

Announcements

St. Paul Lutheran Church

August 23, 2026



Thank You for Joining Us!

Welcome to St. Paul Lutheran Church. We are grateful to God that you are here. We pray that you will feel the Spirit and warm welcome of this faith community.

Welcome Visitors!

We are so glad to have you here. Are you interested in learning more about St. Paul Lutheran? Curious about our activities and outreach opportunities? Are you considering becoming a member? Please contact the church office at 651-439-5970, or email SPLC@stpaulc.org, if you would like more information and to connect with people who would be happy to assist you. We'd love to get to know you better!

Altar Flowers

Today, we remember Melvin Friedrich and celebrate the love he shared with Edie. This year would have marked their 64th wedding anniversary - 64 years since they began a life together filled with love, memories, family, and faith. Though Melvin is dearly missed, the love he and Edie shared remains a beautiful and lasting testament to their life together. We hold Edie especially close in our hearts on this meaningful day as she remembers and honors her beloved Melvin.



55+/Senior Worship Service

The September service will be on Sunday, September 6th, **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 30th. **Remember, Limited Bus service is available for Stillwater and Oak Park Heights. Please contact Bob Michaelis if you are interested in riding the bus.**

4th Street Repair and Refresh

The next 4th Street committee meeting will take place on Monday, September 28th at 10:00 AM in the Lower Conference Room. All are invited to join us at this meeting or any future meeting!



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!

Cruise the St. Croix with Us!

Summer may be winding down, and school will soon be back in session, but there's still time for one more summer adventure! Join your church family and friends for a beautiful afternoon on the St. Croix River aboard the Andiamo for a Dixieland Luncheon Buffet Cruise. The Fellowship Committee has reserved Sunday, September 20th for our group. Boarding begins at 1:00 PM at the dock. Need a ride? A bus will leave St. Paul Lutheran at 12:30 PM. **Please indicate on the sign-up sheet if you need bus transportation.** Cost: Ages 55+ and caregivers: \$32.50, Adults: \$42.50, Children ages 4-12: \$30.00, and Children 3 and under: FREE! The sign-up sheet is available in the Gathering Area, and the deadline to register is Sunday, September 13th. Please make checks payable to St. Paul Lutheran Church and write **"Andiamo Boat Cruise" on the memo line.** A special thank-you to the Fellowship Committee and Senior Committee for their generous contributions toward the cost of this event!

Welcoming Vicar Allison

The days are getting closer to when we welcome our seminary intern, Allison Klein. As a pastor-in-training, "Vicar" will be her official title (see the upcoming newsletter for more background). Although her focus will be on learning and reflecting, she will be a regular member of the pastoral staff and, over time, will take on certain tasks to enrich our ministry. We look forward to welcoming Vicar Allison on September 8th!

Welcome Gifts For Our New Vicar

As our church takes on the privilege and responsibility of forming a future pastor, it's no secret that being a full-time seminary intern is a financial sacrifice. The church office is now collecting welcome gifts for Vicar Allison. If you desire, consider donating things such as a gas or grocery card, or a gift certificate to a local coffee shop or restaurant. We will be collecting these items through September 6th.

SYNODICAL BISHOP MESSAGE

Planting Gardens Together



Dear siblings in Christ across the Saint Paul Area Synod: Grace to you and peace in the name of our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen!

As I write this, I'm still catching my breath from the honor of being elected to serve as your next bishop.

I am full of gratitude to step into this ministry and build on the work we have been doing together for the sake of the Gospel. I am grateful for the time and energy that Bishop Lull has spent over the last months to ensure a smooth transition. While this call of bishop is my call, I want to remind you that the work we do in this synod is us together. As your bishop, I envision us all finding our place and using our varied gifts to live out our calling to make sure all know Jesus loves them.

I keep returning to Jeremiah 29, which I spoke of after the election. This verse will be this year's theme as we gather for the Theological Conference, Tool Kit, Synod Assembly, and other events. I am excited to see what God might do as we ask God to lead our planting and building. The prophet writes to a people in exile — displaced, disoriented, wondering if God has forgotten them — and the word that comes is not “Wait it out,” but “Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat what they produce... seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.” That is not a passive word. It's an invitation to root ourselves right where we are, to plant things that could take years to bear fruit, and to trust that our flourishing is bound up with our neighbor's flourishing. We are called, church, to do this work now. Together.



I believe that's exactly the posture God is calling our synod into. Not a church anxious about its own survival, but a church that plants gardens anyway — that builds houses anyway — because we trust the One who sent us into exile is also the One who will bring us home. We are being church together: congregations, mission starts and other ministry partners, each living out of the particular gifts God has given, none of

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us needing us to do the work alone. My hope is that my ministry among you will be less about handing down vision (we will work to find a uniting vision) and more about noticing the gifts already alive in this synod and helping to connect them. In this, I believe our welfare and our neighbors' welfare become, more and more, the same thing.



Bishop Justin Grimm
Saint Paul Area Synod

Installation for Bishop Justin A. Grimm

Sunday, September 13th will be a milestone and festive day for the congregations of the Saint Paul Area Synod. ALL ARE INVITED to attend Bishop Grimm's installation at 3:30 at Shepherd of the Valley, Apple Valley. The Presiding Bishop of the ELCA, Yehiel Curry, will preside and preach. A reception will follow. Let us know if you're interested, and we can arrange for carpooling if needed.

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: The Family of Gary, Shirley, Family of Barb Dk, Family of Mark C, Family of Dale P, and Abigail.

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

Those with other ongoing needs: Sam, Chris, 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, Bailey Severson, Dollis Harris, Jacklyn Waterman, Jeffrey Thomsen, Donald Teske, Shirley Nolde, Sally Colemier, Carol Scheel, Charles Olson, Scott Anderson, Thomas Schwiertz, Janet Stuessy, Sandra Nolan, Mary Richter, Steven Michaelis, Darrel Henton, James Flynn, Patty Thomsen, Marshall Ray Reams, Jim Hockin, and Jacquilyn Pierre.

Help Fight Hunger — Your Gift Goes Twice as Far!

The Mission Outreach Committee invites you to support the ELCA World Hunger Drive. To make your generosity go even further, Mission Outreach will match congregational donations up to \$1,000! Special giving envelopes will be available in the Gathering Area. Donations will be collected through Sunday, September 27th. Together, we can double our impact and help provide hope, nourishment, and support to neighbors in need.

Bega Kwa Bega Fall Festival

Saturday, Sept. 19 - 8 a.m.-noon | Augustana, West. St. Paul Join us in celebrating our Tanzanian companionship, Bega Kwa Bega! This year's Fall Festival will feature Bishop Blastone Gavile and General Secretary Shadrack Nyaulingo from Tanzania, along with our own synod bishop, the Rev. Justin Grimm. The morning includes updates from BKB affiliate organizations as well as workshops on building opportunities for all through education, building companion relationships, preparing to build intercultural experiences, and best practices for sharing God's gifts through mutual projects. The morning concludes with Festival Worship. Registration is now open at spas-elca.org

Sarah Bible Study

The summer Gather Magazine has arrived. Please do not discard your copy, as it contains June, July, and August's studies. The Sarah Bible Study will meet in the lounge on Tuesday, August 25th, at 1:30 PM. We will be studying Summer 2026: "I am worthy," by the Rev. Sara Olson-Smith - Session 3, "I am because you are," starting on page 48. If you need a copy, there are some available in the office.

2026 Harvest & Holly Market and Bake Sale!

Everyone had such a wonderful time at last year's Harvest & Holly Market and Bake Sale that we're bringing it back! Mark your calendars for Saturday, November 21st, from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM for another festive day filled with handmade treasures, seasonal crafts, beautiful quilts, delicious baked goods, and unique gifts perfect for holiday giving. Want to help make the magic happen? ***We're putting together a Harvest & Holly Market working group and will hold our first meeting on Tuesday, September 1st, at 9:00 AM in the Lower Conference Room. Come join the fun! We'd love to have you!*** Can't join the working group but would like to volunteer on the day of the event? Contact Kristin to get involved. Come shop, visit, and enjoy a joyful day of fellowship, fun, and a little holiday cheer!



Rally Day Picnic – Sunday, September 13th!

Mark your calendars and plan to join us after 10:00 AM worship on Sunday, September 13th, for our Rally Day Picnic! This special gathering is the perfect way to kick off the fall season, reconnect with friends, welcome new faces, and celebrate all that's ahead for our church family. We'll be serving up hot dogs, burgers, fresh off the grill, along with lemonade and water. All we ask is that you bring a favorite dish to share, whether it's a crisp salad, a hearty side, or a sweet dessert. Together, we'll create a table overflowing with delicious food and warm fellowship. Please join us as we look forward to a new season of worship, service, and community. Come hungry, come joyful, and come ready to start this next chapter together. We can't wait to see you there!



SPLC In-person & Online Attendance

Date	In-Person Worship	Online Worship
7/26/2026	63	138
8/2/2026	55	121
8/9/2026	48	132
8/16/2026	70	143

Upcoming Events

Sunday, August 23rd	9:00 AM Worship 10:15 Coffee & Tea Time
Monday, August 24th	5:00 PM Champion Force Athletics
Tuesday, August 25th	1:30 PM Sarah Bible Study in the Lounge
Thursday, August 27th	9:00 AM Quilters 7:00 AM AA Fourth Dimension
Saturday, August 29th	11:00 AM Barbara Dahlke Funeral
Sunday, August 30th	9:00 AM Worship 10:15 Coffee & Tea Time

Weekly Worship Assistants

Sunday, August 23rd

Ushers Jay Swanson, Ashton Bell, Sabrina Bell, and Kamel Benyahia
Assisting Minister Atticus Mikla
Reader Abri Bell
Communion Set-up Cheryl Renne
Communion Server Cheryl Renne
Monday Counting Team Vida MacDonald and Alice Walker

Sunday, August 30th

Ushers Ed Seekel, Dan and Kristin Nelson
Assisting Minister Chris Shivers
Reader Pam Seekel
Communion Set-up Janine Siverson
Communion Server Adele Urhammer
Monday Counting Team Mugs DeFore and Karen Celski

Church Staff

Sr. Pastor	Rev. Nathan Baker-Trinity
Visitation Pastor	Rev. Laurel Halvorson Bernard
Director of Music	Andy Peterson
Casual Worship Leader	Karen Hillmann
Office Coordinator	Kristin Nelson
CYF & Outreach Director	Jenny Brelje
Accountant	Michael Benson
Maintenance	Jeff Thomsen
Audio-Video Engineer	Tim Schingen

2026 Church Council Officers

President	Shelley Jokinen
Vice President	Pam Seekel
Secretary	Chris Shivers

2026 Committee Chairpersons

Financial Operations	(Open Seat)
CYF	Sabrina Bell Kristie Mack
Evangelism & Membership	(Open Seat)
Fellowship	Janine Siverson
Memorial & Grants	Diane Podratz Barb LaCosse
Mission Outreach	Ann Kriesel
Property & Grounds	(Open Seat)
Seniors	Jenny Powell
Worship	Jennifer Braun

St. Paul Lutheran Church

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Office Hours Monday - Friday, 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

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