



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As Lutherans, we care a great deal about confession, as illustrated by the corporate confessions we include in nearly every worship service. What is it that we confess? That we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. Our burden is made up of our thoughts, our words, and our deeds. As the Apostle Paul put it in Romans 7:15, “For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate.” In truth, we are confessing that we need a Savior, as the burden that we carry is too heavy to bear.

For many people, corporate confession of what troubles their conscience during worship suffices to set them free upon hearing their sin is forgiven. But sometimes people need to hear the absolution more personally. In our Book of Concord, the Augsburg Confession Article XXV deals with confession and allows for Lutherans to use the practice of private confession with a pastor for those sins which trouble us in heart and mind. Article 25:2-4, *Concerning Confession*, says,

People are diligently instructed how comforting the word of absolution is and how highly and dearly absolution is to be esteemed. For it is not the voice or word of the person speaking it, but it is the Word of God, who forgives sin. For it is spoken in God’s stead and by God’s command. Great diligence is used to teach about this command and the power of the keys, and how comforting and necessary it is for terrified consciences.

Each of us knows someone (perhaps you yourself) who has had something stuck in his or her conscience for a very long time. This state of being held in bondage robs us of peace and joy. The sin which holds us hostage may be something that we ourselves have done, or something done against us.

Let us examine those instances where we have done something that sticks in our own conscience. It is important to note that the thought that God will not forgive something we have done is not the word of God, but rather the word of that liar and deceiver: the devil. In 1 Peter 5:8 we read, “Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour.” One who stops attending church or stops taking the Lord’s Supper because of their guilt or shame is a person who is suffering the attack of the devil.

The devil always seeks to separate us from the word of God’s promise. We see this even with Jesus himself in Matthew 3:13-4:11. Jesus receives a most lovely word of promise from God the Father in 3:17, “This is my Son, the beloved, with whom I am well pleased.” Then in the very next verse, it says, “Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.” While Jesus was able to fight against the devil and not succumb to the temptation, we are not so fortunate and we often stumble.

It is because we have such trouble in believing 1) that God can forgive us anything; 2) that he has chosen us eternally; and 3) that because of this God the Father sent his own Son to die for us, that private confession has been retained within the church. It is necessary to reassure so many who are troubled.

Therefore this newsletter article is an invitation for you. If you are hearing a word in your conscience that is robbing you of peace, I invite you to meet with me, either casually or by appointment. It is for this purpose that I have been called to St Paul Lutheran Church, to speak Christ’s Word which lifts your burdens from you and places them upon your Savior Jesus Christ who says, “Come to me all you who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you peace.” (Matt 11:28) It is only through Christ Jesus our Lord that we receive the peace that passes all understanding. Thanks be to Christ!

With love from your sister in Christ,

Pastor Tricia

St. Paul Lutheran Church ~ Church Council Meeting, January 9, 2019 at 7:30pm

Present: Jordan Pidde, Russell Rogotzke, Jill Vogel, Ed Meidl, Shawna Jacobs, Dawn Marz, Pastor Tricia, Dan Longsdorf, Jan Kratz, Craig Valentin, Matt Sargent

Also Present: Katie Mueller, Parish Coordinator & Anita Jensen, Financial Secretary, John Mueller, Prairie Plans Investments

Absent: Kathy Pederson, David Bittler

Call to order at 7:34pm, Jordan Pidde

Devotion – Pastor Tricia-reading the explanation for the 3rd article of the Creed, the Holy Spirit.

Church Investment Summary, John Mueller

M/S/P-To support John Mueller's recommendations for adjustments to the Endowment fund to sell the Convertible Bond fund and add the proceeds to the S&P 500 Dividend ETF.

M/S/P-Secretary's Report

Financial Report – Anita

Financial Audit is on Monday.

There was an anonymous donation to the Building and Heritage fund for \$10k in December.

M/S/P-Financial Report

M/S/P-to pay Aug, Sept, Oct 2018 benevolence.

Building and Grounds – Ed

Chandelier was rewired today and changing lights out throughout the church.

M/S/P- Buildings and Grounds recommendation to sell 20 ft of the Parsonage property for \$4,000 with the buyer paying all fees and closing costs, funds to be earmarked strictly for Parsonage repairs pending approval from the Congregation at the Annual meeting.

Parish Education Report –Matt

M/S/P-Money board and noisy offering on Sundays during lent to go towards Bible Camp Scholarship fund.

M/S/P \$860 from the spiritual growth fund to cover the hotel costs for the Luther League Quake Life promotion conference in Feb with the request that Luther League present to the congregation what they learned from the conference-whether workshop information, songs/music, power point presentation, pictures, so forth.

Pastor's Report

Action Items

A nine week sermon series on the Ten Commandments will begin on Sunday, January 27, 2019, ending before Palm Sunday.

Visitation

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

Worship

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

Led worship on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

Parish Education

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

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

Starting to plan First Communion for our 5th Grade Sunday school students.

Confirmation

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

Luther League

Attended the Luther League monthly meeting on 1/2/19.

Continuing Education Update

Meeting with local pastors for text study

My DMin studies with SPLS will resume in February.

Attended Luther House of Study's Proclamation on the Plains from 1/6-1/8/19.

OLD BUSINESS

ALICE Training– February 2019–Matt S.

Eric is checking on the dates Feb 9th/16th to see which will work best for trainers. Matt will report back to Katie to share the dates with congregation and surrounding churches.

Church Insurance–

Executive committee approved staying with United Prairie/Grinnell with the change in deductible from \$2,500 to \$5,000. This keeps us at 100% replacement cost. There is a \$400 increase in premium. The cost is similar to the total costs paid this year with the claim.

Nominating Committee

Vice chair, 1 council person and 1 potential council chair. Needing 1-2 more council seats filled. Min 10 seats, Max 12.

Annual Meeting

All Committee Reports due to Katie by Friday, January 11, 2018.

Katie will send email to remind the appropriate committees.

M/S/P-Annual meeting agenda

NEW BUSINESS

SAFE Annual Meeting, February 5th, 6:30 p.m.

Council adjourned 8:40 with the Lord's Prayer.

Shawna Jacobs

Church Council Secretary

<u>2019 Church Council</u>		
Ed Meidl - Chair	Paul Muske - Vice Chair	Dave Bittler
Shawna Jacobs - Secretary	Dan Longsdorf	Jill Vogel
Craig Valentin - Treasurer	Matt Sargent	Bill Vogel

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.

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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!

Memorials Given From 12/23/18 to 1/22/19

In Memory:

Charlie Franklin

Given by:

Jim & Elsie Groebner

Designated for:

Good Shepherd Scholarship Fund

Budget Recap & Attendance Year-To-Date (01/01/19 to 1/21/19)

Given to Budget	\$5,016.15	Operating Income	\$5,016.15
Budget	<u>\$9,630.06</u>	Operating Exp.	<u>\$12,099.01</u>
Difference	(\$4,613.91)	Difference	(\$7,082.86)

Attendance Worship Services

Sunday, December 30 - 9am - 45	11am - 0	Sunday, January 6 - 9am - 87	11am - 9
Sunday, January 13 - 9am - 103	11am - 14	Sunday, January 20 - 9am - 65	11am - 7
Sunday, January 27 - 9am - 85		Annual Meeting Attendance: 38	

Please pray for... Carolyn (Jo Muske's sister), Dermont Wells, Carol Carlson, Sherry Fenger, 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.

St. John Lutheran Home Auxiliary Update - 2018

As we end a year and begin a new one, St. John's Auxiliary would like to thank all of you who donated time, gifts and money. Your gifts help to improve and enrich the lives of residents.

In 2018, the Auxiliary helped in the following ways:

1. Co-hosted Belgian Waffle Brunch and Burger Blast,
2. Purchased ice cream treats for the residents,
3. Awarded two scholarships,
4. Purchased flowers for outdoor planters,
5. Purchased four "Days End" chairs for the patio,
6. Purchased throat swallow evaluation equipment for use by the speech therapist,
7. Purchased flat screen 55" Sanyo television and wall mount for Station 1, Southwest Lounge,

The Auxiliary, your loved ones, friends and neighbors all thank you for your support. May you have a blessed new year. We hope you will continue to help support the Auxiliary this year with your dues of \$5.00. Additional donations are welcome!

Please watch for Auxiliary dues envelopes in your mailboxes at church. You may return the envelope in the offering plate, at the church office, my mail box or give it to me.

Thank you all.

Your St. John Lutheran Home Auxiliary Representative,
Jan Severson

Reminder: St. Paul's Bingo dates this year are **Feb. 8th, April 23th, June 14th, August 9th, October 11th and December 13th at 2:00 in the dining room. Everyone is welcome!**

February 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Office Closed	2
3 9:00 Worship 10:00 Sunday School Coffee Talk 10:15 Why I Am A Lutheran 10:35 Ch. 8 Broadcast 11:00 Worship 6:30 pm Parish Ed Meeting	4 Pastor @ Augustana District Theology Conference No Bible Study	5 Pastor @ Augustana District Theology Conference 6:00 Bible Study 7:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast	6 6:00 Luther League 6:30 Confirmation 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	7	8 Office Closed 2:00 pm BINGO @ SJLH	9
10 9:00 Worship 10:00 Sunday School Coffee Talk 10:15 Why I Am A Lutheran 10:35 Ch. 8 Broadcast 11:00 Worship	11 3:16 Bible Study & HC @ The Maples	12 6:00 Bible Study 7:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast	13 6:30 Confirmation 7:00 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 Council Meeting	14	15 Office Closed	16 9-11 Andy Renner & Megan Knutson Bridal Shower- Come & Go
17 9:00 Worship 10:00 Sunday School Coffee Talk 10:15 Why I Am A Lutheran 10:35 Ch. 8 Broadcast 11:00 Worship	18 3:16 Bible Study & HC @ The Maples	19 10:00 SJLH Worship 3:30 The Maples HC 6:00 Bible Study 7:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast	20 6:30 Confirmation 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	21	22 Office Closed	23
24 9:00 Worship 10:00 Sunday School Coffee Talk 10:15 Why I Am A Lutheran 10:35 Ch. 8 Broadcast 11:00 Worship 3:00 St. Peter Choral Concert @ school	25 2:00 Downtown Estates 3:16 Bible Study @ The Maples	26 6:00 Bible Study 7:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast	27 6:30 Confirmation 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	28		

9:00 am Worship Service

Date	Sound & Video	Reader	Acolyte	Greeters	Usher
2/3	Shane Clemon	Mel Vogel	Kyler Zihlke Daniel Groebner	Paul & Colleen Meidl	Team 4
2/10	Tim Vogel	Russell Rogotzke	Nickolas Rogotzke Keagan Streich	Gary & Nancy Renner	Team 1
2/17	Bob Kratz	Jeanette Pidde	Dalton Langseth Jace Rosenau	Janice Kettner Gertie Rosenau	Team 2
2/24	Shane Clemon	Kurt Glaeseman	Jordyn Plaster MaCoy Krick	Delwin & Beverly Beussman	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.**

February Altar Guild Kari Haugo & Marcia Schiller

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



Delivering bulletins in February

7 - Jeff Krueger
14 Pastor Tricia
21 Carol Carlson
28 Jill Vogel

February Birthdays!

1 - Don Wilstermann
2 - Donna Wersal
2 - Chase Veenstra
3 - Ellen Amsden
3 - Brendon Buerkle
4 - Braxton Brown
4 - Russ Voge
4 - Jacob Gatzlaff
5 - Kim Gluth
7 - John Gluth
7 - Claytina Rudolph
7 - Brian Timm
8 - Colleen Meidl
10 - Dale Danielson
10 - Gabriella Schenk
13 - James Asmus
14 - Austin Hager
14 - Paul Meidl
16 - William Vogel
16 - Tayte Zihlke
19 - Troy Gramentz
19 - Gail Honl
21 - Dalton Langseth
21 - Jena Veenstra
21 - Adalyn Rudolph
23 - Angel Clemon
23 - Ardella Wilstermann
23 - Richard Zihlke
23 - Leon Serie
27 - Duane Streich

February Anniversaries!

26 - Gary & Nancy Renner

Come & Go Bridal Shower

Honoring

Megan Knutson

Bride to be of Andy Renner

Saturday, February 16th 9-11am

St. Paul Lutheran Church

Parents are: Steve & Sandy Knutson,
Gregg & Amy Schultz, Gary & Nancy Renner

The couple is registered at
Target and Bed, Bath, & Beyond

BINGO Helpers are needed for February 8th at 2:00 pm at SJLH.

Please call the church office (723-5880) if you are able to help out!

THANK YOU

Dear St. Paul Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your continued support of the St. Paul's youth. Without this support, it would be more of a burden for St. Paul's families to send their children to college. Thanks again!

Tyson Meidl

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!

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 TEN COMMANDMENTS

Please join us Sunday mornings beginning January 27, 2019, as we learn about the Ten Commandments. God gave the Ten Commandments in Exodus 20. What do these commands of God, given to the Israelites at least 1300 years before Christ, have to do with our daily lives as Christians today? Stayed tuned Sunday mornings to find out!

Coming Soon: Member Class

Plans are in the works for a Member Class to be held in the month of February. The class is designed for those desiring to become members all the way through those who have been members of St Paul Lutheran Church all their lives! Tentatively the classes may be scheduled on four successive Tuesdays beginning February 5, 2019, dependent upon the availability of our potential new members. If you are interested in attending the Member Class, please call the office (507) 723-5880 or email our parish coordinator, Katie, at stpaul_lutheran@hotmail.com or Pastor Tricia at pastortriciamattson@gmail.com with your availability by Monday, January 28, 2019. Watch for more details in the February Epistle.

The Saint Peter Choral Society will present a concert of the songs of Leonard Bernstein and Rodgers & Hammerstein on **Sunday, February 24th at 3:00 p.m. in the Springfield High School theater**. Tickets are \$10 at the door, but may be purchased in advance for \$8 at the Springfield Advance-Press, Jim's Market in Springfield and Randy's Family Drug in Sleepy Eye as well as Swedish Kontur in St. Peter. Students are admitted free of charge.

The concert is hosted by the Springfield Community Theater. Season ticket holders to the SCT will be admitted free of charge to the concert.

The concert is directed by Annette Meeks and Sara McKay and accompanied by pianist Bonnie Jorgensen. Michael Jorgensen is the featured guest soloist.

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.

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

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Calendar Highlights - February 2019

8 - BINGO @ SJLH

16 - Renner/Knutson Bridal Shower

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