



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

How strong is your need to self-justify? When your spouse or your parent points out something that you have neglected to complete, do you feel a strong need to give excuses? If your boss comments on the length of time it took you to complete a project, do you feel compelled to give a lengthy explanation?

Most of us try to shed the best light on our actions to justify what we have done. We do our best to minimize or hide our mistakes so our spouse, parent, or boss doesn't think poorly of us. This practice is part of our DNA.

The definition of self-justification is "the act or fact of justifying oneself, especially of offering excessive reasons, explanations, excuses, etc., for an act, thought, or the like." Self-justification involves convincing ourselves (and others) that what we did, felt, or thought was logically appropriate, even going so far as to invent plausible explanations when it is not immediately apparent why we acted, felt, or thought as we did. Self-justification describes how, when we encounter a situation in which our behavior is inconsistent with our own beliefs, we tend to justify our behavior and deny any negative feedback associated with our behavior. For example, "An excess of sweetened foods and beverages can lead to weight gain, blood sugar problems, and an increased risk of heart disease and Alzheimer's Disease" and yet "I consume donuts, candy, and ice cream every day."

Such situations generate highly unpleasant feelings as our self-image is at stake. When we don't behave in alignment with our own beliefs, it threatens our integrity. And when our integrity is threatened it feels like death is approaching. So we self-justify in order to protect ourselves from the truth about ourselves: that we are sinners in need of a savior.

In Luke 16:15 Jesus says to the Pharisees, "You are those who justify yourselves in the sight of others; but God knows your hearts." Though we may try to pull the wool over our own eyes and the eyes of others, there is no fooling God. As Hebrews 4:13 says, "And before [God] no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account." Our God knows every secret sin about us – in fact, God knows us better than we know ourselves.

It is important to note that it is not what we do that makes us sinners, but instead we are born sinners, as David confessed in Psalm 51. Our Augsburg Confession, Article II on Original Sin says,

*It is taught among us that since the fall of Adam, all human beings who are born in the natural way are conceived and born in sin. This means that from birth they are full of evil lust and inclination and cannot by nature possess true fear of God and true faith in God. Moreover, this same innate disease and original sin is truly sin and condemns to God's eternal wrath all who are not in turn born anew through baptism and the Holy Spirit.*

Yet rather than allow us to suffer the wages of our sin, God the Father sent his only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, to forgive our sins. Through the blood of Jesus, our sins are separated from us as far as the east is from the west, and God remembers them no more. Instead, having adopted us in the waters of baptism, when God looks at us he sees us as his own beloved sons and daughters with whom he is well-pleased for Jesus' sake. We stand justified before God. What this means for our everyday living is that we no longer have to justify ourselves or what we have done. We can confess our sins – own up to them - and rest securely in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will not hold them against us. Therefore as Paul wrote, "If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ?" The answer: "I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Rom 8)"

Noticing that you've been doing a little too much self-justifying lately? Then come to worship and be truly justified through the Word of Christ, "In the name of Jesus, I forgive you all your sins." In this way you will be made a new creature who trusts in Christ alone for your righteousness! See you in church!

## St Paul Lutheran Church - Church Council Meeting, September 18, 2019 at 7:30 pm

Present: Ed Meidl, Pastor Tricia, Paul Muske, Bill Vogel, Matt Sargent, Craig Valentin, Doug Jeske, Angel Clemon, Jill Vogel

Also present: Katie Mueller, church coordinator

Absent:, David Bittler, Anita Jensen, Financial Secretary

Call to order at 7:35 pm, Ed Meidl

Devotion – Pastor Tricia-Reading from the Small catechism on the Lord’s Prayer from Free to Be.

M/S/P with correction-Secretary’s Report

Correction- Anita Jensen was present at the Aug meeting.

**Financial Report**-sitting ok at this time-unable to Motion on the report at this time.

Please have new service providers send proof of insurance coverage and W-9, as soon as possible.

### **Building and Grounds – Ed**

Parsonage Window Leaks

M/S/P-to have Jeremy Zhilke look at the kitchen window for leaks, damages, repair options, and estimate to fix.

Parsonage Basement-Oct 28-29<sup>th</sup> coming to repair basement.

Parsonage Curtains

M/S/P-Pastor to get new curtains.

Church front doors have been re-stained.

Chalking inside of stained glass windows.

### **Parish Education Report –Matt & Bill**

Handing out gifts over next several weeks-Doves, Bibles, etc...

### **Pastor’s Report**

Pastor has ideas to bring forth to Stewardship committee and further acknowledgement and blessings to those who help our congregation-ushers, music, greeters, etc...

### **Action Items**

Rev. Benarji Duggi - would we be interested in meeting with him anytime during the week of October 6-13.

Will allow him to speak at council at the Oct 9<sup>th</sup> meeting for a 10 min information session.

John Mueller has agreed to serve on the Stewardship committee as Dan Longsdorf left an opening. I plan to call a meeting of this committee.

### **Ministry Updates**

#### **Visitation**

Visited homebound, assisted living, and nursing home members.

Delivered bulletins to SJLH, the Maples, and Downtown Estates.

#### **Worship**

Led worship with the Lord’s Supper at SJLH and the Maples.

Led worship on Wednesday nights at 7:00 p.m. through August 28.

#### **Parish Education**

Continuing to lead weekly bible studies Mondays at the Maples and Tuesdays at church.

Attended the Parish Ed meeting on 8/26.

Met twice with a couple to do premarital counselling

#### **Confirmation**

Kicked off the 2019-2020 confirmation year with a BBQ on September 4 at Brown’s Park.

Confirmation classes began September 11 at 6:30 p.m.

#### **Community**

Gave one SAFE voucher to a community member.

Assisted a community member from the Good Sam Fund.

Attended the Ministerial Meeting on 8/22.

Attended the Friends of the Library Meeting on 9/6.

Ate lunch with two of our Sunday school students at their elementary school.

**Other Business**

Worked with our many great volunteers at the parsonage work night on 8/27.  
Helped with potato peeling and served as hostess at the German Supper.

**Continuing Ed**

Meeting with Pr. Julie for text study.

**OLD BUSINESS**

M/S/P- to accept Doug Jeske & Angel Clemon to join Church Council for remaining terms.  
Doug Jeske will complete Dan Longsdorf's term til the end of 2019.  
Angel Clemon's term will end 2020.

German Supper – September 11, 2019 –served approximately 489 meals.  
Please add to give a notice to the Luther League group requesting help with a work shift.  
Ideas-to remove front 2 tables to allow for more space for serving and work crew.

LCMC Annual Gathering – Sept 29-Oct 2, Omaha Nebraska – Pastor and Dave Bittler attending  
October 27<sup>th</sup>, Church Auction 11:30-1:00, Turkey Supreme Meal, Live & Silent Auction-report from  
Katie

Look for info in the newsletter  
Asking for families to contribute to silent auction baskets & live auctions.  
Planning Committee for 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2020 – Paul Muske will chair committee  
Jeff Krueger, Jo Schwartz, Pastor Tricia are some of the contributors.  
Katie found plans from the 125<sup>th</sup> and the committee is throwing around ideas.  
New Church Directory-Katie

To celebrate 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary-to wait until Fall of 2020 in order to include pictures and  
activities from the year celebrations.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Thanks for the Harvest-Wednesday, Dec 4<sup>th</sup>--6pm worship, 6:30pm meal, confirmation 7:00-  
7:30pm.

M/S/P-Set Holiday Services  
Thanksgiving-Wednesday, November 27, 7pm followed by pie social  
Christmas Eve Service-Tuesday, December 24, 6 pm  
Christmas Day Service-Wednesday, December 25, 10 am  
Stewardship Committee-

Move David Bittler as the council rep on the stewardship committee.  
Add John Mueller to the committee.

Bob Lenz Speaker, October 21<sup>st</sup>, Springfield Public School focused on suicide and mental health, the  
evening talk will be faith based. Organizational committee is requesting to speak to our  
congregation this Sunday to request free will offering to help serve a meal to the families in  
attendance to the evening event.

M/S/P-to allow Mary Larson to address congregation-5 min limit-with information for the event  
and request free will offering to support the supper for families. Offering plates to be placed at  
entrances.

Katie showed a postcard that people can utilize when using direct deposit so that they are able to  
put something into the plate during worship. Stewardship committee will look at and address.

Motion to Adjourn 8:44pm

Shawna Jacobs  
Church council Secretary

<b><u>2019 Church Council</u></b>		
Ed Meidl - Chair	Dave Bittler	Jill Vogel
Paul Muske - Vice Chair	Bill Vogel	Matt Sargent
Shawna Jacobs - Secretary	Angel Clemon	Doug Jeske
Craig Valentin - Treasurer		

**Budget Recap & Attendance Year-To-Date (01/01/19 to 9/23/19)**

Total Funds for Budget	\$112,722.14	Operating Funds	\$124,722.14	Budget	\$125,190.78
Loan From Memorial	<u>\$12,000.00</u>	Operating Exp.	\$123,573.49	Difference	(\$468.64)
Total Operating Funds	\$124,722.14	Payback Memorial	<u>\$6,000.00</u>		
		Difference	(\$4,851.35)		

**Attendance Worship Services**

Wednesday, August 28	7 pm - 8	Sunday, September 1	9am - 51
Sunday, September 8	9am - 107	Sunday, September 8	11am - 0
Sunday, September 15	9am - 105	Sunday, September 15	11am - 12
Sunday, September 22	9am - 87	Sunday, September 22	11am - 15

Memorials Given From 8/25/19 to 9/24/19

<b><u>In Memory:</u></b>	<b><u>Given by:</u></b>	<b><u>Designated for:</u></b>
Inez Marks	Audrey Rositzke	St. Paul Cemetery Fund
Elaine Hoffman	Ed & Carol Meidl	Good Shepherd Scholarship Fund
	Rod & Rhonda Larson	Good Shepherd Scholarship Fund
LeRoy Walters	Rod & Rhonda Larson	Good Shepherd Scholarship Fund
Darla Benusa	Bob, Sharon & Kristin Rogotzke	St. Paul Lutheran Church

**Direct Giving: Church Giving Made Easier**

As electronic payment and mobile banking have grown in popularity, St. Paul's has received more inquiries about the ability for members to give through automatic donations / direct giving. The way commerce operates today many people no longer carry cash, preferring to have everything processed electronically or by debit/credit card.

Automatic donations can be beneficial for both the member and the congregation. Members receive the benefit of convenience, easier monthly budgeting, and uninterrupted gifts. For the congregation, automatic donations can provide a steadier stream of income and even result in higher annual gifts, especially during the summer months when members are often traveling out of town. If you are interested in automatic donations / direct giving, a form is available in the church office or in the back of church.

**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 Dollars<sup>SM</sup>, we ask you to consider St. Paul Lutheran as you help direct Thrivent Financials charitable funds.

.....  
: 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, use one of the yellow  
: information cards in the church pews, call or email the church office at 507-723-5880 or  
: stpaul\_lutheran@hotmail.com. We appreciate you keeping us updated!  
: .....

**Please pray for...** Taya Beyer, The family of Darla Benusa, Mike Rogotzke, Diane Marks, Carol Meidl, Tanya Hovland; 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 to the Prayer Chain, 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.

# October 2019

Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 No Bible Study 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast LCMC Annual Gathering	2 10:00 am Ch. 8 Broadcast 6:30 Confirmation with Mentorship Meeting 7:00 Choir Rehearsal LCMC Annual Gathering	3	4 Office Closed	5
6 9:00 Worship - 3rd Grade Bibles 10:00 Sunday School Coffee Talk 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast 11:00 Worship	7 3:16 Bible Study @ The Maples 6:30 Parish Ed Meeting	8 6:00 Bible Study 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	9 10:00 am Ch. 8 Broadcast 6:30 Confirmation 7:00 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 Council Meeting	10	11 Office Closed 2:00 BINGO @ SJLH	12
13 9:00 Worship 10:00 Sunday School Coffee Talk 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast 11:00 Worship	14 3:16 Bible Study @ The Maples	15 10:00 SJLH Service HC 6:00 Bible Study 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast 3:30 The Maples HC	16 10:00 am Ch. 8 Broadcast No Confirmation 7:00 Choir Rehearsal Pastor at Continuing Ed	17	18 Office Closed	19
20 9:00 Worship 10:00 Sunday School Coffee Talk 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast 11:00 Worship	21 3:16 Bible Study @ The Maples	22 6:00 Bible Study 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	23 10:00 am Ch. 8 Broadcast 6:30 Confirmation 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	24	25 Office Closed	26
27 9:00 Worship 10:00 Sunday School Coffee Talk 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast 11:00 Worship 11:30-1 Church Auction	28 2:00 Downtown Estates HC 3:16 Bible Study @ The Maples	29 6:00 Bible Study 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	30 10:00 am Ch. 8 Broadcast 6:30 Confirmation 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	31		

## 9:00 am Worship Service

Date	Sound & Video	Reader	Acolyte	Greeters	Usher
10/6	Shane Clemon	Jo Muske	Josh Timm Zach Timm	Don & Sherry Bloemke	Team 3
10/13	Tim Vogel	Mel Vogel	Tayte Zihlke Kyler Zihlke	Dustin & Tiffany Trapp	Team 4
10/20	Bob Kratz	Russell Rogotzke	Brayden Wendt Jace Rosenau	Doug & Marcia Schiller	Team 1
10/27	Shane Clemon	Jeanette Pidde	Bryan Buerkle Abigail Jensen	Rod & Rhonda Larson	Team 2

Sharon Rogotzke has been asked to call Greeters, Readers and Acolytes reminding them of their Sunday. **In order to avoid confusion, please call Sharon at 723-5117 if you will be gone and have found a substitute.**

- October Birthdays!**
- 
- 1 - Tina Meine
  - 2 - Brayden Trapp
  - 3 - Denise Gicker
  - 5 - Brooke Jensen, Tanner Weisensel
  - 7 - Dalores Stern
  - 8 - Leo Kral
  - 9 - Nyla Quesenberry, Jelene Nachreiner
  - 10 - Darlene Wilstermann
  - 13 - Jim Groebner, Alice Trebesch, Marlys Wendt
  - 14 - Sarah Groebner, Dawn Marz
  - 16 - Kari Haugo
  - 17 - Doug Schiller
  - 18 - Ruth Ann Gicker
  - 20 - Delwin Beussman
  - 23 - Sara Haugo, Victoria Quesenberry, Falen Hillesheim
  - 24 - Brooklyn Anderson, Paisley Groebner, Bentley Wendt
  - 25 - Ashley Larson
  - 26 - Norma Freeman
  - 28 - Cylee Graff, Grant Jensen
  - 30 - Jeff Weisensel
  - 31 - Rod Larson, Liz Wendt

### October Anniversaries!

- 2 - Jeff & Stacey Weisensel - 26 years
- 3 - Duane & Jelene Nachreiner - 49 years
- 3 - Larry & Kathryn Pederson - 38 years
- 8 - Keaton & Amber Borth - 3 years
- 9 - Bob & Sharon Rogotzke - 43 years
- 13 - Mark & Stacia Rosenau - 18 years
- 17 - Troy & Kay Hagert - 33 years
- 18 - Joe & Jessie Micka - 5 years
- 19 - Adam & Sarah Groebner - 17 years
- 20 - Ed & Carol Meidl - 63 years
- 28 - Glenn & Anita Jensen - 30 years
- 28 - Mike & Barb Marz - 52 years
- 28 - Doug & Marcia Schiller - 47 years
- 29 - Brian & Jen Timm - 14 years

#### Deadlines:

#### **Sunday Bulletin:**

Wednesday by 10 am.

**Epistle:** 20th of each month.

Please call or email Katie at the church office with additions or changes for the bulletins or Epistle.

We would love for a few more people to volunteer to run the video recording equipment on Sunday mornings! You will be trained how to run the equipment and will be added to a rotation with the current members of the sounds and video group.

If you would be able to help video services, please talk to Katie in the office!

#### **October Altar Guild**

Barb Marz, Rhonda & Ashley Larson  
If you are unable to help, please find a substitute or switch months with someone.

#### **Delivering bulletins in October**

- 3— Ruthie Potter
- 10— Pastor Tricia
- 17— Carol Carlson
- 24— Jill Vogel
- 31— Leona Schottle

**BINGO Helpers are needed for Friday, October 11th** at 2:00 pm at SJLH. Please call the church office (723-5880) if you are able to help!



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!



## St. Paul's Annual Auction

Sunday, October 27, 2019 from 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

- \* Turkey Supreme Meal \* Silent Auction \*
- \* Live Auction \* Kids Raffle \*



The Auction Committee would like each member of the congregation to donate something for the auction. We would like donations of themed gift baskets, homemade baked goods, homemade jams and jelly and other canned produce, homemade craft items, local business gift certificates, Springfield Chamber Bucks.



If you have any questions, please contact Kathy Pederson or Katie in the church office. Themed baskets should be to church by October 9th so we can display them in the narthex. There will not be a rummage sale this year, so please do not bring in your used items.

### Blessing and Recognition of Ministries in the Congregation

The time and talents of many people are necessary in order for our congregation to carry out its mission: "Remember the Promise. Live the Faith. Serve the World." Each year we recognize those people who serve on Council and in Sunday school. This fall we would also like to recognize and bless the many other ministries in which people share their time and talents, enabling us to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. Each Sunday at the 9:00 a.m. service, beginning October 13, we will invite those ministers of the church to come forward for a blessing, and so that we may offer thanks to God for them.

October 13	Acolytes
October 20	Altar Guild
October 27	Bell Choir, Choir, Musicians
November 3	Bulletin Deliverers
November 10	Coffee Talk Servers
November 17	Committee Members
November 24	Communion Assistants
December 1	Luther League
December 8	Readers
December 15	Sound System/Video
December 22	Ushers and Greeters

*We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3*

#### Mark Your Calendars

- Wednesday, November 27, Thanksgiving Eve Worship at 7:00 p.m. followed by Pie Social
- Wednesday, December 4, Thanks for the Harvest Service and Dinner at 6:00 p.m.
- Sunday, December 15, Sunday School Christmas Program
- Tuesday, December 24, Christmas Eve Worship at 6:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, December 25, Christmas Day Worship at 10:00 a.m.

### Bob Lenz Community Program ~ Monday, October 21, 2019

at Springfield Public School Performing Arts Auditorium  
FREE Meal at 6:00 p.m. Program begins at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome!

The program starts at 7:00 p.m. beginning with AJ the Animated Illusionist followed by a faith based message from Bob Lenz for adults, families, and youth. In this era of increasing bullying, depression, and suicide, this is a message you won't want to miss!

Bob Lenz has a humorous, down-to-earth style combined with genuine concern. A storyteller at heart, Bob combines his personal experience with in-depth biblical knowledge, awakening understanding and inspiring others to embrace faith in Christ and take the next step closer to God. He captures the audience's attention immediately and sensitively spans denominational walls. Area pastors will be available afterwards to meet with anyone who would like counseling or prayer.



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

Postmaster: Dated material  
Please Deliver Promptly  
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**Calendar Highlights - October 2019**

**11 - Bingo @ SJLH**

**27 - Annual Auction and Meal**

**We are on the Web!**  
**[www.splcspringfield.org](http://www.splcspringfield.org)**

**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)

Housekeeper: Lisa Prechel

Maintenance: Ed Meidl

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.

**Worship:**

SUNDAY at 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Sunday School & Coffee Talk at 10:00 a.m.

**Springfield Area Food Shelf hours**  
**Tuesday 5:00pm – 7:00pm**  
**Thursday 9:30am – 11:30am**  
**804 East Rock Street - Springfield, MN 56087**  
**507-723-4120**