



Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

Lenten greetings! Since our Ash Wednesday worship service was canceled, I thought I would write on the reading, Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21, which is from the Sermon on the Mount.

While speaking to crowds, Jesus refers to the Pharisees, who were considered the most pious and godly among the people. Jesus had attacked the Pharisees' false teachings and now he goes after the way they live their lives, warning us not to do likewise.

Jesus comes to us in this reading like a physician doing an examination during a routine physical. Maybe we report no serious spiritual concerns, no spiritual aches or pains, no spiritual shortness of breath. Perhaps we declare to Christ that we feel spiritually fit as a fiddle.

While we may appear perfectly healthy on the outside, Christ's examination reveals something troubling on the inside. Looking right into our hearts, he shares the shocking diagnosis, "You have a heart condition." In the shocked silence that follows, Jesus begins listing the symptoms so that we might examine our own hearts.

First, Jesus starts with giving to the needy, which is pleasing to God. Yet there is a great temptation to make to draw attention to ourselves when we give, which is called virtue signaling, so that others see us as generous. Then when we receive admiration from others, it may then stimulate us to greater works, so that the eyes of others will turn even more to us. But this, Jesus warns, makes our works ruined in God's eyes, and reflects that we are not only misleading and deceiving others, but ourselves as well.

Next Jesus narrows in on our prayer, which is meant to be intimate heart-to-heart conversation with our Heavenly Father. Jesus says don't be like the hypocrites who pray in public, on the street, or in the synagogue. When the Jews prayed three times a day, 9:00, noon, and 3:00 p.m., the hypocrites would place themselves where they could be seen. Here Jesus calls us to examine ourselves and admonishes us against praying in such a way that others will be impressed with us so that we may gain a reputation for having great piety.

Both practices, which are good in themselves, can be distorted in ways that draw us into idolatry. When we seek the honor and glory for ourselves that belongs rightly to God, we show our hearts to be far from him. In this way, we are putting our best wares in the front show-window while behind the counter there is nothing but junk. Jesus speaks of those who display their outward acts of piety in this way as white-washed tombs. The outside is beautiful, but inside there is only death and decay.

And then finally Jesus hits on the big one: storing up treasures here on earth. If the first two didn't strike a nerve, this one will. Now there is nothing inherently wrong with having money or with having possessions. They can be used for great good in taking care of our neighbors. But here Jesus is concerned about greed. How easy it is for us to get all wrapped up in money and possessions, placing our trust in them to protect us and give us fulfillment. We can gauge where our hearts lie based on what they do when the stock market makes a record dive, or the commodity prices plunge. Do our hearts plummet with them? The devil, the world, and our sinful selves are ever trying to draw us into worshipping the idol Mammon, so that we will devote ourselves and our time to pursuing wealth, which we believe is our greatest treasure. When we fall to the temptation to worship Mammon, he shows himself to be a cruel and heartless god who robs us of peace and constantly threatens death.

But for no good reason that we can fathom, we are too beloved to be left in our brokenness. Jesus knows what we need: a heart transplant! David begs for this in Psalm 51, "Create in me a clean heart, O, God, and put a new and right spirit within me." We need Christ to remove our wayward, fickle heart that constantly chase after false gods and replace it with a new clean heart that will fear, love and trust God above all.

Thankfully there is no need to put you on a transplant waiting list, but our Lord can do the procedure by speaking to you the Word of Christ. On the cross, our Lord Jesus bore our infirmities and carried our diseases, defeating them through his innocent suffering and death, that you may receive a new clean heart through the forgiveness of your sins.

Each Sunday, Wednesday during Lent (weather permitting), and by appointment, you are invited to hear the Word of God that you may receive a new clean heart. See you in church!

Love from your sister in Christ,

Pr. Tricia Mattson

**St. Paul Lutheran Church  
Council Meeting-February 8, 2023 7:45 p.m.**

President John Mueller called the February meeting to order at 7:45 p.m. in Room 101. Members present were John Mueller, Kim Graff, Jo Muske, Jacob Marz, Randy Wendt, Sarah Groebner, Denise Gicker, Pastor Tricia and Jeff Krueger. Also present was Katie Mueller, Parish Coordinator and Anita Jensen, Financial Secretary. Tim Vogel and Kathy Pederson were absent.

Pastor led the group in a prayer.

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

M/S/P to approve the Financial Report as printed. M/S/P to pay the January benevolence. Anita pointed out that she changed/added in the benevolence and \$250 increases to LCMC and the Augustana District to the budget that were decided upon at the Annual Meeting.

**Building and Grounds Report:**

- The carpet has been installed in the lower north ramp entrance.
- Krause Construction has not come to check the steeple problem.

**Parish Education Report:**

- St. Paul's will host Vacation Bible School June 11-15, 2023. The theme will be "God's Living Water: Covered in Jesus' Grace."
- Sunday School offering will be going to Heifer International.
- M/S/P to hold Baccalaureate Sunday April 30 due to SHS Prom being on May 13.
- M/S/P for final day of Sunday School to be May 14.

**Pastor's Report:**

**Visitation**

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

**Worship**

- Led worship with Holy Communion at The Maples on January 16, 2023.
- Baptized Aubrey Hillesheim on January 29, 2023 and attended her baptismal party.

**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.

- Teaching confirmation on Wednesday nights. The students will plan and lead Lenten worship.

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

- Attended the Parish Education meeting on January 30, 2023.

- Taught New Member Orientation sessions on January 31 and February 7, 2023.

**Community**

- Issued one SAFE voucher to neighbors in need.

- Chaired the SAFE Annual Meeting on January 24, 2023.

- Submitted an article to the Advance-Press entitled *Where Can You Find Mercy?*

- Attended the St. John's Circle of Care Board Meeting on January 23, 2023.

**Continuing Education**

- Attended the Augustana District Theological Conference in Bloomington February 5-6, 2023.

- Took vacation January 17-23, 2023.

**Old Business:**

- Discussion on changing service time on Sunday mornings. Pastor had some requests about possibly changing the worship service to 10:00 a.m. on Sundays with Sunday School at 9:00. Will send survey to congregation to get their opinions on the idea and then review.

**New Business:**

- President Mueller made the following committee appointments: Parish Education—Denise Gicker; Mission Sponsorship—Jeff Krueger; Nominating Committee—John Mueller; and SAFE—Sarah Groebner.
- Church Council will serve one of the Lenten Suppers—March 15. Anita Jensen volunteered to make and furnish turkey supreme for sandwiches. The rest of the menu items were split among the other council members.
- M/S/P to hold the Spring German Supper on Wednesday, April 19 for 4:30-6:00 p.m. or until gone.

M/S/P to adjourn at 8:40 p.m. Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting will be Wednesday, March 8, 2023 at 7:45 p.m.

~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](mailto:stpaul_lutheran@hotmail.com)

### 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!

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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](mailto:stpaul_lutheran@hotmail.com). We appreciate you keeping us updated!  
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## St. Paul Lutheran Church GERMAN SUPPER

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**Wednesday, April 19, 2023**  
from 4:30 – 6:00 or Sold Out



**Volunteers are needed to help  
with planning, preparing, and  
serving the German Supper.**  
**Please let Katie know if you  
would like to help!**

.....  
Due to the snowstorm this week, Channel 8  
broadcast times for our Wednesday Evening  
Worship was unable to be confirmed. Please  
watch the weekly bulletin for the scheduled  
times for broadcasting.

Broadcasts will likely Wednesday evenings after  
8pm and again Thursday mornings.  
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# St Paul Attendance

Jan 29 ~ 98    Feb 5 ~ 64    Feb 12 ~ 81    Feb 19 ~ 101    Ash Wednesday Worship canceled

## Budget Recap Year-To-Date (01/01/23 to 02/20/23)

Total Funds for Budget	\$34,789.81	Total Operating Funds	\$34,789.81
Budget	\$32,436.56	Operating Exp.	\$27,690.49
Difference	\$2,353.25	Difference	\$7,099.32

## Memorials Given 12/27/22 - 02/24/23

<b>In Memory:</b>	<b>Given by:</b>	<b>Designated for:</b>
William Halter	Ed Meidl Arland Kettner Daniel Kettner Marilyn & Marlow Nickel & Family Cheryl & Jerry Diede Karen Shiveley	Good Shepherd Scholarship Fund St. Paul Lutheran Church St. Paul Lutheran Church St. Paul Lutheran Church St. Paul Lutheran Church St. Paul Lutheran Church
Charlotte Bock	Bob & Sharon Rogotzke Kristin Rogotzke Kati Clark	St. Paul Lutheran Church St. Paul Lutheran Church St. Paul Lutheran Church
Allen Meyer	Mae Meyer Clayton & Deb Beyer	St. Paul Lutheran Church St. Paul Lutheran Church
Merlyn Peterson	Lester & Shirley Bly	St. Paul Lutheran Church
Richard Pederson	Peggy Larson	St. Paul Lutheran Church
Karen Coners	Richard & Lois Zihlke	St. Paul Lutheran Church
Kathleen Wenisch	Richard & Lois Zihlke	St. Paul Lutheran Church

Please pray for... Larry & Ruthie Potter, Kevin Wendt, Dalores Stern, Dave Telecky (Jena Veenstra's dad), Larry Potter, Randy Wendt, Linda Fisher (Delmar Nelson's daughter), Jarrett Sharp (Jo Muske's brother), Bud Wendt, Marcia Schiller, Sherry Fenger; 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.

# March 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
St. Paul Lutheran Church, 303 N Cass Ave, Springfield, MN 56087 Church Telephone: 507-723-5880 <a href="http://www.splespringfield.org">www.splespringfield.org</a> Pastor's e-mail: <a href="mailto:pastortriciamattson@gmail.com">pastortriciamattson@gmail.com</a> Office e-mail: <a href="mailto:stpaul_lutheran@hotmail.com">stpaul_lutheran@hotmail.com</a>			<b>1</b> 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast 5:30-6:30 Meal 6:00 Luther League Meeting 6:30 Confirmation 7:00 Worship 7:30 Choir Rehearsal TBD Ch. 8 Broadcast	<b>2</b> TBD Ch. 8 Broadcast	<b>3</b> Office Closed	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> 9:00 Worship 10:00 Sunday School 10:00 Coffee Talk 10:10 Lutheran Difference Study 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast	<b>6</b> 3:00 pm The Maples Bible Study 6:30 Parish Ed Meeting	<b>7</b> 6:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	<b>8</b> 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast 5:30-6:30 Meal 6:30 Confirmation 7:00 Worship 7:30 Choir Rehearsal 7:45 Council Meeting TBD Ch. 8 Broadcast	<b>9</b> TBD Ch. 8 Broadcast	<b>10</b> Office Closed	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> 9:00 Worship 10:00 Sunday School 10:00 Coffee Talk 10:10 Lutheran Difference Study 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast Daylight Saving Time	<b>13</b> 3:00 pm The Maples Bible Study	<b>14</b> 6:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	<b>15</b> 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast 5:30-6:30 Meal 6:30 Confirmation 7:00 Worship 7:30 Choir Rehearsal TBD Ch. 8 Broadcast	<b>16</b> TBD Ch. 8 Broadcast	<b>17</b> Office Closed	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> 9:00 Worship New Member Sunday 10:00 Sunday School 10:00 Coffee Talk 10:10 Lutheran Difference Study 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast	<b>20</b> 3:00 pm The Maples Holy Communion	<b>21</b> 10:00 SJLH Worship 6:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	<b>22</b> 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast 5:30-6:30 Meal 6:30 Confirmation 7:00 Worship 7:30 Choir Rehearsal TBD Ch. 8 Broadcast	<b>23</b> TBD Ch. 8 Broadcast	<b>24</b> Office Closed	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 9:00 Worship 10:00 Sunday School 10:00 Coffee Talk 10:10 Lutheran Difference Study 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast	<b>27</b> 3:00 pm The Maples Bible Study	<b>28</b> 6:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	<b>29</b> 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast 5:30-6:30 Meal 6:30 Confirmation 7:00 Worship 7:30 Choir Rehearsal TBD Ch. 8 Broadcast	<b>30</b> TBD Ch. 8 Broadcast	<b>31</b> Office Closed	

## Worship Service Helpers

Date	Sound & Video	Reader	Acolyte	Usher	Organist
3/5	Paul & Jonah	Jordan Pidde	Bentley Wendt Jenna Shaw	Team 3	Jeff Krueger
03/12	John Mueller	Jo Muske	Wyatt Mueller Ashtyn Rudolph	Team 4	Jo Schwartz
03/19	Russell Rogotzke	Mel Vogel	Russell Johnson Braxton Brown	Team 1	Jeff Krueger
03/26	Tim Vogel	Kurt Glaeseman	Nathan Johnson Ayvah Wendt	Team 2	Jo Schwartz

### 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

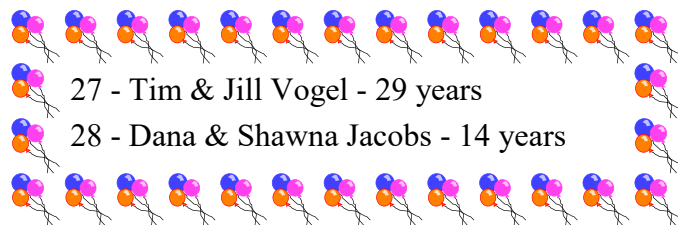
### March Altar Guild

Kelly Sargent  
Dawn Marz

### March Birthdays!



### March Anniversaries!



Our Lenten Services are held on Wednesday evenings. Each week there will be a meal served from 5:30-6:30 in the Fellowship Hall, followed by Worship at 7:00 p.m.

#### Lenten Sermon Series 2023

- Wednesday, February 22 "The First Commandment"
- Wednesday, March 1 "The Second & Third Commandments"
- Wednesday, March 8 "The Fourth & Fifth Commandments"
- Wednesday, March 15 "The Sixth & Seventh Commandments"
- Wednesday, March 22 "The Eighth Commandment"
- Wednesday, March 29 "The Ninth & Tenth Commandments"

### Looking Ahead ~ Holy Week Schedule

- April 6, 2023, Maundy Thursday Worship Service at 7:00 p.m.
- April 7, 2023, Good Friday Worship Service at 7:00 p.m.
- April 9, Easter Sunday Service at 9:00 a.m.



Luther League meets on the 1st Wednesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.  
All members grades 7-12 are invited to attend!

### Order your Easter Flowers Soon!

We have a wide assortment of Easter flowers that we can order this year! **Orders must be placed by Sunday, March 12th!** Checks made out to St. Paul Lutheran Church.

Mums \$16

Kalanchoe \$16

Lilies \$16

Dahlias \$12

Tulips \$12

Hydrangea \$29

Hyacinth \$29



### 2023 Summer Bible Camp opportunities at Ingham Okoboji Bible Camp!

St. Paul's Spiritual Growth Fund and Parish Education will be issuing scholarships to those who register for one of these camps at Ingham Okoboji!

Parish Ed will cover half of the cost and the Spiritual Growth Fund will cover one fourth of the cost of the Pathfinders, Trailblazers, and Jr. High Camp, and they will cover the full cost of the Camp-in-a-Day camp.

**Early Bird Registration ends on March 1<sup>st</sup>, so register today!** Proof of registration should be sent the church office so I can mark you down for a scholarship! Brochures are located at the entrance to the sanctuary or you can check dates and register online at [www.okoboji.org/register](http://www.okoboji.org/register)

## Springfield Public School presents



Music and Lyrics by Kristen Anderson-Lopez & Robert Lopez

Book by Jennifer Lee

Based on the Disney film written by

Jennifer Lee and directed by Chris Buck & Jennifer Lee

**Friday, March 31, 7:00 p.m.**

**Saturday, April 1, 3:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.**

Preschool and under \$6, grades K-12 \$8, Adults \$10  
Tickets available at the door

**Springfield Public School Performing Arts Auditorium  
12 South Burns Avenue, Springfield, MN**



Disney's Frozen Jr. is presented through special arrangement  
with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized  
performance materials are also supplied by MTI.

St. Paul's is hosting Vacation Bible School this summer, June 11-15, 2023. Parish Ed is looking for volunteers to join the planning committee. If interested in helping, speak to a member of Parish Ed or let Katie know. There will be a planning meeting on Tuesday, February 28th and 7:00 p.m.

### 2023 MARCH CAMPAIGN WILL RUN FEBRUARY 27th-APRIL 9th.

The Minnesota FoodShare/March Campaign brings together organizations, businesses, faith communities, and individuals to help keep 300 food shelves statewide stocked throughout the year. Minnesota FoodShare has distributed over \$18 million to March Campaign participating food shelves via the Minnesota FoodShare Food-Fund. 100% of donations received by Minnesota FoodShare during the March Campaign go into the Food-Fund. Please consider making a monetary donation or food donation to the Springfield Area Food Shelf during this campaign. Collection boxes have been placed in the local churches in Springfield/Comfrey as well as the local Springfield Market. Please do not put money donations in the collection boxes. Mailing address is PO Box 15, Springfield, MN 56087. If you have any questions, please call Shari Koll at 507-227-0386.

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

Postmaster: Dated material  
Please Deliver Promptly  
Address Service Requested

**Calendar Highlights - March 2023**

Wednesday's - Lenten Meal & Worship  
19 - New Member Sunday

**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](mailto:pastortriciamattson@gmail.com)

Parish Coordinator: Katie Mueller  
Monday-Thursday 8:00 am-noon  
Email: [stpaul\\_lutheran@hotmail.com](mailto:stpaul_lutheran@hotmail.com)

Housekeeping: Steve Lyle

Maintenance: Al Groebner

Financial Secretary: Anita Jensen  
[Fin\\_secretary@newulmtel.net](mailto: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](http://www.splcspringfield.org)**