



In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:16

Confirmation Sunday

The first Sunday in May is Confirmation Sunday. I thought I would like to write about what Confirmation isn't and what it is. But before I do that, let me offer my congratulations to the 2025 confirmation class: Randee Dombek, Molly Jacobs, Abbygail Jeppesen, Bobbi Jo Timm, Ali Trapp, Bentley Wendt, Amaira Brown, Liam Eberhard.

Having offered congratulations, let me say that Confirmation Sunday is NOT Graduation from a Christian Education school. Yes, the confirmands have gone to classes. There is, however, no graduation from the Body of Christ. Rather, Confirmation is a significant step in these young people's lives. Confirmation is more like passing your driver's test than Graduation from school.

What do I mean by that? Well, when you graduate from school, you leave that institution, never to darken the doors of that institution again, except for occasional trips down memory lane.

However, when learning to drive, you usually spend some time in the classroom learning the rules of the road. The first time you get behind the wheel, there is a responsible adult to teach you the finer points of driving and navigating in traffic. Quite often, more than one individual has been that responsible adult helping the student learn how to drive—parent, teacher, and driving instructor, to name a few examples. Once a youth has their license, it is unlikely they throw it in a drawer and say, "Well, I passed that test, and I don't have to think about driving again. It is far more likely they will be asking their parent for the keys so they can run an errand, even if it is simply going to the Springfield Market to pick up something for Mom.

That is the perfect metaphor for Confirmation, which is sometimes called Affirmation of Baptism. The youth are affirming their Baptism, accepting the promises that their Parents accepted on their behalf, and assuming the responsibilities that their parents made on their behalf. Those responsibilities can best be summed up by the above quoted verse: **let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.**

I hope our confirmation students will look for ways to exercise their faith. In other words, take their newly confirmed faith out for a spin by being involved in the church in a multitude of possible ways.

May God bless each one of our confirmation students as we run this race of faith together.

Be Hope-filled, Stay Strong and God Bless,

Pastor Carl

**St. Paul Lutheran Church
Council Meeting
April 9, 2025**

The meeting was called to order by Jake Marz at 7:45 pm

Members Present: Jake, Marz, Kim Graff, Kelly Sargent, Angel Rummel, Andy Renner, Paul Muske, Randy Wendt, Pastor Carl Billings, Kathy Pederson, Sarah Groebner and Anita Jensen.

Absent: Katie Mueller

Opening Prayer: Pastor Carl
Consent Agenda -- M/S/P by Paul Muske and Angel Rummel
Secretary's Report – Approved
Financial Statement – Approved

OLD BUSINESS:

Building & Grounds:

*Wasp Situation – Randy is going to call to have someone (Plunkett's) to have them check into the wasps that have been in the church recently. M/S/P by Paul and Kelly

*Paul spoke with Miesen's regarding painting behind the altar. \$4750 was the quote. M/S/P by Kathy and Kelly to approve the painting. Tabled the ceiling repairs & painting.

*Still nothing heard from Church Mutual.

Pastors Report: - Approved

*Confirmation students will be confirmed April 30th.

* Updated Funeral Service Policy – M/S/P by Paul and Andy to accept the updated policy.

Call Committee Report:

*The Call Committee continues to meet regularly. All LCMC Pastors/Ministries nationwide have been contacted. There are a couple zoom meetings with possible candidates coming up.

Mission Sponsorship Committee Report:

M/S/P by Kelly and Kim
German Supper: Supper is set for May 7th 4:30-6:00pm. Tickets available from council members or in the church office.

NEW BUSINESS:

Surplus Items: TV's, Chairs, Pictures, Tables – M/S/P by Paul & Randy to sell surplus items in a free-will donation.

Nursing Home/Shut In's: Reported on Nursing Home & Shut In Visits. A few more couples are needed to help with visits.

Tuesday In the Chapel: Services to start May 27 and be every Tuesday @ 6pm thru Labor Day.

Springfield Visitors Guide: M/S/P by Kathy and Kelly to put an ad for our church in the packet at a cost of \$16

St Paul Cemetery Minutes: Approved - Also discussion on helping purchase a different lawn mower for the cemetery – tabled for further research.

Katie's Office Schedule's: M/S/P to allow Katie to have flexible office hours and to use laptop for work during this time while she is helping with care of her mom.

Easter Decorating: Decorating for Easter will be Saturday, April 19th @ 9 AM

Closing Prayer: -- The Lord's Prayer

Adjourned: -- 9:00 PM

Submitted by Kim Graff, Council Secretary

2024 Church Council

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| Jacob Marz - Chair | |
| Kim Graff - Secretary | Kelly Sargent - Treasure |
| Randy Wendt | Paul Muske |
| Kathy Pederson | Angel Rummel |
| Sarah Groebner | Andy Renner |

St Paul Attendance

4/6 9am - 81

4/13 9am - 149

4/17 7pm - 81

4/18 7 pm - 41

4/20 9am - 169

Budget Recap Year-To-Date (01/01/25 to 4/24/25)

| | | | |
|------------------------|---------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| Total Funds for Budget | \$61,320.79 | Total Operating Funds | \$61,320.79 |
| Budget | \$73,211.68 | Operating Exp. | \$68,139.69 |
| Difference | (\$11,890.89) | Difference | (\$6,818.90) |

Memorials Given 3/27/2025 - 4/24/2025

| In Memory: | Given by: | Designated for: |
|-------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| Norm Nelson | Rod & Rhonda Larson | Good Shepherd Scholarship Fund |
| Larry Potter | Rod & Rhonda Larson & Jim & Elsie Groebner | Good Shepherd Scholarship Fund |
| | Bud & Marlys Wendt | Ingham Okoboji Bible Camp |
| | Russell & Sharon Rogotzke | Gideons |
| | Family of Larry Potter | Cemetery Permanent Care |

Memorials for Larry Potter designated to St. Paul Lutheran Church: Family of Larry Potter, Barry & Barb Johnson, Kimberly Engblom, Al & Tamara Bockhold, Cleo Boldwan, Ruth Peterson, Diana Scholtz, Dennis & Janice Schueler, Shirley Franey, Jerry & Janice Zihlke, Pat & Beth Sturm, Ivan & Darlene Anderson, Dale & Sandy Gustad, Lynn & Phyllis Weber, Angela Weber, Nancy Blick, Steve & Kristine Evans, Janet & Lenny Groff, Larry & Cece Stark, Jeff & Sherry Ellefson, Dennis & Lucy Potter, Brian & Mel Gustad, Nancy Vogel, Willie & Lynda Potter, Bruce & Patty Potter, Randy & Emily Potter, Bonnie Vogel, Tony & VaLous Anderson, June & Inez Anderson, Rich & Judy Pauling, Dean & Jean & Linda Polkow, Dave & Joyce Potter, Al & Paula Roiger, Jerry & Peggy Martius, Elaine Schueler, Rachel Bishir, Rose Wall, Beth Hacker, Wayne Rice, Pat Whittaker, Donna Schumacher, Sherry Lashinski, Shirley Kettner, Mike & Barb Marz, Arlene Vogel, Joe & Tami Bockhold, Carlotta Lindeman, Ken & Evonne Moll, Branden & Sherry Bloamgren, Curt & Kate Krieg, Dave & Lois Graff, Roger & Sandy Polkow, Bob Bauer, Denise Johnson, Doris Bierman, JoAnn Mariner, Stan & Jodi Wendland, Janice Kettner, Gary Polkow, John & Patti Zihlke, Bill & Mel Vogel, Milt & Barb Potter, Duane & Jelene Nacheriner, Orlan & Kat Fleata, Jeff Krueger, Doug & Melissa Hillger, Alan & Anne Wenisch, Karen Voge, Barb Hasclka, Jon & Jan Wenisch, Randy & Patti Braulick, Marsha Schmidt, Paul & Sharon Pieschel, Ed Meidl, John & Katie Mueller, Kurt & Mary Glaeseman, Daniel Kettner, Jeri Platz, Gertie Rosenau, Roger & Kelly Sargent, John & Dawn Marz, Mark Rosenau, Bob & Kristin Rogotzke, Kari Clark, Jerry & LaVonne Hauth, Tom & Brenda Reiner, Vicki Houser

We are now offering a new way for giving! A recent upgrade to our member database that we use, "Servant Keeper", now offers us an online giving platform that is included in the program.



The link to give to the General Fund is: giving.servantkeeper.com/StPaulLutheran

You can give a one-time donation or set up scheduled giving by using your credit/bank card or by bank transfer. These gifts will go directly into your church giving statement, saving you checks, and us time! Give it a try!

*The church office needs to have your email address on file for you to set up your giving this way. Please note that newulmtel.net or nuvera.net emails do not work for this set up. If you have any questions, please talk to Katie.

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.

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

Help us keep our Church Directory up to date! We would like to get updated pictures of each member family for the directory.
If you have a nice family photo you would like to use instead, you can email a copy to Katie at stpaul_lutheran@hotmail.com at any time.

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's Cares" meals are in the kitchen freezer. The meals are each labeled with a post card message and prayer on the front and cooking instruction on the back of the card. The idea is that any member of St. Paul's may take a meal and deliver it to someone who could use it. Some examples would be during an illness or death, welcoming a new baby home, enduring some hardship, etc. Thanks to the use of a Thrivent Action Team card, we have been able to provide this service to our community. Please let Katie know if you have any questions.

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!



St. Paul's next blood drive will be
Wednesday, August 27th 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

I need a few volunteers to help work at the blood drive.

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!

Please pray for...Dave Bittler, Jerome Kettner, Doug Rositzke; 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.

May 2025

* Indicates Choir Singing.

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|--------------------------------|---|--|-----|------------------|-----|
| | | | | 1 | 2 Office Closed | 3 |
| 4 *10:00 Confirmation Service 10:00 Sunday School 12:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast | 5 6:30 pm Parish Ed Meeting | 6 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast | 7 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast 4:30-6:30 German Supper | 8 | 9 Office Closed | 10 |
| 11 Happy Mother's Day! 9:00 Worship with Baccalaureate 10:00 Coffee Talk end of Sunday School Awards 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast | 12 | 13 10:00 am Worship at SJLH 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast | 14 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast 4:45 p.m. Council meeting | 15 | 16 Office Closed | 17 |
| 18 9:00 Worship 10:00 Coffee Talk 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast | 19 Pastor vacation | 20 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast | 21 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast | 22 | 23 Office Closed | 24 |
| 25 9:00 Worship 10:00 Coffee Talk 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast Pastor vacation | 26 Memorial Day | 27 6:00 p.m. Tuesdays in the Chapel Service 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast | 28 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast | 29 | 30 Office Closed | 31 |

* Indicates Choir Singing.

Worship Service Helpers

| Date | Sound & Video | Projection | Reader | Acolyte | Usher | Organist |
|------|---------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|--------|--------------|
| 5/4 | Dove Family | Dove Family | Confirmation Students | Adalyn Rudolph Lydia Vogel | Team 4 | Jeff Krueger |
| 5/11 | Tim Vogel | Jacobs Girls | Kurt Glaeseman | Rylyn Marz Blake Zihlke | Team 1 | Jeff Krueger |
| 5/18 | Mueller Family | Mueller Family | Jeanette Pidde | Lydia Vogel Madisen Schumacher | Team 2 | Jo Schwartz |
| 5/25 | Paul Muske Jonah Pidde | Jordan Pidde | Brittany Cook | Ellie Jensen Abbigail Shaw | Team 3 | Jo Schwartz |

May Birthdays!

- 
- 1 – Melanie Vogel
 - 4 – Megan Hillesheim
 - 4 - Jesse Kieper
 - 8 - Connor Wendt
 - 9 – Alexis Clemon
 - 9— Ellen Kral
 - 11 - Anita Jensen
 - 12 – Carter Asmus
 - 13 – LaCole Weisensel
 - 13 - Reid Lang
 - 14 – Jerrine Kettner
 - 17 – Tyler Larson
 - 20 – Nickolas Kratz
 - 26 – Jeremy Brown
 - 26 – Bryan Buerkle
 - 29 - Benjamin Krebs
 - 29 – Mae Meyer
 - 29 – Daniel Veenstra
 - 30 – Ed Meidl
 - 31 – Amanda Thompson
 - 31 - Nicholas Mays

Usher Teams

- 1 - Don Bloemke, John Marz, Jake Marz, Paul Meidl
- 2 - Doug Gatzlaff, Dave Bittler, Peter Heitzman
- 3 - Doug Schiller, Russell Rogotzke, Mark Buerkle, Jeremy Dove
- 4 - Tim Vogel, Scott Vogel, Bill Vogel

May Altar Guild
Mueller's, Jena Veenstra

May Anniversaries!

- 
- 14 - Jeremy & Jamie Zihlke - 20 Years
 - 15 – Roger & Kelly Sargent - 43 years
 - 19 - Brad & Kari Haugo - 35 years
 - 23 – Steve & Susan Hendrickson - 55 years
 - 24 – Cody & Lacey Groebner - 11 years
 - 31 – Jordan & Jeanette Pidde - 17 years

Community Treasures in Springfield

Hours are Monday 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.;
Tuesday and Thursday 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.;
and Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Donations
will be accepted during business hours.



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. Paul Lutheran Church

German Supper

Wed. May 7, 2025

Serving from 4:30-6:00 or sold out

Drive Up ~ Walk In ~ or Dine In

Sauerkraut with Pork, Dumplings,
Brats, German Potato Salad, cookie
Presale \$14 ~ At the door \$15

Delivery for Shut-Ins only.
Call by May 5th 723-5880

*Monetary donations are appreciated to help cover the rising costs of groceries and supplies. Donations can be brought to the church office or placed in the offering plate marked "German Supper Donation".

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

Congratulations to our members who are being Confirmed on Sunday, May 4th.

**Randee Dombek
Molly Jacobs
Abbygail Jeppesen
Bobbi Jo Timm
Ali Trapp
Bentley Wendt**

Congratulations to our 2025 Graduates!

Parker Gluth

Son of Travis & Kim Gluth

Plans for the future: Working for Mathiowetz Construction
Favorite memory of church: Baking unleavened bread and painting 1st Communion Cups.



Abigail Jensen

Daughter of Lonny & Elaine Jensen

Plans for the future: Attending University of South Dakota for Speech & Communication Disorders



Nickolas Rogotzke

Son of Mike & Crissy Rogotzke

Plans for the future: Attending Lake Area Tech in Watertown, SD for Diesel Mechanics
Favorite memory of church: Vacation Bible School
Nickolas also participates in the Church Choir



Open House Graduation Party:
Saturday, May 17th, 4-8 p.m.
At his home, 18211 County Road 2

Keagan Streich

Son of Duane Streich and Jodi Nachreiner

Plans for the future: Attending either MSU or SMSU

Favorite memory of church: Going to Valley Scare with Luther League.



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

Postmaster: Dated material
Please Deliver Promptly
Address Service Requested

Calendar Highlights - May 2025

4- Confirmation

7- German Supper,

11- Baccalaureate

27- Tuesdays in the Chapel Service

Phone: 507-723-5880

www.splcspringfield.org

Office Hours

Pastor Carl Billings carlbillings@me.com

Monday & Tuesday 9-11 a.m.
or by appointment

Parish Coordinator: Katie Mueller

Monday-Thursday 8:00 am-noon
stpaul_lutheran@hotmail.com

Financial Secretary: Anita Jensen

Fin_secretary@newulmtel.net

Housekeeping: Mary Jo Simonson

Maintenance: Al Groebner

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



**Give
Today!**



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)