

September

2023

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

Greetings in Christ! How wonderful it has been for me to be called to be your pastor for the past seven years! I will miss this congregation and this community greatly, as I move back to the Duluth area in order to care for my family.

When I started seminary and began working in ministry and moved away from my family, I was comforted by this passage from Mark 10:29-30:

Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age-- houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields with persecutions-- and in the age to come eternal life."

Truly, the Lord has been fulfilling these promises! You have been my brothers and sisters and fathers and mothers. Your precious children have been my precious children. You provided me with a field (yard) that took 1.5 hours to mow, and a very large home, allowing my pets to each have their own room, too (though they still wanted to sleep with me). And perhaps a bit of persecution, but nothing that the Lord hasn't handled for me.

You each hold a special place in my heart. Many of you invited me to celebrate the holidays with your family. You invited me to your home. You honored me by allowing me to share in your joys and your sorrows. You encouraged me and helped me to grow as a pastor and a Christian. You taught me how to love as Christ loves. You spoke the Word of the Gospel to me, to lift my burdens and hand them over to Christ. You have been my preachers.

"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved." But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

I will pray for someone for you with beautiful feet! I will pray for our heavenly Father to send you a pastor who will hand over the goods: preaching the grace of Jesus Christ to you week after week. I will keep you in my prayers, and I hope you will keep me and my family in your prayers also.

Should you wish to drop me a line, my new address is:

4267 Heartwood Lane
Hermantown, MN 55811

As I resign my position at St. Paul's, I will be unable to perform any future pastoral duties, such as weddings, funerals, pastoral care, and baptisms. I do not wish to step on the toes of your future pastor or prevent him or her from forming close pastoral relationships with you.

Thank you for your love, support, and encouragement. It has been my great pleasure to be your pastor!

Love from your sister in Christ,

Pr. Tricia Mattson

**St. Paul Lutheran Church
Council Meeting-August 9, 2023**

The August meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. in Room 101 at the church. Present were Tim Vogel, Kathy Pederson, Jacob Marz, Randy Wendt, John Mueller, Denise Gicker, Sarah Groebner and Jeff Krueger. Absent were Kim Graff and Jo Muske. Pastor Tricia was present via phone. 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 July Secretary's Report as presented.

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

Building and Grounds

- The tree was taken down at the bottom of the ramp. Part of the tree was dead and it was infringing on the power lines. John and Noah Mueller and Lowell Helget did the work. Lowell was given a gift card for his services and use of his equipment. Brown Tree Service will be contacted to do the stump removal. It was decided to not plant anything in it's place at this time.
- The plexi-glass covering one of the stained glass windows on the west side of the church was recently damaged. Will contact Jeremy Zihlke to come and look at it to let us know it he can replace it and also the condition of the plexi-glass. Does all the plexi-glass need to be replaced due to age? It was originally installed in the 1980s.
- Discussed issues regarding the space under the ramp. Some type of ventilation is needed in there as it gets very damp and the doors and inside duct work is always damp and is rusting. Jeremy Zihlke will be asked to look at this, too. Will probably need to at least replace the door.

Parish Education

- Rally Sunday will be held on September 10 at 10:00 a.m. in Riverside Park with a potluck following.
- Working on staff for the upcoming Sunday School year.

Pastor's Report:

Visitation

- Visited with and gave Holy Communion to members in their homes, at nursing homes and at assisted living residences.

Worship

- Led worship with Holy Communion at The Maples on July 17, 2023.
- Led worship with Holy Communion at St. John's Circle of Care July 18 and August 8, 2023.
- Presided at the wedding of Karley Zarn and Adam Anderson on July 22, 2023.

Parish Education

- Leading Bible Study at The Maples on Mondays at 3:00 p.m.
- Leading Bible Study on Tuesday nights at St. John's Circle of Care at 6:00 p.m.
- Met with a couple for premarital counseling on July 17, 2023.
- Taught a baptism class on July 19, 2023.
- Attended the Parish Ed. Meeting on August 7, 2023.

Community

- Helped neighbors from the Good Samaritan Fund and with SAFE vouchers.
- Attended St. Paul's Scholarship Meeting on August 1, 2023.
- Attended the St. John's Circle of Care Board Meeting on July 24, 2023.
- Brought my dog, Bojo, to The Maples for a visit on July 16, 2023.

She informed the council that her final Sunday service will be August 20 and her final day at the church will be August 23. She has reached out to the one wedding that is scheduled in November and notified St. John's Home and SAFE that she will be vacating her positions on those boards. She will create a list of homebound members requesting visitation and communion.

Old Business

- The new updates to the church audio visual system will be completed August 10. New high definition wiring will be added which will increase the cost. Funds for the update are secured. Justin and Jennifer Asmus have donated a computer to be used with the update.

New Business

- Al Groebner and Steve Lyle have asked about their vacation time. The amount of vacation is to be determined by the number of hours they work each week. M/S/P to allow Groebner 20 vacation hours and Lyle 5 vacation hours.
- M/S/P to allow Anita to sign up for online banking for the church at the F&M Bank.
- M/S/P to approve the \$250 scholarships from the Good Shepherd Scholarship Fund as recommended by the Scholarship Committee: Mitchell Buerkle, Cylee Graff, Brendon Buerkle, Carter Asmus, Daniel Groebner, Nicholas Mays and Jordyn Plaster. M/S/P to recommend a transfer of \$10,000 from the Lutheran College Scholarship Fund to the Good Shepherd Scholarship Fund to be voted on at the Annual Meeting in January 2024.
- Discussion on Call Committee, Pulpit Supply and Interim Minister. Katie and John will work up some information to post on the LCMC website about our church's vacancy and search for an interim and full-time pastor. Will also send out some letters to those on a vacancy list supplied by LCMC. Katie will work on securing pulpit supply for the next few weeks and we will proceed from there at this time.
- Six council members attended a brainstorming session at St. Johns Lutheran Church prior to our meeting. Those in attendance represented St. Johns, St. Paul's and New Hope Lutheran Churches. All three do not have full-time pastors at this time and are searching. Discussed the realities of securing a pastor due to the salary requirements some candidates are searching for. A possible coop between the three congregations may be a solution. More discussions will follow.
- The Church Council will be hosting a farewell reception honoring Pastor Tricia from 10-11:30 a.m. on Sunday, August 20 in the fellowship hall. The public will be invited. Council members were asked to be present and help serve the refreshments. A gift will be given to Pastor Tricia from the congregation during the 9 a.m. worship service.

M/S/P to adjourn at 8:43 p.m. We closed with the Lord's Prayer.
Next meeting will be Wednesday, September 13, 2023 at 7:45 p.m.

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; Resurrection Lutheran Church, Mankato, MN, Romsdal Lutheran Church - Hudson SD, Rushford Lutheran Church, Rushford, MN, Salem Lutheran, Osakis, MN, Salem Lutheran Church of Oxford - North Branch, MN, Sauk Valley Lutheran Church, Osakis, MN, Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, Hubertus, WI, Solem Lutheran Church, Hawley, 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

7/30 9am - 45	8/6 9am - 53	8/13 9am - 56
8/20 9am - 64	8/27 9am - 39	

Budget Recap Year-To-Date (01/01/23 to 08/28/23)

Total Funds for Budget	\$116,583.22	Total Operating Funds	\$116,583.22
Budget	\$141,909.95	Operating Exp.	\$137,395.92
Difference	(\$25,326.73)	Difference	(\$20,812.70)

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.

Memorials Given 07/28/23—08/26/23

<u>In Memory:</u>	<u>Given by:</u>	<u>Designated for:</u>
Gail Honl	Richard & Lois Zihlke	St. Paul Lutheran Church
Norma Freeman	Norma Freeman Family	St. Paul's Audio/Visual Fund
Wendell Fredin	Daniel Kettner	St. Paul Lutheran Church
Alice Trebesch	Dalores Stern	St. Paul Lutheran Church
Mor & Shirley Weber	Family of Moe & Shirley	St. Paul Lutheran Church

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!

We are working with the new recording system to get the DVD to the Community Center for Channel 8. Thank you for your patience while we transition. You can watch the service live on YouTube at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday's or go back and watch at your convenience. No account required. More information on the last page of announcements.

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!

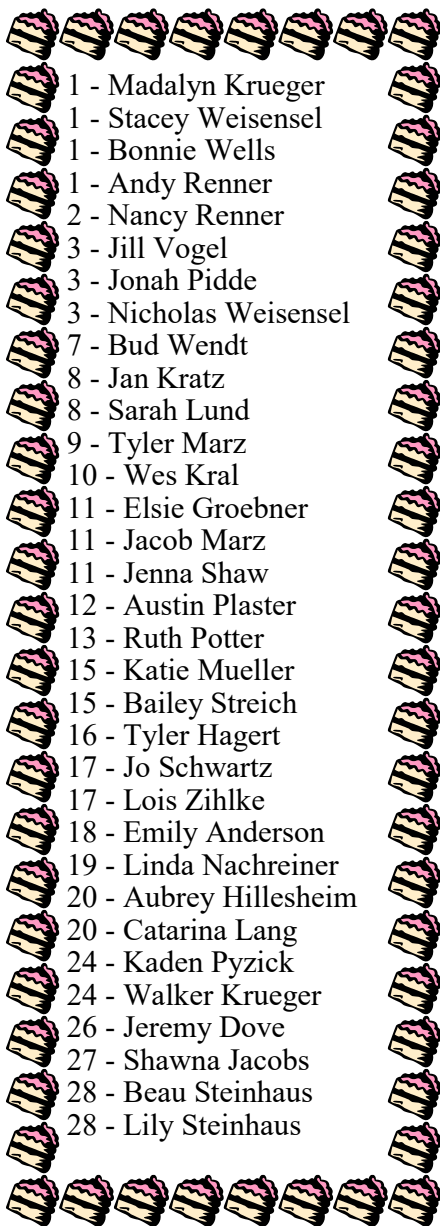
September 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
St. Paul Lutheran Church, 303 N Cass Ave, Springfield, MN 56087 Church Telephone: 507-723-5880 www.splcspringfield.org Office e-mail: stpaul_lutheran@hotmail.com						
3 9:00 Worship 10:00 Coffee Talk 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast	4 Office Closed	5 6:30 pm Parish Ed Meeting 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	6 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	7	1 Office Closed	2
10 10:00 Rally Sunday Worship @ Riverside Park 11:00 Potluck	11 Office Closed	12 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	13 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast 7:00 Church Council Meeting 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	14	15 Office Closed	16 9-3 Women of the Word Gathering at St. John's Lutheran Church
17 9:00 Worship 10:00 Sunday School 10:00 Coffee Talk 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast	18 Office Closed	19 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	20 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	21	22 Office Closed	23
24 9:00 Worship 10:00 Sunday School 10:00 Coffee Talk 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast	25 Office Closed	26 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	27 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	28	29 Office Closed	30

Worship Service Helpers

Date	Pastor	Sound & Video	Reader	Acolyte	Usher	Organist
9/3	Pastor Carl Billings	Tim Vogel	Jo Muske	Gabby Schenk Brooklyn Anderson	Team 3	Jo Schwartz
9/10	Pastor Roger Godfredsen	Rally Sunday @ Riverside Park	Jeanette Pidde	Rally Sunday @ Riverside Park	Team 4	Rally Sunday @ Riverside Park
9/17	Pastor Kelly Wasberg	Peter Heitzman	Mel Vogel	Randee Dombek Abbygail Jeppesen	Team 1	Jeff Krueger
9/24	Pastor Kelly Wasberg	John Mueller	Kurt Glaeseman	Jenna Shaw Abigail Shaw	Team 2	Jo Schwartz

September Birthdays!



Usher Teams

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

September Altar Guild

September 3rd
The Mueller Family

September 17th
Rhonda Larson & Ashley Cook

September Anniversaries!



Dear St. Paul Lutheran Congregation,

Jaylen and I would like to say a special thank you to each and every one of you who said an extra prayer and sent blessings our way during Jaylen's accident and continuing on with his recovery. Jaylen had his final major surgery on July 27th and is on his path to recovery. When we thought we were on the up and up we had a minor setback with a trip to the ER on August 14th, but now is at home recovering. With a few minor surgeries in his future he is awaiting eagerly to start rehab. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts for all the blessings and well wishes sent our way during this difficult time in our life.

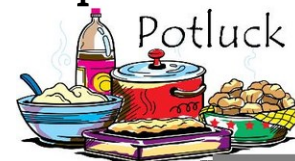
I am grateful that I was raised in the loving and caring congregation of St. Paul Lutheran Church for many reasons, but to have all the extra prayers at this time makes me even more thankful.
LaCole Weisensel & Jaylen Brownlee

Rally Sunday at Riverside Park
with our friends from St. John's Lutheran Church!
Sunday, September 10th, 10:00 a.m. Worship



Followed by a potluck, fun and games!
Bring a dish to share if you wish!

*Kids: Bring your backpacks for a gift and blessing!



Adult Choir to begin September 6

The Adult Choir will begin rehearsals on Wednesday, September 6 at 7:30 p.m. in the choir loft of the church sanctuary.

I am planning to bring the performance schedule to our first rehearsal. Like in the past, I am planning on singing once per month except when there is a holiday or special occasion. I have picked some familiar anthems and some new ones for our fall and holiday repertoire. I am hoping we can sing our first anthem on Sunday, September 24.

It was so exciting to have such a large group sing in the choir last season. I am hoping that most will return and sing with us again. We, however, would always like to welcome some new voices to our group. Please join us at the first rehearsal or talk to me if you have questions or concerns.

Thank you—Looking forward to seeing and hearing you on September 6!!

Women of the Word Fall Gathering
September 16, 2023

hosted by St. John's Lutheran Church, Springfield, MN

8:30am Registration & Coffee; 9:00am Worship; 3:00pm Dismissal

Registration Deadline: Before Sep 1, 2023. (\$20/person)

Offering designated go to the "The Table Ministry" in Sioux Falls, SD

Questions? Please contact Jodi Dalsgaard at jodidalsgaard@gmail.com

Visit <https://augustanadistrict.org/church/women-of-the-word/>

For registration form and more information.

Women of the Word is the women's organization of the Augustana District.

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!

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

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Calendar Highlights - September 2023

10 - Rally Sunday @ Riverside Park 10 a.m.

16 - Women of the Word Gathering @ St. John's

Phone: 507-723-5880

Fax: 507-723-8712

Office Hours

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