



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Advent greetings! Sunday, December 2, 2018, is the start of Advent, the first season of Church Year C. The season of Advent includes the four Sundays prior to Christmas Day. It wasn't until the 13th century that Advent, as we know it, became established in the Western Church. Originally the liturgical color for Advent was black, changed to violet or purple, and then changed once again to the blue that we now use. This reflects the shift in the central feeling of the season as a time of sorrowful reflection and penitence to more a sense of hopefulness and expectation. The blue captures in its hue the expanse of the sky from which the Lord Jesus will return and reflects both heaven and the endlessness of the eternity promised to all who believe in him and await his coming with joy and expectation.

Advent is a holy time set apart for us as Christian people to spend in remembering, repenting, and rejoicing. God's chosen people remember the promise of Christ to return to his people in power and glory, just as he had once come among us in lowliness and humility. Words spoken on the First Sunday in Advent echo the excitement of the prophet Zechariah as he proclaims: "Behold, your King is coming to you; righteous and having salvation." Advent is call for God's people to repent of the sins that weigh down our hearts, oppress us, and cause us grief. The first Gospel reading in Advent calls to repentance, "But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap. (Luke 21:34)" In the season of Advent repenting ultimately becomes rejoicing, as the assurance of the coming of Jesus as Savior and Lord is promised again through the Scripture readings appointed for the season such as, "Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near. (Luke 21:27-28)" As the redeemed people of God, we cannot help but rejoice that Christ is coming into our world for our sake.

As early as the middle ages, Christians used fire and light to represent Christ's coming into the world. Using this same symbolism, it is believed that the Advent wreath was adapted from pre-Christian Germanic tribe by adding new biblical meaning to the old custom. Part of the symbolism of the wreath is the visual proclamation that the light grows on the wreath as the time of the coming Jesus nears, despite the fact that the amount of daylight in the world outside is steadily decreasing as Christ, the Morning Star who is the Light of the World, approaches. The wreath of evergreen also reminds us of the victory and the new and everlasting life we have in Christ Jesus!

Given that the custom has seen so many different adaptations, there are numerous explanations of the four Advent candles. The first blue candle may be called the "Prophecy Candle," the "Hope Candle," or the "Expectation Candle." The second blue candle may be called the "Bethlehem Candle," the "Peace Candle," or the "Preparation Candle." The third candle, pink in color, may be called the "Shepherd's Candle" or the "Joy Candle." The fourth blue candle may be called the "Angel Candle" or the "Love Candle."

Join us for worship this Advent! This year our Sunday school families are invited to read our Advent prayer and then light our Advent candles. You may sign up here: <https://doodle.com/poll/9b2eh5cpvcpubxma>. Blessings to you this Advent as we anticipate anew the second coming of our Lord! Come, Lord Jesus!

With Christian Love,

Pr. Tricia Mattson

St. Paul Lutheran Church ~ Church Council Meeting, November 14, 7:30pm

Present: Jordan Pidde, Russell Rogotzke, Jill Vogel, Ed Meidl, Shawna Jacobs, Dawn Marz, Pastor Tricia, Dan Longsdorf, Jan Kratz, Kathy Pederson

Also Present: Katie Mueller, Parish Coordinator & Anita Jensen, Financial Secretary

Absent: Craig Valentin, David Bittler, Matt Sargent

Call to order, Jordan Pidde at 7:37pm

Devotion – Pastor Tricia-the names of Jesus from Isaiah 9:2-7

M/S/P- Secretary's Report

M/S/P-Financial Report

There was a typo-error in the previous week's bulletin, showing a negative balance compared to the giving and expenses. There will be a notation of correction next week.

Building and Grounds

Tree has been planted.

Windows have been covered with plastic.

There is still water and dampness in the tunnel. Ed will investigate for broken tile.

Anita will review PUC bills

Parish Education Report

Did not have quorum

M/S/P Approval for Confirmation on May 5th, 2019-service at 10am, Sunday School at 9am

Pastor's Report

Changing office hours on Thursday's from 9am-noon, visitations in the afternoon. Effective Nov 29th.

Visitation

Visited homebound, assisted living, nursing home, and hospitalized members.

Delivered bulletins and visited on 10/11 and 11/8.

Worship

Led worship with the Lord's Supper at SJLH, Downtown Estates, and the Maples.

Baptized Sawyer John Wersal & Harper Nachreiner both during second services.

Led worship for *Thanks for the Harvest* on 11/11.

Parish Education

Continuing to lead weekly bible study Mondays at the Maples and Tuesdays at church.

Attended the Parish Ed meeting on 11/5.

Taught a baptism class on 11/12 for the baptism of Claytina Rudolph which will be 11/25.

Leading the study, *Why I Am a Lutheran*, on Sunday mornings from 10:15-10:45 a.m.

Taught Sunday school for the Pre-K and K on 10/21 & 11/4 and for the 7th & 8th graders on 10/28.

Substitute Sunday school teachers are needed.

Confirmation

Teaching confirmation on Wednesday nights at 6:30 p.m.

Meetings

Attended the Stewardship Committee meeting on 10/24.

Attended the Budget Committee meeting on 11/6.

Community

Issued two SAFE vouchers.

Attended the baptismal party for Sawyer Wersal on 10/14.

Attended the elementary school Football Jamboree on 10/27.

Attended the Ministerial Meeting at Tommy's on 11/1.

Submitted the article *A Phalanx of Love* to the Advance Press on 11/8.

Attended the Gideon's Dinner on 11/8.
Continuing Education Update
Meeting with local pastors for text study.
Attended the excellent conference, *Here We Still Stand*.
Continuing my DMIN studies online on Monday nights at 6:00 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS

ALICE Training– Planning for Fall 2018-Matt S was not available to report.
Church Insurance-need to get a 2019 quote from United Prairie, our current provider.
Thanksgiving Baskets – November 18th at 10 am following service.
Staff Reviews-
Jan K, Jordan P, Doug G and Kelly S. completed reviews.
Gifts and Visits for Shut-ins-Looking for a leader, Ed will help lead this. Kathy recommends 3 teams. Visit approx. 15 members. Katie has gifts ready.
Christmas Caroling, December 9th, 1:30 pm, St. John's The Maples, Downtown Estates, Jeff and Jordan co-leading. Hosting TBD.
Christmas Post Cards-Council members: please complete and return to Katie ASAP.
Thanks for the Harvest-recap-There were 39 attending church. Potluck was well attended. Great feedback on Pastor's sermon.
M/S/P-2019 Budget Committee report

NEW BUSINESS

Thank You to Kathy Pederson for decorating the tree at the Springfield Museum
Christmas Tree Decorating-Decorating church the week of the 26th, Decorate the tree Wednesday, Nov 28th @ 5:30pm
Children's Christmas Program Treat Bags-Kathy, Dawn and Jan have purchased the candy. Will reach out to others for donations. Pack bags 9am on Dec 15th
Nominating Committee needs to meet.
Approved Shawna Jacobs request to use piano for lessons for next Wednesday.
Adjourn 8:57pm with The Lord's prayer.
Shawna Jacobs
Church Council Secretary



Arland and Daniel Kettner would like to thank St. Paul Lutheran Church for the Thanksgiving Basket they received. Thank you for thinking of us during the Holiday Season.

Dear St. Paul Lutheran Church,
Thank you for sending me such a wonderful care package! I am excited to have some yummy snacks to get me through the rest of the semester!
Ashley Larson

Dear members of St. Paul Lutheran Church,
Thank you for the generous gift of the scholarship money and the college care package. As I graduate college in May, a new journey will begin. Thanks again for your kindness, support, and prayers during these last four years of my college education
Emily Vogel

Memorials Given From 10/27/18 to 11/22/18

<u>In Memory:</u>	<u>Given by:</u>	<u>Designated for:</u>
Joe Skovgaard	Larry & Ruth Potter	St. Paul Lutheran Church
Arnold Turbes	Jeff & Stacey Weisensel	Good Shepherd Scholarship Fund
Louis Springborg	Ed & Carol Meidl	Good Shepherd Scholarship Fund

Budget Recap & Attendance Year-To-Date (01/01/18 to 11/22/18)

Given to Budget	\$144,441.19 (\$138,441.19 + \$6,000)	Operating Income	\$144,441.19
Budget	<u>\$165,755.37</u>	Operating Exp.	<u>\$148,088.62</u>
Difference	(\$21,314.18)	Difference	(\$3,647.43)

Attendance Worship Services

Sunday, November 4 - 9am - 80	11am - 5	Sunday, November 11 - 9am - 76	11am - 6
Sunday, November 11 - Harvest 6pm - 39		Sunday, November 18 - 9am - 89	11am - 15
Wednesday, November 21, - 7pm - 72		Sunday, November 25 - 9am - 78	11am - 29

Please pray for... Peggy Bredvold, Mike Rogotzke, Alice Trebesch; Amanda Havemeier, 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.

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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, use one of the yellow information cards in the church pews, call or email the church office at 507-723-5880 or stpaul_lutheran@hotmail.com. We appreciate you keeping us updated!
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2018 Church Council

Jordan Pidde - Chair	Kathy Pederson	Jan Kratz	Dave Bittler
Ed Meidl - Vice Chair	Dawn Marz	Russell Rogotzke	Matt Sargent
Shawna Jacobs - Secretary	Jill Vogel	Dan Longsdorf	Craig Valentin - Treasurer

Deadlines: Sunday Bulletin: Wednesday by 10 am. **Epistle:** 20th of each month.

Please call or email Katie at the church office with additions or changes for the bulletins or Epistle.

December 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 9:00 Worship 10:00 Sunday School Coffee Talk 10:15 Why I Am A Lutheran 10:35 Ch. 8 Broadcast 11:00 Worship 1:00 Pageant Rehearsal 6:30 Pageant Choir Rehearsal	3 3:16 Bible Study @ The Maples 6:30 Pageant Rehearsal 7:30 pm Parish Ed Meeting	4 6:00 Bible Study 7:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast	5 6:00 Luther League 6:30 Confirmation 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	6 10:00 Augustana District Text Study 5:00 Pageant Dress Rehearsal	7 Office Closed 7:00 Live Nativity Pageant	1 8 7:00 Live Nativity Pageant
9 9:00 Worship Luther League Bake Sale 10:00 Sunday School Coffee Talk 10:15 Why I Am A Lutheran 10:35 Ch. 8 Broadcast 11:00 Worship 1:30 Caroling & Fellowship	10 3:16 Bible Study @ The Maples	11 6:00 Bible Study 7:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast	12 6:30 Confirmation 7:00 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 Council Meeting	13	14 2:00 BINGO @ SJLH Office Closed	15 9:00 Council to fill treat bags for program
16 10:00 Children's Christmas Program Coffee Talk 12:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast of Children's Christmas Program	17 3:16 Bible Study @ The Maples	18 10:00 SJLH Worship 3:30 The Maples HC 6:00 Bible Study 7:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast	19 6:30 Confirmation 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	20	21 Office Closed	22
23 9:00 Worship 10:00 Sunday School Coffee Talk 10:15 Why I Am A Lutheran 10:35 Ch. 8 Broadcast 11:00 Worship	24 6:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 8:30 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast of Christmas Eve Service	25 Office Closed 10:00 am Christmas Day Worship 7:00 am Ch. 8 Broadcast of Christmas Eve Service 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast of Christmas Day Service	26 No Confirmation 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	27	28 Office Closed	29 Weber Reunion
30 9:00 Worship 10:00 Sunday School Coffee Talk 10:15 Why I Am A Lutheran 10:35 Ch. 8 Broadcast 11:00 Worship	31 2:00 Downtown Estates HC 3:16 Bible Study @ The Maples					

9:00 am Worship Service

Date	Sound & Video	Reader	Acolyte	Greeters	Usher
12/2	Shane Clemon	Russell Rogotzke	Zach Timm Andrew Longsdorf	Doug & Marcia Schiller	Team 1
12/9	Tim Vogel	Jeanette Pidde	Kyler Zihlke Nickolas Rogotzke	Rod & Rhonda Larson	Team 2
12/16	Bob Kratz	Kurt Glaeseman	Daniel Groebner Keagan Streich	Mike & Barb Marz	Team 3
12/23	Shane Clemon	Paul Muske	MaCoy Krick Dalton Langseth		Team 4
12/24	Tim Vogel	Kristin Rogotzke	Jordyn Plaster Parker Gluth		Team 1
12/25	Bob Kratz	John Mueller	Jace Rosenau Abigail Jensen	Mike & Crissy Rogotzke	Team 2
12/30	Shane Clemon	Daniel Kettner	Zach Timm Andrew Longsdorf	Ken & Sharon Renner	Team 3

Sharon Rogotzke has been asked to call Greeters, Readers and Acolytes reminding them of their Sunday. **In order to avoid confusion, please call Sharon at 723-5117 if you will be gone and have found a substitute.**

December Altar Guild

Jo Schwartz & Megan Hillesheim

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

Delivering bulletins in December

6 - Jim Asmus
13 - Pastor Tricia
20 - Jill Vogel
27 - Leona Schottle

December Birthdays!

9 - Tenleigh Salonek
12 - Piper Zihlke
13 - Crissy Rogotzke
17 - Wyatt Mueller
18 - Hayden Gluth, Matt Solmonson, Dustin Trapp, Courtney Wendt
19 - Jeanette Pidde
23 - Robert Anderson, Robin Groebner
24 - Alex Larson
26 - Jacob Micka
30 - Gavin Brown, Mary Glaeseman, Betsy Rogotzke
31 - Kay Hagert

December Anniversaries!

4 - Steve & Colette Huiras
8 - Dustin & Tiffany Trapp
14 - Larry & Ruth Potter
19 - Doug & LuAnn Gatzlaff



Please join us on Christmas Day at 10:00 am for a wonderful caroling worship service! We will be singing:

"The First Noel"
"Joy to the World"
"Away in a Manger"
"Go Tell It on the Mountain"
"Angels We Have Heard on High"
"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing!"
"Of the Father's Love Begotten"



Luther League meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 6:00 in the Fellowship Hall.
All members grades 7-12 are invited to attend!
Luther League Bake Sale will be Sunday, December 9th following the 9am Worship Service.

Why I am a Lutheran

Many ask the question, "Is it still important for us to differentiate ourselves as Lutheran Christians rather than just plain old Christians?" In response to this question, the Luther House of Study (LHOS) has created a whole series of video clips entitled, *Why I Am a Lutheran*, which they have made available for viewing free of charge. Please join Pastor on Sunday mornings to view these videos and then discuss them. If you are unable to attend on Sunday mornings, but you are interested in viewing and discussing these clips, please contact Pr. Tricia.

What: View and discuss *Why I am a Lutheran* video clips

When: Sundays, from approx. 10:15 a.m.-10:45 a.m.

Where: Conference Room 101, unless the attendees are too numerous

The Nativity Pageant is on Friday, December 7 and Saturday, December 8 at 7:00 p.m. on the grounds of the Springfield Area Community Center.

Rehearsals are Sunday, Dec. 2 @ 1:00 p.m., Monday, Dec. 3 @ 6:30 p.m. and then dress rehearsal on Thursday, Dec. 7 @ 5:00 p.m.

Costume fitting will be December 5 @ 5:00 p.m. All at the Community Center.



**The Pageant Choir Rehearsal is Sunday, December 2 at 6:30 p.m. at the United Methodist Church.

The Southwest Minnesota Men's Chorus will perform a Christmas Concert again this year in Springfield. The concert will be on Monday, December 3 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Johns Lutheran Church. There is no admission charge but a freewill offering will be collected. Refreshments will be served following the concert.

Local members of the chorus include Jeff Krueger and Charles Tews with Peggy Martius and Jodi Dalsgaard as accompanists. The concert will include a variety of holiday music including *Bell Carol* by Heather Sorenson, *Run to the Manger* by Kirby Shaw, *A King is Born* by Tim Sarsany, *Doo Wop Christmas* by Kirby Shaw, *Winter Wonderland* by Ed Waesche and *O Holy Night* by Mark Hayes along with some small ensemble numbers.

The concert is part of the Southwest Minnesota Men's Chorus Christmas Concert Series which includes concerts in Currie on December 1, Lamberton on December 2, Springfield on December 3 and Lucan on December 4.

Are you a Thrivent Member? Did you know that each Thrivent Member can apply for an Action Team Project 2 times per year and receive \$250 each time to help fund your project? There are several times throughout the year we can use these funds and the process is very simple! We are looking for members who belong to Thrivent that can offer their Action Team project to help our church. Katie is willing to assist anyone in getting the application filled out and the project approved! Please talk to her if you are a Thrivent Member and see how you can impact our congregation!

We are hosting the World Day of Prayer 2019 here at St. Paul's. The World Day of Prayer is Friday, March 1st. This year it is featuring Slovenia, Europe. If you would be interested in being part of the planning committee, please talk to Katie in the Church office.

The Mitten Tree is up in the Narthex! Bring your donations of hats, mittens, gloves and scarves. All items will be delivered locally!

BINGO Helpers are needed! If you are able to help on December 14th at 2 pm, please let Katie know!

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

Postmaster: Dated material
Please Deliver Promptly
Address Service Requested

Calendar Highlights - December 2018

9 - Caroling at SJLH
14 - BINGO @ SJLH
16 - Children's Christmas Program
24 - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
25 - Christmas Day Caroling Service

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

Worship at 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Sunday School at 10:00 a.m.

Coffee Talk at 10:00 a.m.

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