



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

It's summertime and many of us have started planning where we will go on vacation. I have a bucket list of places I'd like to visit and maybe you do, too. Planning a trip means something to look forward to. It lifts our spirits as we anticipate exploring someplace new.

I want to lift your spirits by giving you a glimpse of a place where God wants to bring you someday. It's the new Jerusalem, a place introduced to us by the apostle John, our tour guide around the holy city in Revelation 21. And even though we're not there yet just knowing that God has prepared this place for us and what we can expect there lifts our spirits and gives us something to look forward to in the midst of the struggles of this world.

An angel takes John to a high vantage point, where he sees the new Jerusalem "coming down out of heaven from God." When we're talking about salvation and eternal life, the direction is always from God to us. We cannot rise up to God; he must come down to us. So, the holy city comes down, "having the glory of God, its radiance like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal." And it is glorious; radiant, jewel-like, brilliant, exquisite, full of color and light, every aspect, every angle, revealing new glories.

We see more: "It had a great, high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and on the gates the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel were inscribed..." "And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb." There will be no safer and more secure place to be than in this holy city, surrounded by the might and strength of God himself.

Now we turn to what we don't see: "And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb." Odd, isn't it, to have a Jerusalem without a temple? But in the new Jerusalem, a specific place for people to go to be in God's presence is no longer needed. Instead, the whole city will be that place! In the whole city, every nook and cranny, every alley and corner—everywhere you turn, God is there, showering us in his love and grace. God is forever present with us and no intermediary is needed.

Our minds can hardly fathom this reality that awaits us. We understand enough to know it will be better than anything we have experienced so far. All our brothers and sisters in the faith—from Abraham to John the Baptist and from the Apostle Paul to Martin Luther to your sainted grandmother and your departed spouse—the whole church in all times and all places, will be gathered in one place, for all of eternity. Wow!

And an even bigger wow: To be with God, restored to perfect fellowship, loving God with all our hearts, all doubt and sin behind us forever. To behold our Savior, Jesus Christ, the Lamb who was slain for us, now risen and exalted, to see his face, to hear his voice, to feel his arms wrapped around us.

What else will not be there? No night. "And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there." No night means no danger. No nighttime threat of break-ins and no need to lock the doors. This city is full of light, where we can see to walk at any hour.

But there's one other thing that will not be present—not allowed in—in the new Jerusalem, and that is that there will be nothing unclean. "But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false..." We might ask, "Nothing unclean? Hey, what about me? I've got this unclean heart, which is full of unclean thoughts and desires. I've got these unclean hands, with which I have done things I ought not to have done. I have these unclean lips, having spoken thoughtless and hurtful words, angry words, gossip, and lies. How will I get in?"

The text tells us, "Only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life." That's you! That's me! Our names were written in his book at our baptism! For Christ, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, has cleansed us from our sins and etched us in his book of life. That book is signed in the blood of the Lamb, by which we are cleansed. And this is your admission—the only admission you need—to enter the holy city, the new Jerusalem. Doesn't that lift your spirits?!? Join us each Sunday to hear further promises from Christ and be lifted up!

In Christian love,
Pr. Tricia

St. Paul Lutheran Church

Council Meeting-April 12, 2023 7:45 p.m.

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

Pastor led the group in a prayer.

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

M/S/P to approve the Financial Report as printed. M/S/P to pay the March benevolence. There was discussion on sending out Member Giving Statements more than just at the end of the year. Intermittent statements will remind members of their giving status throughout the year. M/S/P to send out statements in July, November and at year-end. The statements could possibly be emailed to members. Katie will work with Anita on this project.

Building and Grounds Report:

- The "clanging" in the radiators of the offices in the educational wing has been resolved.

Parish Education Report:

- St. Paul's is hosting VBS this year. The committee is still looking for volunteers to be helpers and leaders. Also looking for volunteers to help serve one of the suppers. Each attendee will receive a VBS t-shirt. The United Methodist and Zion Lutheran Churches will be joining St. Paul and St. Johns for VBS.

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 March 20, 2023.
- Led worship with Holy Communion at St. John's Circle of Care March 21, 2023.
- Received our new members during worship on March 19, 2023.

- Led Lenten worship on March 8, March 15, March 22 and March 29 in partnership with our confirmation students.

- Led Maundy Thursday worship on April 6, 2023 with three fifth graders receiving First Communion.

- Led Good Friday worship on April 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.

- Teaching confirmation on Wednesday nights.

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

- Attended the Parish Education meeting on April 3, 2023.

- Attended the Vacation Bible School planning meeting March 28, 2023.

Luther League

- Attended the Luther League meeting on April 5, 2023.

Community

- Issued two SAFE vouchers to neighbors in need.

- Helped one neighbor in need with rent money from the Good Samaritan Fund.

- Attended the St. John's Circle of Care Annual Meeting on March 27, 2023.

- Submitted an article to the Advance-Press on March 15, 2023 entitled "Hanging on by a Thread."

- Helped serve the Lenten meals on March 8, March 15 and March 22, 2023.

Old Business:

- German Supper is scheduled for Wednesday, April 26. It will be dine in or take out from 4:30-6:00 p.m. or until sold out. Volunteers are needed to help with preparations, serving, waiting and setting tables, clean-up and cakes for the dine-in option. One St. Paul member has volunteered to make all the cookies for the take-out option. Tickets and fliers were passed out to council members.

New Business:

- M/S/P to not offer any additional summer worship services this year—just the regular 9:00 a.m. Sunday service.

- M/S/P to change the June Council Meeting to Wednesday, June 7 due to VBS on June 14.

- M/S/P to change the start time for the May-August Council Meetings to 7:00 p.m. rather than 7:45 p.m. since Confirmation and Adult Choir rehearsals will be over.
- M/S/P to once again do a Graduation Congratulatory ad in the Advance-Press like in years past. Will do the same size as last year but will add the names of our church's six graduates.
- M/S/P to participate in the Community Ecumenical Worship Service during Riverside Days on Sunday, June 25. There will be no service at St. Paul's that day.

M/S/P to adjourn at 8:30 p.m. Closed with the Lord's Prayer.
Next meeting will be Wednesday, May 10, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

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

- 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!

Please pray for... Bud Wendt, Rodney Pedersen (Pr. Tricia's Uncle), Donna Wersal, Marcia Schiller, Sherry Fenger, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Morris, MN; Grace Lutheran, Willow Lake, SD; Grace Lutheran Church – Erhard, MN; Grace Lutheran Church, McGregor, MN; Hawley Lutheran Church, Hawley, MN; Hazel Run Lutheran Church, Hazel Run, MN; Heglund Lutheran, Hawley, MN; Heritage Lutheran Church, Brandon, SD; 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.

THANK YOU
to everyone who
helped in any way
with the German
Supper! Your help is
very much
appreciated!!

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

4/2 9am—117	4/6 7pm—76	4/7 7pm—26
4/9 9am—171	4/16 9am—43	4/23 9am—88

Budget Recap Year-To-Date (01/01/23 to 04/25/23)

Total Funds for Budget	\$60,817.68	Total Operating Funds	\$60,817.68
Budget	\$68,927.69	Operating Exp.	\$66,401.98
Difference	(\$8,110.01)	Difference	(\$5,584.30)

Memorials Given 03/27/23—04/26/23

<u>In Memory:</u>	<u>Given by:</u>	<u>Designated for:</u>
Elaine Miesen	Rod & Rhonda Larson	Good Shepherd Scholarship Fund
Daniel Skarp	Rod & Rhonda Larson	Good Shepherd Scholarship Fund
Bob Beussman	Dalores Stern	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!

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.

**SANTA Burger Blast Fundraiser is Wednesday, June 7
at the Springfield Area Community Center.
Serving 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.**

St. Paul's need to furnish the following workers for the event:

- 2 workers to help make burgers on Tuesday, June 6 at 7 p.m. at Center to make burgers.
- 2 workers to work the first shift (10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.) for the event
- 2 workers to work the second shift (4:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.) at the event.

May 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 8-2 Blood Drive 3:00 pm The Maples Bible Study 6:30 Parish Ed Meeting	2 6:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broad- cast 7:00 VBS Meeting	3 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast 6:30 Confirmation 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	4	5 Office Closed	6
7 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship with Confirmation 12:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast	8 3:00 pm The Maples Bible Study	9 6:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broad- cast	10 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast 7:00 Church Council Meeting	11	12 Office Closed	13
14 9:00 Worship 10:00 Sunday School Awards and Coffee Talk 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast	15 3:00 pm The Maples Holy Communion 5:30 St. John's Home Annual Meeting	16 10:00 SJLH Worship 6:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broad- cast	17 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast	18	19 Office Closed	20
21 9:00 Worship 10:00 Coffee Talk 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast	22 3:00 pm The Maples Bible Study	23 6:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broad- cast	24 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast	25	26 Office Closed	27
28 9:00 Worship 10:00 Coffee Talk 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast	29 Memorial Day Office Closed	30 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broad- cast	31 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast	Pastor on vacation-----		
Pastor on vacation-----				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		

Worship Service Helpers

Date	Sound & Video	Reader	Acolyte	Usher	Organist
5/7	John Mueller	Jeanette Pidde	Wyatt Mueller Ashtyn Rudolph	Team 2	Jeff Krueger
5/14	Tim Vogel	Paul Muske	Bentley Wendt Nathan Johnson	Team 3	Jo Schwartz
5/21	Russell Rogotzke	Daniel Kettner	Grace Jacobs Molly Jacobs	Team 4	Jeff Krueger
5/28	Peter Heitzman	Jordan Pidde	Bobbi Jo Timm Gabby Schenk	Team 1	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

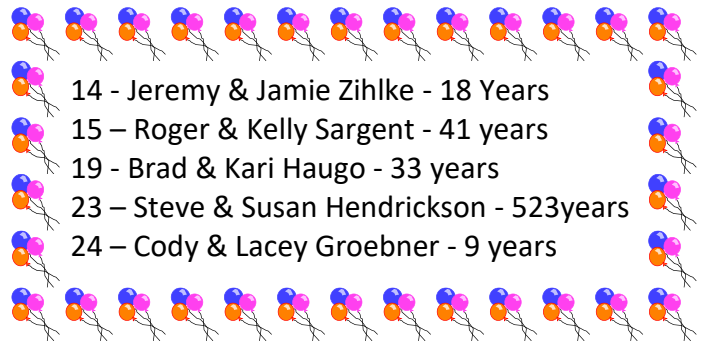
May Altar Guild

Kurt & Mary
Glaeseman

May Birthdays!



May Anniversaries!



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

St. Paul's is hosting Vacation Bible School this summer, June 11-15, 2023. Parish Ed is looking for volunteers to help with VBS. If interested in helping, speak to a member of Parish Ed or let Katie know.



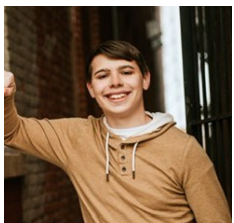
Carter Todd Asmus

Son of Justin and Jennifer Asmus

Carter will be attending Mitchell Technical College in Mitchell, SD for Power Sports & Marine Technology

At St Paul Lutheran, Carter has been involved in Bell Choir, Special Music, Luther League, Luther League Officer, Sunday School Secretary.

Carter's graduation open house is Saturday, May 20, 2023 from 1:00-4:00 pm at the Springfield Sportsman Club



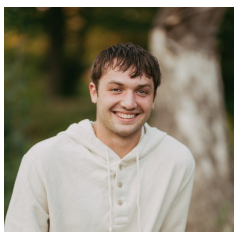
Daniel Joseph Groebner

Son of Adam and Sarah Groebner

Daniel will be attending Alexandria Technical College for Law Enforcement.

Daniel's Favorite Memory of Church or Church Activity is attending Quake weekend retreat with Luther League.

At St Paul Lutheran, Daniel has been involved in Senior Choir, Luther League, Luther League President, Sunday School Secretary, Acolyte, Parish Ed. Student Rep.



MaCoy Krick

Son of Amber Meidl & Jeremy Brown and Dustin and Kourtney Krick

MaCoy will be attending SMSU in Marshall MN playing football as a Mustang and furthering his education in business, with a plan to complete engineering in the future.

His favorite church memory is attending Summer Bible Camp



Dalton Gary Langseth

Son of Tina Meine and Nathan Langseth

Dalton will be working full-time with Lamberton Plumbing and Heating as an apprentice.

Dalton's favorite church memory is the Luther League Lock-In.

At St. Paul Lutheran, Dalton has been involved in Luther League and was an acolyte.

Dalton's Graduation Party will be on Friday, May 26th from 5-8pm at the Springfield Sportsman Club.



Nicholas Alan Mays

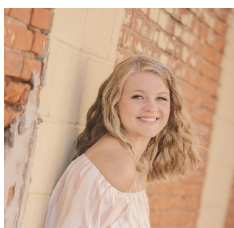
Son of Erin & Jared Nelson and Kyle & Krista Mays

Nic is planning to attend a four year college university, which one is still undetermined at this time. He plans to go into the field of neuroscience and to have a career in research.

Nic's favorite church trip was the end of the year Luther League trip to the Twin Cities Harvest fall last year. He enjoyed getting to know the other Luther League members and leaders and had a great time doing Minnesota's largest corn maze!

At St. Paul Lutheran, Nic has been involved in Luther League, Bell Choir, and ushering at

the church.



Jordyn Plaster

Daughter of Shawn and Krystal Plaster

Jordyn will be attending the University of Sioux Falls to pursue a bachelor's degree in Radiologic Technology.

Jordyn's favorite church memory is going on the confirmation retreats during my 7th and 8th grade years. They were so much fun getting to learn about God and meeting new people!

At St Paul Lutheran, Jordyn has been involved in being a Sunday School Helper/Teacher(2019-present), VBS Helper(2020 and 2021), Christmas Program Helper(2022), Acolyte, and Altar Guild(2017-present).

Jordyn's graduation party will be held at the Springfield Community Center on May 20th from 1-4. Her address is 24 North Park Avenue Springfield, MN 56087

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

Postmaster: Dated material
Please Deliver Promptly
Address Service Requested

Calendar Highlights - May 2023

7 - Confirmation

14-Mother's Day-Last Day of Sunday School

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