 28 - 9 am, Palm Sunday Service with 1st Communion

April 1 - 7 pm, Maundy Thursday Service

April 2 - 1 pm, Good Friday Service

Sunday, April 4 - 7 am & 9 am, Easter Services

Worship & Sunday School Update

In-person worship on Sunday's at 9:00 a.m.

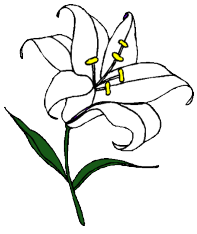
*Everyone entering the facility is asked to practice social distancing.

*Face mask usage is required under Minnesota Executive Order 20-81.

***Holy Communion will be on the 1st and 3rd Sunday's or you may contact Pastor for private communion.**

We will continue our Facebook Live of the 9:00 a.m. service. Or you may tune in to Channel 8 at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday for the recorded service.

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.



Order your Easter Flowers today!

Your order can be placed thru the church office until Thursday, March 25th.

We are getting different flowers this year and are not sure of the cost yet.

Katie will contact those who order to let you know the cost.

Estimated to be around \$10.



Do you shop on Amazon? St. Paul Lutheran Church is now listed on AmazonSmile! For eligible purchases at AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to the customer's selected charitable organization. Just select St. Paul Lutheran Church, Springfield, MN and you will be helping our congregation one purchase at a time! Simply enter <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/41-0705873> or go to smile.amazon.com and click on "AmazonSmile" and select St. Paul Lutheran Church, Springfield, MN. Then continue shopping! It's really that easy! Thank you for choosing to support St. Paul Lutheran!



SPRINGFIELD AREA FOOD SHELF UPDATE

Orders must be placed over the phone.

Service days are Tuesdays 5-7 PM and Thursdays 9:30-11:30 AM.

If you want groceries Tuesday night, call between 8 am—3pm that day.

For Thursday morning groceries, call Wednesday and leave your name and number for someone to return your call, 507-723-3663.

The Springfield Area Food Shelf will be moving to a new location in the lower level of the Springfield Clinic, 625 North Jackson St. We will begin moving inventory to the new location.

Volunteers are needed to assist with moving on March 5th and March 6th. Kids may get community service hours for assisting with this project. We will start at around 8:30am each day. If you are interested in helping please call Shari Koll at 507-227-0386. You may also leave a message on the Food Shelf Phone at 723-3663 and someone will call you back.

Don't throw out your shoes while cleaning out those closets this spring! St. Raphael Catholic School is hosting a Shoe Drive from now thru May 14th. They have a goal of 7,500 shoes!

Donations of gently worn, used and new shows will be accepted! Shoes need to be wearable, clean and without holes/missing parts (no broken heels on dress shoes for example). They will take any type of shoe-men's, women's, athletic, sandals, kid's, sport, etc..

DROP OFF is located in the Gathering space at St Raphael!



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

Postmaster: Dated material
Please Deliver Promptly
Address Service Requested

Calendar Highlights - March 2021

Wednesday's (3, 10, 17, 24)-Lenten Worship at 6:30 pm

20 - 1st Communion Class

28 - Palm Sunday - 1st Communion

We are on the Web!
www.splcspringfield.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.

*Watch for updates

Coffee Talk cancelled until further notice



Springfield Area Food Shelf hours

Tuesday 5:00pm – 7:00pm

Thursday 9:30am – 11:30am

804 East Rock Street - Springfield, MN 56087

507-723-3663