

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Remember God's Promises
Live our Faith
Serve our neighbor



February 2026

CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

Every Monday - Soup & Prayer @ Parsonage
1 - Annual Meeting & Brunch
4 - Luther League
12 - Blood Drive
18 - Ash Wednesday Service
25 - Lenten Meal & Worship

LIVE STREAM

Our worship services are live broadcast on YouTube! Just subscribe to our YouTube Channel by going to www.youtube.com and searching for St Paul Lutheran Church, Springfield, MN, or simply scan the QR Code with your smartphone. Be sure to subscribe so you will be notified when we go live!



Camp Counselor, Daniel Groebner, with Trailblazers

The Paradox of Lent

"Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

"Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded." – James 4:8

A paradox is a seemingly absurd or contradictory statement or proposition which when investigated may prove to be well founded or true. Lent is a paradox.

Ash Wednesday and Lent are often perceived to be a somber season of reflection and prayer. And while that is most definitely true, if that is all it is we will miss the most important part of the season. It is a time, to draw near to our Savior and Lord. And if that is the case then it can and should also be a season of joy. For there cannot be anything greater than to spend time with Jesus. One can mistakenly turn Lent into a burden (I have to) when in truth it is a time to sit and reflect (I get to) on the good news to come in Jesus Christ. Yes, we confess and repent of our sins; but we do so, knowing that are sins will be and have been taken by Jesus to the cross. We confess and repent with the confidence and knowledge of grace, mercy, and forgiveness as our hope. Fasting from something of lesser value should also be seen as fasting too the immense opportunity to sit at the feet of Jesus.

BINGO @ St. John's Circle of Care

BINGO at St. John's Circle of Care on Friday, February 13th at 2:00 pm. Please let Katie know if you can help out!

Red Cross Blood Drive

St. Paul's next blood drive will be Thursday, February 12, 2026 from 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Go redcrossblood.org to schedule your appt. Lunch provided for all donors and volunteers!

Two more volunteers are needed to help with the blood drive. Contact Katie.

Ingham Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp

Early Bird Registration ends on March 1st, so register today! Proof of registration should be sent the church office so I can mark you down for a scholarship! Brochures are located at the entrance to the sanctuary or you can check dates and register online at www.okoboji.org/register

The Paradox of Lent *continued...*

It is like going on a diet and exercise program to get healthier, but in this case, it is to get relationally and spiritually healthier with Jesus. In the exercise world they say, "No pain, no gain." But in the spiritual world it is more accurate to say, "His pain, our gain" and the little bit that we suffer as we go without cannot come close in comparison. So, I invite you to not only focus on what you may give up during lent, but what you most definitely will gain if you to take the opportunity to "draw near to God." That is why Lent can be a paradox.

The question then becomes, "How can I use Lent as a season of preparation to draw closer to Jesus Christ?" Do not miss the opportunity that Ash Wednesday and Lent offers you. The specific challenge I offer you this year is that you will make it a season of prayer. Like the concentric circles in a target make each week a circle where you commit yourself to pray for these things:

Week One: Your personal walk with Jesus.

Week Two: Pray for your family and friends.

Week Three: Pray for your church community.

Week Four: Pray for the Springfield area community.

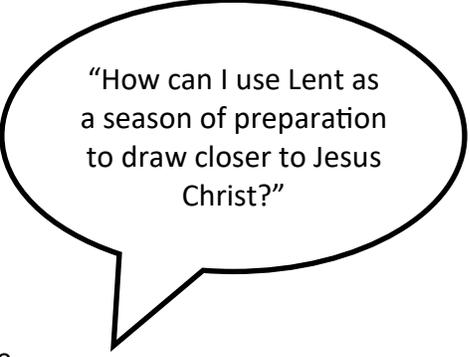
Week Five: Pray for the State of Minnesota.

Week Six: Pray for the United States.

Week Seven: Pray for the World.

In all these areas pray for the impact of the Risen Lord to reign and rule.

For the Praise of His Glory,
Pastor Darren



"How can I use Lent as a season of preparation to draw closer to Jesus Christ?"

Church Council Minutes

January 14, 2026

The meeting was called to order by Jake Marz at 7:4 pm

Members Present: Jake Marz, Kim Graff, Kelly Sargent, Andy Renner, Kathy Pederson, Katie Mueller, Angel Rummel, Anita Jensen, Paul Muske & Pastor Darin

Absent: Kathy Pederson, Randy Wendt & Sarah Groebner

Opening Prayer: Pastor Darren

Consent Agenda -- M/S/P by Paul & Kelly

Secretary's Report – Approved

Financial Statement – Approved

Parish Ed Report --Approved

Pastor's Report – Approved

2026 Investment Report – Presented by John Mueller, Prairie Plans

OLD BUSINESS:

Building & Grounds:

- *Sanctuary Ceiling - Tabled
- *Tree Stump Removal & New Trees – Tabled Until Spring and Sunday School is fundraising for the tree project.
- *Parsonage Repairs – CO2 detectors, sink, toilet completed. Waiting for carpet to arrive.
- *Creating a renters agreement for the parsonage.
- * Will talk to snow removal to include whole south

sidewalk when cleaning snow off.

Pastors Report: Reviewed & Approved

Nominating Committee:

** New nominations for council are Jeff Krueger, Jeremy Dove, Elsie Groebner, Dawn Marz and Matt Sargent.

Budget Committee: M/S/P Paul & Andy

NEW BUSINESS:

- *New Vacuum for Housekeeping -- M/S/P Kim & Angel
- *Website Updates – M/S/P to accept Option #2 Andy and Angel
- *Work Groups/Team Groups – Tabled Discussion
- *Annual Meeting Agenda – M/S/P Kim & Andy
- *Church Council Installation – February 8, 2026

Closing Prayer: -- The Lord's Prayer

Adjourned: -- 9:39 PM

Submitted by Kim Graff
Council Secretary

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

Update

We appreciate you keeping us updated with any changes to your mailing address, phone number, and email address!
We have many landline

Birthdays and Anniversary's

- 2 - Donna Wersal, Chase Veenstra
- 3 - Brendon Buerkle
- 4 - Braxton Brown
- 5 - Kim Gluth
- 7 - Claytina Rudolph, Brian Timm
- 8 - Colleen Meidl
- 10 - Dale Danielson, Gabriella Schenk
- 14 - Austin Hagert, Paul Meidl
- 16 - William Vogel, Tayte Zihlke
- 18 - Kelly Fenger
- 20 - Carson Garnhardt
- 21 - Dalton Langseth, Jena Veenstra, Adalyn Rudolph
- 22 - Alexis Deibele
- 23 - Angel Rummel, Richard Zihlke, Leon Serie
- 25 - Tyler Lang
- 26 - Joseph Hemiller
- 26 - Gary & Nancy Renner - 21 years
- 27 - Duane Streich, Milo Brown, Abbygail Jeppesen

DATE	SOUND & VIDEO	PROJECTION	READERS	GREETERS	ACOLYTES	USHERS	ALTAR GUILD
2/1	Groebner Boys	Groebner Boys	Kurt Glaeseman	Kevin & Jo Schwartz	Cash Anderson Reagam Plaster	Team 1	Kari Haugo
2/8	Dove Family	Dove Family	Jeanette Pidde	Kurt & Mary Glaeseman	Ellen Kral Leo Kral	Team 2	
2/15	Trevor Krebs	Mueller Family	Brittany Cook	Cash Anderson Reagam Plaster	Rylyn Marz Blake Zihlke	Team 3	
2/18	Tim Vogel	Jacobs Girls	Paul Muske	Roger & Kelly Sargent	Lydia Vogel Abigail Shaw	Team 4	
2/22	Paul Muske Jonah Pidde	Jordan Pidde	Daniel Kettner	Mike & Crissy Rogotzke	Ellie Jensen Adalyn Rudolph	Team 1	
2/25	Mueller Family	Mueller Family		Paul & Jo Muske	Gavin Brown Lily Groebner	Team 2	

PRAYER CHAIN

- Usher Teams**
- 1 - Don Bloemke, John Marz, Jake Marz, Paul Meidl
 - 2 - Doug Gatzlaff, Dave Bittler, Andy Renner
 - 3 - Russell Rogotzke, Mark Buerkle, Jeremy Dove
 - 4 - Tim Vogel, Scott Vogel, Bill Vogel

Please pray for...The Family of Bernie Telecky; all those serving in the military, at home and abroad: Jesse Kettner, Cylee Graff, Shane Clemon, Ethan Langseth, and Emily Wendt.

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.

February 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:00 Worship 10:00 Annual Meeting & Brunch 10:00 Sunday School 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast	2 5:30-6:30 Soup & Prayer at the Parsonage 6:30 p.m. Parish Ed Meeting	3 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	4 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast 5:45-7:15 Luther League 6:15-7:15 Confirmation 7:15 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	5	6 Office Closed	7
8 9:00 Worship 10:00 Coffee Talk 10:00 Sunday School 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast	9 5:30-6:30 Soup & Prayer at the Parsonage	10 10:00 am Worship @ SJLH 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	11 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast 6:15-7:15 Confirmation 7:15 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 7:45 p.m. Council Meeting	12 8:30-2:30 Red Cross Blood Drive	13 Office Closed	14
15 9:00 Worship 10:00 Coffee Talk 10:00 Sunday School 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast	16 5:30-6:30 Soup & Prayer at the Parsonage	17 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	18 Ash Wednesday 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast 5:15-6:15 Lenten Meal 6:30 Worship	19	20 Office Closed	21
22 9:00 Worship 10:00 Coffee Talk 10:00 Sunday School 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast	23 5:30-6:30 Soup & Prayer at the Parsonage	24 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	25 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast 5:15-6:15 Lenten Meal 6:30 Worship 7:15 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	26	27 Office Closed	28

St Paul Attendance			
1/4 9 am - 71	1/11 9 am - 104	1/18 9 am - 84	1/25 9 am - 74

<u>Budget Recap Year-To-Date (01/01/26 to 1/28/26)</u>			
Total Funds for Budget	\$8,126.50	Total Operating Funds	\$8,126.50
Budget	\$18,302.92	Operating Exp.	\$20,573.50
Difference	\$10,176.42	Difference	\$12,447.00



Memorials Given 12/25/2025 - 01/28/2026		
<u>In Memory:</u>	<u>Given by:</u>	<u>Designated for:</u>
Randee Arfmann	Steve & Sue Hendrickson Jim & Elsie Groebner	St. Paul Lutheran Church Good Shepherd Scholarship
Floyd Rogotzke	Rod & Rhonda Larson	Good Shepherd Scholarship

St. Johns Lutheran Church is planning a trip to ARK Encounter & Creation Museum for June 17-20, 2026. Details are posted on the bulletin boards as you enter church. Deadline to sign up is May 8th.

Sign up to serve a Lenten Meal. Contact Katie for more information. February 18th and March 4th are already spoken for by Parish Ed and Luther League.
Meal 5:15-6:15 Worship 6:30

If anyone has a bookshelf they are no longer using, we could use it at church for Pastor's office. Let me know if you have one. Depending on the size we could use a few.

Bring your empty egg cartons to church. Either leave in the kitchen or bring to Katie's office.



**Soup & Prayer
at the Parsonage**
Soup – 5:30 pm
Prayer – 6:30 pm
Every Monday

**If you can't come for
soup, you are
welcome to come for
prayer.**

All are welcome!!!



St. Paul Lutheran Church

303 N Cass Ave.

Springfield, MN 56087

Postmaster: Dated material
Please Deliver Promptly
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Phone: 507-723-5880

www.splcspringfield.org

Office Hours

Pastor Darren Olson

darrenolson553@gmail.com

Monday & Tuesday 9:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.
or by appointment

Parish Coordinator: Katie Mueller

Monday-Thursday 8:00 am-noon

stpaul_lutheran@hotmail.com

Financial Secretary: Anita Jensen

Fin_secretary@newulmtel.net

Housekeeping: Mary Jo Simonson

Maintenance: Al Groebner

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 (September-May)

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)