

# **Announcements**

## **St. Paul Lutheran Church**

### **November 16, 2025**



### **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@stpaulcl.org](mailto:SPLC@stpaulcl.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!

### **Welcome to Pastor John Omans!**

Back with us again since summer, Pastor John Omans was ordained at Oak Lake Lutheran Church in Kerrick, MN, in 1994. He has served in a variety of places, beginning as an intern pastor-in-training in Western North Dakota, then to upstate New York, northwestern Minnesota in Bagley, and finally for over a decade in Waseca, Minnesota, where he retired in 2023. Pastor John grew up in Albert Lea, and his wife, Nadine, grew up in Moose Lake (she has relatives in towns all along Interstate 35 between White Bear Lake and Duluth!). They chose Rush City as their retirement home, but spend a good chunk of their winters in San Antonio, Texas, with their grandchildren. It is his absolute joy to supply preach in the ELCA whenever and wherever he is needed!

### **Pastoral Care and Funeral Services at St. Paul Lutheran**

As a follow-up to the seminar with Bradshaw Funeral Home, all are welcome to join Pastors Nathan and Laurel on November 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10:30 in the Lounge as they share about pastoral care at the time of death and options for funeral services here at the church or elsewhere.

### **Peace of Mind Funeral Planning Seminar**

Thank you for the warm welcome to Eric Ostlund last week from Bradshaw Funeral Home. Eric is Bradshaw's PrePlan Consultant and provided a free advance funeral planning seminar, where many great questions were asked. If you were unable to attend but are interested in discussing the steps involved in getting a funeral plan in place with Bradshaw, just let us know, and we'll put you in touch with him.

## **TODAY! - Sunday Shine Hot Cocoa Bar and Christmas Card signing**

Join us after worship on November 16<sup>th</sup> for Sunday Shine in the



Fellowship Hall. The Worship Committee will be launching a Cocoa Bar at this month's Sunday Shine. Want to know what a Cocoa Bar is? Come on down after worship to join in the fellowship and

fun after worship. We will also be signing Christmas Cards as our intergenerational activity.



## **Sarah Bible Study**

The Fall Gather Magazine has arrived. Please do not discard your copy, as it contains September, October, and November's studies. The Sarah Bible Study will meet in the lounge on Tuesday, November 25<sup>th</sup>, at 1:30 PM. We will be studying Session 3, "Generosity – A wideness in God's mercy," found on page 36. If you are in need of a copy, please contact the church office.

## **Culver's Fundraiser Update!**

A huge thank you to everyone who helped make our Culver's Nights successful! SPLC represented well, and the money raised reflected that! We raised a total of \$843.98 - with \$435.82 being raised on September 30<sup>th</sup> and \$408.16 on October 28<sup>th</sup>!

This was all made possible by **YOU!** SPLC members have been so generous, and our committee is filled with gratitude for each and every one of you. This project is building great momentum and community - let's keep the energy going! Sincerely, The 4<sup>th</sup> Street Repair& Refresh Committee



## **Harvest & Holly Bake Sale Announcement!**

All Bake Sale donations can be dropped off at the church on Friday, November 21<sup>st</sup>, between 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM. If you can't come during those hours, please get in touch with Kristin in the Office to arrange drop-off. Please have your homemade goodies ready to sell; cut, plated, and covered with clear wrap. ***We'll take care of adding the price labels, but please include a suggested price for your item(s).*** Thank you for baking up some sweetness for the Harvest & Holly Market!

## **Wreath/Swags Order Deadline - Wednesday, November 19<sup>th</sup>**



The ordering deadline for the Wreath & Swags Sale Fundraiser is **Wednesday, November 19<sup>th</sup>**. Please have your orders to the office by that date.  
Thank You!

## **St. Paul Lutheran – Thanksgiving Meal Boxes**

Previously, SPLC has participated in the FARE FOR ALL Thanksgiving Meal distribution, sponsored by the Memorials and Grants Committee. Unfortunately, they are no longer coming to Stillwater, and we are unable to coordinate a bulk meal purchase with them. We are excited to share that SPLC will be hosting its own Thanksgiving Meal distribution!

**A big thank you to the Memorials and Grants Committee for continuing this Thanksgiving tradition!**

To order, please call Diane Podratz at 651-439-7843. The deadline to order is **Wednesday, November 19<sup>th</sup>**. Anyone is welcome to receive a box, whether it's for your own household or someone you know who could use a little extra support this season. We are asking that you limit your order to two boxes. **If you have special circumstances, please speak to Diane.** The meal pick up will be on Sunday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>, from 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM in Fellowship Hall.

## **December 55+ Worship**

The December service will be on Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, at 11:00 AM. ***The Senior Committee decided that this meal will be FREE!*** The menu will be Cub Chicken with potatoes, gravy, vegetables, and dessert. Please sign-up in the Gathering Area by Sunday, November 30<sup>th</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.**

## **Prayer Requests**

**Congregants:** Jenny B., 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:** 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, Erica B., Lisa, Kristen B., Mary Jo D., Cody, Rick & Jean, Patti & Family, Randy & Laura, Muggs, Carolyn, Paul, Kevin, Kara, Allison J., Evy, Dave, Georgia, Russel B., Bonnie M., Connie, Shannon S., 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, Kathy B., Vince S, Phyllis F., Jim G., Margie M., Rick W., Karen W., Carol L., Jeff E., Mike M., and Jeffrey T.

**In Loving Memory:** Jacquilyn Pierre, Dorie Nelson, Lois Haase, Marlene Ritzer, Holly Halvorson, Mark Walker, Richard Markgraf, Sister Eileen Trinity, Judy Becker, Becky Dufresne, Jerry Sharon, Judy (Ek) Anderson, Jeremy Green, Paul Baker, Scott Coleman, and Becky Moore.

## Harvest & Holly Market

Mark your calendars for one of the most festive days of the season—the Harvest & Holly Market! This joyful holiday will be brimming with handmade treasures, one-of-a-kind gifts, and the cozy spirit of the season. Visitors can wander through booths filled with beautifully crafted quilts, seasonal décor, unique gifts, and delicious baked goods lovingly made by local artisans and talented church members. ***But here's where the real magic happens***—we need **YOU** to help make it shine! From setup, or greeting guests, to serving treats, your time and energy will help create a warm, festive atmosphere that everyone will love. ***The volunteer sign-up sheet is in the Gathering Area. With your help, we will bring this holiday event to life!*** Questions? Please contact Kristin in the office. Thank you! Don't forget that our very own Santa "Clausen" will be making a special appearance! Bring the kids (or the kids-at-heart!) for festive photos, warm smiles, and a sprinkle of Christmas cheer.



## Mission Outreach – Updated!

The Mission Outreach Committee is preparing several meaningful opportunities for our congregation to share in the spirit of the season. Once again, we will support families from the Rainbow Child Daycare Center, and this year, we are sponsoring four families. The display will go up on Sunday, November 30<sup>th</sup>, and we kindly ask that all gifts be returned to the church by 1:00 PM on Wednesday, December 17<sup>th</sup>. ***SPLC families who may need assistance this holiday season are encouraged to reach out to Kristin in the church office.*** We'll also be continuing our beautiful luminary display, a heartfelt way to honor loved ones and remember those who have passed. The luminaries will shine throughout the Christmas season and remain on display through New Year's Day. We'll share more details about the luminaries as we get closer to December.

## Puzzle Room Reminder!

As the weather cools down, it's the perfect time to cozy up with a puzzle! The Puzzle Room (upper level, across from the restrooms) is stocked with plenty to take home and enjoy. You're welcome to stop in during office hours (Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM) and work on a puzzle at one of the tables in the room. Bring a friend or two! It's a wonderful way to share conversation and laughter while working together. If you don't finish, no worries! You can leave the puzzle in progress and come back another day to pick up right where you left off. Prefer to work on puzzles at home? You're invited to take one home with you. And if you know someone who enjoys puzzles but isn't able to get out and about, please feel free to deliver one to them as a little act of kindness and connection. We're also accepting donations of gently used puzzles to keep the selection fresh and fun for everyone. This program is sponsored by the Senior Committee, but everyone is encouraged to take part! Come find your next puzzle and join in the fun!



## Congregational Vitality Assessment Continues through November 16<sup>th</sup>

As the next phase of our Forward in Faith initiative, you are invited to help our congregation assess its vital signs and areas for growth! It includes 70 quick questions relating to 10 areas of congregational life and can be taken entirely online with either a computer or phone. We are pleased to offer this research-based, online congregational vitality diagnostic tool that will help us build on our strengths and focus on areas for improvement. The assessment is now live through Sunday evening, November 16.



If you would like to participate, please send an email to the church office at [SPLC@stpaulc.org](mailto:SPLC@stpaulc.org) or Pastor Nathan at [pastornathan@stpaulc.org](mailto:pastornathan@stpaulc.org), and they will forward you the link. Don't have easy access to a computer or smartphone? Let us know in the church office, and we can assist you in taking the survey.

## **Lutheran Summer Music**

Enrollment is now open for Lutheran Summer Music (LSM) 2026 at St. Olaf College in Northfield! LSM is a faith-based residential music academy for high school students who come together to immerse themselves in musical excellence and build a supportive and fun community. Musical experiences include large ensembles (band, choir, orchestra), chamber music, private lessons, and electives like handbells, jazz, musical theatre, composition, conducting, church music, and more. Go to [lsmacademy.org](http://lsmacademy.org) for more information.

## **Operation Christmas Child**

Thank you to everyone who generously contributed to the shipping costs for the Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes, and to all who helped pack them on Sunday, October 26<sup>th</sup>!



On Sunday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, we'll take a special moment during worship to bless the shoeboxes and pray for the children who will receive them. Following the blessing, the boxes will be delivered to the drop-off center later that week.

Your kindness, generosity, and willing hands make it possible to share Christ's love around the world. Thank you for being part of this meaningful ministry!

### **SPLC In-person & Online Attendance**

<b>Date</b>	<b>In-Person Worship</b>	<b>Online Worship</b>
<b>10/19/2025</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>189</b>
<b>10/26/2025</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>154</b>
<b>11/2/2025</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>165</b>
<b>11/9/2025</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>177</b>

## **This Week's Events**

<b>Sunday, November 16<sup>th</sup></b>	9:00 AM Worship-Blessing of the Shoeboxes! 10:00 AM Sunday Shine & Christmas Cards!
<b>Tuesday, November 18<sup>th</sup></b>	12:00 PM Connect Center Meeting 6:30 PM Church Council Meeting
<b>Wednesday, November 19<sup>th</sup></b>	11:00 AM Worship at Boutwells 12:00 PM Staff Meeting 6:00 PM Grief Support Group 6:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal
<b>Thursday, November 20<sup>th</sup></b>	Newsletter Deadline 9:00 AM Quilters 5:00 PM Sytten de Mail 7:00 PM AA Group
<b>Saturday, November 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	10:00 AM to 4:00 PM Harvest & Holly Market
<b>Sunday, November 23<sup>rd</sup></b>	9:00 AM Worship-Blessing of the Shoeboxes! 10:30 AM Pastoral Care and Funeral Services

## **Weekly Worship Assistants**

### **Sunday, November 16<sup>th</sup>**

**Greeters**

**Ushers**     Dan Nelson, Kristin Nelson, Libby  
                  Thibodeau, and Kamel Benyahia

**Assisting Minister**     Jenny Brelje

**Reader**     Jerry Schlagel

**Communion Set-up**     Nancy Schlagel

**Communion Server**     Shelley Jokinen

**Altar Flowers**

### **Sunday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**Greeters**

**Ushers**     Jay Swanson, Jerry Schlagel, Ashton Bell,  
                  Sabrina Bell, Kamel Benyahia, and Atticus  
                  Mikla

**Assisting Minister**     Riley MacDonald

**Reader**     Nancy Schlagel

**Communion Set-up**     Adele Urhammer

**Communion Server**     Adele Urhammer

**Altar Flowers**     Kristin and Dan Nelson

## **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
Maintenance	Jeff Thomsen
Audio-Video Engineer	Tim Schingen

## **2025 Church Council Officers**

President	Shelley Jokinen
Secretary	Chris Shivers

## **2025 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. 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Stillwater, MN 55082  
(651) 439-5970

## **Office Hours**

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

Email: [spkc@stpaulc.org](mailto:spkc@stpaulc.org)

Website: [stpaulc.org](http://stpaulc.org)

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