

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH – STILLWATER, MN

# THE MESSENGER

AUGUST 2026

## Fun Upcomming Events!

St. Paul Lutheran's Annual  
**Ice Cream Social**  
SUNDAY, AUGUST 16, 2026  
2:30 PM TO 4:30 PM  
15 FLAVORS FROM NELSON'S!  
**FREE!**  
BALLOON TWISTING! LIVE MAGIC!  
BOUNCY HOUSE!  
GAMES FOR THE KIDS!  
THE CRUISERS WILL BE PLAYING ROCK 'N ROLL  
FROM THE '50S AND '60S TOO!  
**EVERYONE IS WELCOME**  
IN OUR GREENSPACE OFF OF 4TH STREET  
**BRING YOUR FRIENDS & FAMILY!**  
ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
609 5TH STREET SOUTH  
STILLWATER, MN 55082  
651-439-5970



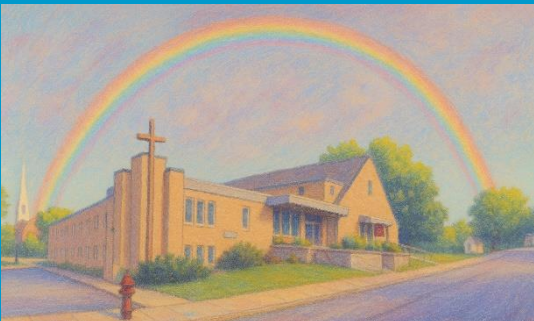
SPLC RALLY DAY

# Picnic



**Sunday,  
September 13th  
at 11:00 AM**

Please bring a dish to share! We'll be serving up burgers, hotdogs, lemonade, and water.



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](http://www.stpaulc.org)

Facebook: [facebook.com/stpaulstillwater](https://facebook.com/stpaulstillwater)

## Message from Pastor Nathan

### Christ Our Cornerstone

*<sup>1</sup> Rid yourselves, therefore, of all malice and all guile, insincerity, envy, and all slander. <sup>2</sup> Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—<sup>3</sup> if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.*

*<sup>4</sup> Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and <sup>5</sup> like living stones let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. <sup>6</sup> For it stands in scripture: "See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame." (1 Peter 2:1-6)*

On Monday, July 20<sup>th</sup>, several members gathered to remove the cornerstone and its contents from the church. (Special thanks to Jeff Thomsen for overseeing this project.) As we went through the contents in the gathering area, it was moving to read through some of the names that appeared, especially those that I've heard about in my first two years here among you. It was a great reminder to me that, even as we mark 75 years in our current building, the church is really about people. It's about living stones. And as the scripture reading describes, living stones are a work in progress. "Let yourselves be built," the reading says.

This means we are never complete but always in the process of becoming God's people. There is always work to do and loose ends to deal with. But even as we might feel incomplete, not fully built, we are given a rock-solid mission: to be priests for one another. To be "priests to one another" (a favorite phrase of Martin Luther's) means to be God's presence to one another, to speak God's promises to one another, to speak to offer God's peace to one another.

During my chaplaincy at Lutheran Summer Music this past month, I had the chance to personally meet Pastor Gary Wilkerson, the consultant who helped you early in your pastoral transition in

2021-2022. He spent many hours listening to you in one-on-one conversations and helped you develop what's called a Consensus of Harmony. (He sends his very best, by the way, and is so pleased to hear about the progress you've made.)

What is a Consensus of Harmony? It's a mutual covenant of behavior that promotes healthy relationships and decision-making among ourselves. Those of you who have been on the Church Council and Council Committees within the past four years are already familiar with it because we read it together before every meeting. Drawing on guidance from Paul's letters in the New Testament and your own experiences, it reads:

*Here in God's house, let us focus on worship and fellowship for our conversations, welcome others with faith and love into our conversations, and speak well of others. If you have concerns about someone's behavior, tell them personally. If you cannot mention an issue to him or her personally, your only proper course is to raise the issue with the pastor or an appropriate committee in private. Be direct and clear about any issue you might have with a person or a decision. Speak of issues and fixes, not people and personalities, always aware of God's presence. Decisions for the church should be made by committees and council, only after engaging the entire group, and always keeping the love of the Holy Spirit as our guide.*

Embracing this consensus is a sign of your health as a congregation, a concrete way to be "living stones" who are open to growth. In the next couple of months, the Council will be taking a close look at this consensus with an eye toward improving and building upon it. Your thoughts and feelings on this, of course, are welcomed. You can be in touch with me, President Shelley Jokinen, or any of our elected Council Members (see the list on your weekly bulletin). In the meantime, I thank God for you and your ongoing commitment to be living stones for one another.

Pastor Nathan

## Children, Youth, and Family

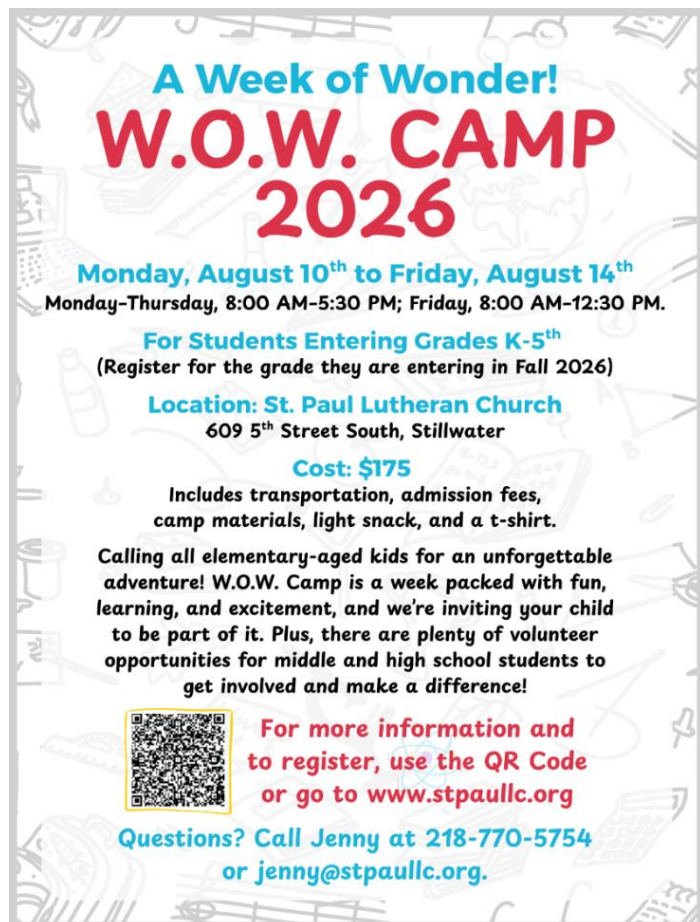
### W.O.W. Camp 2026!

Calling all elementary-aged kids for an unforgettable adventure!

W.O.W. Camp is a week packed with fun, learning, and excitement, and we're inviting your child to be part of it. Plus, there are plenty of volunteer opportunities for middle and high school students to get involved and make a difference! W.O.W. Camp is a collaboration of Stillwater-area churches, united to provide a fun and enriching camp experience during the week of August 10<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>. Recognizing the need for more day camp options before school starts, we're stepping in to support families and bring joy to kids in the community!

**Time is running out! Sign up now!**

W.O.W. Camp runs Monday, August 10<sup>th</sup> to Friday, August 14<sup>th</sup>. The schedule is 8:00 AM to 5:30 PM, Monday through Thursday and 8:00 AM to 12:30 PM on Friday. The cost is \$175 per child



**A Week of Wonder!**  
**W.O.W. CAMP 2026**

**Monday, August 10<sup>th</sup> to Friday, August 14<sup>th</sup>**  
Monday-Thursday, 8:00 AM-5:30 PM; Friday, 8:00 AM-12:30 PM.

**For Students Entering Grades K-5<sup>th</sup>**  
(Register for the grade they are entering in Fall 2026)

**Location: St. Paul Lutheran Church**  
609 5<sup>th</sup> Street South, Stillwater

**Cost: \$175**  
Includes transportation, admission fees, camp materials, light snack, and a t-shirt.

Calling all elementary-aged kids for an unforgettable adventure! W.O.W. Camp is a week packed with fun, learning, and excitement, and we're inviting your child to be part of it. Plus, there are plenty of volunteer opportunities for middle and high school students to get involved and make a difference!

 **For more information and to register, use the QR Code or go to [www.stpaulc.org](http://www.stpaulc.org)**

**Questions? Call Jenny at 218-770-5754 or [jenny@stpaulc.org](mailto:jenny@stpaulc.org).**

## Senior Section

### September 55+/Senior Worship Service

The September service will be on Sunday, September 6<sup>th</sup>, after the **10:00 AM service in the sanctuary**, with brunch being served in Fellowship Hall at 11:00 AM. The menu will include Egg Bake, Fruit, and Dessert. Sign up is required for the meal; add your name to the list located in the Gathering Area by Sunday, August 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Remember - Limited Bus service is available for Stillwater and Oak Park Heights. Please contact Bob Michaelis if you are interested in riding the bus.**

### Large Print Bibles

The Senior Committee has two large-print Bibles available for you to borrow. Contact Jenny Powell at 651-439-0821, or the church office.

### 55+ SPLC Senior Members

#### Foot Care In Your Home

55+ SPLC Senior Members Foot Care: A Foot Care RN will tend to your toenails or other foot-related care in the comfort and privacy of your home. You can also visit an office location in Bayport if you prefer. The cost is \$15 per appointment. Pick up an information packet in the Gathering Area or contact Jenny Powell.

## 2026 St. Croix River Cruise!

The Fellowship Committee invites you to save the date for a wonderful afternoon on the river! Join us on Sunday, September 20 at 1:30 PM for a relaxing luncheon river cruise filled with good food, beautiful scenery, and, most importantly, great fellowship!



This will be a perfect opportunity to sit back, enjoy the views, visit with old friends, make some new ones, and spend a leisurely Sunday afternoon together.

Watch for more details and sign-up sheets coming in mid-August. For now, mark September 20<sup>th</sup> on your calendar and plan to join us for a memorable afternoon of food, fellowship, and fun on the river!

## Meanderings from Pastor Laurel

Have you ever wondered why food is so important in the life of a church community? Me, too. I decided to so do some digging.

A few things I learned:

- From the beginning of creation food is declared good.
- The Bible begins and ends with meals.
- When God speaks to Adam and Eve God invites them to eat. Of course, this invitation led to the first conflict in the Bible – God had put limits on what the humans could eat. You know the story of how the forbidden fruit was eaten.
- The Old Testament is filled with the importance of meals during rituals and festival – for example the Seder Meal at the time of the Passover.
- Jesus invites ... commands us ... to take and eat, take and drink in a meal remembering the life, ministry and death of Jesus. He institutes what we call Holy Communion or the Last supper in a meaning-laden feast with his disciples the night before his death.
- And the final vision of the new world is of a massive and joy-filled banquet.

The New Testament is filled with stories, celebrations, and teachings surrounded by food: the feeding of the five thousand, the Wedding at Cana, Jesus eating with tax collectors and sinners, Jesus teaching while at someone's house and eating, the urge of Jesus "To Feed My Sheep" and more.

Is it any wonder why we gather weekly around the Holy Communion Meal, and why we celebrate with meals and desserts? Potlucks, the great midwestern celebration, is beloved by Lutherans (and others). We (Norwegian descendants) longingly wait for the Fall Lutefisk suppers. The Thanksgiving Meal is often considered the favorite of families. Easter brunch is a tradition. Birthday celebrations! Weddings! And funerals.

Feast and foods bring us together. Around the meal we share stories (good and bad), we celebrate,

we remember, and we love. And sometimes we fight. Food is essential to our survival. Meals remind us of God's promises. This is why the church takes seriously the call to end "food insecurity." Take time to celebrate, to remember and at the same time give your prayers and dollars to a program determined to assist those whose lives are struggling with food insecurity.

## Free CPR/AED Refresher Class



Join us for a free CPR/AED Refresher Class on Monday, August 17<sup>th</sup>, at 5:00 PM at SPLC. This one-hour session will be led by members of the Stillwater Fire Department.

Church staff, ushers, council members, and all congregation members are encouraged to attend. The class will cover what an AED is, when it should be used, and where our church's AEDs are located. Whether you've had CPR training before or simply want to become more familiar with these lifesaving devices, this refresher is designed for everyone, regardless of experience or ability.

## Usher Refresher/Training

Usher Refresher/Training on Monday, August 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM. Our ushers play an important role in creating a warm, welcoming, and meaningful worship experience each



Sunday. Whether you're a current usher or have been thinking about giving it a try, we invite you to join us for Usher Training at 6:00 PM, immediately

following the CPR/AED Refresher. Pastor Nathan will be providing snacks, and the training will last about 30 minutes. It's a great opportunity to learn more about the role, ask questions, and connect with fellow ushers. We hope to see you there!



It's Style Madness Time! Join Valley Outreach for an evening of fun on Wednesday, September 2, 2026, from 5:30–7:30 PM at StyleXchange (1931 Curve Crest Blvd. W., Stillwater, MN 55082). Tickets are \$50 for adults and \$25 for students (middle school, high school, and post-secondary).



Style Madness is a fun evening at StyleXchange featuring shopping, creativity, and community. Browse the store, enjoy appetizers and mocktails, connect with friends, and cheer on participants in the Outfit Challenge—or join the challenge yourself for a chance to win prizes!

Create an outfit using clothing from the specially curated Outfit Challenge racks (separate from the store inventory), then vote for your favorite looks in each category. Winners will receive prizes.

Participation in the Outfit Challenge is completely optional. Your ticket includes the entire event, so you can shop, socialize, enjoy the refreshments, watch the competition, or simply have a fun night out. No fashion or styling experience is required—everyone is welcome!

If you are interested, please register on their website at [valleyoutreachmn.org](http://valleyoutreachmn.org).



Simpson Housing Services has been named one of the Top Workplaces in Minnesota by the MN Star Tribune (MST) and recognizes the most progressive companies in Minnesota based on employee opinions measuring engagement, organizational health, and satisfaction. The results of the MST Top Workplaces are based on survey information collected by Energage, an independent company specializing in employee engagement and retention. Simpson Housing Services was also recognized in the 2026 Culture Excellence & Industry Awards for Innovation, Employee Appreciation, Work-Life Flexibility, Employee Well-Being, Professional Development, Benefits, Compensation, Purpose, Values, and as a Nonprofit Industry. To qualify, a company must have more than 50 employees in MN. Over 10,527 companies were invited to participate. Rankings were composite scores calculated purely on the basis of employee responses.



“This recognition is really a reflection of Simpson’s staff and the incredible work they do every day to fulfill our mission,” said Christina Jacobson, Director of Equity and Human Resources. “Our team brings compassion, skill, and dedication to supporting people impacted by homelessness, and they do this work with dignity, care, and a deep commitment to equity. I am grateful for our staff and proud that their voices helped Simpson receive this honor.” Star Tribune CEO and Publisher Steve Grove said, “The companies in the MST Top Workplaces deserve high praise for creating the very best work environments in the state of Minnesota. My congratulations to each of these exceptional companies.”

## 2026 Youth Mission Service Trip to SD - Recap

Thank You again for all your support and prayers for our Service Trip to Sioux Falls, SD. We had a great time!!

I asked the youth two questions: What was the best part of the trip, and what did you learn?

Here are their response:

Abri- The best part was feeding the people at the park and I learned you don't need to have a lot of money to be happy.

Carter- The best part was getting to hear people's story's and what they have done to change and I learned that you can always find good in things no matter what!

Elijah- The best part was learning people's backstories. I learned there are many things to be grateful for even if you don't have much.

Zac- The best part was being able to help out the Community and something I learned is big companies help out the non-profitable organizations to be successful.

Henry- Something I learned is that even when people are in unfortunate situations they are still very grateful even through they don't have much, and that there are many ways you can help out your community.

Ashton- The best part of the trip was talking to everyone and learning about them and something I learned was these people are always grateful no matter what situation their in.

Abby- The best part was getting to help the people in Sioux Falls and I learned by doing the smallest things it can make a big impact.



## From Mission Outreach

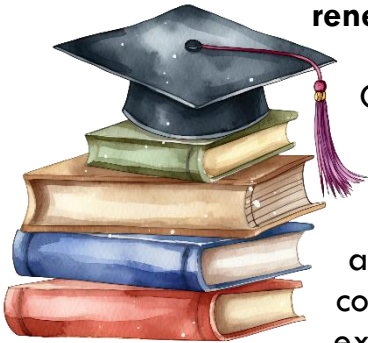
It's That Time of the Year Again! We are kicking off our collection of items for Operation Christmas Child. We have listed needed items on poster board with our display. We already have a number of items filled through the generosity of members. This is Mission Outreach's largest project of the year. This year our goal is 150 shoeboxes (because we did the baby care kits and personal care kits earlier). If you don't like to shop but want to participate, cash donations are welcome and we will do the shopping. Thank you for making this project successful!



## Ernst Grant Applications are Due!

The Ernst Education Grant applications were mailed approximately two weeks ago. If you, or a family member, will be attending an accredited post-high school college or vocational school, you may qualify to receive the Ernst Education Grant through St. Paul Lutheran. Applications, **both new and renewals**, will be reviewed

by the Memorial and Grants committee with consideration of the requirements listed on the back of the application each year. The congregation also has some expectations for the



students receiving these grants. Those expectations are also listed on the back of the application form. If you change schools, suspend your studies, or have completed your course of study during the school year, please let us know. Please include a copy of one or more official proof of acceptance documents from the school, no later than Friday, August 7<sup>th</sup>. Qualifying proof of acceptance can be an official letter of acceptance, a class schedule, a current tuition statement, or some other official document on the school's stationery to show you will be attending classes in 2026-2027.

## Requesting Financial Information

We are grateful to our Financial Assistant, Kristin Nelson, and our Senior Accountant, Michael Benson, for their partnership as we continue to move forward with implementing new financial procedures. Going forward, if you have questions about your individual giving statement or any contribution you've made to the church, you can contact Kristin. If you have a bill pay or check request, or need a financial report for your committee or any other financial report, contact Michael. (You can place the bill pay or check requests in Michael's box; however, please email him and let him know about the request.)

## Prayer Requests

Names will remain on our prayer list for one month, unless indicated otherwise. Please use your "Welcome to Worship" card to add or update names.

For those hospitalized or with immediate needs: Family of Barb Dk, Family of Mark C, Family of Dale P, Family of Bailey S, and Abigail.

Those receiving hospice care:

Those beginning or undergoing long-term medical treatments: Randal B, Laura C, Eric, Ann Marie O, and Jennifer B.

Those with other ongoing needs: Angie, Dean M, Richard H, Roy K, Kathy B, Vince S, Jim G, Cathy M, Harry, Lucy, Megan, and Mike S.

Those homebound or being cared for by others: Martin W, Marilyn B, Ardyce S, Barb Dr, Nancy T, Judith K, Ann B, Mary Jo D, Orville S, Floyd N, Laurie C, Verna W, Karen L, Diane S, Judith R, Delores K, and Bonnie P.

In Loving Memory:

(names will remain for one year and will be included on All Saints Sunday)

Barb Dahlke, Mark Christensen, Dale Preston, Dollis Harris, Jacklyn Waterman, Jeffrey Thomsen, Donald Teske, Shirley Nolde, Sally Colemier, Carol Scheel, Charles Olson, Scott Anderson, Thomas Schwietz, Janet Stuessy, Sandra Nolan, Mary Richter, Steven Michaelis, Darrel Henton, James Flynn, Patty Thomsen, Marshall Ray Reams, Jim Hockin, Jacquilyn Pierre, Dorie Nelson, and Lois Haase.

## Quilting News!

### SPLC Quilters Sharing Warmth Around the World!

In July, the STPL Quilters delivered 21 beautiful handmade quilts to Lutheran World Relief (LWR). These quilts will soon make their way to people in need around the world—including here in the United States, where so many communities have been impacted by disasters this year.

When the quilts were delivered, three semi-trucks were ready and waiting to be filled with the many quilts and various kits generously created and donated by congregations and groups like ours. What a wonderful reminder that our efforts here at home become part of something much bigger!

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who donates fabric and materials. Your generosity allows our talented quilters to put their hands and hearts to work, creating quilts that provide not only warmth and comfort, but also a little beauty and love to those who receive them.

Want to see these talented hands at work, or lend yours to the cause? Come join the SPLC Quilters on Thursdays from 9:00 AM–3:00 PM. Whether you're an experienced quilter or simply curious about what they do, stop by and see how fabric, fellowship, and caring come together, one stitch at a time!

## 4<sup>th</sup> Street Repair and Refresh

4<sup>th</sup> Street Repair and Refresh Opportunity! Feeling creative? Excited about keeping our church updated and welcoming? You are invited to join us at the next 4<sup>th</sup> Street Repair and Refresh meeting, which will be held on Monday, August 17<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM in the Lower Conference Room. We would love to hear your ideas and dreams – whether you are able to join us for this meeting only or have an interest in working with the committee as it moves forward. Additionally, feel free to pass along any of your thoughts to a committee member, and we will make sure they are represented! The committee members are Renee Swanson, Barb Dietrich, Mugs DeFore, Jeff Thomsen, Chuck Clausen, Pastor Nathan, and Shelley Jokinen.

## 2026 Twins' Lutheran Night!



Going to the game? Game day is almost here! If you're joining us for Lutheran Night at the Twins game on Tuesday, August 11<sup>th</sup>, here are the important details you'll need to know.

Our bus is scheduled to leave the church promptly at 4:45 PM. We ask that everyone arrive at church by 4:15 PM so we have plenty of time to get everyone checked in, settled on the bus, and ready to roll!

Then it's off to the ballpark for an evening of baseball, ballpark treats, good company, and plenty of fun and fellowship!

Wear your Twins gear, bring your team spirit, and get ready to cheer them on. It's going to be a great night at the ballpark!



## Guns to Gardens

Forging peace by turning guns into garden tools

### HOW

Anyone can bring unwanted guns.  
Those bringing guns are anonymous

- Guns must be UNLOADED prior to entering church property and placed in trunk or rear of vehicle. Stay in your vehicle and skilled personnel will remove firearms and take them to a chop saw for disabling.
- Ammunition will not be accepted
- The gun pieces will be forged into tools, art or jewelry at a later date.

### WHY

Many guns in our community are no longer wanted for a variety of reasons

- There is concern that the gun might fall unintentionally into the hands of children or grandchildren in the home
- The gun may have been used in a suicide or accident.
- Someone can no longer handle guns safely because of age or disability.
- A person inherited a gun but does not want it.

**Saturday, October 3, 2026 1pm -4pm**

**Rain Date: October 10, 1-4pm**

**First Presbyterian Church of Stillwater parking  
lot 6201 Osgood Ave, Stillwater, MN**

Thank you gift cards will be provided  
for working guns until they run out.

Guns to Gardens is a step toward reducing gun violence,  
a path for people to take action to reduce the number of guns  
in our homes and communities.

# St. Paul Lutheran Church Calendar

As of 8/3/2026

## August 2026

| Sunday                                                                                                                                                                           | Monday                                                                                                                                 | Tuesday                                                                                                                          | Wednesday                                     | Thursday                                                                                        | Friday                             | Saturday |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------|
|                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                  |                                               |                                                                                                 |                                    | 1        |
|                                                                                                                                                                                  | For the most current and up-to-date information,<br>please visit our online calendar at <a href="http://stpaulc.org">stpaulc.org</a> . |                                                                                                                                  |                                               |                                                                                                 |                                    |          |
| 2<br>9:00 AM Service<br>10:00 AM Coffee & Tea Time                                                                                                                               | 3<br>10:00 AM Senior Committee Meeting<br>3:00 PM Executive Committee Zoom Meeting                                                     | 4<br>6:00 PM Frosted Glass Theater                                                                                               | 5<br>4:30 PM Fellowship Committee Meeting     | 6<br>9:00 AM Quilters<br>3:00 PM Mission Outreach Meeting<br>7:00 PM AA Mtg. in Fellowship Hall | 7<br>6:00 PM Frosted Glass Theater | 8        |
| 9<br>9:00 AM Service<br>10:00 AM Coffee & Tea Time<br>1:00 PM Birthday Party-Fellowship Hall                                                                                     | 10                                                                                                                                     | 11<br><b>ALL DAY – Primary Voting at SPLC</b><br>3:00 PM Memorials & Grants Meeting<br>4:45 PM Bus Leaves for the MN Twins' Game | 12<br>10:00 AM Worship at Oak Park Sr. Living | 13<br>9:00 AM Quilters<br>7:00 PM AA Mtg. in Fellowship Hall                                    | 14                                 | 15       |
| <b>WOW Camp! Monday-Thursday 8:00 AM -5:30 PM, Friday 8:00 AM - 12:30 PM</b>                 |                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                  |                                               |                                                                                                 |                                    |          |
| 16<br>9:00 AM Service<br>10:00 AM Coffee & Tea Time<br>2:30 PM - 4:30 PM Ice Cream Social<br> | 17<br>10:00 AM Worship at Croixdale<br>5:00 PM CPR/AED Refresher at SPLC<br>6:00 PM Usher Training/Refresher at SPLC                   | 18<br>6:30 PM Church Council                                                                                                     | 19<br>11:00 AM Worship at Boutwells           | 20<br>9:00 AM Quilters<br>3:00 PM Newsletter Deadline<br>7:00 PM AA Mtg. in Fellowship Hall     | 21                                 | 22       |
| 23<br>9:00 AM Service<br>10:00 AM Coffee & Tea Time                                                                                                                              | 24<br>5:00 PM Champion Force Athletics                                                                                                 | 25<br>1:30 PM Sarah Bible Study                                                                                                  | 26                                            | 27<br>9:00 AM Quilters<br>7:00 PM AA Mtg. in Fellowship Hall                                    | 28                                 | 29       |
| 30<br>9:00 AM Service<br>10:00 AM Coffee & Tea Time                                                                                                                              | 31<br>5:00 PM Champion Force Athletics                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                  |                                               |                                                                                                 |                                    |          |

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

Office Hours - Monday - Friday, 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM - Email: [spc@stpaulc.org](mailto:spc@stpaulc.org) - Website: [www.stpaulc.org](http://www.stpaulc.org)