

JANUARY

Remember God's Promises
Live our Faith
Serve our neighbor



REMEMBER GOD'S PROMISES, LIVE OUR FAITH, SERVE OUR NEIGHBOR

Did you know Jesus has a mission statement? Luke 19:10 tells us, *"For the Son of Man came to seek and save the lost."* The context in which we find this mission statement is the familiar story of Zacchaeus (that wee little man). That is important because Zacchaeus was a chief tax collector. Which meant that he was not well liked by, well anyone. He used his position to exploit and take advantage of others. Thus, one would have thought that Jesus would not give him any attention. But we find that Jesus ends up going to his house that day. Amazingly, Zacchaeus accepts and as a result experiences transformation. Jesus' mission with Zacchaeus was successful.

I am in the process of learning so forgive me. For a pastor who is new to a church and to a community one of the most important lessons to be learned is that of the culture of the church and the community. Where does one even begin? The above title to this newsletter article is the mission statement of St. Paul Lutheran. That is a wonderful place to start.

REMEMBER GOD'S PROMISES, LIVE OUR FAITH, SERVE OUR NEIGHBOR

So that is where we will begin 2026 as a church. We will explore what that mission statement means and how we will allow it to transform us, our church, and our community as we learn to embrace it. During the first three Sundays we will explore what each of those phrases means for us. I encourage all of us to begin by memorizing our mission statement. Say it with me, REMEMBER GOD'S PROMISES, LIVE OUR FAITH, SERVE OUR NEIGHBOR. Now, write it down and place it somewhere you will see it often.

Remember God's Promises – Now the Bible is filled promises, and I will not be able to cover them all in one short message. We will begin by exploring the promise we find in Romans 8:31-39. In addition, I encourage you to seek out the other promises to be found in God's Word.

Live our Faith - Again, there are many passages that challenge us how to live out our walk with Jesus. I cannot cover them all. The one I will concentrate on will be found in Romans 12:9-21.

Serve our Neighbor – Like the other two there is more than enough Scripture to cover about serving our neighbor. We will look at several passages in the book of Matthew. Matthew 5:13-16; 20:20-28; 22:24-40; and 25:31-46.

Let us pray and get ready to embrace our mission.

For the Praise of His Glory,

Pastor Darren

St Paul Lutheran Church Council Minutes December 10, 2025

The meeting was called to order by Jake Marz at 7:48 pm

Members Present: Jake Marz, Kim Graff, Kelly Sargent, Andy Renner, Kathy Pederson, Katie Mueller, Angel Rummel, Randy Wendt, Paul Muske & Pastor Olson

Absent: Anita Jensen, Sarah Groebner

Opening Prayer: Pastor Darren

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

Secretary's Report – Approved

Financial Statement – Approved

Parish Ed Report --Approved

Pastor's Report -- Approved

OLD BUSINESS:

Building & Grounds:

*Sanctuary Ceiling - Tabled

*Tree Stump Removal & New Trees – Tabled Until Spring

*Parsonage Repairs – CO2 detectors, sink, toilets, carpet. Al repair/replace/fix the CO2 detectors, sink faucets, toilets. Getting quote from Miesen's for carpet replacement.

*Al to get a tool list together of items he may need for maintenance. M/S/P Paul & Randy

Pastors Report: Pastor was welcomed and handout were given out by Pastor.

Staff Reviews: Reviews conducted by Jake, Angel and Andy and shared with council

*Nominating Committee – Chair, Vice-Chair needed. Names were given to check with. Treasurer was accepted by Kelly for another term. 5 open seats on Council. Angel & Andy accepted another term on council. Other names were given to contact regarding joining the board.

NEW BUSINESS:

*Taking Faith Home Handout – Council declined for this year. M/S/P Paul & Randy

*Staff Christmas Gifts – Gift ideas discussed and agreed upon. M/S/P Paul & Randy

Closing Prayer: -- The Lord's Prayer

Adjourned: -- 9:45 PM

Submitted by Kim Graff, Council Secretary

2025 Church Council

Jacob Marz - Chair	Kelly Sargent - Treasure
Kim Graff - Secretary	Paul Muske
Randy Wendt	Angel Rummel
Kathy Pederson	Andy Renner
Sarah Groebner	

St Paul Attendance

11/30 9 am - 72	12/7 9 am - 96	12/14 10 am - 168
12/21 9 am - 81	12/24 6 pm - 231	12/28 Cancelled

<u>Budget Recap Year-To-Date (01/01/25 to 12/28/25)</u>			
Total Funds for Budget	\$203,301.45	Total Operating Funds	\$236,301.45
Memorial Loan	+\$33,000.00		
	\$236,301.45		
Budget	-\$233,362.23	Operating Exp.	-\$232,887.03
Difference	\$2,939.22	Difference	\$3,414.42


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.

Direct Giving opportunities are available all year long here at St. Paul's!
Enjoy the convenience of not having to find your envelopes and write out a check each week. These direct gifts are set up through your bank and can be customized by amount and frequency to fit your needs! If you are interested in signing up for Direct Giving talk to Katie in the office or contact your bank today!



Memorials Given 11/25/2025 - 12/24/2025

<u>In Memory:</u>	<u>Given by:</u>	<u>Designated for:</u>
Douglas Schiller	Rod & Rhonda Larson	Good Shepherd Scholarship
Robert (Bob) Sturm	Rod & Rhonda Larson	Good Shepherd Scholarship

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

Help us keep our Church Directory up to date! We would like to get updated pictures of each member family for the directory.

If you have a nice family photo you would like to use instead, you can email a copy to Katie at stpaul_lutheran@hotmail.com at any time.

CHURCH GREETERS WANTED!

We are bringing back church greeters! This was something that went away during the covid pandemic, and we are excited to bring it back!

If you would like to be a greeter, you can sign up in the Narthex, Fellowship Hall or let Katie know by either phone 507-723-5880 or email stpaul_lutheran@hotmail.com

Like in the past, greeters will be on a rotation. We need two people per service that will greet people as they enter 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!

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!



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!

Please pray for...Stacia Rosenau, Gabbie Salonek, the family of Floyd Rogotzke, the family of Karol Nielsen, Jerome Kettner, Doug Rositzke; 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.

* Indicates Choir Singing.

January 2026

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 stpaul_lutheran@hotmail.com						
4 9:00 Worship 10:00 Coffee Talk 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast	5 6:30 p.m. Parish Ed Meeting	6 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	7 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast 5:45-7:15 Luther League 6:15-7:15 Confirmation 7:15 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	8 Office Closed	9 Office Closed	10 Office Closed
11 9:00 Worship 10:00 Coffee Talk 10:00 Sunday School 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast	12 Office Closed	13 10:00 am Worship @ SJLH 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	14 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast 6:15-7:15 Confirmation 7:15 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 7:45 p.m. Council Meeting	15 Office Closed	16 Office Closed	17 Office Closed
18 9:00 Worship 10:00 Coffee Talk 10:00 Sunday School 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast	19 Office Closed	20 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	21 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast 6:15-7:15 Confirmation 7:15 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	22 Office Closed	23 Office Closed	24 Office Closed
25 9:00 Worship 10:00 Coffee Talk 10:00 Sunday School 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast	26 Office Closed	27 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	28 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast 6:15-7:15 Confirmation 7:15 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	29 Office Closed	30 Office Closed	31 Office Closed

* Indicates Choir Singing.

Worship Service Helpers

Date	Sound & Video	Projection	Reader	Greeters	Acolyte	Usher	Organist
1/4	Trevor Krebs	Mueller Family	Daniel Kettner	Paul & Jo Muske	Jonah Pidde Lily Gorbener	Team 1	Jo Schwartz
1/11	Tim Vogel	Jacobs Girls	Jordan Pidde	Mike ^ Crissy Rogotzke	Wyatt Dove Gavin Dove	Team 2	Jeff Krueger
1/18				Bill & Mel Vogel	Hunter Jeppesen Madisen Schumacher	Team 3	Jo Schwartz
1/25	Mueller Family	Mueller Family	Mel Vogel	Carol Carlson	Jonah Pidde Lorelei Pidde	Team 4	Jeff Krueger

January Altar Guild

Kari Haugo

Usher Teams

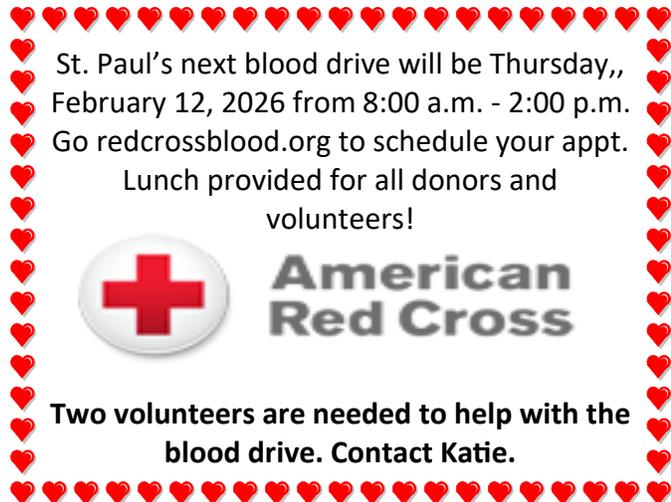
- 1 - Don Bloemke, John Marz, Jake Marz, Paul Meidl
- 2 - Doug Gatzlaff, Dave Bittler, Andy Renner
- 3 - Russell Rogotzke, Mark Buerkle, Jeremy Dove
- 4 - Tim Vogel, Scott Vogel, Bill Vogel

January Birthdays!

- 
- 2 - Cody Wendt
 - 4 - Levi Serie
 - 5 - Grace Jacobs
 - 5 - Stacia Rosenau
 - 6 - Kyler Zihlke
 - 9 - Jennifer Krueger
 - 9 - Navada Trebesch
 - 10 - Glenn Jensen
 - 12 - Tasha Sargent
 - 12 - Alan Groebner
 - 14 - Ellie Jensen
 - 15 - Nicole Dove
 - 15 - Taelyn Salonek
 - 20 - Ashlyn Rosenau
 - 20 - Georgia Renner
 - 21 - Megan Quesenberry
 - 21 - Nickolas Rogotzke
 - 23 - Jacob Rogotzke
 - 24 - Parker Gluth
 - 24 - Brad Haugo
 - 24 - Gertie Rosenau
 - 25 - April Sargent
 - 27 - Darren Olson
 - 28 - Derek Shaw
 - 28 - Averie Salonek
 - 29 - Maya Cook

January Anniversaries!

- 
- 6 - James & Sue Anderson - 58 years
 - 21 - Paul & Colleen Meidl - 37 years



St. Paul's next blood drive will be Thursday,,
February 12, 2026 from 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Go redcrossblood.org to schedule your appt.
Lunch provided for all donors and
volunteers!



**American
Red Cross**

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

Sparkle and Dine



Hostess Registration Form
9th annual
February 9th, 2026, 5:15pm
Springfield Community Center



\$160.00 Table (\$20.00 per person)
Contact Crystal Dauer (612-910-4931) if you need help filling your table or have more than 7 guests (we need accurate counts for food) (8 persons per table total).

Full cash bar is available for GLASSES of wine/beer.
BOTTLES of wine are available upon PRE-request to:
Jenn Schultz by January 23rd at 507-829-1624
(all coordination and payment for this is separately processed
By the Springfield golf club and must be done in advance)

Host Name: _____
Phone: _____

Table Cloth (no charge) (Please Circle)

White
Ivory
Black

Napkins (no charge) (Please Circle)

White
Ivory
Black
Red

THINK PINK

Please return registration form and check made out to CCW to:
Crystal Dauer at
St. Raphael School 20 W. Van Dusen Street Springfield, MN
Deadline: January 23rd

NOTE: any wine requests are processed SEPARATELY PRIOR to the event—see above.

Questions? Call: Alice Johnson (763-645-2973), Crystal Dauer (612-910-4931), Vicki Roiger (507-822-1504)



Sparkle and Dine

Hostess Guide

- Held on Monday, February 9th at the Springfield Community Center from 5:15-8:00pm
 - Please try to carpool as parking is limited!
- Welcome guest speaker Amber Melby from New Ulm!
- Proceeds will go to B the Light in New Ulm and Mankato, MN. This non-profit supports women with breast cancer through many unique programs.
- Cost per table is \$160.00 (\$20.00 per person). This includes a catered meal, speaker, beautifully decorated tables and social time. A cash bar is available beginning at 5:15pm.
- Table hostess is responsible for sending 1 check* (payable to CCW) AND registration form to Crystal Dauer at St. Raphael Catholic Church 20 West Van Dusen Street Springfield, MN 56087
*NOTE: wine payments will be processed through Jenn Schultz at: 507-829-1624
- Dessert is provided. Unfortunately, home-made food items are NOT permitted.
- The community center will be available for set-up:
 - Sunday, February 8th 12-5pm
 - Monday, February 9th 9am-4pm (please have set-up completed by 4pm to allow time to be ready for 5:15pm start time)

Table Hostess, you will enjoy choosing your own themed table and inviting 7 friends to join you. As a hostess, you will bring your own table decorations (please NO hanging items from the ceiling—this is a safety hazard and obstructs attendee's views of the speaker). **Please provide your own place settings including:** glassware, silverware and salt and pepper shakers. Your plates will not be used unless you choose to use them, as clear plastic plates will be provided at the meal lines. Water pitchers will be available during the event.

You may use your own tablecloths and napkins or you may request to use the Community Center linens. Table cloth options are: White, Ivory, or Black. Napkins come in a variety of colors (THINK PINK!). Please specify your color choice on your registration form.

Registrations due: January 23rd, 2026

Thank you!

Alice Johnson (763-645-2973), Crystal Dauer (612-910-4931), Vicki Roiger (507-822-1504)



Annual Meeting Sunday, February 1st

All committee reports are due to the church office by Monday, January 12th.

Marriage Retreat at Ingham Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp

“Marriage Matters Seminar” February 13-15, 2026

With Guest Speakers Eric and Pam Hulstrand

Whether you've been married many years or just one year, life happens. Things change. We change. Join us and take time to laugh, remember, and re-vision your marriage together. Enjoy a wonderful weekend with a banquet dinner, evening entertainment, free couples photo shoot, and great sessions.

Guest Speakers Pam & Eric, have been both married and partners in ministry for 37 years. They have served in pastoral ministry in rural North Dakota, Minneapolis and also planted a church. Currently they serve as an intentional interim pastoral team. They have a passion for healthy relationships. Through his Moving Forward ministry, Eric consults with churches going through conflict or transition. Through her On Bended Knee Ministry, Pam does premarital counseling and marital tune-ups with couples. She loves facilitating retreats for couples of all ages. Pam and Eric are the parents of two adult daughters through the gift of open adoption. Eric is a biker and hunter. Pam is a walker and organizer extraordinaire. They love competing with each other in a good game night or figuring out “who done it” in a good murder mystery.

This seminar will be a combination of large group teaching, group interaction and time alone as a couple. Sessions will include scoping out personality similarities and differences, peeling each other's onions and keeping the spark alive. The Prepare/Enrich online inventory will serve as the focus of discussions. Registered couples will be instructed on how to take the survey ahead of the retreat (\$35 cost). Prepare/Enrich helps committed couples gain a deeper understanding of dynamics, personality, stress and strength and growth areas. Click the link to learn more about the inventory.

**2026 Cost: \$239 for the weekend per couple Deposit: \$50/couple (non-refundable)
\$139 commuter rate per couple (breakfast not included)**

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

Postmaster: Dated material
Please Deliver Promptly
Address Service Requested

Calendar Highlights - January 2026

7 - Luther League

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

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**Give
Today!**



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)