

# APRIL

***Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Hebrews 12:1-3***

## An Easter Race

I love this time of year. As the weather warms, we burst from our winter confinement and enjoy the great outdoors again. I have been out peddling on my bike and seen runners and walkers enjoying the return of warmth and sunshine. It is a hopeful time of year.

In describing our ultimate hope in Jesus, the New Testament compares it to an athlete running a race, not a quick hundred-yard dash but a marathon. That image of running is not just meant for each one of us personally but also for us as a community of faith. At the moment, St Paul's race of faith is focused on finding our next permanent pastor. This portion of the race has not been a quick dash to the finish line but a marathon where we can't yet see the finish line, much less a dash to it.

The writer of Hebrews offers direction on how we can run this race as individuals and as a community. Let me focus on three phrases.

Lay aside our attitudes and expectations. We don't know what the future holds, but it is important as we run this race that the finish line does not look like what we expect. St Paul's is growing and changing, and the future will not look like the past.

With endurance, every long-distance race requires endurance another word for endurance is patience. We can't focus on the finish line. It's nowhere in sight. Endurance is the ability to continue even when the goal is not immediately in sight.

Looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, our focus is not on the finish line but on Jesus. He is the founder of our faith and our Church. He knows and loves us. He will carry us to the finish line. We will finish this portion of the race because our Lord and Savior is running with us.

As we run this next portion of the race, I think it is important that we look specifically at the mission and values of St Paul Lutheran Church. In the weeks after Easter, I will be leading the congregation in considering who we are as a Church and the mission God has given us as a congregation.

May God bless you this Easter as we run this race of faith together.

Be Hope-filled, Stay Strong and God Bless,

Pastor Carl

**St. Paul Lutheran Church  
Council Meeting  
March 12, 2025**

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

**Members Present:** Jake, Marz, Kim Graff, Kelly Sargent, Angel Rummel, Andy Renner, Paul Muske, Randy Wendt, Pastor Carl Billings, Katie Mueller, and Anita Jensen.

**Absent:** Kathy Pederson and Sarah Groebner

**Opening Prayer:** Pastor Carl

**Consent Agenda** -- M/S/P by Kelly Sargent and Paul Muske

**Secretary's Report** – Approved

**Financial Statement** – Approved

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Building & Grounds:

\*Bisbee out of Marshall was contacted by Paul Muske and they will be over to take a look at the project in the Sanctuary & Sacristy. Miesen's will be contacted once the problem is fixed to look at painting.

\*Still have not heard from Church Mutual.

Pastors Report:

\*Pastor will be gone May 25<sup>th</sup>. Will have a lay person for services and the Gideons is also scheduled that day.

\* Discussion on Updating Funeral Service Policy

Call Committee Report:

\*LCMC Ministries are being emailed asking for recommendations.

Council/Committee Appointments:

\*Updated council representatives on committees

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Holy Week Services:

\*Maundy Thursday Service – April 17<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm

\*Good Friday Service – April 18<sup>th</sup> @ 7 pm

\*Easter Sunday Service – April 20<sup>th</sup> @ 9 am

German Supper – Tentatively set for May 7<sup>th</sup> (Will need a number of helpers!)

Mission Sponsorship Committee Report – Discussion on community church activities with St John's and possibly the Methodist church.

Ex Feed My Starving Children & Community Night out.

\*\*Council to serve Lent Supper on Wed, March 19<sup>th</sup>

**Closing Prayer:** -- The Lord's Prayer

**Adjourned:** -- 8:50 PM

Submitted by Kim Graff, Council Secretary

**2024 Church Council**

Jacob Marz - Chair

Kim Graff - Secretary

Randy Wendt

Kathy Pederson

Sarah Groebner

Kelly Sargent - Treasure

Paul Muske

Angel Rummel

Andy Renner

# St Paul Attendance

3/5 7 pm - 61      3/9 9 am - 118      3/12 7 pm - 72  
 3/16 9 am - 71      3/19 7 pm - 74      3/23 9 am - 72

## Budget Recap Year-To-Date (01/01/25 to 3/26/25)

Total Funds for Budget	\$43,928.63	Total Operating Funds	\$43,928.63
Budget	\$54,908.76	Operating Exp.	\$53,290.54
Difference	(\$10,980.13)	Difference	(\$9,361.91)

## Memorials Given 2/24/2025—3/26/2025

<u>In Memory:</u>	<u>Given by:</u>	<u>Designated for:</u>
Ardella Wilsterman	Family of Ardella Wilsterman	St. Paul Lutheran Church
Larry Potter	Roger & Kelly Sargent	St. Paul Lutheran Church
	John & Dawn Marz	St. Paul Lutheran Church
	Gertie Rosenau	St. Paul Lutheran Church
	Mark & Stacia Rosenau	St. Paul Lutheran Church
	Richard & Lois Zihlke	St. Paul Lutheran Church
	Daniel Kettner	St. Paul Lutheran Church
	Edward Meidl	St. Paul Lutheran Church
	Audrey Rieck	St. Paul Lutheran Church
	John & Katie Mueller	St. Paul Lutheran Church
	Robert Rogotzke	St. Paul Lutheran Church
	Kurt & Mary Glaeseman	St. Paul Lutheran Church
	Jim & Elsie Groebner	Good Shepherd Scholarship Fund
	Rod & Rhonda Larson	Good Shepherd Scholarship Fund
Audrey Little	Rod & Rhonda Larson	Good Shepherd Scholarship Fund
Maurice Hagen	Audrey Rositzke	St. Paul Music Fund

We are now offering a new way for giving! A recent upgrade to our member database that we use, "Servant Keeper", now offers us an online giving platform that is included in the program.

The link to give to the General Fund is: [giving.servantkeeper.com/StPaulLutheran](https://giving.servantkeeper.com/StPaulLutheran)

You can give a one-time donation or set up scheduled giving by using your credit/bank card or by bank transfer. These gifts will go directly into your church giving statement, saving you checks, and us time! Give it a try!

\*The church office needs to have your email address on file for you to set up your giving this way. Please note that newulmtel.net or nuvera.net emails do not work for this set up. If you have any questions, please talk to Katie.



**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 Dollars<sup>SM</sup>, we ask you to consider St. Paul Lutheran as you help direct Thrivent Financials charitable funds.

**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](mailto: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](mailto:stpaul_lutheran@hotmail.com) at any time.

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](mailto:stpaul_lutheran@hotmail.com). We appreciate you keeping us updated!

"St Paul's Cares" meals are in the kitchen freezer. The meals are each labeled with a post card message and prayer on the front and cooking instruction on the back of the card. The idea is that any member of St. Paul's may take a meal and deliver it to someone who could use it. Some examples would be during an illness or death, welcoming a new baby home, enduring some hardship, etc. Thanks to the use of a Thrivent Action Team card, we have been able to provide this service to our community. Please let Katie know if you have any questions.

**Our worship services are live broadcast on YouTube! Just subscribe to our YouTube Channel by going to [www.youtube.com](http://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!**



St. Paul's next blood drive will be  
Wednesday, April 28th from  
8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Go [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) to schedule your appt.  
Lunch provided for all donors and volunteers!



**American  
Red Cross**

**I need a few volunteers to help work  
at the blood drive.**

### Lent Suppers and Services

Wednesday, March 5<sup>th</sup> - April 9<sup>th</sup>

-- Meals Served 5:00-6:00 pm

-- Confirmation 5:30-6:00 pm

-- Service at 6:30 pm

Sign up and menu for the meals is posted  
in the fellowship hall.

Please pray for...The family of Larry Potter, Jerome Kettner, Doug Rositzke; all those serving in the military, at home and abroad: Jesse Kettner, Cylee Graff, Shane Clemon, Ethan Langseth, Emily Wendt, and Tabor Gluth.

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.

# April 2025

\* Indicates Choir Singing.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	2 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast 5-6 pm Lenten Meal 5:30-6 Confirmation 6:30 Worship 7:00 Choir	3	4 Office Closed	5
6 9:00 Worship 10:00 Coffee Talk 10:00 Sunday School 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast	7 6:30 pm Parish Ed Meeting	8 10:00 am Worship at SJLH 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	9 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast 5-6 pm Lenten Meal 5:30-6 Confirmation 6:30 Worship 7:00 Choir 7:45 Council Meeting	10	11 Office Closed 2:00 pm Bingo @ SJLH	12
13 Palm Sunday 9:00 Worship 10:00 Coffee Talk 10:00 Sunday School 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast	14	15 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	16 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast No Confirmation 7:15 Choir	17 * 7:00 Maundy Thursday Worship 8:30 p.m. Ch. 8 Broadcast Maundy Thursday Service	18 Office Closed 9:00 a.m. Ch. 8 Broadcast Maundy Thursday Service 7:00 p.m. Good Friday Worship 8:30 p.m. Ch. 8 Broadcast Good Friday Service	19 9:00 a.m. Ch. 8 Broadcast Good Friday Service
20 Happy Easter 9:00 Worship 10:00 Coffee Talk 10:00 Sunday School 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast	21	22 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	23 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast 6:15-7:15 Confirmation @ St. Johns 7:15 Choir	24	25 Office Closed	26
27 9:00 Worship 10:00 Coffee Talk 10:00 Sunday School 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast	28	29 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	30 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast 6:15-7:15 Confirmation @ St. Paul's 7:15 Choir			

\* Indicates Choir Singing.

## Worship Service Helpers

Date	Sound & Video	Projection	Reader	Acolyte	Usher	Organist
4/2 6:30 pm Ash Wed	Groeber Boys	Groeber Boys	Pastor Carl	Randee Dombek Madisen Schumacher	Team 4	Jo Schwartz
4/6	Trevor Krebs	Mueller Family	Jeanette Pidde	Ellie Jensen Abigail Shaw	Team 1	Jo Schwartz
4/9 6:30 pm Wed.	Dove Family	Dove Family	Pastor Carl	Molly Jacobs Cash Anderson	Team 2	Jo Schwartz
4/13	Tim Vogel	Jacobs Girls	Brittany Cook	Lydia Vogel Wyatt Dove	Team 3	Jeff Krueger
4/17 * 7 pm Thurs	Mueller Family	Mueller Family	Paul Muske	Jonah Pidde Gavin Brown	Team 4	Jo Schwartz
4/18 7 pm Fri	Paul Muske Jonah Pidde	Jordan Pidde	Daniel Kettner	Bentley Wendt Reagan Plaster	Team 1	Jeff Krueger
4/20 *	Groeber Boys	Groeber Boys	Jordan Pidde	Randee Dombek Bobbi Jo Timm	Team 2	Jo Schwartz
4/27	Trevor Krebs	Mueller Family	Jo Muske	Abbygail Jeppesen Leo Kral	Team 3	Jeff Krueger

### April Birthdays!



#### 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

#### April Altar Guild

Jo Schwartz, Megan Hillesheim

### April Anniversaries!





St. Paul Lutheran Church

# German Supper

Wed. May 7, 2025

Serving from 4:30-6:00 or sold out

Drive Up ~ Walk In ~ or Dine In

Sauerkraut with Pork, Dumplings,  
Brats, German Potato Salad, cookie  
Presale \$14 ~ At the door \$15

Delivery for Shut-Ins only.  
Call by May 5th 723-5880

**Volunteers are needed to help with planning, preparing, and serving the German Supper. Please let Katie know if you would like to help!**

\*Monetary donations are appreciated to help cover the rising costs of groceries and supplies. Donations can be brought to the church office or placed in the offering plate marked "German Supper Donation".

## 2025 Summer Bible Camp opportunities at Ingham Okoboji Bible Camp!

If you registered your child for Summer Bible Camp, please send Katie the proof of registration. You must pay Ingham Okoboji for the registration and cost of the camp and St. Paul Lutheran will reimburse you the  $\frac{3}{4}$  cost. You must provide the church office with proof of registration with the date registered.

**Eldersversity: June 2-3, 2025:** Did you go to Bible camp as a kid and wish you could have that experience again? Or maybe you didn't have the opportunity to go to Bible camp but would like to have that experience! Here is your chance! Eldersversity camp is a special camp for those age 55 and older. At camp you will have the opportunity to participate in many different camp activities such as: singing, campfires, devotions and teaching times, pontoon ride, and much more!

## Southwest Minnesota Men's Chorus dinner show set for April 14

The Southwest Minnesota Men's Chorus is coming back to Springfield! The group will present their annual spring dinner show Monday, April 14 at 7:00 p.m. at the Springfield Area Community Center.

Tickets for the show will be \$30.00 per person which includes the show and dinner catered by Tommy's and served by the chorus members. Only advance tickets will be sold and are available at the F&M Bank (507-723-4800), the Springfield Advance-Press (507-723-4225) or from chorus members beginning March 28. No tickets will be sold at the door.

The chorus is made up of singers from various communities in southwest Minnesota. Springfield residents in the chorus are Gary Renner, Jeff Krueger and Charlie Tews. Other area singers include Nathan Hesse of Comfrey, Jim Gode of Sanborn and Craig Steffen of Lamberton. Wendy Johnson of Tracy is the group's director. Come enjoy a night of food and good music!

We need 2 volunteers for BINGO on  
April 11th at 2:00 pm.  
Please let Katie know if you can help out!



## Community Treasures in Springfield

Hours are Monday 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.;  
Tuesday and Thursday 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.;  
and Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Donations  
will be accepted during business hours.

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

Postmaster: Dated material  
Please Deliver Promptly  
Address Service Requested

**Calendar Highlights - April 2025**  
**11-BINGO @ St. John's Home**  
**17- Maundy Thursday Worship**  
**18- Good Friday Worship**  
**20-Easter Sunday!**

**Phone: 507-723-5880**

[www.splcspringfield.org](http://www.splcspringfield.org)

**Office Hours**

Pastor Carl Billings [carlbillings@me.com](mailto: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](mailto:stpaul_lutheran@hotmail.com)

Financial Secretary: Anita Jensen

[Fin\\_secretary@newulmtel.net](mailto: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)**