



So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

Galatians 3:26-27

In the last three Sundays in September, we have had four Baptisms. Every Baptism presents an opportunity to remember our own Baptism, to remind ourselves that being a Child of God is our primary relationship. It is the one identity that follows us into eternity. It is the relationship that should influence every other relationship. It impacts how we live as citizens, spouses, and parents. It should affect the way we work and play, not in some legalistic way but in the joyful realization that God cares about us as His Children and we are part of His family.

So, how do we remember our Baptism? I see three steps:
 First, acknowledge that primary relationship. We are God's children through the saving work of Jesus. The primary label for that relationship is 'Christian,' which means 'little Christ.' We are, first and foremost, Christian, before we are Lutheran or American or any other important label that defines us. I am proud to be Lutheran and American. As for my Lutheran identity, I am convinced that it has the most realistic approach to living out our faith, and I think that America is the greatest nation in history. However, both of those labels, along with many others, are temporal. They will not pass into eternity, but our identities as Christians will become the ultimate definition of who we are.

Second, recognize and love your brothers and sisters in the Lord. Like any family, the Christian family has had its squabbles, but we must work hard to forgive and love one another. This is true whether we are talking about someone who sits in the same pew with you or someone of a different denomination. Let me say just a word about other denominations. Most denominations were from a renewal movement in the large church. For example, the Lutheran, Presbyterian, and Anglican churches emerged from the renewal movement that history has dubbed the Reformation of the early sixteenth century, while the Methodist, Moravian, and Evangelical Covenant churches were born out of the Lutheran Pietist movement of the eighteenth century. We may all have different perspectives on faith, but if we acknowledge Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, we are all brothers and sisters in the same family.

Finally, always be prepared to give a reason for the Hope that is within you (1 Peter 3:15). One of the last liturgical acts in Baptism is a candle is presented to the candidate with the words from Matthew five, "Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and give glory to our Father in heaven."

I spent some time this weekend watching clips of Charlie Kirk's memorial service. What I was struck by was the profound sense of hope that permeated most of speakers' messages. This is particularly true of what I saw of Erica Kirk's message. Yes, the grief was present, but so was the hope. Sharing the hope of the Gospel needs to be the response of every Christian in every situation.

Be Hope-filled, Stay Strong, and God Bless,

Pastor Carl

**St Paul Lutheran Church
Council Minutes
September 10, 2025**

The meeting was called to order by Jake Marz at 7:45 pm

Members Present: Jake Marz, Kim Graff, Kelly Sargent, Sarah Groebner, Andy Renner, , Kathy Pederson, Katie Mueller, Angel Rummel, Randy Wendt & Pastor Carl Billings Virtually.

Absent: Anita Jensen & Paul Muske,

Opening Prayer: Pastor Carl

Consent Agenda -- M/S/P by Kelly Sargent and Andy Renner

Secretary's Report – Approved

Financial Statement – Approved

Parish Ed Report --Approved

Pastor's Report -- Approved

OLD BUSINESS:

Building & Grounds:

*Sanctuary Ceiling – Bisbee is coming to look at the ceiling and access it.

*Tree Stump Removal & New Trees – Will contact Kecks for quote on stump removal. Look at having a memorial

bench and/or trees to replace those removed.

*Soffits on south side of church need to be looked at for possible repairs.

* German Super: September 24, 2025 – Tickets available to Pre-Sale & Work Sign-up sheet

NEW BUSINESS:

Funds: Council authorized borrowing additional funds from the Memorial Fund for expenses as needed up to \$8,000 -- M/S/P Kelly Sargent & Angel Rummel

Fall Decoration Purchase approved: -- M/S/P Kathy Pederson & Andy Renner

Katie Time Off: – Katie gone Sept 29-Oct 1, will work Oct 2 & 3 – M/S/P Kathy Pederson & Angel Rummel

New Pastor: Call committee has extended a call to Pastor Darren Olson -- M/S/P Call Committee & 2nd by Kelly Sargent.

Congregational Meeting: Authorized Jake Marz in writing too announce Special Congregational Meeting for the purpose of calling Pastor Darren Olson. Congregational Meeting set for October 12, 2025 after church service. Voting will be done by official ballot.

Al Groebner Vacation Dates: August 25th- September 1st and September 19th -21st.

Closing Prayer: -- The Lord's Prayer

Adjourned: -- 9:03 PM

Submitted by Kim Graff, Council Secretary

2025 Church Council

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

St Paul Attendance		
9/7 9am - 96	9/14 9am - 111	9/21 9am - 112

<u>Budget Recap Year-To-Date (01/01/25 to 9/24/25)</u>			
Total Funds for Budget	\$136,233.38	Total Operating Funds	\$164,233.38
Memorial Loan	<u>+\$28,000.00</u>		
	\$164,233.38		
Budget	<u>-\$173,877.74</u>	Operating Exp.	<u>-\$176,928.60</u>
Difference	(\$9,644.36)	Difference	(\$12,695.22)

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 8/25/2025 - 9/24/2025		
In Memory:	Given by:	Designated for:
Lynn Nelson	Peggy Larson	Good Shepherd Scholarship Fund

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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!
 :

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!



Please pray for...Doug Schiller, Jan Kettner, 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.

<p>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</p>



SPRINGFIELD UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
205 N MARSHALL AVE
SPRINGFIELD, MN

**TRUNK
OR TREAT**

OCTOBER 31ST

4:30PM TO

6:30PM

* Indicates Choir Singing.

Worship Service Helpers

Date	Sound & Video	Projection	Reader	Greeters	Acolyte	Usher	Organist
10/5	Groebner Boys	Groebner Boys	Jordan Pidde	Bill & Mel Vogel	Jonah Pidde Lorelei Pidde	Team 2	Jeff Krueger
*10/12	Trevor Krebs	Mueller Family	Jo Muske	Roger & Kelly Sargent	Reagan Plaster Cash Anderson	Team 3	Jeff Krueger
10/19	Dove Family	Dove Family	Mel Vogel	Mike & Crissy Rogotzke	Ellen Kral Leo Kral	Team 1	Jo Schwartz
10/26	Tim Vogel	Jacobs Girls	Kurt Glaeseman		Rylyn Marz Blake Zihlke	Team 2	Jo Schwartz

October Birthdays!

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- 1 - Tina Meine
 - 2 - Brayden Trapp
 - 3 - Denise Gicker
 - 3 - Abigail Dove
 - 5 - Brooke Jensen
 - 5 - Tanner Weisensel
 - 7 - Beverly Thorston
 - 8 - Leo Kral
 - 9 - Jelene Nachreiner
 - 13 - Jim Groebner
 - 13 - Marlys Wendt
 - 14 - Sarah Groebner
 - 14 - Dawn Marz
 - 16 - Kari Haugo
 - 17 - Doug Schiller
 - 17 - Milo Jensen
 - 18 - Ruth Ann Gicker
 - 20 - Delwin Beussman
 - 20 - Leona Schottle
 - 21 - Ashtyn Rudolph
 - 22 - Weston Steinhaus
 - 23 - Sara Haugo
 - 23 - Falen Hillesheim
 - 24 - Brooklyn Anderson
 - 24 - Paisley Groebner
 - 24 - Bentley Wendt
 - 25 - Ashley Cook
 - 25 - Maggie Vogel
 - 26 - Oakleigh Cook
 - 28 - Cylee Graff
 - 28 - Grant Jensen
 - 30 - Jeff Weisensel
 - 31 - Rod Larson
 - 31 - Liz Wendt

Usher Teams

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

October Altar Guild

Rhonda Larson
Ashley Cook

October Anniversaries!

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- 2 - Jeff & Stacey Weisensel - 32 years
 - 3 - Duane & Jelene Nachreiner - 55 years
 - 3 - Larry & Kathryn Pederson - 44 years
 - 4 - Jesse & Alexis Deibele - 1 year
 - 8 - Keaton & Amber Borth - 9 years
 - 13 - Mark & Stacia Rosenau - 24 years
 - 17 - Troy & Kay Hagert - 39 years
 - 19 - Adam & Sarah Groebner - 23 years
 - 28 - Glenn & Anita Jensen - 36 years
 - 28 - Mike & Barb Marz - 58 years
 - 29 - Brian & Jen Timm - 20 years

We need 2 volunteers for BINGO on October 10th
at 2:00 pm.

Please let Katie know if you can help out!



There will be a **Special Congregational Meeting**, immediately following worship, on **Sunday, October 12, 2025** for the purpose of voting on calling Pastor Darren Olson. All confirmed members are encouraged to attend to participate in the discussion and take part in this important decision regarding the future leadership of our congregation. Your presence and voice are vital — we hope to see you there!

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.

Sunday School Families ~ Save the Dates for Sunday School gifts for the year!

Sunday, September 28

~ 1st Grade Small Catechism

Sunday, October 5

~ 3rd Grade Bibles

Time to order your Christmas Poinsettias - The Cost is \$17 each. If you would like one in your name, please notify the church office. Orders are due by Sunday, October 26th. Checks should be made out to St. Paul Lutheran Church.

Trunk-or-Treat

4:30-6:30 United Methodist Church
Parking Lot

The United Methodist Church has invited us and St. John's to join together for Trunk-or-Treat!

We encourage both individuals and families to decorate their cars for the Halloween Trunk-or-Treat. Please notify

Katie in the office if you plan on participating in this fun event. We would like a count of the vehicles so we can make sure to have room for everyone. This is a great chance to reach out to the children in our community!

I am beginning to work on the College Care Packages information.

If you have a student in college, please email Katie with their name and school address. If you want the package dropped off at your house, we can arrange that as well. (Saves us the shipping costs)

Donations of non-perishable food items, school supplies, etc., can be brought to the church office. We hope to send them out before Thanksgiving.

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**

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

Postmaster: Dated material
Please Deliver Promptly
Address Service Requested

Calendar Highlights - October 2025
12 - Special Congregational Meeting

Phone: 507-723-5880

www.splcspringfield.org

Office Hours

Pastor Carl Billings carlbillings@me.com

Monday & Tuesday 9-11 a.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



**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)