

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH – STILLWATER, MN

THE MESSENGER

JULY 2026

2026 Youth Mission Service Trip

SOUTH DAKOTA

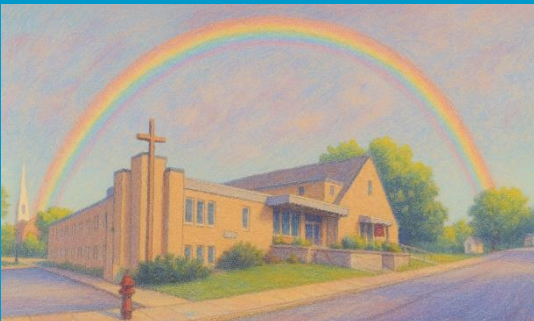
We still hope to raise a few more dollars for our upcoming Service Trip to Sioux Falls! We look forward to learning about and exploring this community by serving with local non-profits and visiting different places throughout the area. To support the trip, we will be holding our "100 Envelope Fundraiser." If every envelope is taken, we will raise nearly \$5,000, which would greatly help make this experience possible for our youth!

When you pick an envelope, you will receive the name of a youth participant who will become your prayer partner for the week. We hope this fundraiser is not only a way to support the trip financially, but also a way to stay connected through prayer and encouragement as we prepare to serve and grow together. Thanks in advance!!!!

2026 Ice Cream Social!

A flyer for St. Paul Lutheran's Annual Ice Cream Social. The background is a colorful checkered pattern with confetti. At the bottom, there are several ice cream cones in various flavors. The text on the flyer is as follows:

**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



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

Martin Luther's Rose

Along the right-side wall of our sanctuary, you will find the stained-glass window pictured here. The image is known as the "Luther rose." In Martin Luther's time, it was common for persons of prominence to have their own "seal" or "coat of arms" to represent themselves and their values. Unlike the many militaristic seals of the time, Luther chose a white rose as his primary symbol. What was most important to him was his faith in Jesus Christ.

Lutheran writer Mary J. Streufert in her book, *Language for God*, provides a helpful description: "[Luther] knew firsthand that our relationship with God creates joy and freedom. When he created the now well-known Luther rose, he explained to a friend how it symbolized joy: 'Such a heart is to be in the midst of a white rose, to symbolize that faith gives joy, comfort, and peace; in a word it places the believer into a white joyful rose.'" (103)

The white rose is the most prominent feature, but at the core of the rose (which represents our own heart) is the cross of Christ. The cross grounds our faith to its core: the death of Jesus which saves us. Through his self-giving love on the cross, Jesus reveals his deathless and eternal love. Just as you might wear a cross necklace over your heart, so all of us hold the cross of Jesus close to our hearts.

Behind the rose is a sky-blue field. It symbolizes, according to Luther, "that such joy in the Spirit and in faith is a beginning of the future heavenly joy." Finally, the rose is enveloped in a golden ring to symbolize that the gift of faith is "precious beyond all joy and goods, just as gold is the most valuable and precious metal." (LW 49: 359) A ring is eternal, whose promise can never be broken.

Our Luther Rose window dates to 1952 when our current building was constructed. As we prepare to mark 75 years since our new building was constructed, it's an important reminder of how Jesus Christ is still at the center of our faith. It's also a great reflection of our forebears' decision to remain in "old Stillwater" and re-commit ourselves

to serving this neighborhood. One of our values from our current Vision and Values Statement (adopted at a congregational meeting in April) is Generosity. Under this heading, our statement reads: "From the "South Hill" of historic Stillwater, we have been caring for our neighbors, community, and God's people both near and far since first welcoming German immigrants over 150 years ago."

As I approach almost two years since called to be your pastor, I continue to marvel at your generosity and care for others. Especially over these past few months, so many of you have reminded me of how caring for neighbors near and far is at the core of our faith, including newly arrived immigrants, those who utilize the services of Valley Outreach, Connect Center, and Stepping Stones, and those who are grieving the loss of loved ones. Key to this care is accepting and honoring the fact that we are not all the same. We all have different political beliefs, different sexual orientations, different life experiences - yet we value and honor and accept each other as Christ accepted us on the cross.

Friends in Christ: May we continue to offer the white rose of faith to one another.



Pastoral Care June 21st - July 19th

While Pastor Nathan is away at LSM, Pastor Laurel will be the primary contact for pastoral matters through July 11. Beginning July 12, Pastor Marla Amborn will be the primary contact. We also look forward to welcoming Pastor Marla to preach and preside at worship on July 19.

Children, Youth, and Family

Sunday Shine! July 19th!

Join us on the third Sunday in July, following worship, for a fun and welcoming intergenerational activity! This is a great opportunity for all ages to gather, connect, and enjoy time together. There will be something for everyone, and yes, treats will be provided, because fellowship is always better with snacks. **This summer, we will hold Sunday Shine out on the Patio (if the weather is nice)!**



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 10th to 14th. 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!

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

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

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

Location: St. Paul Lutheran Church
609 5th 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**

Questions? Call Jenny at 218-770-5754 or jenny@stpaulc.org.

Senior Section

55+/Senior Worship Services Update

The 55+/Senior Worship Services and Lunches are being paused for July and August. We will see you on 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 be in the August Messenger and bulletins with sign-up in the Gathering Area. Have a great summer! We look forward to seeing you in September! - The Senior Committee.



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

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.

Quilts for Graduating Seniors!

The quilters hope you have enjoyed looking at the graduation quilts we had on display in the Gathering Area and Fellowship Hall the last few weeks. Maybe you even saw a piece of your material you donated to us for making the quilts.

Madeleine Behm
2026 Graduate



We gave 12 quilts to the graduating seniors (grandchildren, nieces, and nephews) of our congregation. We are delivering some quilts to LWR and to the Washington County Emergency Housing Services here in Stillwater in the near

future. A big thank you for your generous donations of material, sewing supplies, and your support. Come and join us any Thursday from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

A Note from Pastor Laurel

Frequently, the lyrics of the first verse of “Will You Come and Follow Me” (ELW hymn 836) will float through my mind. First, the melody is simple and beautiful. Secondly, the words remind me of the great commission to which our Lord calls you and me.

“Will you come and follow me
if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don’t know
and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown,
will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown
in you and you in me?”

Jesus calls us onto this incredible journey. We do not know where it will take us, but yet we follow. We follow with fear and courage, doubt and faith. We know that it will change us. I am so glad I do not know the ways which I will be changed or would be changed. I think I would be too afraid to follow. Of one thing I am certain, I am so grateful that you and I are on this journey together. Walking alongside you, you alongside me, has given me blessings and courage that strengthens me.

Jesus says, “Will you come and follow me? Will you go on this strange journey and not know the places I will take you? Will you simply go and trust?”

Thank you for going on faith journeys with me.

Pastor Nathan's LSM Chaplaincy



Pastor Nathan will be away for his chaplaincy to the Lutheran Summer Music Community from June 18th - July 19th. During this time, he will return to the office one day per week and will also preach and preside for worship on June 21st and July 5th. This year's academy is held on the campus of St. Olaf College. All LSM concerts are free and open to the public, though some require tickets. Go to lsmacademy.org/calendar for a complete listing of concerts and events.

Abendmusik & Festival of Hymns



Monday, July 13, 2026, at 7:00 PM, in the Boe Memorial Chapel, St. Olaf College. This outing is sponsored by the Senior Committee and open to the entire congregation. Abendmusik & Festival of Hymns begins with an extended musical prelude, followed by a worship service filled with hymns both familiar and lesser-known, thoughtful arrangements, and reflective readings. The program runs approximately 2 hours. We have 30 tickets reserved and will travel on a 30-passenger coach bus, leaving the church at 4:45 PM and returning back at approximately 10:00 PM. **LAST DAY TO SIGN UP IS WEDNESDAY, JULY 8TH.**

Sign-up sheet is in the Gathering Area. Once the 30 tickets are spoken for, please sign up on the Wait List. Sign up guests on the Wait List and indicate who they are a guest of so you can be contacted if tickets become available. The cost is \$10 for everyone. Please use the envelopes next to the sign-up sheet for payment and turn into the office. Make checks payable to St Paul Lutheran Church and note LSM Concert on the memo line. All checks will be held until the event takes place.

Free CPR/AED Refresher Class

Join us for a free CPR/AED Refresher Class on Monday, August 17th, 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.

Thank You! - Mission Outreach

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the Baby Care Kits and the Personal Care Kits. We will be delivering 25 of each care kit to Lutheran World Relief when the quilters deliver quilts there in June.



Welcome Home Basket Supplies

Welcome Home Baskets provide household essentials for people moving into housing and the baskets turn housing into a home. This opportunity requires volunteers to purchase the requested materials, pack them, and deliver them. We can accept anywhere from 1 to 100 baskets. If you are interested in assembling Welcoming Home Baskets, please contact Katelyn Jaksha, Lead Volunteer Coordinator, for details.

Sandwich-Making

SHS is accepting donations of sandwiches at this time. Please contact Aaron Ramos, Volunteer Engagement Manager, at 612-874-8683 to schedule a time to assemble sandwiches at the shelter.

NARCAN TRAINING

Tuesday, July 21, 4-5 pm

Simpson Community Shelter & Apartments
2740 1st Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN

Join the Volunteer Engagement and Shelter Teams for an in-person NARCAN training. The Naloxone (NARCAN) training will teach you how to recognize the signs of an opioid overdose and administer the opioid overdose reversal drug Naloxone. We will also discuss the philosophy of harm reduction and how that fits into Simpson Housing Services program model. Please call and register at 612-874-0306.

New Executive Director

Simpson Housing Services is pleased to announce that Tonya Brownlow has been named the organization's next Executive Director. Tonya will begin her role on September 15, 2026.

Tonya brings more than 25 years of leadership experience in homelessness, housing stability, mental health, and supportive services. For the past 12 years, she has served as Executive Director of Emma Norton Services.

Guns to Gardens

Forging peace by turning guns into garden tools

HOW
Anyone can bring unwanted guns. Those bringing guns are anonymous

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

- 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.
- 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.



New Things Happening at Valley Outreach

Haulin' Oats Food Truck - Big things are happening in their fleet! They recently purchased a brand-new food truck (appropriately named Haulin' Oats), and it's a genuine game-changer for their food program. Equipped with a refrigerated unit, it allows them to safely distribute temperature-sensitive items like milk and eggs. It also gives food rescue drivers the ability to transport frozen and refrigerated items from grocery stores without worrying about time or temperature. They are so proud of the addition and what it means for the people they serve. They have also welcomed a new van to the fleet, made possible through generous grant funding. This vehicle will help move food more efficiently, extend their reach, and ensure more individuals and families can access what they need. Together, the new truck and van strengthen their ability to move food quickly, safely, and reliably throughout the community!

Weight Scales & PantrySaver system

Valley Outreach has also taken an important step forward in its warehouse operations. New weight scales have been installed in the warehouse and food shelf, along with a monitor to support the new tracking system, PantrySaver. These updates will help us more accurately measure and manage the food we distribute, improving efficiency and our impact in the community.

Specialty & Global Foods Section

We're thrilled to announce the official launch of a new section in the Food Shelf: Specialty & Global Foods! We created the Specialty & Global Foods section to better support clients by improving access to allergen-free products, offering more culturally relevant food options, and helping to ensure these higher-demand items are more consistently in stock.

Their hope is that this section helps more clients regularly find foods that are meaningful to them and their families.

Does this mean all international or culturally relevant foods will now be in this section? The answer is no. You'll still find culturally relevant foods throughout the food shelf, in alignment with their SuperShelf guidelines. Many foods can be culturally relevant depending on how they are prepared and used by households.

That said, since many of these items are not consistently available through food bank ordering systems, this dedicated space ensures that when they are available, more people have the opportunity to find and select them.

NEW - We're launching a new monthly series highlighting our Donation Need of the Month - specific items where community support can make an immediate impact. This month's featured need is items to support our Homeless Outreach Service Team (HOST) bags. HOST Bags are distributed in partnership with Washington County Community Services' Homeless Outreach Services Team. These bags provide quick, accessible support to community members experiencing homelessness.

Each bag contains shelf-stable, ready-to-eat foods designed for individuals who may not have access to kitchens, refrigeration, or cooking equipment. The focus is on items that are nutritious, portable, and easy to consume on the go.

Valley Outreach's most-needed HOST bag items include:

- Shelf-stable turkey sticks, beef sticks, or cheese sticks
- Fruit cups
- Whole grain crackers
- Nutrition bars

While these items may seem simple, they can provide comfort, nourishment, and support to someone navigating an incredibly difficult situation.

Prayer Requests

Prayer List Names will remain on our prayer list for one month, unless indicated otherwise.

For those hospitalized or with immediate needs: David C, Marilyn B, and Mark C.

Those receiving hospice care: Barb Dk.

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

Those with other ongoing needs: Joe F, Becky G, 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: Barb D, Ardyce S, Barb D, 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.

Dollis Harris, Jacklyn Waterman, Jeffrey Thomsen, Donald Teske, Shirley Nolde, Sally Colemier, Carol Scheel, Charles Olson, Scott Anderson, Thomas Schwiets, Janet Stuessy, Sandra Nolan, Mary Richter, Steven Michaelis, Darrel Henton, James Flynn, Patty Thomsen, Marshall Ray Reams, Jim Hockin, Jacquilyn Pierre, Dorie Nelson, Lois Haase, Marlene Ritzer, and Richard Watson.

Celebrating 75 Years!

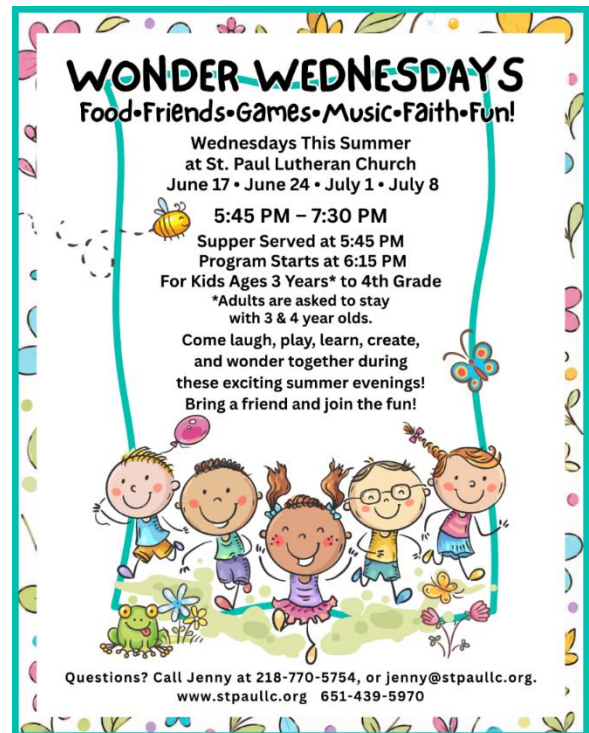
This July, we begin celebrating 75 years in our current church home! (Our original church was located near the corner of 3rd and Oak Streets.) To mark the occasion, we'll open the church cornerstone during the week of July 20th and display its contents on July 26th. **Watch for details if you'd like to attend the opening!**

The 75th Anniversary Committee is busy planning a year of celebration. If you have ideas or would like to help, please note your interest on your Count Me In card, contact the church office, or reach out to Pastor Nathan.

Wonder Wednesdays!

July 1st & July 8th - 5:45 PM - 7:30 PM

Wonder Wednesdays is a fun and welcoming summer program hosted by SPLC for children ages 3 years through 4th grade. The program combines food, friendship, games, music, faith, and fun in a lively and faith-filled atmosphere. Families are invited to enjoy supper together before kids participate in engaging activities designed to help them laugh, learn, create, and grow in their faith.



SD Youth Service Trip Update!

Join us during the 9:00 AM worship service on July 12th as we send off our youth and adult leaders who are heading to Sioux Falls, South Dakota, for their Service Trip.

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for your generous support, financial contributions, and prayers. Your encouragement has made this opportunity possible, and we are incredibly grateful. We couldn't do it without you! Participants include Sabrianna Bell, Abri Bell, Ashton Bell, Kamel Benyahia, Elijah Mack, Henry Lundquist, Abby Johnson, Julian Galvin, Ryan, Carter Schulz, Johnny Isaacson, Zac Thompson and Jenny Brelje.

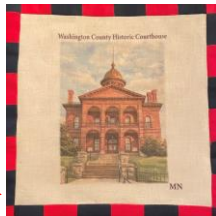
Quilting News!

Track the Washington Counties Quilt Celebrating our Nation's 250th Birthday! The Washington Counties Unite Committee is excited to announce that the Washington Counties Quilt has officially begun its journey to all 29 Washington Counties across the United States!

The SPLC Quilters were honored to contribute a block to this remarkable project, and we are thrilled to welcome the quilt to Stillwater around December 13, 2026. It will be on display at SPLC for approximately one week before moving across the street to the Historic Courthouse, where it will be displayed for another week. After its visit to Stillwater, the quilt will continue its cross-country journey to Utah.

Enjoy this preview of the beautiful quilt, along with a photo of the block created by our talented quilters.

Our Quilt Block!



2026 Twins' Lutheran Night!

Lutheran Night with the Twins - August 11th! Tickets are \$47 for friends and members to age 54, and \$37 for members aged 55+. Thank you to the Fellowship, and Senior Committees for offsetting the cost! Your ticket gets you Club Level Seating in Legends Landing along the third base line AND all-you-can-eat ballpark fare! Please sign-up in the office, with payment, by Monday, July 27th! The cost of the bus transportation is included (pick up time TBD). The bus will return to the church after the game. Please indicate if you will be riding with us when you sign up. Hope to see you at Lutheran Night! Win Twins!

SPLC IS GOING TO THE BALLPARK!



LUTHERAN NIGHT!

MN TWINS VS. THE ATLANTA BRAVES

TUESDAY, AUGUST 11TH

6:40 GAME START

Tickets are \$47 for friends
and members to age 54
\$37 for members aged 55+

Win Twins!

PRICE INCLUDES FOOD,
NON-ALCOHOL BEVERAGES, AND
THE BUS RIDE TO THE GAME

WE ARE ASKING FOR PAYMENT
AT THE TIME OF SIGN-UP

SIGN-UP IN THE OFFICE



St. Paul Lutheran Church Calendar

As of 6/30/2026

July 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
For the most current and up-to-date information, please visit our online calendar at stpaulc.org.			1 5:45 PM Wonder Wednesday!	2 9:00 AM Quilters 3:00 PM Mission Outreach Meeting 7:00 PM AA Mtg. in Fellowship Hall	3 SPLC Office Closed Today	4 
5 9:00 AM Service 10:00 AM Coffee & Tea Time	6	7 12:00 PM Connect Center Meeting	8 10:00 AM Worship at Oak Park Sr. Living 5:45 PM Wonder Wednesday!	9 9:00 AM Quilters 7:00 PM AA Mtg. in Fellowship Hall	10 4:00 PM Executive Committee Zoom Meeting	11
12 9:00 AM Service 10:00 AM Coffee & Tea Time 2026 South Dakota Youth Service Trip!	13	14 3:00 PM Memorials & Grants Meeting 5:30 PM Financial Operations Meeting	15 11:00 AM Worship at Boutwells	16 9:00 AM Quilters 7:00 PM AA Mtg. in Fellowship Hall	17	18
19 9:00 AM Service 10:00 AM Sunday Shine!	20 Newsletter Deadline	21 6:30 PM Church Council	22 12:00 PM Staff Meeting	23 9:00 AM Quilters 7:00 PM AA Mtg. in Fellowship Hall	24	25
26 9:00 AM Service 10:00 AM Coffee & Tea Time	27	28 1:30 PM Sarah Bible Study 6:30 PM Worship Committee Meeting	29	30 9:00 AM Quilters 7:00 PM AA Mtg. in Fellowship Hall	31	

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