



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

We have entered a time that is unprecedented in our lives: a pandemic. Church pews are all but empty due to fear...and perhaps summer. Thankfully, we have other means to get the Word out, television broadcasts, live Facebook streaming, and YouTube recordings, though many church leaders across the nation question whether a broadcasted Word can speak strongly enough to the heart. It is clear that the Word of Christ is under attack just as anxieties may be at their highest. In 1 Peter 5, Peter writes,

Cast all your anxiety on [Christ], because he cares for you. Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering.

How is it that we remain steadfast in the faith? We keep the Word of Christ on our lips and in our hearts (Rom. 10:8). When the word is taught and preached, “we gladly hear and learn it” (Luther’s Small Catechism, 3rd Commandment). This Word of Christ gives eternal life, not for the distant future but for today and every day. The Word fills us with renewed hope and assurance that the Lord is with us. It lifts the heavy yoke from our shoulders and gives us his light and easy yoke, which gives us rest for our souls (Matt. 11:28-30).

God commands us to hear and learn the Word precisely because the devil is always seeking to devour us and separate us from God’s Word. Once we receive a promise of God, the devil immediately tries to separate us from that promise and to make us doubt it. This is what happened even to Jesus after his baptism where the Father’s voice came down from heaven and said, “You are my Son, the beloved; with you I am well pleased. (Mar. 1:11)” Then immediately Jesus was sent into the wilderness for 40 days, as the devil attacked him and tried to make him doubt the words of promise spoken by God. The devil seeks to tempt us away from the Word and to put as many stumbling blocks as possible in our way so that we will not return again to worship or other teachings where we might receive Christ’s promises again and receive new life.

In bible study, we learn to fight against the darkness that is always seeking to overcome us. We learn how to identify the ways in which the devil seeks to attack us. In Ephesians 6, we learn how to put on the whole armor of God, so that we may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. Around our waists we put on the belt of truth. We put on the breastplate of righteousness. On our feet, we wear whatever will make us ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. We take up the helmet of salvation, and the shield of faith, with which we will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. And most importantly, we take up the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. Just as Christ fought the devil with God’s Word, so we too must fight the devil with God’s Word.

Deuteronomy 6:7 exhorts us, “Recite [God’s commandments] to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise.” How important it is to teach our children the Word of God “so that they may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil (Eph. 6:11)! Parents are God’s chief priests in your home. Sunday school, worship, and adult education are designed to support you in teaching the Word of Christ to your children.

Romans 12:2 says, “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God-- what is good and acceptable and perfect.” The devil and this world are ever seeking to conform us into the image of those who are in active rebellion towards God, to weaken us and ultimately to destroy us (Joh. 10:10). But the Holy Spirit is ever calling us to be transformed by the Word of God. It is the Word of God which renews our minds. The Word of God makes us new, over and over again. The Word of God makes us into new creatures who bear good fruit for the sake of our neighbors. The new creature trusts in the Word of God, regardless of newspaper headlines, news reports, the Dow Jones Industrial Average, or the outcome of political elections.

The new creature walks by faith, not by sight (2 Cor. 5:7). And Romans 10:17 tells us, “So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ.” What is this Word of Christ? In a nutshell it is the forgiveness of sins. The forgiveness of sins tells us that nothing in all the world - nothing that we have done and nothing that has been done against us – will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord (Rom. 8:38-39).

And so, I close by inviting you to hear the Word of Christ. See you in church!

St. Paul Lutheran Church—Church Council Meeting - August 12, 2020

Present: Paul Muske, Ed Meidl, Pastor Tricia, Tim Vogel, David Bittler, Doug Jeske, Shawna Jacobs, Matt Sargent, Bill Vogel, Angel Clemon

Also present: Anita Jensen, Financial Secretary

Absent: Craig Valentin, Katie Mueller-Church Coordinator

Call to order at 7:50pm, Paul Muske

Opening Prayer by Pastor Tricia

M/S/P-Secretary's Report

M/S/P-Financial Report

Banks are getting ready to process loan forgiveness applications. Need to visit with the bank to make sure we have met the requirements. Paul will follow up.

Expenses this year are on track with 2019 expenses.

M/S/P-to pay July benevolence.

Building and Grounds

Parsonage Basement-getting ready to pour cement on the basement floor.

Parsonage West window-scrapping and painting

Parsonage Roof-waiting for bids. No response at this time.

Ed has patched the west steps at church.

Parish Education –Matt/Angel/Pastor

Spreading out the classrooms throughout the church.

Need to create a flow of traffic.

Attendance taken in the classroom.

Opening Rally Sunday on September 13th at Riverside Park.

First Communion options for families will be October 4th or October 25th

Confirmation will begin on September 9th

Pastor's Report

Augustana District conference is September 26th, 8am-2pm.

Conference is in-person or Zoom. Please let pastor know of interest to attend.

Visitation

Visited members at the hospital, SJLH Patio, Gil-Mor Manor yard, and some home visits.

Worship

Leading Sunday worship in-person at 9:00 a.m. and broadcasting on FB.

Presided at the funeral of Dermont Wells on 7/29 and his interment on 7/30

Parish Education

Leading bible study at 1:00 p.m. at the Maples on their patio.

Leading bible study on Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.

Teaching premarital counseling.

Met with a confirmation student to hear his memory work via Zoom.

Began teaching 1st Communion classes on August 5 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom (5 weeks).

Attended the Parish Ed Meeting on August 10.

Community

Submitted an article to the Advanced Press entitled, "Summertime and Livin' is Surprisingly Complex"

Attended an elementary baseball game at Sticker Field on 7/23

Granted a SAFE voucher to a couple from the community

OLD BUSINESS

COVID-19 Issues

COVID Preparedness and Response Plan

Worship has gone ok.

Communion-the process/flow is getting better.

Have had approx. 30 in attendance.

150th Anniversary Update

Will try to get a cemetery walk/tour.

Most of the events would have had large group, so nothing has been done.

Most activities will hopefully be moved to 2021

Church Credit Card

Has been a frustrating and confusing process.

Qualify as a 501C3 under the LCMC status of 501C3

Church Security – quotes TBD

NEW BUSINESS

M/S/P-Scholarship Committee Report: 13 applicants. Committee recommends \$250 each.

Council was asked to consider allowing individuals to park in our lot. Council has determined that this is not allowed. We have a no parking sign in the lot.

Need to make sure church is cleaned/sanitized following the wedding rehearsal on September 4th, wedding September 5th. There is a baptism on the 6th. Ed and others have volunteered to clean.

Motion to adjourn at 8:36pm

Shawna Jacobs

Council Secretary

2020 Church Council

Paul Muske - Chair	Dave Bittler	Angel Clemon
Matt Sargent- Vice Chair	Bill Vogel	Doug Jeske
Shawna Jacobs - Secretary	Ed Meidl	Tim Vogel
Craig Valentin - Treasurer		

Worship & Sunday School Update

In-person worship on Sunday's at 9:00 a.m.

*Everyone entering the facility is asked to practice social distancing.

*Face mask usage is required under Minnesota Executive Order 20-81.

*Holy Communion will be on the 1st and 3rd Sunday's.

We will continue our Facebook Live of the 9:00 a.m. service. Or you may tune in to Channel 8 at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday for the recorded service.

The recorded service will also broadcast on Springfield's Local Channel 8 on Tuesday's at 7:00 p.m., and Wednesday's at 10:00 a.m.

Sunday School on Sunday's at 10:00 a.m. beginning September 20th.

***Parents are encouraged to drop off and pick up outside to eliminate hallway congestion.**

***Classrooms will be spaced out to allow for social distancing.**

***PreK-K, 3rd & 4th, 7th & 8th grades should all enter through the lower ramp door.**

***1st & 2nd, 5th & 6th grades should enter through the upper ramp door.**

***Room assignments: PreK-K (regular classroom) 1st & 2nd Grade (Upstairs Room 101)
3rd & 4th (large Sunday School Classroom) 5th & 6th (Chapel) 7th & 8th (Fellowship Hall)**

***Face mask usage is required under Minnesota Executive Order 20-81.**

***There will be no snack or music time. Water fountains are turned off. You may send a water bottle with your child.**

St Paul Attendance

9/2/20 9am - 29 9/9/20 9am - 29 9/16/20 9am - 34 9/23/20 9am - 21

Budget Recap Year to date (01/01/2020 to 08/23/2020)

Funds for Budget	\$93,553.35	Operating Funds	\$115,643.10
CARES Act Loan	\$22,089.75 (can only be used for payroll)	Operating Expenses	\$106,553.78
Total Operating Funds	\$115,643.10	Difference	\$9,089.32
Budget	\$116,197.04		
Difference	(\$553.94)		

Memorials Given From 7/26/20 to 8/25/2020

In Memory:	Given by:	Designated for:
Carol Meidl	Arland Kettner	St. Paul Lutheran Church
	Daniel Kettner	St. Paul Lutheran Church
Dermont Wells	Peggy Larson	St. Paul Lutheran Church
	Duane & Barbara Pingeon	St. Paul Lutheran Church
	Ron & Sharon Sturm	St. Paul Lutheran Church
	Gertie Rosenau	St. Paul Lutheran Church
	Arland Kettner	St. Paul Lutheran Church
	Daniel Kettner	St. Paul Lutheran Church
	Bonnie Wells	St. Paul Lutheran Church
	Audrey Rositzke	St. Paul Lutheran Church
	Richard & Lois Zihlke	St. Paul Cemetery Fund
	Brian & Colleen O'Leary	Good Shepherd Scholarship Fund
	Carol Carlson	Good Shepherd Scholarship Fund
	Paul & Pam Tauer	Good Shepherd Scholarship Fund
Leo Lang	Ed Meidl	St. Paul Lutheran Church

Please pray for... The Family of Tamie Trapp, Mr. & Mrs. Mielke & family (Alice Trebesch's granddaughter), Parker Gluth, Alice Trebesch; Cylee Graff, Joseph Wendt, Emily Wendt, Ethan Langseth, 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.

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.

If you would like to set up mobile giving you are welcome to do so by downloading the "Give Plus Mobile" app offered by Vanco Payment Services, search for St. Paul Lutheran Church, or enter zip code 56087. You can give a one time donation or set up a recurring donation through your checking or savings account. You also have the option to set up automatic giving directly with your bank. If you have questions or need help, please talk to Katie in the church office.

September 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 6:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	2 10:00 am Ch. 8 Broadcast 7:00 First Communion Class on Zoom	3	4 Office Closed 5:30 Vogel Wedding Rehearsal	5 3:00 Emily Vogel's Wedding
6 9:00 Worship 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast	7 Labor Day Office Closed No Bible Study Pastor Off	8 No Bible Study 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast Pastor Off	9 10:00 am Ch. 8 Broadcast 6:30 Confirmation 7:45 Council Meeting	10	11 Office Closed	12
13 Rally Sunday 10:00 Worship in Riverside Park 11:00 Meet & Greet Sunday School	14 1:00 The Maples Bible Study	15 6:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	16 10:00 am Ch. 8 Broadcast 6:30 Confirmation	17	18 Office Closed	19
20 9:00 Worship 10:00 Sunday School 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast	21 1:00 The Maples Bible Study	22 6:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	23 10:00 am Ch. 8 Broadcast 6:30 Confirmation	24	25 Office Closed	26
27 9:00 Worship with Confirmation 10:00 Sunday School 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast	28 1:00 The Maples Bible Study 2:00 Downtown Estates HC	29 6:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	30 10:00 am Ch. 8 Broadcast 6:30 Confirmation			

9:00 am Worship Service

We have trained volunteers who are helping with our in-person worship services.

The need for worship service helpers will be developed according to the plan or added as needed, therefore I will not be posting the schedule until further notice.

Thank you for being patient and understanding.

September Birthdays!

1 - Stacey Weisensel
1 - Bonnie Wells
2 - Nancy Renner
3 - Jill Vogel
3 - Jonah Pidde
3 - Nicholas Weisensel
7 - Bud Wendt
8 - Jan Kratz
8 - Sarah Lund
9 - Tyler Marz
9 - Brian Winter
10 - Wes Kral
11 - Elsie Groebner
11 - Jacob Marz
11 - Jenna Shaw
12 - Austin Plaster
13 - Ruth Potter
15 - Katie Mueller
15 - Bailey Streich
15 - Bridget Fengerr
16 - Tyler Hagert
17 - Jo Schwartz
17 - Lois Zihlke
18 - Emily Anderson
19 - Linda Nachreiner
24 - Kaden Pyzick
27 - Shawna Jacobs
28 - William Halter
28 - Shirley Weber

September Anniversaries!

8 - Robert & Emily Anderson - 13 years
13 - Harold & Marlys Wendt - 62 years
14 - Ken & Sharon Renner - 57 years
18 - Dean & Rachelle Halvorson - 27 years
18 - Jerome & Jerrine Kettner - 51 years
22 - Dylan & Amanda Thompson - 2 year

September Altar Guild

Lois Zihlke, Carol Carlson,
Mary Glaeseman

If you are unable to help,
please find a substitute or
switch months with

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

We will not be delivering

**bulletins to St. John's and The
Maples until further notice.**

**Once we are able to visit our
members again, Katie will be
contacting those who have
volunteered to deliver.**



ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH
1870 - 2020

Weekly Bible Study

Bible study on Monday's at 1:00 p.m. at The Maples and on Tuesday's at 6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. We are limited to no more than 10 people, so if you are new to bible study and want to join, please contact Pastor Tricia at pastortriciamattson@gmail.com. If needed she can add an additional bible study.

St. Paul Lutheran is in need of an individual to be our St. John's Home Auxiliary Representative as soon as possible. The auxiliary plans birthday parties, bingo, picnics, and other social events that enrich the lives of our St. John's residents. The dues collected and their fundraisers help provide other items needed within the facility. This is a great volunteer opportunity! If you are interested in learning more or would like to volunteer, please contact Katie in the Church office.

Rally Sunday



We are ready for another year of Sunday school and Confirmation classes! We invite you to join us on

Sunday, September 13th
In Riverside Park, Pavilion #3

Worship: 10 a.m.

Meet Your Teacher: Following Worship

After worship, the children will meet their Sunday school teacher and enjoy an ice cream treat!

The first day of Sunday School is September 20th!

See more Sunday School info on page 3

Dear St. Paul Lutheran Church,

Thank you so much for participating in our backpack program by providing a collection box for school supplies. Thanks to you and to the 49 other boxes we had distributed all over the county, we received donations of 5,000 pencils, 300 colored pencil sets, 600 crayon sets, 810 glue sticks, 730 spiral notebooks, and much more! With all the donated items we only had to purchase about one-fourth the needed supplies. You can see what a big project it is to fill almost 300 backpacks! We had great feedback from grateful parents and excited children as they picked up their backpacks full of many school supplies last week. Thanks again and we hope that we can count on you again next year.

Sincerely, United Way of Brown County

The Springfield Area Food Shelf has had to make some changes of operation due to COVID-19. Orders must be placed over the phone. Please call 507-227-7387.

Service days are Tuesdays 5-7 PM and Thursdays 9:30-11:30 AM.

The Food shelf is located at 804 East Rock St. (Schwanke building) Springfield. Call Sheri Koll at 507-227-0386/507-723-6120 or Jan Schwanke at 507227-7387 if you have any questions.

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

Postmaster: Dated material
Please Deliver Promptly
Address Service Requested

Calendar Highlights

9th - First Day of Confirmation Class

13th - Rally Sunday

20th - First Day of Sunday School

27th - Confirmation

We are on the Web!
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

Parish Coordinator: Katie Mueller

Monday-Thursday 8:00 am-noon

Email: stpaul_lutheran@hotmail.com

Housekeeper: Lisa Prechel

Maintenance: Ed Meidl

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.

Worship:

SUNDAY at 9:00 a.m.

*Watch for updates

Coffee Talk cancelled until further notice



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