

# **Announcements**

## **St. Paul Lutheran Church**

### **January 11, 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](mailto: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!

### **TODAY - Connect Center Update: Housing Challenges in Stillwater**

Our partner and Executive Director of the Connect Center, Cindy Parsons, is familiar with the challenges of affordable rent in Stillwater. Perhaps you also have knowledge of this important issue? Join us today, January 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 in the Lounge as Cindy shares what she knows and as we discuss together how we can help address this crisis together.

### **Forward in Faith Estimate of Giving**

As we enter budget planning season, we are thankful to you for letting us know your plan for giving to the church in the coming year. Many of you have returned your cards already- thank you! A reminder that we'd appreciate hearing from you by Thursday, January 15<sup>th</sup>, or at your earliest convenience. Thank You!

### **Sarah Bible Study**

The Winter Gather Magazine has arrived. Please do not discard your copy, as it contains December, January and February's studies. The Sarah Bible Study will meet in the lounge on Tuesday, January 27<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 PM. We will be studying Session One - Praying with our bodies : "Now Let Us Pray", starting on page 26. If you are in need of a copy, please contact the church office.

### **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.

## Is God Calling You?

The Nominating Committee met on Monday, December 22nd to begin discussing the open positions that will be available at our upcoming Annual Meeting on February 1, 2026. Beginning in 2026 and through 2027, SPLC has the excitement of marking 75 years at our current location of 4th & Walnut!. This will be an



exciting time for the Church Council and Committee Chairs and members to be a part of this new project and what God has planned for us. What can you do? Perhaps have an interest in leading from our values and vision? Or maybe you have ideas

about taking care of our building and grounds, or events for children, youth and their families? Pray about where you might want to serve. Let someone on the Nominating Committee hear your interests or answer any questions. You might also receive a phone call asking about where your time and talents might lie regarding Church Council, Church Chairs, or Committee Members. Nominating Committee members are Kevin Urhammer, Nancy Peltier, and Marguerite DeFore. Pastor Nathan, and President Shelley Jokinen are also working with and alongside this committee to offer their guidance and help.

The following positions need to be filled for our upcoming Annual Meeting on February 1, 2026:

- President (1-year term will be appointed by Church Council)
- Vice President/President Elect (2-year term)
- Treasurer/Financial Operations Chair (2-year term)
- Property & Grounds Chair (1-year term will be appointed by Church Council)
- Mission Outreach (2-year term)
- Fellowship (2-year term)
- Evangelism & Membership Chair (2-year term)
- Children, Youth & Family (1-year term will be appointed by Church Council)
- Audit Committee (The Constitution states this committee is made up of 3 people: each serving a different term; terms are 1, 2, or a 3-year term.)
- Nominating Committee: Up to 5 members serving up to a 2-year term.

## Electronic Giving

Did you know you can also sign up for regular online giving? And that you can still keep your giving number and continue to use your envelopes for other giving opportunities? Simply scan the QR code in your bulletin or go to our website and click on the "Giving" button at the top of our home page. You can use either a credit/debit card or your bank account information. Our electronic giving is easy, secure and administered by Vanco, a reputable partner in empowering churches, schools, and community organizations by securely simplifying their giving, payment and financial management.

## St. Paul Lutheran Church's QR Code for Giving

QR codes are everywhere these days, and SPLC has one too! Our giving QR code makes it simple to support any ministry or project. Once you scan it, just follow these quick steps: Choose your gift amount. Use the dropdown menu to select where you'd like your offering to go. Current Offering, Music Ministry, 4th Street Exterior Repair, and many more funds are available. It's a quick and easy way to give with purpose!



## Offering Counter Training

Counters, if you were unable to attend the meeting on Thursday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, Financial Operations requests that you attend the meeting on Tuesday, January 13<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM. This training session will discuss procedures, forms used, and policy. Updated procedure packets will also be given out. ***This is for all weekly, subs, and holiday counters.*** If you cannot attend, please let the office know, and arrangements will be made. We will meet in the lounge. Thank you for stepping up and for your willingness to take on this important task!

## 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, January 25 at 10:30 in the Lounge to explore ways you can become a member of St. Paul Lutheran Church.

## New and Updated Prayer List

Beginning early next year, we will be re-working our prayer list to better reflect immediate concerns while continuing to pray for as many people as possible. Please take moment and take a look at our current prayer list and note any names on your Welcome to Worship card that could be removed or that you wish to keep on the list. We will do our best to keep as many names as possible, however, if a name is inadvertently taken off please let us know. Thank you for your understanding.

## Attention to our Seniors who receive Senior Surprises

During the months of January and February, we do not deliver monthly "Senior Surprises" as we never know what the weather will be like for delivery. Our Senior Crafters and our Senior Deliverers look forward to creating and delivering to you again in March. Can you believe we are going into our 6th year of this wonderful ministry to our seniors over the age of 70? If you are over 70 and are interested in being a part of this ministry, please contact the church office at 651-439-5970, and the crafters and deliverers will add you to our list.



The following people are those who decide and create the monthly surprises. If you see them, please thank them for their continued support of this ministry: Lynn Lomen, Ann Kriesel, Adele Urhammer, Shelley Jokinen, Pam Seekel, Mary Kay Ness, and Marguerite DeFore. We also want to thank our deliverers who bring the monthly surprises to your door: Adele Urhammer, Bob Michaelis, Ann Kriesel, Carol Weber, Jenny Powell, Lynn Lomen, and Marguerite DeFore.

We are grateful for this continued ministry!

## February 55+ Worship



The February service will be on Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM; **this is the Second Sunday** due to the Annual Meeting on the first Sunday. The menu will be Pork Roast, Green Beans, Rice Pilaf, and Dessert. Please sign-up in the Gathering Area by Sunday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, 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.**

## **WELCA Triennial Gathering**

The WELCA Triennial Gathering will be July 16-19, 2026 in Des Moines, Iowa. The Website for more information and to register is: [welcatg.org](http://welcatg.org).



A few things to know and consider:

- If you are a first-time attendee, there are scholarships available to pay the convention registration fee. Contact Becky Maier: [jbmaier@hotmail.com](mailto:jbmaier@hotmail.com).
- Early registration fee by January 5th is \$475. After that date, the cost is \$525.
- Included in the registration fee is a Friday morning breakfast for first-time attendees.
- Lunch each day is also included.
- Evening meal is on your own.
- The leaders of our Cluster usually plan things out a bit, and the group hangs together when out and about, if you want.

The cluster will be arranging carpooling for those who wish to carpool, and will also help with hotel reservations if you have questions and want a roommate to help with the cost. Hotel reservations and costs are your responsibility. If you have further questions, contact Judy Clausen or Jenny Powell.

## **4<sup>th</sup> Street Repair & Refresh Project Recap of 2025**

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! What an amazing year it has been as SPLC came together to make our 4<sup>th</sup> Street Repair & Refresh Project a true success! This work was made possible through the dedication, creativity, and generosity of so many volunteers who stepped forward to create events our members genuinely enjoyed and supported, such as the SPLC Clothing Sale, Buy-a-Block, Bake-Off Event, Fill the Wheelbarrow, Waffle Bar, two Culver's Nights, and the Harvest & Holly Market. Each event reflected the heart of our congregation and the joy of working together toward a shared goal.

Through your enthusiastic participation in these events, along with several generous member donations, we were able to fully fund all 2025 expenses for the parking lot, temporary sign, and patio. Even more exciting, we also generated additional funds that will allow us in 2026 to prayerfully explore next steps for the patio space, consider a possible new sign, and look at ways to make the 4th Street face of our church even more inviting, welcoming, and up to date. Be sure to watch for more information as these plans begin to take shape.

(Continued on the next page.)

The remarkably low cost of the patio and parking lot improvements would not have been possible without the countless hours of donated labor and expertise from John Raleigh and Jeff Thomsen. Their commitment saved the church significant expense and made a tremendous difference. Thank you, John and Jeff, for your generosity and dedication!

Members of the 4<sup>th</sup> Street Repair & Refresh Project Committee have shared how meaningful the sense of camaraderie and togetherness has been throughout this past year. This project has been about more than repairs—it has been about community, collaboration, and living out our faith together. We are truly grateful to each and every one of you who played a role (large or small) in making this year such a success.

## **INCOME**

### **Balance in Parking Lot Improvement Fund (2024)**

	\$25,787.20
2025 Member Giving	\$84,405.25
Member "Buy a Block"	\$8,729.00
SPLC Clothing Sale	\$108.00
Bake-Off Event	\$562.01
Fill the Wheelbarrow	\$220.74
Waffle Bar	\$824.00
Culver's Night - September 30 <sup>th</sup>	\$435.82
Culver's Night - October 28 <sup>th</sup>	\$408.16
Harvest & Holly Market Booth Rental & Income	\$3,043.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$124,523.18</b>

## **EXPENSES**

4th Street SPLC Temporary Sign	\$554.79
Block for Wall	\$11,468.00
Trailer Rental for an additional block	\$93.89
Brick & Batten Exterior Design	\$746.25
Concrete patio	\$19,563.00
Holly & Harvest Market	\$417.24
Parking Lot Pavement	\$45,424.64
Misc. Expenses*	\$1,857.69
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$80,125.50</b>

\*Such as yellow tape, mulch, grass seed, and supplies.

**Puzzle Room Reminder!**

Cooler weather makes it the perfect time to enjoy a puzzle! The Puzzle Room (upper level, across from the restrooms) is stocked with puzzles to work on or take home. Stop by during office hours (Monday–Friday, 9:00 AM–1:00 PM) to puzzle at one of the tables. Bring a friend and enjoy some conversation and laughs. You’re welcome to leave a puzzle in progress and return another day, or take one home to enjoy. Feel free to share a puzzle with someone who can’t get out, and we gladly accept gently used puzzle donations. Sponsored by the Senior Committee, but open to everyone. Come join the fun!

**Prayer Requests**

**Congregants:** 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:** Gavin, Kurt S., Amy, William J., Karmen P., Darrel H., Jerry, Dick, Mary A., Troy A., Sophia M., Marv D., The Family of family of David and Carol S., Connor D., John O., 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:** 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, Judy (Ek) Anderson, Jeremy Green, and Paul Baker.

**SPLC In-person & Online Attendance**

Date	In-Person Worship	Online Worship
12/14/2025	94	170
12/21/2025	79	134
12/24/2025-3 PM	181	254
12/24/2025-5 PM	44	172
12/28/2025	60	159
1/4/2026	99	147

## **Upcoming Events**

<b>Sunday, January 11<sup>th</sup></b>	9:00 AM Worship 10:00 AM Coffee & Tea Time 10:30 AM in the Lounge: Housing Challenges 11:30 AM CYF Brainstorming in Youth Room
<b>Monday, January 12<sup>th</sup></b>	5:15 PM CYF Committee
<b>Tuesday, January 13<sup>th</sup></b>	10:00 AM Toddler Tuesdays! 1:00 PM Counters Meeting 3:00 PM Memorials & Grants Meeting 5:30 PM Financial Operations Meeting
<b>Wednesday, January 14<sup>th</sup></b>	10:00 AM Oak Park Sr. Living Worship 12:00 PM Staff Meeting
<b>Thursday, January 15<sup>th</sup></b>	9:00 AM Quilters 7:00 PM AA Fourth Dimension Meeting
<b>Sunday, January 18<sup>th</sup></b>	9:00 AM Worship 10:00 AM Sunday Shine in Fellowship Hall

## **Weekly Worship Assistants**

### **Sunday, January 11<sup>th</sup>**

Ushers     Tom & Carol Weber, Jennifer Braun, and Susan Markgraf

Assisting Minister     Riley MacDonald

Reader     Shelley Jokinen

Communion Set-up     Nancy Schlagel

Communion Server     Cheryl Renne

Altar Flowers

### **Sunday, January 18<sup>th</sup>**

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

Assisting Minister     Pastor Laurel

Reader     Abri Bell

Communion Set-up     Nancy Schlagel

Communion Server     Jennifer Braun

Altar Flowers