



2023

***Commit to the LORD whatever you do,
and he will establish your plans.
The LORD works out everything to its proper end***

Proverbs 16:3-4a

In the coming months, we will be doing a great deal of planning at St Paul's, as we prepare for our next full-time Pastor. We will first examine who we are as a congregation: What are our strengths, and internal and external challenges? What is God's specific mission for St Paul's, and are we fulfilling that mission? Finally, we will ask ourselves what kind of Pastor we need to lead us into God's future.

There are several requests I would like to make of you. First, ask yourself, "How does God want me to serve as a member of this congregation in the mission of St. Paul's?" Second, become involved in the process. You can participate in several ways:

- *Attending worship regularly
- * Staying after for coffee talk fellowship
- * Attending one of the cottage planning meetings

You will hear more details about the cottage meetings soon. The meetings will be a time to look at the questions I outlined in the first paragraph.

Finally, and most importantly—pray. Please pray; pray for our congregation in this time of transition; pray for our leadership and staff; pray for me as your intentional interim Pastor; and pray for your future Pastor whom God is preparing even now. After all, the writer of proverbs is correct, "***Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and he will establish your plans. The LORD works out everything to its proper end.***"

Be Hope-filled, Stay Strong and God Bless,

Pastor Carl

St. Paul Lutheran Church Council Meeting-October 11, 2023

The October meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. in Room 101 at the church. Present were Jo Muske, Sarah Groebner, Kim Graff, Kathy Pederson, Denise Gicker, John Mueller, Jacob Marz Pastor Carl Billings and Jeff Krueger. Tim Vogel and Randy Wendt were absent.

Pastor Carl led the group in prayer. His devotions were based upon our congregation's mission statement —Remember the Promise, Live the Faith, Serve the World—and how to relate it to our congregation's transitional period.

M/S/P to approve the September Secretary's Report as presented with the addition of Kim Graff being present at the meeting.

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

Building and Grounds

- Waiting to hear back from Jeremy Zihlke on repairing the plexiglass covering on one of the windows on the west side of the church
- Waiting to hear back from Jeremy Zihlke on options/solutions for the dampness in the space beneath the ramp on the north side of the church.
- The parsonage updates have been completed: new carpeting in the living room, hallways and stairs leading upstairs and to the basement, air ducts cleaned, other carpets cleaned and air conditioner unit cleaned. Some furniture has been found for Pastor Carl to use while living at the parsonage. He will also be adding some of his own furniture.

Parish Education

- Sunday School began September 17 and is going well. Still some staffing vacancies to figure out.
- Confirmation classes are meeting during the Sunday School hour.
- M/S/P to hold the Sunday School Christmas Program on Sunday, December 17 at 10:00 a.m.

Pastor's Report

- Pastoral activities include connecting and

introducing himself to the community (fellow pastors, community leaders, St. John's Circle of Care, Springfield Market, Runnings).

- Conducted personal communion to a resident and spouse at St. John's Circle of Care.
- Working on setting up a church-wide Bible Study—time to be determined.
- Setting up a five-person transition task force made up of a good mix of congregation members to study and discuss the congregation's needs, concerns etc. and bring back to the council as we begin to search for a new pastor. Council members to find the task force members.
- Will attend the Hospitality House Youth Development Banquet in North Minneapolis October 22.
- Will attend Intermediate Intentional Interim Training October 23-24.
- Will gather with his family October 24-28.
- Will be available for Thanksgiving and Christmas services.

Old Business

- Fall German Supper will be held October 25. It will be dine-in, drive-up or take-out. Tickets were passed out to Council Members to sell. Help will be needed before and during the event.
- Reviewed the price quote from Stephen Lethert Organ Tuning for replacement and relocation of the blower for the organ. He suggested a new blower when he tuned the organ last month. The organ has lots of tuning and operational issues during cold winter months. He thinks moving the blower from the boiler room to the actual organ room would help alleviate the problems that are due to temperature changes. The cost would be \$9,000-\$11,000. M/S/P to do the replacement and relocation. M/S/P to pay for it with funds offered from the Marie Weinberger Trust.

New Business

- M/S/P to accept the snow removal bid from Saw Works (Nick Seidl) for the church and parsonage.
- There will be no Community Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service this year.
- The SW Minnesota Men's Chorus would like to present their Christmas Concert in Springfield again this year at St. Paul's. It

would be Monday, December 4 at 7:00 p.m. M/S/P to approve the concert. A freewill offering will be collected to cover the concert fee. The Adult Choir will be asked to serve refreshments following the concert.

- M/S/P to have our Thanksgiving Eve Service on Wednesday, November 22 at 7:00 p.m. A pie social will follow—everyone will be asked to bring a pie and the Council will serve.
- M/S/P to hold two services on Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24—the regular 9:00 a.m. service and the traditional 6:00 p.m. Candlelight Service.
- M/S/P to not have a Christmas Day Service on December 25.
- M/S/P to do Thanksgiving Baskets again this year. There is \$3,439 in the account. Those receiving baskets are nominated by members of our congregation. Will be packed and delivered on Sunday, November 19. Help will be needed.
- John will schedule the Staff Reviews to be done in December.
- M/S/P to hold the Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 4 following the 9:00 a.m. worship service.
- Kathy reported she will take care of getting the holiday gifts for the shut-ins this year. Will need help delivering them in December.
- Jeff will be directing the Nativity Pageant Choir this year. Asked permission to use St. Paul's sanctuary, if needed, for some choir rehearsals. M/S/P to do so.
- Luther League and/or youth group was discussed. We do not have any adult leaders. Will reach out to St. Johns Church to see if they may want to work together. A former leader would be interested in helping with it.

M/S/P to adjourn at 8:50 p.m. We closed with the Lord's Prayer.
Next meeting will be Wednesday, November 6, 2023 at 7:30 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

Please pray for... Steve Polkow (Jill Vogel's brother), Karla Azuara, The family of Curtis Olson, the family of Matthew Krueger, Gary Buck (Shawna Jacobs' step dad), Dalores Stern, Marge Wellner, Marilyn Kratz, Bud Wendt, Marcia Schiller; these LCMC Congregations: St. Olaf Church, Bode IA, St. Paul Lutheran Church – Springfield, MN, St. Paul Lutheran Church - West Falls NY, St. Peters Evangelical Lutheran Church of Walmore, Sanborn, NY, Tahoma Lutheran, Maple Valley, WA, The Table Ministry, Sioux Falls, SD, Trinity Lutheran Church, Jeffers, MN, Trinity Lutheran, Carrington, ND; 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 or request is renewed.

St Paul Attendance

10/1 9am - 65

10/8 9am - 91

10/15 9am - 76

10/22 9am - 78

Budget Recap Year-To-Date (01/01/23 to 09/27/23)

Numbers not available prior to printing

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.

No Memorials Given 08/27/23 - 09/27/23

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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. We appreciate you keeping us updated!
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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!

Our live broadcasting will now be on YouTube rather than Facebook. This new way gives us the ability to live broadcast the service just as you would see it on Channel 8. The sound and picture quality should be much better as it won't be recorded from a cell phone! Please be patient with us as we navigate this new system as we may run into issues as we acquaint ourselves with it. The other great news is that you don't need to have a Facebook account to watch live! Just subscribe to our YouTube Channel by clicking here https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrD1aPEnJ7QzKk9GF_wtqdA or searching for St Paul Lutheran Church, Springfield, MN. Once subscribed, you will be notified when we go live!

November 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	2	3	4
5 9:00 Worship 10:00 Sunday School 10:00 Coffee Talk 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast	6 6:30 pm Parish Ed Meeting	7 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	8 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast 7:00 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 Church Council Meeting	9	10	11 Rogotzke/ Henning Wedding
12 9:00 Worship 10:00 Sunday School 10:00 Coffee Talk 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast	13	14 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	15 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	16	17	18
19 9:00 Worship 10:00 Pack and Deliver Thanksgiving Baskets 10:00 Sunday School 10:00 Coffee Talk 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast	20	21 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	22 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast 7:00 Thanksgiving Eve Worship followed by dessert	23	24	25
26 9:00 Worship 10:00 Sunday School 10:00 Coffee Talk 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast	27	28 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	29 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	30		

* Indicates Choir Singing.

Worship Service Helpers

Date	Pastor	Sound & Video	Reader	Acolyte	Usher	Organist
11/5	Pastor Carl Billings	Paul & Jonah	Mel Vogel	Bobbi Jo Timm Gabby Schenk	Team 4	Jeff Krueger
11/12	Pastor Carl Billings	John Mueller	Kurt Glaeseman	Randee Dombek Abbygail Jeppesen	Team 1	Jo Schwartz
11/19	Pastor Carl Billings	Tim Vogel	Jeanette Pidde	Jenna Shaw Abigail Shaw	Team 2	Jo Schwartz
11/26	Pastor Carl Billings	John Mueller	Paul Muske	Ali Trapp Lily Groebner	Team 3	Jeff Krueger

November Birthdays!



Usher Teams

- 1 - Delwin Beussman, Don Bloemke, John 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

November Altar Guild

Kurt & Mary Glaeseman

November Anniversaries!



Save the Date!

**Sunday, December 24th – Regular worship at 9:00 a.m.
and Christmas Eve Worship Service 6:00 pm**

Monday, December 25th – No Worship Service

Sunday, February 4th – Annual Meeting

We are beginning to collect items for the College Care Packages! Email Katie your college students address so we make sure they get a package!
stpaul_lutheran@hotmail.com Donations are appreciated! Bring in your non-perishable snacks and donation items to the church office by Monday, October 30th! Our college students love receiving their packages!


*Time to order your Christmas Poinsettias - We have 10 poinsettias ordered for Christmas Decorating! The Cost is \$16 each. If you would like one in your name, please notify the church office by December 4th. Checks should be made out to St. Paul Lutheran Church.

Thank you to everyone who helped in any way to make our Fall German Supper a great success!

Many of our fellow members here at St. Paul Lutheran are involved in the production of Footloose! Whether acting, pit orchestra, assistant directing, or providing technical support behind the scenes, we hope you come and support the arts in Springfield and our amazingly talented community members!

Springfield Community Theatre & Springfield Public School Community Education PRESENT

Footloose




Stage Adaptation by Dean Pitchford and Walter Bobbie
 Based on the original Screenplay by Dean Pitchford
 Music by Tom Snow Lyrics by Dean Pitchford
 Additional Music by Eric Carmen, Sammy Hagar, Kenny Loggins, and Jim Steinman

Saturday, November 18 – 7:30 PM
Sunday, November 19 – 2 PM & 6 PM
Springfield Public School | Performing Arts Auditorium

Students \$10 up to Grade 12 Adults \$14 Advance \$17 At The Door

TICKET INFORMATION: Purchase tickets online.
<https://www.showtix4u.com/event-details/76661> or scan the QR code.
 In-person ticket purchases at Springfield High School Office:
 Wednesday, October 25 [4-7PM],
 Monday, Nov. 6 [1-3 PM] and Monday, Nov. 13 [1-3 PM]
 Questions: Contact Katie Mueller at ktmueller@icloud.com



*This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

*Recommended for Children 13 and older
 FOOTLOOSE is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals. www.concordtheatricals.com

THANKSGIVING CHEER BASKETS

- **Deadline to sign up is Wednesday, November 8th at noon. Late requests will not be accepted.**
- If you know of a family who is in need or could use the thoughtful gift of receiving a full Thanksgiving meal, please call the church office at 507-723-5880 or fill out the below form and place in the offering plate upon your exit or return to the church office at your earliest convenience. **We need to know their address, phone number, how many people are in the family.** Help will be needed to package and deliver the boxes, please let Katie know if you can help.

Items you can donate:

Boxed Stuffing, canned green beans or corn, canned cranberries, canned turkey gravy, disposable roaster pans, jars of pickles, boxes of instant mashed potatoes, frozen Cool Whip, frozen Pumpkin Pie, apples and oranges

St. Paul Lutheran Church, Springfield, MN

THANKSGIVING CHEER BASKETS

Please send a Thanksgiving Cheer Basket to
 PHONE: _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

Adults _____ Children under 10 _____ Children under 18 _____

I would like to:

_____ donate/buy _____ for the baskets. Name & Phone: _____

_____ help put baskets together. _____ help deliver baskets.

- **Donations need to be brought to the church office by Wednesday, November 8th at noon.**

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

Postmaster: Dated material
Please Deliver Promptly
Address Service Requested

Calendar Highlights - November 2023
19 - Pack and Deliver Thanksgiving Baskets
22 - Thanksgiving Eve Worship @ 7pm

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: 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