



“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.” John 1:5

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am a huge fan of the fantasy genre of books and movies. I own Tolkien’s entire series of *Lord of the Rings/The Hobbit* movies and Lewis’ Narnia book series. What is it that attracts me to this genre? It is likely the drama of people fighting against the forces of darkness who risk everything up to and including their very lives. And just when all hope seems to be gone and the battle nearly lost, help comes from an unexpected source, the tide shifts, and the light is not overcome by the darkness.

In Tolkien’s *Two Towers*, perhaps my favorite movie, Aragorn, Legolas, and Gimli come to the war-torn nation of Rohan and are reunited with Gandalf the White, who frees Rohan’s King Théoden from the evil sorcerer Saruman’s influence. As they determine how best to save Rohan’s citizens and Gandalf must depart from the group, he promises them, “Look to my coming at first light on the fifth day. At dawn look to the east.”

The citizens of Rohan, who have sought the safety of the ancient fortress at Helm’s Deep, find themselves besieged by the Orcs on the fifth day. Upon glimpsing pre-dawn light, Aragorn is reminded of Gandalf’s promise. Refusing to die without a fight, Aragorn convinces a despairing Theoden to ride out and meet the Orcs in one last charge. As the warriors mount their horses and meet the Orcs in battle, Aragorn looks to the east as Gandalf arrives with the Rohirrim army, having convinced them to fight alongside their Rohan neighbors. As the Rohirrim army charges into battle, the Orcs are blinded by the dawn light, the tide of the battle turns, and the evil enemy is defeated!

As Christians, we have also received a promise from our Lord Jesus Christ, “And remember I am with you always to the end of the age.” Like Gandalf, Christ promises to be there- and he really is - not just a memory or a symbolic presence. Jesus promises us that in the Lord’s Supper he is truly with us in flesh and blood. That means he is really here – physically, in person. In the Lord’s Supper when we touch and taste the bread and wine, we get to see, touch, and feel that Jesus is with us. This is what makes the Lord’s Supper so special. Each time we receive the Lord’s Supper, Christ hands himself over to us once again.

With his holy and precious blood and his innocent suffering and death, Christ has made you “a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. (1 Pet 2:9)” So what does the battle look like that we have been called into? No swords and charging horses like in the *Two Towers*, but let me leave with you this small glimpse, also from 1 Peter 2, “For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps. ‘He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.’ When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.”

Each Sunday we return to worship. We are called by the Holy Spirit to return to the shepherd and guardian of our souls. Join us this Sunday as our Lord Jesus Christ gives himself to us yet again!

In Christian Love,

Pr. Tricia Mattson

St. Paul Lutheran Church ~ Church Council Meeting, December 12, 7:30pm

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

Also Present: Katie Mueller, Parish Coordinator & Anita Jensen, Financial Secretary, Paul Muske for Buildings and Grounds

Absent: Kathy Pederson

Call to order, Jordan Pidde at 7:34pm

Devotion and prayer by Pastor Tricia: Zephaniah 3

M/S/P-Secretary's Report

M/S/P-Financial Report

M/S/P-To pay May, June and July benevolence.

Building and Grounds – Ed

Exit lights are installed per insurance audit.

Paul Muske reported on the insurance coverage-United Prairie has increased the replacement value of the church and parsonage. Paul will follow up with UP to discuss concerns with this value increase, particularly on the parsonage, and report back to the executive committee.

M/S/P-For executive committee to meet and make final decision regarding insurance coverage based on building and grounds final report.

Parish Education Report–Matt

M/S/P Lock-in request for Luther League to be held January 26-27th before annual meeting.

Pastor's Report

Action Items

Approved: Jake Gatzlaff requested Pastor to perform his wedding on November 23, 2019 at the Stately Lutheran Church.

Sara from Camp Okoboji called to inquire if they might visit. We discussed 1/6/19 as a possible date. She wondered about time with the Sunday school children also. Pastor will follow up with Parish Ed and also review her calendar regarding needs for a substitute Pastor when she is gone.

M/S/P-The Augustana District *Pause Play Refresh* Confirmation Retreat is March 8-10 at Luther Crest Bible Camp in Alexandria. Cost is \$90.00. SPLC covered \$60.00 and offered hardship scholarships to cover the remaining \$30.00 if needed. Chaperones \$50.00 plus mileage.

Pastor's Vacation and Continue Ed Days: Dec 26th and 27th, Continue Ed: Jan 7-8th, Vacation Jan 15-20th, Conference Jan 21-22nd, Feb 4th, October 2 days of Continue Ed.

Ministry Updates

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.

Baptized Claytina Rudolph during the second service on 11/25.

Led worship on Thanksgiving Eve.

Parish Education

Attended the Parish Ed meeting on 12/2.

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.

Confirmation

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

Luther League

Attended the Luther League monthly meeting on 12/5.

Joined Luther League for skating and their Christmas party at Pizza Ranch in New Ulm on 12/9.

Community

Attended the Springfield HS play on 11/18.

Decorated the Christmas tree with the council and confirmation students on 11/28.

Attended the Springfield Elementary Christmas Program on 11/29.

Served at the SANTA luncheon and cookie sale on 11/30.

Attended the SW MN Men's Christmas Choir Concert at St John's Lutheran Church on 12/3.

Helped dress the Live Nativity cast on 12/7 & 12/8.

Went caroling with the Luther League and choir on 12/9.

Attended Springfield 7th & 8th grade boys' basketball games on 12/11.

Continuing Education Update

Meeting with local pastors for text study.

Hosted the Augustana District/Luther House of Study Text Study on 12/6.

Continuing my DMIN studies online on Monday nights at 6:00 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS

ALICE Training— Planning for Fall 2018—Matt S.

Up to 50 people for full training.

Can present on weekends, but for the actual live training, would need to set up in advance to ensure enough trainers.

There is no fee for this training.

M/S/P- Saturday, February 9th or 16th for tentative dates for presentation, with discussion for interest in "live training" to follow at another date. Matt will follow up on the availability of these dates.

Church Insurance-covered under Building and Grounds.

Gifts and Visits for Shut-ins-to be completed this Saturday, Dec 15th at 1pm meeting at church, Pastor and Ed organizing.

Christmas Caroling, was December 9, there was a great turn out, approximately 27 participants. Luther League participated. The staff and residents greatly appreciated.

Christmas Post Cards-mailed Monday, December 10th. Thank you Katie.

M/S/P-2019 Budget Committee report

Children's Christmas Program Treat Bags, Dec. 15 @ 9am. Thank you to those who donated items.

Nominating Committee-Ed and Rhonda met. Ed has Vice Chair lined up.

Annual Meeting-All Committee Reports due to Katie by Friday, January 11, 2019. At January meeting, council needs to set the agenda for annual meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Nick Kratz would like to purchase additional property from the Parsonage lot. He would like 17-20 feet. He is proposing \$3,400 for 17' of property, plus legal fees and closing costs. Building and Grounds committee will meet to discuss and report back to Jan council meeting, then on to annual meeting for congregational approval.

Russell Rogotzke has notified council we are in need of more volunteers to help run the video system.

Katie off December 20-25, Surgery

M/S/P- \$50 chamber bucks for staff Christmas gifts. Craig will purchase and help distribute.

Adjourned at 8:40pm with the Lord's Prayer.

Shawna Jacobs

Council Secretary

Memorials Given From 11/23/18 to 12/19/18

In Memory:	Given by:	Designated for:
Clyde Schmidt	Rod & Rhonda Larson	Good Shepherd Scholarship Fund
Roland Larson	Rod & Rhonda Larson	Good Shepherd Scholarship Fund
Lois Birkemeyer	Ed & Carol Meidl	Good Shepherd Scholarship Fund

Budget Recap & Attendance Year-To-Date (01/01/18 to 12/19/18)

Given to Budget	\$160,562.80 (\$154,562.80 + \$6,000)	Operating Income	\$160,562.80
Budget	<u>\$179,862.21</u>	Operating Exp.	<u>\$156,175.16</u>
Difference	(\$19,299.41)	Difference	\$4,387.64

Attendance Worship Services

Sunday, December 2- 9am - 46	11am - 18	Sunday, December 9 - 9am - 104	11am - 16
Sunday, December 16 - 10am - 192		Sunday, December 23 - 9am - 61	11am - 0
Monday, December 24 - 6pm - 258		Tuesday, December 25 - 10am - 23	

Please pray for... Please pray for... Sherry Fenger, Mary Holles Sternberg, Kevin Schwartz, Ellen Amsden, Peggy Bredvold (Dalores Stern's sister-in-law), 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.

Pastor Tricia will be out of the office January 7-8 and January 15-22.

January 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Office Closed	2 6:00 Luther League 6:30 Confirmation 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	3	4 Office Closed	5
6 9:00 Worship 10:00 Sunday School Coffee Talk 10:15 Why I Am A Lutheran 10:35 Ch. 8 Broadcast 11:00 Worship Pastor at Continuing Ed Class	7 7:30 pm Parish Ed Meeting	8 7:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast	9 6:30 Confirmation 7:00 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 Council Meeting	10	11 Office Closed All Committee Reports are due for the annual report.	12
13 9:00 Worship 10:00 Sunday School Coffee Talk 10:15 Why I Am A Lutheran 10:35 Ch. 8 Broadcast 11:00 Worship	14 3:16 Bible Study & HC @ The Maples	15 10:00 SJLH Worship 7:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast Pastor Vacation	16 6:30 Confirmation 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	17	18 Office Closed	19
20 9:00 Worship 10:00 Sunday School Coffee Talk 10:35 Ch. 8 Broadcast 11:00 Worship Pastor at Continuing Ed Class	21	22 7:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast	23 6:30 Confirmation 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	24	25 Office Closed	26 Luther League Lock-In
27 9:00 Worship 10:00 Brunch & Annual Meeting Sunday School 10:35 Ch. 8 Broadcast 11:00 Worship	28 2:00 Downtown Es-tates 3:16 Bible Study @ The Maples	29 6:00 Bible Study 7:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast	30 6:30 Confirmation 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	31		

9:00 am Worship Service

Date	Sound & Video	Reader	Acolyte	Greeters	Usher
1/6	Bob Kratz	Paul Muske	Dalton Langseth Jace Rosenau	Mike & Crissy Rogotzke	Team 4
1/13	Shane Clemon	Kristin Rogotzke	Jordyn Plaster MaCoy Krick	Ken & Sharon Renner	Team 1
1/20	Tim Vogel	Daniel Kettner	Parker Gluth Abigail Jensen	Kevin & Jo Schwartz	Team 2
1/27	Bob Kratz	Jo Muske	Zach Timm Andrew Longsdorf	Tim & Jill Vogel	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.**

January Altar Guild

Barb Marz, Rhonda Larson, Ashley Larson

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



Delivering bulletins in January

4 - Carol Carlson
11 - Pastor Tricia
18 - Jim Asmus
25 - Jill Vogel

January Birthdays!

4 - Levi Serie
5 - Grace Jacobs
 Stacia Rosenau
 Justina Streich
6 - Kyler Zihlke
 Mahesh Allen
9 - Jennifer Sellner
 Navada Trebesch
10 - Glenn Jensen
11 - Moe Weber
12 - Tasha Sargent
 Alan Groebner
14 - Ellie Jensen
15 - Taelyn Salonek
16 - Gerard Jensen
20 - Inez Marks
 Ashlyn Rosenau
21 - Nickolas Rogotzke
23 - Jacob Rogotzke
24 - Parker Gluth
 Brad Haugo
 Marilyn Kratz
24 - Gertie Rosenau
25 - April Sargent
28 - Derek Shaw
29 - Andrew Longsdorf

January Anniversaries!

21 - Paul & Colleen Meidl



Thank you for thinking of us at Thanksgiving and thank you for the Thanksgiving basket.
Merlyn & Ruth Peterson

Thank you so much for thinking of our family this holiday season. We greatly appreciate the full turkey dinner you sent our way. It was all fantastic! May your generosity to other come back to you this holiday season!
Kelly Weber & Family

Thank you so much for the cheer basket that we received before Thanksgiving! It was a wonderful surprise that was so very welcomed and appreciated! I wish you all a very blessed Christmas season! Thank you again!
Mary Holles Sternberg

Thank you to those who donated the goodies for the treat bags given to the children following the Sunday school Christmas program!

The residents at the Downtown Estates would like to thank the Christmas Carolers from St. Paul's who visited on the 9th. They also thank you for the goodies that were shared with them.

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 will be serving breakfast on Sunday, January 27th before the Annual Meeting

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

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.

We are searching for several individuals who would be able to join our Sound and Video committee! Our home bound members truly appreciate being able to watch our worship services on TV, but we need more people to run the system so we can continue to record the services! Please talk to Katie in the office if you can help!

2019 Offering envelopes are available in the lower narthex.

The 3rd Annual Sparke & Dine event is February 11th. Information is posted at either entrance to the sanctuary, as well as hostess instructions. Deadline is January 20th.

Luther House of Study PROCLAMATION ON THE PLAINS ~ JANUARY 6-8

Commemorating the 500th Anniversary of the Heidelberg Disputation

Come join us for three days of learning and fellowship as we focus on one of Martin Luther's most theologically determinative disputations. Our afternoon sessions will cover the topics: 1) Law 2) Good Works & 3) Bondage of the Will. The evening sessions will discuss "What Makes a Theologian: The Heidelberg Disputation." This conference is free and open to rostered leaders and the public. Sponsored by: Lutheran Leadership Foundation,

LHS Staff: Steven Paulson, Chris Croghan, Sarah Stenson

Continuing Education for Rostered Leaders 1:30-3:00 p.m.

Evening Sessions open to the public 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Also available live stream on-line

Sioux Falls Seminary, 2100 S. Summit Ave Sioux Falls SD

RSVP by e-mail [sstenson@augie.edu](mailto:ssenson@augie.edu), or 605-274-4808, lutherhouseofstudy.org/events

The Springfield Area Food Shelf will hold their Annual Meeting on January 14, 2019 at the Springfield American Legion club from 12:00-1:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served and everyone is welcome. Call Shari Koll if you have questions 723-6120 or 507-227-0386.

Please check your church mailboxes.

We have a lost and found box located in the narthex near the mailboxes. If you have lost something at church, please check the box!

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

Postmaster: Dated material
Please Deliver Promptly
Address Service Requested

Calendar Highlights - January 2019

26 - Luther League Lock-In

27 - Annual Meeting and Brunch

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