

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH – STILLWATER, MN

THE MESSENGER

AUGUST 2025

Annual Ice Cream Social! See you on August 10th!

PLEASE JOIN US!
~ ALL ARE WELCOME ~

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN

ICE CREAM SOCIAL!

SUNDAY, AUGUST 10, 2025
2:30 PM TO 4:30 PM

THE CRUISERS, WILL BE PLAYING ROCK 'N ROLL
FROM THE '50S AND '60S TOO!

IN THE PARKING LOT & GREENSPACE OFF OF 4TH STREET!

BOUNCY HOUSE
& GAMES FOR
THE KIDS!

FREE!
**15 FLAVORS
FROM NELSON'S!**

INVITE YOUR
FRIENDS
& FAMILY!

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN - 609 5TH STREET S., STILLWATER

The Yummiest Event of the Summer!

Please mark your calendar for our refreshing and fun Annual Ice Cream Social! Plans are underway for hosting SPLC's Annual Ice Cream Social on Sunday, August 10th, from 2:30 PM to 4:30 PM. We hope you can attend and bring plenty of family and friends with you. Pass the word along to your neighbors. Sunshine, music, ice cream and fellowship – what could be better? See you there! We are also looking for helpers to set-up, scoop ice cream and clean up after the event. Please take a look at the volunteer sign-up sheet in the Gathering area. Donations to assist with the cost of the ice cream are also gladly accepted. This is SPLC's thank you to our neighborhood and community, and as always your support is what makes it a big success! Thank you and contact Shelley Jokinen (651-329-2862) if you have any questions.



Sharing God's Love for Over 150 Years!

St. Paul Lutheran Church

609 South 5th Street

Stillwater, MN 55082

Phone: 651-439-5970

Website: www.stpaulc.org

Facebook: facebook.com/stpaulstillwater

Message from Pastor Nathan

Baptism Is About Making Promises

by Pastor Nathan Baker-Trinity

This article is the eighth of twelve in a monthly series on baptism. Each article focuses upon a particular theme of baptism and includes questions for reflection. The church council is using these articles for their opening devotions, and you are invited to do the same within your family or small group.

God's promises always come first. In holy baptism, God makes unconditional promises to the one being washed at the font. These promises include the forgiveness of sins, freedom from death and evil, and life forever with God.

Such promises from God lead to truly believing hearts from the one being baptized. In the case of infants and children, however, they are not able to respond in faith in the way adults do. Yet we still baptize them, trusting that God's promises will bear fruit. Like a gardener who lovingly and carefully plants a seed in the ground, so we plant the seed of God's word into our children through baptism.

As a child grows in years, how do God's promises lead them to bear fruitful lives? How are they enabled to have faith? The primary way that God's word and faith are enabled come from the promises that parents make to their children at baptism. "Do you promise?" is repeatedly asked. "Do you promise to live with your child among God's faithful people?" "Do you promise to bring them to the word of God and the holy supper?" "Do you promise to nurture them in faith and prayer?"

These promises are made for a reason and stated clearly in the baptismal liturgy of our worship book: "So that your child may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace."

Yet parents cannot make these promises on their own. They need the help and support of a whole community. They need individuals to both

encourage and hold them accountable. They need others who will help them keep the promises they have made. Pastors can help them prepare for and remind them of their baptism, but when it comes to encouraging and supporting our young parents over the long run, they need a whole community.

I believe we have the resources and ability to support and encourage young parents who bring their children to baptism. All we need is to receive the gift of time God has generously given to us—time that puts our faith community first and nurtures the bonds that make us brothers and sisters in Christ.

At the next baptism in our sanctuary, you will hear the question: "Do you promise to support and pray for this one in their new life in Christ?" And you will respond, "We do!"

Questions for Reflection:

1. Recall the last baptism you witnessed: Other than the parents, children, and pastor, how was everyone else engaged in the baptism?
2. The pastor does not baptize: the church baptizes. How does this statement change your thinking?
3. Who encouraged and supported you after your baptism? How has the support structure changed over the years? How has it remained the same?

Pastoral and Hospital Calls

You are welcome to contact the church office anytime you have a pastoral need, especially for medical emergencies or at the time of death. If you or a loved one are hospitalized, please be aware that hospitals no longer contact pastors directly, so please encourage your family or loved ones to be in touch with us. The church's phone system can connect you to one of the pastors anytime.



4th Street Exterior Repair and Refresh Project Update

At our most recent committee meeting, Renee Swanson shared a devotion from ThanksLiving: 365 Days of Gratitude by Ray Noah titled, “Does Your Church Building Matter?” We thought it was so meaningful, we wanted to share a bit of it with you:

“We don’t need a building to have church, which ought to lead us to the realization of what constitutes the most important characteristics of the church - love and devotion to both God and our fellow worshippers.

Yet buildings can be a blessing. Is your home important to you? Of course it is. You don’t need the house to be a family, but it sure does help. Therefore, upkeep on your home is a good thing.

Likewise, out of gratitude for the physical place God has provided for us to experience his presence, the time, effort and money we put into it to keep it at its best is an act of worship that pleases the Lord.

If you worship in a church building, God’s blessing rests upon you and your fellow worshippers. Many believers around the world don’t have what you have. And if they did, their gratitude for it would keep them from ever taking it for granted.

For sure, don’t neglect the true church - the people who gather to worship God. But don’t neglect the place where they meet either. It is sacred space.

“Anyone who is to find Christ must first find the church. How could anyone know where Christ is and what faith is in him unless he knew where his believers are?” - Martin Luther

And as Martin Luther once said:

“Anyone who is to find Christ must first find the church. How could anyone know where Christ is and what faith is in him unless he knew where his believers are?”

The 4th Street Exterior Repair and Refresh Committee continues to meet every two weeks

working with Jeff Thomsen on the wall demolition. We are especially grateful to both of them for their time and labor to this effort.

Have you noticed our new temporary 4th Street sign? We’re thrilled with how it turned out and grateful for the many hours of work from Jeff Thomsen, Barb Dietrich, and Kristin Nelson. We’ve heard nothing but positive feedback! The Church Council previously approved a budget of \$500 or less for this sign, and we’re happy to report we came in under budget.

At their July 22nd meeting, the Church Council approved the following fundraisers for the 4th Street project. We’re incredibly thankful for their support—and for your generosity as members of our church family.

Here’s what’s happening:

- Buy A Block – Help us rebuild the wall by “buying” a block for \$133. We need 50 in total and have already sold 18! Envelopes are located at both church entrances and will remain available until all blocks are sold.
- Ongoing Giving – Donation envelopes labeled “4th Street Repair & Refresh Project” are also at both entrances for regular contributions.
- August 17th - Bake-Off Fundraiser – Got a sweet tooth or a killer chili recipe? Bring your best baked good or savory dish and let the congregation vote with their donations! Sponsored by the Fellowship Committee. (And if you’d rather eat than bake, we need you too!)
- Fill the Wheelbarrow – Now through Labor Day, help us “Fill the Wheelbarrow” with coins, cash, or checks! It will be located near the office and securely stored between services.
- October 19th - Waffle Bar – Our first-ever waffle bar will follow worship in the Fellowship Hall, organized by Jenny Powell. More details to come—but trust us, you won’t want to miss it.

(Continued on the next page.)

4th Street Project Continued

to oversee the progress of this important project. We are currently awaiting coordination with John Raleigh of Miller Excavating, who will be Culver's Nights – Dine out for a good cause! Culver's will donate 10% of proceeds over \$1,000 on two Tuesday nights: September 30th and October 28th from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM. Our youth will even be helping as runners.

- November 22nd - Craft & Bake Sale – Kristin Nelson will be coordinating a craft sale at SPLC on the same day as the Historic Courthouse Holiday Bazaar. Barb Dietrich will lead the bake sale. Mark your calendars—more info coming soon!

We are deeply grateful for the overwhelming support of our congregation. Every dollar, every prayer, and every moment of volunteer time is helping us preserve and improve our sacred space for generations to come. THANK YOU!

Your 4th Street Committee - Jeff Thomsen, Barb Dietrich, Shelley Jokinen, Renee Swanson, Chuck Clausen, Pastor Nathan, and Marguerite DeFore.

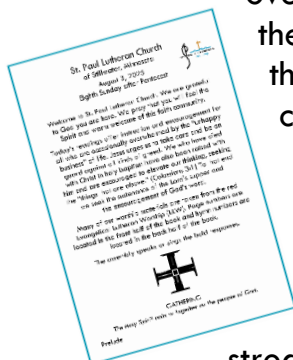
Have questions or ideas?
Feel free to reach out
to any one of us!

Worship Committee

Have you noticed some changes in our bulletins over the past year? Last year, the Executive Committee asked the Worship Committee to consider phasing out the weekly bulletin to save time and money. After discussion, a compromise was reached: instead of eliminating it, the bulletin would be

streamlined.. This ongoing project

includes input from Office Coordinator Kristin Nelson and regular discussion at Worship Committee meetings. Have ideas or feedback? Please contact Worship Committee Chair Jennifer Braun. We value your input as we work to serve our worship community well.



Calling All Cooks & Bakers!

Get your aprons ready because the Fellowship Committee is hosting a **Bake-Off on Sunday, August 17th**, during Sunday Shine time (right after worship)! **Want to compete?** Sign up and show off your sweet (or savory) skills! **Just here to taste and judge?** Come cast your vote with your donation! All proceeds will go toward the Parking Lot Fund. And yes, there's a special prize for the baker who raises the most money, so bring your best dish and your charm! Come for the fun, stay for the treats, and help pave the way, literally!



Rally Day Picnic – September 7th

You're invited to join us after worship on Sunday, September 7th for the Rally Day Picnic at church! This fun-filled event is the perfect way to kick off the fall season as we reconnect, welcome new faces, and gear up for another year of faith and fellowship. ***We'll be serving hot dogs, burgers, lemonade, and water, and we ask everyone to bring a dish to share, whether it's a favorite salad, side, or dessert. Every contribution helps make the table abundant and delicious!*** Come hungry, and ready to celebrate the start of a new season together. We can't wait to see you there!



Youth Mission Trip Recap!



Come hear all about the incredible experiences from our youth who traveled to Nashville for this summer's mission trip! On Sunday, September 7th, our team will share stories, reflections, and a few surprises from their week of service and connection. Participants include Johnny Isaacson, Kamel Benyahia, Hannah Bell, Ashton Bell, Sabrina Bell, Katie Peterson, Henry Lundquist, Zac Thompson, Jenny Brelje, Julian Galvin, and Elijah Mack. Don't miss this chance to celebrate their journey and the impact they made together!

Senior Section

September 55+ Worship

The September service will be on Sunday, August 31st at 10:00 AM upstairs in the Sanctuary. Yes, you "heard" that right! After worship,



we will have our meal in Fellowship Hall. The menu will be Egg bake, Salad Greens, Fruit and Dessert.

Please sign-up in the Gathering

Area by **Sunday, August 24th** if you will be staying for the meal.

Remember - limited bus service is available for Stillwater and Oak Park Heights. **Remember - Limited**

Bus service is available for Stillwater and Oak Park Heights.

Free Afternoon Movie at SPLC!

Our Free Afternoon Movies at SPLC, brought to you by the Senior Committee, will be taking a break for the summer. We hope you've enjoyed joining us, and we can't wait to roll the film again this fall. Until then, enjoy your summer and see you in September!

Large Print Bibles

The Senior Committee has two large-print Bibles available for you to borrow. Contact Bob Michaelis at 651-278-0072.

55+ SPLC Senior Members

Foot Care In Your Home



A Foot Care RN will tend to your toenails or other foot-related care in the comfort and privacy of your home.

The cost is \$15 per appointment. Pick up an information packet in the Gathering Area or contact Jenny Powell.

Privacy Notice

You may be photographed, filmed, or recorded during worship or church events, including livestreams on stpaulc.org. These images may be used in newsletters, on our website, social media, or future promotions. If you have concerns, please contact the office before Sunday or speak with a pastor, worship leader, or usher when you arrive. A designated digital privacy area is located in front of the sound booth in the sanctuary.



Thank you for your congregation's faithful and generous sharing of mission support with the Saint Paul Area Synod and churchwide expression of the ELCA during June 2025. One of the ways we are church together is through the work of the synod staff.

The word "synod" means "walking together." That's just what your Saint Paul Area Synod does with its 106 congregations and mission starts. The line item in our budget for "staff" is significant (about 41% of our annual expenses), and that's because it takes staff to coordinate the important work of support and accompaniment.

Synod staff regularly field calls from congregation members and council leaders seeking information and resources related to finance, governance and other areas. Some resources we maintain right on our website, such as annual compensation guidelines, misconduct policy guidelines and model constitutions. Speaking of our website...do you know that one of the most visited pages of our site is the job postings page? Synod staff maintain an active job board, posting job openings at congregations and affiliated organizations in and near our synod.

Call processes take up a significant portion of staff time. At any given time, the Bishop and her assistants may be accompanying 20-30 congregations in pastoral transition. Throughout this time they work closely with councils, interim pastors and call committees through in-person meetings, Zoom calls and phone calls. Synod staff also make being present with congregations in worship and conversation a priority. The staff serve as guest preachers, celebrate congregational anniversaries, lead conversations about the synod's work or join with a congregation in installing a new pastor or deacon.

Some synod programming is geared particularly at lay leaders, such as the annual Tool Kit for Congregational Leaders. Other events specifically for congregation leaders include congregational vitality, stewardship, vision/mission/value retreats. Occasionally the synod hosts in-person or online gatherings for niche segments, such as council presidents, congregational communicators or financial folks. Our staff also supports affiliated ministries gatherings for children, youth & families activities and women of the ELCA and the programming of our public witness work groups. Synod staff accompany congregations in their work and mission!



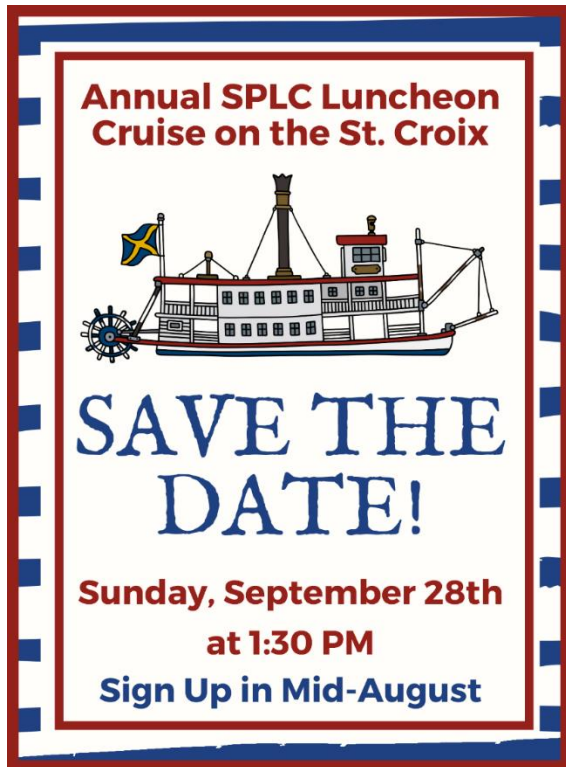
As followers of Jesus, we are called to
**ACCOMPANY FAITH COMMUNITIES AND EQUIP LEADERS
 FOR GOD'S MISSION IN THE WORLD.**

Saint Paul Area Synod | spas-elca.org

Annual SPLC River Cruise!

The Fellowship Committee would like you to **Save The Date** for a Sunday afternoon, luncheon river cruise on **Sunday, September 28th at 1:30 PM.**

Watch for more detailed information and the sign up sheets in mid-August. Mark it on your calendar and hope to see you there for a great fellowship afternoon!



Harvest & Holly Market!

Get into the spirit of the season at St. Paul Lutheran Church's Harvest & Holly Market!

This festive event will feature beautiful handmade quilts, unique seasonal crafts, delicious baked goods, and a variety of thoughtful gift items perfect for holiday giving. Whether you're shopping for loved ones or treating yourself, you'll find something special while supporting local makers and the 4th Street Exterior Repair and Refresh Project. Join us on

Saturday, November 22nd from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM for a warm and welcoming day of shopping, fellowship, and fun. St. Paul Lutheran members are welcome to host a table at no charge! We hope to see you there! **Questions or Want to Volunteer? Please contact Kristin!**



Children, Youth, and Family

W.O.W. (Week of Wonder) is August 11th to 15th. Get ready for a week filled with faith, friendship, and fun! W.O.W. is just around the corner, and our youth are in for a meaningful experience as they grow in faith, build lasting connections, and enjoy a week of exciting activities. Please keep both our youth and leaders in your prayers as they embark on this special journey together!

Fall Into Community! As the seasons change, so do the opportunities to connect, grow, and get involved at church! From special events to meaningful gatherings, something is coming up for everyone. Stay tuned and don't miss out on all that's ahead this fall!

Summer Edition! - Join us for Toddler Tuesdays on Tuesday, August 26th from 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM! We are planning to play outside, but if the weather is uncooperative, we will play inside. It's a fun-filled morning designed just for toddlers, featuring engaging activities, interactive play, and opportunities for little ones to explore and socialize.





Simpson Housing Shelter is in the Homestretch! \$45 Million Raised – \$4 Million to go! Simpson began construction of the new facility in June 2024.

Simpson Housing Services is proud to announce that they have reached the final phase of its largest fundraising campaign, with \$45 million raised to date. They have \$4 million left to raise to reach our goal.

The Homestretch Campaign is the final phase of Simpson's first capital campaign in our four-decade history and are seeking vital funding to complete two transformational buildings: Simpson Community Shelter & Apartments and their first program and administrative building. The campaign also supports funding for long-term sustainability in our work to ensure that everyone has a safe, stable home.

Simpson continues to need volunteers to bring meals for their guests. During August and September, there are approximately 100+ meals needed for their guests.



SuperShelf is a collaborative approach that focuses on increasing access to nutritious foods while creating a dignified, client-centered experience. In 2012, Valley Outreach partnered with Lakeview Hospital to launch Better Shelf for Better Health, the pilot program that later became SuperShelf. We are the first of more than 80 sites in Minnesota to earn SuperShelf certification.



At Valley Outreach, they believe everyone deserves access to fresh, healthy food in a welcoming environment. That's why they are proud to be a SuperShelf—a model that transforms the traditional food shelf into a space that feels more like a neighborhood grocery store.

Help stock the SuperShelf with garden-fresh produce. Summer brings an abundance of delicious, local produce—and whether it's from a backyard garden, community plot, or farmers market, fresh fruits and vegetables are at their peak.

Valley Outreach is especially grateful for community members who choose to share their garden harvest with us. Please bring clean, quality fruits and vegetables—free of mold or damage. If your garden is overflowing with tomatoes, cucumbers, zucchini, or herbs, we welcome your donations. The donations can be dropped off during regular hours: Monday, 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM, and Tuesday/Thursday, 1:30 PM to 6:30 PM.

Together, we can turn the summer harvest into something truly meaningful—nourishing our community and living the values behind SuperShelf!

Usher Training Opportunity!

Congratulations Abby!

Sunday, September 7, 2025, Before Worship
Helping Hands That Welcome and Serve



At St. Paul Lutheran Church, our ushers play a vital role in creating a welcoming and worshipful environment. From offering a friendly smile at the door to assisting with seating, collecting the offering, and responding to unexpected needs, ushers are often the first point of contact for members and visitors alike. To ensure we are all on the same page, and continuing to offer the best possible experience for our congregation, we will be holding an Usher Training Session on Sunday, September 7, 2025, at 9:00 AM.

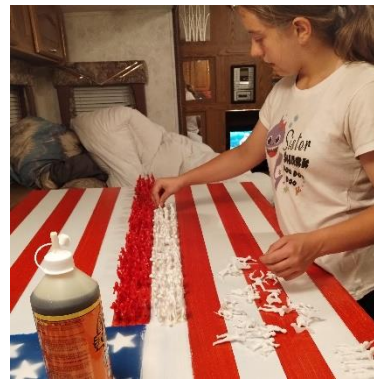
This short training will take place in the sanctuary and is open to all current ushers as well as anyone interested in joining the usher team. Whether you've been ushering for years or are just curious about what's involved, we encourage you to attend. We'll review the basic duties and walk through a few important updates. We will also provide a copy of our current Usher Duties that can be referenced as needed throughout the year.

Ushers are more than just door-greeters, they are an important part of our ministry team, helping people feel seen, safe, and cared for as they enter our worship space. Your service helps set the tone for everything that follows!

If you have any questions ahead of time or are unable to attend the training but still want to participate as an usher, please contact Jerry Schlagel so we can make alternative arrangements. Thank you for being a vital part of our worship life at St. Paul!



Stars, Stripes & a Grand Champion: Abby Shines at the Kanabec County Fair! Abby proudly represented her 4-H club at this year's Kanabec County Fair in Mora, MN, and she didn't just participate; she took home **Grand Champion**! Her winning project? A stunning, handcrafted U.S. flag display that wowed the judges and captured the spirit of creativity, patriotism, and hard work that 4-H is all about.



With thoughtful design and attention to detail, Abby's flag project stood out in a field of impressive entries. Visitors to the 4-H Building were quick to notice her craftsmanship, and the red, white, and blue display made a bold, beautiful statement, earning top honors and plenty of proud smiles from family, friends, and fairgoers alike. Way to go, Abby! Your Grand Champion ribbon is well deserved, and we're so proud of the heart and dedication you brought to this meaningful project. You've truly raised the flag for excellence in 4-H!

Operation Christmas Child

Nancy Schlagel, Adele Urhammer and Cheryl Renne attended an Operation Christmas Child event at South Shore Trinity Lutheran Church in White Bear Lake on Saturday, July 12th to listen to a Shoebox recipient.



Life in Uganda was challenging after Emmanuel's father left the country and never returned. Though the circumstances were out of his father's control, the appearance of abandonment damaged his family's reputation, leaving Emmanuel and his siblings alone with their mom to carry the ministry. They suffered the wilderness of poverty where daily food was a miracle. When his mom had the opportunity to host an outreach event for Operation Christmas Child at their church, Emmanuel was able to receive his very first gift! Hear about how God used a simple shoebox gift to bring rivers in the desert for Emmanuel's heart.

Emmanuel came to the U.S. in 2020 to Mary his fiancé who came to the U.S. earlier. He saw the OCC emblem while delivering a package and now works for OCC - he lives in Colorado. It was such an experience to listen to what his shoebox meant to him and changed his life.

Shoebox Shortage - We Need Your Help!
Operation Christmas Child just informed us that they're receiving only about half the number of shoeboxes they've seen in previous years. Our goal is to fill 259 shoeboxes and we need your help to get there. We're specifically looking for **regular-sized shoebox** donations so we can continue packing and sharing joy with children around the world.



If shopping isn't your thing, no worries! You can still make a big impact by giving a cash donation to help cover shipping costs.

Together, we can help bridge the gap and make sure every child knows they are loved. Thank you for being part of this incredible mission!

Prayer Requests

Congregants: Dan B., Carol S., Al M., Ron K., Judith K., Alida P., Pastor Laurel, Steve P., Lois H., Mark C., and Abri B.




Family and Friends: Lucy, Keith, & Josh, Becky O., Beth Ann, Chad B., Mike, Kit, Dana, Emilee, Flannery, Sophie, Jenny, Erica B., Lisa, Kristen B., Mary Jo D., Cody, Rick & Jean, Patti & Family, Randy & Laura, Muggs, Carolyn, Paul, Kevin, Char G., Kara, Allison J., Evy, Dave, Georgia, Russel B., Bonnie M., Connie, Shannon S., Mary A., Bonnie S., Leo H., Jane S., Laura C., Lisa, Steph D., Brian D., Tyson D., Teegan D., Lexen, Danny, Harry E., Diane L., Jenny O., Kathy B., Lyle J., Vince S., Phyllis F., Rick W., Karen W., Carol L., Jeff E., Tom S., Mike M., and Jeffrey T.

In Loving Memory: Marlene Ritzer, Mark Walker, Richard Markgraf, Sister Eileen Trinity, Judy Becker, Becky Dufresne, Jerry Sharon, Judy (Ek) Anderson, Jeremy Green, Paul Baker, Scott Coleman, Becky Moore, and Len Schrade.

St. Paul Lutheran Church Calendar

As of 8/1/2025

August 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 2:00 PM Connect Center Tea Fundraiser
3 9:00 AM Service 11:00 AM 55+ Worship	4 10:00 AM Sr. Committee	5 12:00 PM Connect Center Meeting 4:00 PM 4 th Street Project Meeting	6 12:00 PM Staff Meeting 1:00 PM Grief Support Group 5:30 PM Back To School Event!  6:30 PM Worship Committee	7 9:00 AM Quilters 3:00 PM Mission Outreach 4:30 PM Fellowship Meeting 7:00 PM AA Meeting in Fellowship Hall	8	9
10 9:00 AM Service 10:00 AM Coffee & Tea Time 2:30 PM Ice Cream Social! 	11 5:15 PM CYF Meeting	12 3:00 PM Memorials & Grants Meeting 5:30 PM Financial Operations	13 10:00 AM Worship at Oak Park Sr. Living 12:00 PM Staff Meeting 1:00 PM Grief Support Group 6:30 PM Zoom Executive Committee Meeting	14 9:00 AM Quilters 4:15 PM Twins' Game! 7:00 PM AA Meeting in Fellowship Hall	15	16
WOW CAMP AT TRINITY →						
17 9:00 AM Service 10:00 AM Bake-Off and Sunday Shine! 	18	19 4:00 PM 4 th Street Project Meeting 6:30 PM Council Meeting	20 11:00 AM Worship at Boutwells 12:00 PM Staff Meeting 1:00 PM Grief Support Group	21 9:00 AM Quilters 7:00 PM AA Meeting in Fellowship Hall	22	23
24 9:00 AM Service 10:00 AM Coffee & Tea Time 10:30 AM Adult Forum on LSM	25	26 10:00 AM Toddler Tuesdays! 1:30 PM Sarah Bible Study	27 12:00 PM Staff Meeting 1:00 PM Grief Support Group	28 9:00 AM Quilters 7:00 PM AA Meeting in Fellowship Hall	29	30
31 10:00 AM Service 11:00 AM 55+ Worship						

St. Paul Lutheran Church - 609 S. 5th Street, Stillwater, MN 55082 (651) 439-5970

Office Hours - Monday - Friday, 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM - Email: spkc@stpaulc.org - Website: www.stpaulc.org