

Announcements

St. Paul Lutheran Church

February 15, 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@stpaulcc.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!

Sharing Peace During Cold & Flu Season

For the time being, please be respectful of each other's health by not offering handshakes during the sharing of the Peace. We encourage you instead to wave, bump elbows, use the peace sign, or bow toward each other. We encourage you also to use the hand sanitizer available in every pew.

Calling All Thrivent Members

If you're a Thrivent member, you are eligible to apply for a Thrivent Action Grant. These grants can be put toward many different kinds of church projects and fundraisers. Let us know if you're a Thrivent member and we can help you use your grant toward a church-related project. Or let us know if you have an idea of your own for a project.

Immigrant Support Update from the Synod

Members of our immigrant congregations in the Saint Paul Area Synod are currently being targeted in unjust ways simply because of their appearance. Our synod is committed to walking with them through this terrible time of crisis. To that end, they have established the Immigrant Support Fund, which goes directly to families connected with the synod's ethnic-specific congregations. Donations to this fund support food relief, rent assistance, and legal fees when appropriate. Use the QR code here or send a check payable to "Saint Paul Area Synod" (write "immigrant support" in the memo line) and mail to: Saint Paul Area Synod, 105 University Ave. W., St. Paul MN 55103.

You're Invited to a Magic Show at St. Paul Lutheran!



Get ready for a morning filled with laughter, amazement, and moments that will make you say, "Wait... how did that happen?!" Join us on Saturday, February 28, 2026, at 10:00 AM at St. Paul Lutheran for an exciting Magic Show that promises fun, surprises, and plenty of smiles. This interactive performance is designed for all ages, making it the perfect event for children, parents, grandparents, and anyone who still believes a little magic makes life more fun. Expect jaw-dropping tricks, lots of audience participation, and giggles echoing through the room. Bring your family, invite a friend, and come enjoy a magical morning together. Whether you're five or ninety-five, there's something delightful waiting for everyone!

New Adult Forum!

By Heart: Conversations with Martin Luther's Small Catechism Begins March 8th - Luther had a way with words and an eye toward instruction as he wrote the Small Catechism. Many of us had to learn (and memorize!) some of his sayings, but do we actually remember what they mean? Beginning on Sunday, March 8th, all are welcome to join Pastor Nathan in the Lounge at 10:30 AM as we learn and talk about Luther's powerful, succinct sayings that are the foundation of our Lutheran faith. This time together is for both long-time members and those newly exploring membership. A richly illustrated book is included! We will meet for three Sundays in March, two in April and two in May. Let us know by February 15th if you'd like to participate. (You can use your Welcome to Worship card or contact the church office directly.)

Baked Potato Bar with all the Toppings!

Join us for a spud-tacular Potato Bar before our Ash Wednesday service! Come anytime between 5:30 PM and 6:30 PM on February 18th to enjoy a build-your-own potato dinner (free will offering). While you're here, take time to visit our prayer stations and prepare your heart for worship before the service begins. All are welcome!

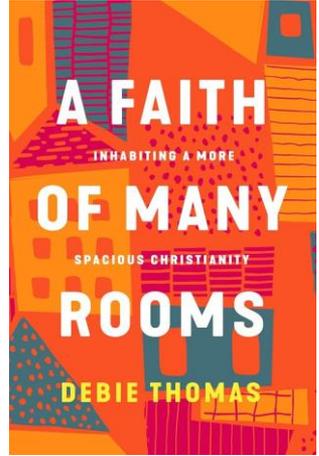


Youth Group!

Youth Group meets on Wednesday, February 18th, from 7:45 PM (or right after service) to 8:30 PM in the Youth Room for students in grades 7th to 12th. Join us after Ash Wednesday worship to hang out, connect, and experience a labyrinth meditation—a meaningful, hands-on way to reflect and pray together.

New Zoom Book Discussion

A Faith of Many Rooms Book Discussion begins March 4th - Many have left the Christian faith because it feels too small, too confining. But what if the faith we inhabit is roomier than we thought? How might we grow in our own faith while also feeling better about encouraging others who desire a roomier faith? Join Pastor Nathan by Zoom on Wednesdays at 5:00 PM by Zoom beginning March 4th as we discuss the book, "A Faith of Many Rooms: Inhabiting a More Spacious Christianity" by Debie Thomas. A sought-after speaker on Scripture and faith, Thomas' recent book has gotten a lot of attention from a wide variety of Christians. Please indicate your interest on your Welcome to Worship card, or contact the church office or Pastor Nathan directly. You can purchase the hard-cover book through the church for \$25 or order on your own from many book retailers. Space is limited; please sign-up by February 15th.



March 55+ Worship



The March service will be on Sunday, March 1st at 11:00 AM. The menu includes: Mandy's Chicken and Dumplings and dessert. Please sign-up in the Gathering Area by Sunday, February 22nd, if you will be staying for the meal. **Remember - Limited Bus service is available for Stillwater and Oak Park Heights. Please contact Bob Michaelis if you are interested in riding the bus.**

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

Weekly Neighborhood Vigil

All are welcome to gather with St. Croix Valley neighbors shining light every Saturday at 7:00 in support of our immigrant neighbors. These gatherings take place at one of our full communion partner churches, St. Croix United Church in Bayport. The gathering begins with outdoor candlelight, followed by indoor music, singing, and readings. It concludes with refreshments and networking for the common good.

Membership: Different Journeys, One Faith

We all have different journeys when it comes to our relationship and participation in a community of faith. But as Paul says in Ephesians, the Holy Spirit calls us to the hope of "one Lord, one faith, one baptism" through which we seek to deepen our love for God, one another, and the world. Are you seeking baptism for the first time? Or are you looking to affirm your baptism through a process of study, prayer and conversation? Or are you already baptized and familiar with church life but want to make more connections through conversation with others? These are all different paths toward becoming a member of St. Paul's. Want to learn more? Join Pastor Nathan on Sunday, February 22nd, at 10:30 AM in the Lounge to explore ways you can become a member of St. Paul Lutheran Church.

SAVE THE DATE - Malt Shop Melodies! - Wednesday, April 29th

Take a step back in time and get ready for a sweet time of music and memories! Join us for Malt Shop Melodies, a nostalgic event filled with toe-tapping tunes, smiles, and good company on Wednesday, April 29th in Fellowship Hall. Additional Details Forthcoming - Be sure to watch the bulletins and newsletters beginning at the end of February for more event information. This special event is proudly sponsored by the Senior Committee. Mark your calendars now, it's going to be a real treat!

Prayer Requests

Congregants: Jennifer B., Ardyce S., Barb D., Nancy T., Dan B., Al M., Ron K., Judith K., Alida P., Pastor Laurel, Steve P., Mark C., and Abri B.

Family and Friends: Joe F., Mary R., Soto B., Mein B., Gavin, Kurt S., Amy, William J., Karmen P., Jerry, Dick, Mary A., Troy A., Sophia M., Marv D., The Family of family of David and Carol S., Connor D., Dan J., Mary A., Renae S., Mike S., Ann B., Katie P., Gary R., Jerry S., Sophia F., Sonja H., Kellye, Dave, Lucy, Keith, & Josh, Becky O., Mike, Jenny, Lisa, Kristen B., Mary Jo D., Rick & Jean, Patti & Family, Randy & Laura, Muggs, Carolyn, Paul, Kevin, Kara, Allison J., Evy, Dave, Georgia, Russel B., Bonnie M., Connie, 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., Lyle J, Jim G., Rick W., Karen W., Carol L., Jeff E., Mike M., and Jeffrey T.

In Loving Memory: Steven Michaelis, Darrel Henton, Patty Thomsen, James Flynn, Marshall Ray Reams, Jacquilyn Pierre, Dorie Nelson, Lois Haase, Marlene Ritzer, Holly Halvorson, Mark Walker, Richard Markgraf, Sister Eileen Trinity, Judy Becker, Jerry Sharon, and Jeremy Green.

St. Croix Valley Grief Coalition - Growing Through Loss

Beginning Thursday, March 12th, Growing through Loss is an opportunity to receive grief support and learn more about grief in a group setting, free of charge. Held each Thursday at Shepherd of the Valley Church in Afton, it includes a brief large group presentation by a grief educator, followed by smaller support group time focused on particular kinds of losses. Attend a single night or the whole series. Each session is complete in itself. Age 18+. No need to register, they have a place for you already! If a need or barrier exists that prevents you from attending their series, please reach out. Call (651) 413-6698 or email scvgriefcoalition@gmail.com.

An Invitation to attend Lenten Programs

Have you realized that Easter is early this year? Determining when Easter will be celebrated each year is based on a calculation between the lunar months and the solar year. Too complicated for the average person to figure. In 2026, Easter will be observed on April 5th. Just to keep you following the timeline, the Mission Outreach committee is inviting you to participate in the observance of Lent by attending the Wednesday worship services at 11:30 AM, followed by our traditional soup lunch. The first will be on Ash Wednesday, February 18th, and every Wednesday following, including Maundy Thursday.

We offer food, fellowship, and socializing along with a variety of soups and chili made especially for us by the chef from the Lowell Inn. All soups and chili are salt-free, and of course, there are plenty of tasty desserts. We request a free will donation to cover the costs of food. In previous years, we have always sponsored a project. These projects have been those associated with our partnership in Tanzania or local non-profits that strive to improve the lives of others. This year, we are supporting the new Washington Co. Services building, which recently opened in 2025. Living space, as well as many services to improve lives, is provided for individuals with no permanent living arrangement. An organization called Stepping Stone oversees and provides services with temporary housing and assistance for individuals to become employed and live in regular housing.

A Stepping Stone staff member, Shvonne Johnson, recently delivered a presentation to the Mission Outreach Committee. The committee decided to have a material collection for residents of this program as a part of our Lenten outreach. We are asking for donations of cleaning supplies, personal care products, towels, pillows, etc. **We have copies of the list of needed items in the Gathering Area for you to take***. Men's and

(Continued on the next page.)

women's boots are in high demand. We welcome the congregation members who don't attend the noon programs to also participate by adding items to the collection box located in the Gathering Area. This project will run during the weeks of Lent. If you would rather give money to have the Mission Outreach Committee purchase items, please provide that information with your donation.

The Mission Outreach Committee sincerely appreciates the support of St. Paul Lutheran members as we reach out to better the lives of others in our community.

***Partial List of Needed Items:**

- All sizes of adult men's and women's clothing in good condition
- Coats, jackets, and hoodies
- Slippers (various adult sizes)
- NEW underwear, bras, undershirts
- Seasonal Items
- Gloves/mittens - Hats -Scarves - Hand warmers
- Boots
- Chapstick
- Individual instant grits packets
- Individual fruit snacks
- Individual pretzels and other snack-type foods
- Granola bars
- Bottled water (16.9 oz. preferred)
- Fresh fruit: apples, mandarins, oranges, bananas, pears, peaches
- Bulk canisters of lemonade/pink lemonade powdered drink mix
- Bulk canisters of Kool-Aid powdered drink mix
- Boxes of individual packets of instant hot cocoa
- Assorted packages of individually wrapped hot tea bags
- Disposable 10 oz. bowls

SPLC In-person & Online Attendance

Date	In-Person Worship	Online Worship
1/18/2026	57	222
1/25/2026	63	210
2/1/2026	79	177
2/8/2026	87	125

Upcoming Events

Sunday, February 15th	9:00 AM Worship 10:00 AM Sunday Shine!
Tuesday, February 17th	6:30 PM Church Council Meeting
Wednesday, February 18th	11:00 AM Worship at Boutwells 11:30 AM Ash Wednesday Worship 12:00 PM Lenten Soup Luncheon 12:00 PM Staff Meeting 5:30 PM Potato Bar Dinner in Fellowship Hall 6:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Worship 7:45 PM Youth Group w/Jenny in Youth Room
Thursday, February 19th	9:00 AM Quilters 7:00 PM AA Fourth Dimension Meeting
Friday, February 20th	Newsletter Deadline
Sunday, February 22nd	9:00 AM Worship 10:00 AM Coffee & Tea Time 10:30 AM Membership Information Meeting

Weekly Worship Assistants

Sunday, February 15th

Ushers Dan & Kristin Nelson, Libby Thibodeau, and
Ethan Ekblad

Assisting Minister Riley MacDonald

Reader Chuck Clausen

Communion Set-up Nancy Schlagel

Communion Server Adele Urhammer

Altar Flowers

Wednesday, February 18th – Ash Wednesday

Ushers Jennifer Braun, and Dan Nelson

Assisting Minister Jenny Brelje

Reader Mugs DeFore

Communion Set-up Adele Urhammer

Communion Server Ann Kriesel

Altar Flowers

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
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

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: stpaulc.org

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