



And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.
Colossians 3:15

On Sunday, May 5th, we will be confirming seven Students. I want to add my sincere good wishes to all seven students: Jenna, Brooklyn, Hayden, Wyatt, Grace, Ashtyn, and Gabriella.

The meaning of Confirmation might be obvious to some of you, but it's worthwhile, just the same, to take a moment and remind ourselves what Confirmation is and is not. Confirmation is not a graduation ceremony. While the youth who confirm their faith have been through a series of classes, starting in Sunday School and continuing through confirmation classes, they are not graduating from the Church—just the opposite. You might say that they are graduating to the Church. They are stepping into being a full participant in the Body of Christ.

The title confirmation gives a clue as to what it is. The students are confirming their faith. They are confirming what their parents did at the font twelve-plus years ago. Our confirmands are saying 'yes' to Jesus. They are saying that Jesus is their Lord and Savior, and they look to Jesus to guide them through all of life. They are saying yes to the Call that God has on their lives.

This is a personal commitment, but they affirm their Baptism in the fellowship of our congregation. The reason is that the Christian faith is never a private affair. Faith always has a cruciform shape. Our faith reaches upward toward God and outward toward our Christian brothers and sisters.

As these youth embark on their journey of faith, they will undoubtedly face challenges. Your support, both tangible and through prayer, is crucial. I encourage you to find ways to support each of these confirmands, and most importantly, to pray for them. Your prayers will help guide them as they gratefully follow God's call.

In Hope and Joy,
Pastor Carl

St. Paul Lutheran Church Council Meeting-April 10, 2024

Chairman Paul Muske called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 10 at the church. Members present were Paul Muske, Angel Rummel, Kelly Sargent, Jacob Marz, Randy Wendt, Kim Graff, Pastor Carl Billings and Jeff Krueger. Kathy Pederson and Sarah Groebner were absent. Katie Mueller, Parish Coordinator, and Anita Jensen, Financial Secretary, were also present.

M/S/P to adopt the agenda.

Pastor Carl led the group in devotions and prayer based on Ephesians 2:4-10.

M/S/P to approve the Secretary's Report of the March 13, 2024 meeting.

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

M/S/P to change Sunday School to 9:00 a.m. and Worship to 10:00 a.m. on May 5 due to Confirmation.

Pastor's Report

- Conducted one home communion/visit.
- Conducted one baptismal instruction.
- Celebrated First Communion with eleven students on Maundy Thursday, March 28.
- Transition team has met and discussed items: Coffee Bar before and after worship (first one held Easter Sunday), find an additional alternate worship time during the summer, develop more smaller congregational groups (Mom's Group, Service Groups, etc.), worship order on Power Point (thank you to Katie) which will change bulletin content.
- Mutual Ministry Team (St. Paul's/St. John's): Easter services went well, offering pulpit supply to St. Johns after Confirmation Sunday. Team will meet on April 16.
- Planning on attending the Ingham Okoboji Bible Camp Annual Meeting April 19-20.
- Planning vacation to Scotland to visit son June 25-July 6.

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.

•M/S/P to approve the bid and contract from Schmidt Brothers Roofing to reshingle the church and the parsonage. Will take place in mid-May.

•M/S/P to purchase a new True Mfg. 49 cubic ft. commercial refrigerator for the church kitchen from SCR of St. Cloud. Cost will be \$6,428.00 plus delivery/labor charges.

•Set Tuesday, August 6 for a Community Night Out Picnic in Riverside Park, sponsored by St. Paul and St. Johns Churches. Katie will reserve shelters in park. Committees will be established.

•Bus trip to Feed My Starving Children site in the Twin Cities will take place in June. More details will be coming on this event.

•M/S/P to approve the Call Committee members so far: Jeremy Dove, Tiffany Trapp, Harmon Quesenberry, Jo Schwartz, Kathy Pederson and Paul Muske. There may be a couple more interested in joining. Pastor will organize a training session for the committee.

•Marie Weinberger Trust money has been put aside for updates in the Sunday School wing, fellowship hall and sanctuary. Jan Kratz, Dawn Marz and Jeanette Pidde have agreed to be on the committee. Will also ask for persons from Parish Ed.

•German Supper is set for Wednesday, April 24. Katie has tickets for everyone to sell. Will be asking for help for the event.

New Business

•The worship service is now put on the Power Point screen each Sunday. Therefore, changes will be made to the content of the bulletins each Sunday.

- Coffee Bar went over very well before the Easter worship service. Plans are to continue with it and ask for volunteers to help serve.
- M/S/P to have Pastor come up with a time and content for an additional worship service during the summer. It would be held during the week for those who are gone on the weekends during the summer.
- Discussion on worship service. Going to try to come up with some alternate Orders of Worship to use for some variety each month. Will work with Worship and Music Committee on it.
- Working to organize more small groups and service groups within the Congregation. They sort of went by the wayside during Covid and is important to get them going again.

We closed with the Lord’s Prayer. M/S/P to adjourn at 8:35 p.m.

Next meeting will be Wednesday, May 8 at 7:30 p.m.

~by Jeff Krueger, Council Secretary

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

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

3/31 9am - 227
4/21 9am - 101

4/7 9am - 77
4/28 9am - 89

4/14 9am - 68

Budget and Memorial data was unavailable at the time of printing.

Congratulations to our members who are being Confirmed on Sunday, May 5th.

Ashtyn Alan Rudolph
Gabriella Jean Schenk
Hayden James Gluth
Wyatt John Mueller

Brooklyn Rae Anderson
Grace Alice Ann Jacobs
Jenna Marie Shaw

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!

Please pray for... The family of Elizabeth Vanderwerf, the family of Jolene Danielson, Ashley Cook, the family of Duane Kasten, Rod Larson, 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!



May 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	2	3	4
5 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Confirmation No Coffee Talk—Private Party 12:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast	6	7 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	8 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast 7:30 p.m. Council Meeting	9	10	11
12 Happy Mother's Day! 9:00 Worship with Baccalaureate 10:00 Celebrate Sunday School Year and our graduating seniors! 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast	13	14 10:00 am Worship at SJLH 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	15 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast	16	17	18
19 8:30 am Coffee Bar 9:00 Worship 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast	20	21 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	22 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast	23	24	25
26 9:00 Worship 10:00 Coffee Talk 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast	27	28 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	29 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast	30	31	

* Indicates Choir Singing.

Worship Service Helpers

Date	Sound & Video	Projection	Reader	Acolyte	Usher	Organist
*5/5	Paul & Jonah	Jordan Pidde	Jo Muske	Brooklyn Anderson Blake Zihlke	Team 2	Jeff Krueger
5/12	Trevor Krebs	John Mueller	Mel Vogel	Molly Jacobs Abigail Shaw	Team 3	Jo Schwartz
5/19	Nick & Nathan Groebner	Grace & Molly Jacobs	Kurt Glaeseman	Abigail Jeppesen Ranee Dombek	Team 4	Jeff Krueger
5/26	Dove Family	Dove Family	Jeanette Pidde	Bobbi Jo Timm Bentley Wendt	Team 1	Jo Schwartz

May Birthdays!



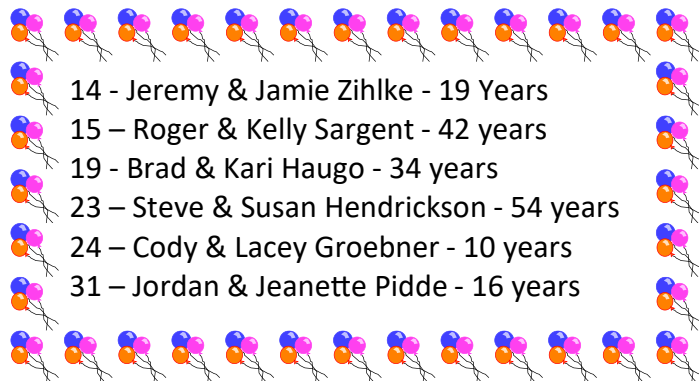
Usher Teams

- 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

May Altar Guild

Rhonda Larson
Ashley Cook

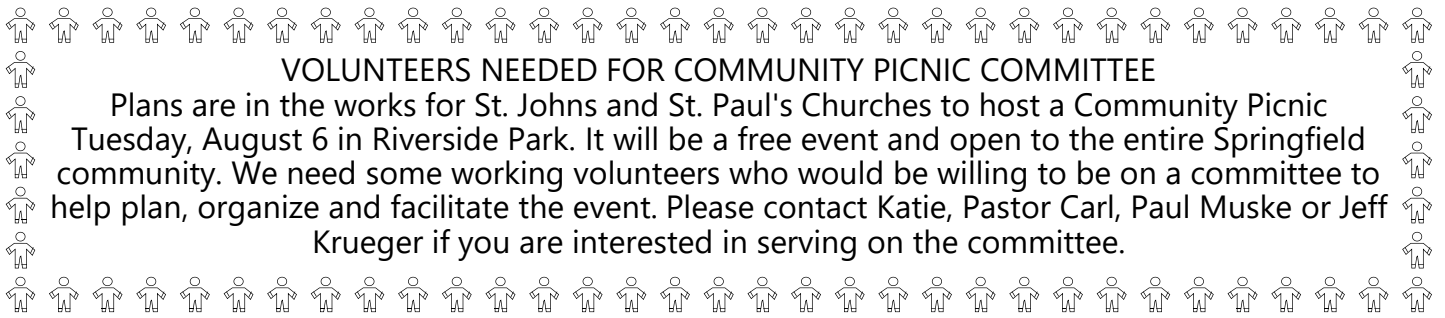
May Anniversaries!



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

The Transition Team is hosting a Coffee Bar on Sunday, May 19th beginning at 8:30 a.m. Come to church early to grab coffee and a snack before heading up to worship.

Members interested in hosting future Coffee Bars should talk to one of the Transition Team Members or let Katie know.



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.



We will be adding a Summer Worship Service on Tuesday evenings beginning on May 28th. Please watch the weekly bulletin and Facebook for more details!



St. John's is hosting VBS this summer! Dates are June 16-20. If you are interested in volunteering, please let Katie know. Registration Forms will be available soon!

Congratulations to our 2024 Graduates!



Zachary Timm

Parents names : Brian & Jen Timm
Plans for the future: enter the workforce
Favorite memory of church: Sunday school, VBS, the Christmas Program, making friends, serving coffee talk
Activities I was involved in: usher, VBS, acolyte, serving coffee talk



Kyler Zihlke

Parents names : Jeremy & Jamie Zihlke
Plans for the future: Attending South Central College for HVAC/R
Favorite memory of church: Going to Valley Scare with Luther League
Activities I was involved in: Luther League, Acolyte, helping at Dinners and Breakfasts



Skylar Gewerth

Parents names: Sarah Riederer
Plans for the future: South Central College in Mankato for Graphic Communications
Favorite memory of church: All Luther League activities; especially the Lock-Ins
Activities I was involved in: Luther League, helping with the German Supper

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

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Calendar Highlights - May 2024
5 - Confirmation
12 - Baccalaureate & Last Day of Sunday School

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

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