



Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

Fall is a season of transition and change. Falling leaves, shorter days, colder nights, crops disappearing, and plowed fields are all signs of change.

Similarly to nature's changing seasons, we face constant changes in both our personal lives and the life of the church.

As a church family, we are experiencing dramatic change right now. Thankfully, God led us to call an intentional interim minister, Pastor Carl Billings. Pastor Carl's first day will be October 5th. Pastor Carl intends to help us find a permanent, full-time minister. Over the coming weeks, please offer Pastor Carl a warm welcome to our church family.

During times of transition, disagreement is often inevitable. Church conflict may arise over differences of opinion, disagreement in the direction of the church, and sometimes instances of blatant sin. Each of these requires compassion, gentleness, a humble attitude, discussion based upon the truth, patience, and Christ-like love. Still, churches are made up of imperfect sinners. We live in a sinful world and the devil always seems to be working overtime in churches.

Yet, we know that God commands our future as individuals and as a congregation. His love for us never changes. He is our perfect Father and provides for all our needs. We are also blessed with Jesus. He is the atonement for our sins and assurance of eternal life. God also sends His Holy Spirit to remind us of the promise we have in Jesus Christ and leads us to share the good news of salvation to the world. Praise God for His greatness, for the salvation we have in Jesus Christ, and for refreshing our faith daily through the Holy Spirit.

Please pray for our congregation in this time of change. May God's Will be done in our lives and St. Paul Lutheran Church.

Lastly, may God help us approach this time of transition with Christ-like love for each other and for our church leadership. Transition and change are hard on everyone. Trust that God has a plan for us and has called us to work in love with each other.

God bless,

John Mueller, St. Paul Lutheran Church President

St. Paul Lutheran Church Council Meeting-September 13, 2023

The September meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. in Room 101 at the church. Present were Jo Muske, Randy Wendt, Tim Vogel, Kathy Pederson, Denise Gicker, John Mueller, Jacob Marz and Jeff Krueger. Sarah Groebner was absent. Katie Mueller, Parish Coordinator, and Anita Jensen, Financial Secretary, were also present.

Chairman John led the group in prayer.

M/S/P to approve the August Secretary's Report as presented.

M/S/P to approve the Financial Report as printed and pay the August benevolence.

Building and Grounds

- Still waiting for Brown Tree Service to come and remove the stump from the tree taken down at the bottom of the ramp.
- Jeremy Zihlke examined the plexiglass coverings on the stained glass windows. He believes just the broken one needs to be fixed and he will submit a quote for that repair.
- Jeremy Zihlke also looked at the space under the ramp. He suggested some spray foam to help alleviate the dampness in the space.
- The parsonage was discussed in preparing it for an interim and new pastor. Jan Kratz did a thorough cleaning of the entire house and Al Groebner is working on cleaning up the landscaping outside. The carpet will need to be replaced or laminate flooring laid and air ducts cleaned due to past pet issues. M/S/P to have the Building and Grounds Committee make decisions on those items and get back to the council.

The living room was also repainted to a neutral color.

- Looking for a couch and chair/recliner to furnish the parsonage for the interim pastor. Will advertise in the church bulletin.

- Tim brought up the new sound/video system—still having some issues with it. Company will be back to help resolve the issues. Bill will not be paid until issues are resolved and is working correctly.

- Jeff reported there had been some organ issues and the organ tuning company came out to resolve them. It was a simple fix and they tuned the organ while they were here (usually done in November). They also suggested that the organ blower (in boiler room) should soon be replaced and that may be what is causing organ issues in the colder months.

- Discussion on cleaning and maintenance in the church building.

Parish Education

- Rally Sunday was held September 10 in Riverside Park with St. Johns Lutheran Church. Approximately 175 worshipped and enjoyed the event.

- Sunday School will begin September 17. Fifty-five students are registered for Sunday School this year. Still looking for a teacher for the first-second grade classroom.

- Cradle Doves and Catechism presentations will be made on September 17 during the 9 a.m. worship service. Third grade Bibles and Preschool Bibles will be presented on September 24.

Old Business

- Reviewed resumes and contracts for our interim pastor. Pastor Carl Billings and Pastor Patrick Hall submitted them to the church. M/S/P to approve a contract with Pastor Carl Billings to serve as our Intentional Interim Pastor beginning in

October. He has some specific ideas for going forward to call a new pastor that he will review with the council at the October meeting.

New Business

- M/S/P to hold our Fall German Supper on Wednesday, October 25. Will have dine in, take out or drive up options available. Planning to serve 575. Ticket prices will be \$14.00 in advance and \$15.00 at the door.
- Discussed St. Paul's representation on St. John's Home Board of Directors. Pastor Tricia had been our representative. Jill Vogel will be asked to fill the vacancy.

M/S/P to adjourn at 9:20 p.m. We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting will be Wednesday, October 11, 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... Marge Wellner, Delmar Nelson, Marilyn Kratz, Bud Wendt, Marcia Schiller; Spring Valley Lutheran, Viborg, SD, St. James Lutheran Church, Niagara Falls, NY, St. John's Congregation, Flanagan, Ill, St. John's Evangelical Lutheran, Stacy, MN, St. John's Lutheran Church - Hecla SD, St. John's Lutheran Church - Howard Lake, MN; Jesse Kettner, 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.

St Paul Attendance			
9/3 9am - 53	9/10 10am - 175	9/17 9am - 83	9/24 9am - 93

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

Total Funds for Budget	\$124,744.98	Total Operating Funds	\$124,744.98
Budget	\$158,128.23	Operating Exp.	\$155,102.65
Difference	(\$33,383.25)	Difference	(\$30,357.67)

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!

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!

October 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:00 Worship 10:00 Sunday School 10:00 Coffee Talk 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast	2 6:30 pm Parish Ed Meeting	3 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	4 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	5	6	7
8 9:00 Worship 10:00 Sunday School 10:00 Coffee Talk 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast	9	10 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	11 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast 7:00 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 Church Council Meeting	12 2:00 SJLH Birth- day Party	13 2:00 BINGO @ SJLH	14
15 9:00 Worship 10:00 Sunday School 10:00 Coffee Talk 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast	16	17 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	18 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	19	20	21
22 9:00 Worship 10:00 Sunday School 10:00 Coffee Talk 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast	23	24 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	25 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast 4:30-6:00 German Supper 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	26	27	28
29 9:00 Worship 10:00 Sunday School 10:00 Coffee Talk 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast	30	31 4-7 pm Trunk or Treat @ St. John's Lutheran Church 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	St. Paul Lutheran Church, 303 N Cass Ave, Springfield, MN 56087 Church Telephone: 507-723-5880 www.splespringfield.org Office e-mail: stpaul_lutheran@hotmail.com			

* Indicates Choir Singing.

Worship Service Helpers

Date	Pastor	Sound & Video	Reader	Acolyte	Usher	Organist
10/1	Pastor Peter Norland	Paul & Jonah	Jeanette Pidde	Ali Trapp Lily Groebner	Team 3	Jo Schwartz
10/8*	Pastor Carl Billings	John Mueller Ashtyn Rudolph	Paul Muske	Bentley Wendt Blake Zihlke	Team 4	Jo Schwartz
10/15	Pastor Carl Billings	Tim Vogel	Daniel Kettner	Wyatt Mueller Ashtyn Rudolph	Team 1	Jeff Krueger
10/22	Pastor Carl Billings	John Mueller Ashtyn Rudolph	Jordan Pidde	Grace Jacobs Molly Jacobs	Team 2	Jo Schwartz
10/29	Pastor Carl Billings	Peter Heitzman	Jo Muske	Brooklyn Anderson Hayden Gluth	Team 3	Jeff Krueger

October Birthdays!



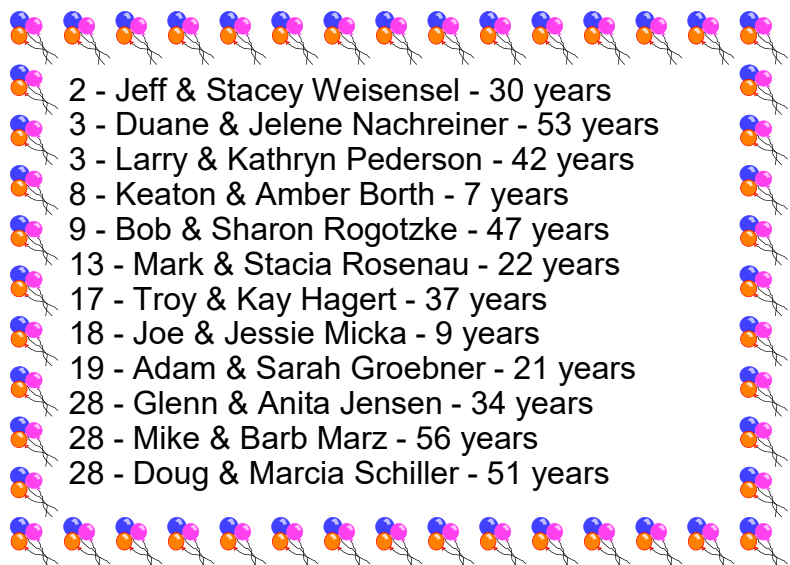
Usher Teams

- 1 - Delwin Beussman, Don Bloemke, John Marz, Paul Meidl, Nic Mays
- 2 - Doug Gatzlaff, Kurt Kratz, Dave Bittler, Peter Heitzman
- 3 - Doug Schiller, Russell Rogotzke, Mark Buerkle, Jeremy Dove
- 4 - Tim Vogel, Scott Vogel, Kurt Glaeseman, Bill Vogel

October Altar Guild

Jo Schwartz & Megan Hillesheim

October Anniversaries!



St. Paul Lutheran Church

German Supper

Wed. October 25, 2023

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

Drive Up ~ Walk In ~ or Dine In

Sauerkraut with Pork, Dumplings,
Brats, German Potato Salad, dessert

Presale \$14 ~ At the door \$15

Delivery for Shut-Ins only.

Trunk-or-Treat



Halloween is soon upon us!

Please join us for Trunk-or-Treat
in the St. John's Lutheran Church
parking lot on October 31st,
from 4-7 p.m.

Both individuals and families are
encouraged to decorate their
cars for the Halloween Trunk-or-
Treating. Then kids will walk from
vehicle to vehicle, collecting
candy along the way as they
would during a normal trick-or-
treating outing. What a great
chance to reach out to the
children in our community to
show them we care!

German Supper Items requested:

45—6lb 3 oz cans Sauerkraut

180 lbs red potatoes

60 lbs russet potatoes

15 lbs white onion

42 loaves white bread

6 Doz. Eggs

40 lbs bacon

90 lbs pork butt

1 can salt

18 lbs white flour

40 lbs sugar

**PLEASE HAVE ALL ITEMS TO
THE CHURCH KITCHEN BY SUNDAY,
October 15th.**

A sign up sheet is in the fellowship hall to let
me know what is all being donated. You can
also contact Katie in the office via phone or
email.

If you bring pork or bacon, please put in
freezer, but be sure to make down that you
brought it in.

Monetary Donations can be brought to the
church office or placed in the offering plate
marked "German Supper Donation".



We need 2 volunteers for BINGO on Octo-
ber 13th at 2:00 pm. Please let Katie know
if you can help out!

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

Postmaster: Dated material
Please Deliver Promptly
Address Service Requested

Calendar Highlights - October 2023

12 - BINGO @ SJLH
25 - German Supper
31 - Trunk or Treat

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