

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH – STILLWATER, MN

THE MESSENGER

NOVEMBER 2025

Trunk or Treat 2025!



Harvest & Holly Market

Additional Information on Page 3

HARVEST AND HOLLY Market

NOVEMBER 22, 2025

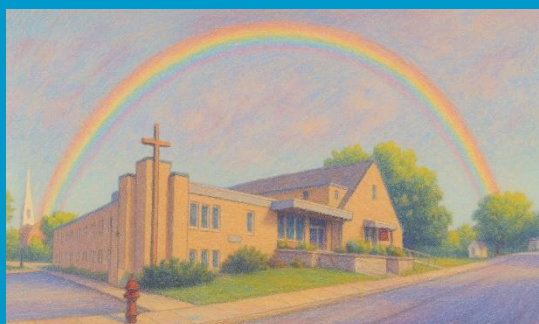
10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Handmade Crafts & Vendors
Quilts - Bake Sale - Gifts

Pictures with Santa!

St. Paul Lutheran Church
609 5th Street South
Stillwater, MN 55082
651.439.5970
www.stpaulc.org

We are located across the street
from the Historic Courthouse



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

One of the more traditional readings for All Saints Sunday (the first Sunday in November) is Matthew 5:1-12:

¹ When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ² And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

³ "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵ "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶ "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷ "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸ "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹ "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰ "Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

This is the first public sermon of Jesus in Matthew's gospel, his first words that set the tone for the gospel, a word that means "good news." A saint simply means "set apart", "chosen" or "holy" (the traditional word). Here Jesus names two types of saints: the poor and those who give to the poor. Jesus' disciples form the inner circle of saints, those who give to others. But the poor form the outer circle of saints, including the sick, the outcast, the forgotten, those whom Jesus also calls "sheep without a shepherd." (Matthew 9:36) We know ourselves to be a part of this inner circle of saints. But the outer circle of saints are held just as close, if not more, by Jesus.

Blessed are the poor in spirit These are beggars who have nothing and who cannot make-believe good thoughts. Their lives will never change until someone stands up for them. These ones, Jesus says, are at the front of the line in God's kingdom.

Blessed are those who mourn. These ones grieve an irreplaceable loss. They are "comforted," Jesus says, taking a word straight from the prophet Isaiah. (see Isaiah 40:1-2) In the Old Testament Hebrew, the word for comfort is also the word for a mother's womb. Those who mourn are blessed by the "womb-love" of God, hemmed in by a God who protects as a mother protects her child.

Blessed are the meek. These are ones who have no land or home, hard-up in debt and shut out from the prosperity that surrounds them. Our Lord Jesus proclaims they shall "inherit" earth. Not earn, but inherit. It's a clear choice of words as Jesus invokes the ancient law in Leviticus, the Year of Jubilee. Every 50 years, all debts are cancelled and the land returns its original inhabitants. (see Leviticus 25)

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness. These ones are hungry for justice that has been denied them, who played by the rules but still got cheated. The balance of justice will be restored, our Lord Jesus says. Mary sang of this while Jesus was in her womb: "The hungry shall be filled with good things, and the rich will be sent away empty." (Luke 1:53)

Two types of saints: The poor and those who give to the poor. These first are the poor and hungry crowds huddled around Jesus, set apart to receive the blessings of the kingdom. But who are the saints that disburse and dispense these blessings of the kingdom?

You, friends in Christ. You are ones who share the blessings of God's kingdom, God's bounty with the poor. You are the disciples who form the inner circle, surrounded by the outer circle of the poor and needy. When you invite Jesus into your heart, Jesus brings his poor friends with him.

(Continued on the next page)

Pastor Nathan Continued

Blessed are the merciful. When you show mercy, you receive mercy. It's as simple as that. Mercy, not judgment, is the heart of God's law, embodied by the greatest commandment according to Jesus: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." (Matthew 22:39) Mercy not only for those we feel good about, but mercy for all.

Blessed are the pure in heart. This is you who "walk the talk", whose good intentions lead to action, who worship the God who knows the thoughts and intentions of all. The power to give lies not in you, but in God who has created you, grants you daily bread, and shields you with hope for the kingdom.

Blessed are the peacemakers. You are not only children of God but "angels of God," messengers who announce good news. Biblical angels do not sit on clouds thinking happy thoughts, privately hoping everyone will get along. No, angels break into lives and relationships, urge us to be at peace with others. They call us to be mindful that we breathe the same air and drink the same water. You are to rest in God by being restless for the well-being of your neighbor.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake. The reward for following Jesus is not an earthly one, but a heavenly one. "No good deed goes unpunished" is the way of the world. But you, friends in Christ, live as if in heaven already. You do right by your neighbor not for personal gain, but for a deeper relationship with God.

There are two types of saints: The poor and those who give to the poor. But there is a third type of saint. All of us, friends in Christ—rich and poor, insider and outsider—together, are saints of a third kind. It is the sainthood we share in Christ's death and resurrection. We all die with Christ, and we will all be raised with Christ. A blessed All Saints Day to you all!

Pastor Nathan

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.

Leadership in the Valley Update



Jenny's next Leadership in the Valley session is scheduled for Thursday, November 13, 2025, and the theme for the day is Business & Economic Development. This session will dive into how local businesses, entrepreneurs, and community leaders are shaping growth and innovation throughout

our region. It's always inspiring to hear firsthand how collaboration, creativity, and strategic planning fuel our local economy and create opportunities for everyone.

I'm really looking forward to the discussions, tours, and networking opportunities that come with this day—and I can't wait to share all the insights and takeaways with you afterward!

4th Street Update - Thank You All!

We are incredibly grateful to Jeff Thomsen and John Raleigh for their tireless energy and dedication in ensuring the completion of the patio and parking lot work—THANK YOU! There are so many others to thank for making this project possible. From the very beginning, your generosity has allowed us to complete it without incurring any debt.

Our heartfelt thanks to:

- Our Members and Friends
- SPLC Clothing Sale – Jenny B. & CYF Cmte
- Buy-a-Block – 4th St. Repair & Refresh
- Bake-Off – Janine Siverson & Fellowship Cmte
- Fill the Wheelbarrow – 4th St. Repair & Refresh
- Waffle Bar Fundraiser – Jenny Powell
- Culver's Tuesdays – Renee Swanson
- Harvest & Holly Market – Kristin & Barb D.

As you can see, it truly takes a village, and what an amazing one we have! Because of your time, creativity, and generosity, this project will serve our church and community for many years to come.



Children, Youth, and Family

Join us for Toddler Tuesdays on Tuesdays, November 11th and 25th, from 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM! It's a fun-filled morning designed just for toddlers, featuring engaging activities, interactive play, and opportunities for little ones to explore and socialize.

Trunk or Treat Thank You!

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!!!! Thanks for making Trunk or Treat so fun!!! All the trunks were amazing and a lot of fun. We had a great turn out even though the weather wasn't the greatest. Also, thank you to everyone who donated candy and other goodies.

The winners were:

1st Place - The Cat Lady

2nd place - Candyland

3rd place - Peak Coffee



Speak from the Heart

Sign-Up Deadline is November 9th! What brings you the most joy in your life right now? Where are you seeing God at work in these days? How has St. Paul Lutheran been a gift to you? All are welcome to share answers to these and other questions as we move ahead with our "Forward in Faith" initiative in October and November. We believe that God is going to speak to us through these conversations. If you would like to participate, please indicate that on "Count Me In" (on the back of your Welcome to Worship card) by November 9th or contact Pastor Nathan, President Shelley Jokinen or the church office. Our leadership will then assign a listener to meet with you at a convenient time and place such as a coffee shop, restaurant, church, or your home.

Funeral Planning Seminar

All are welcome to join Eric Ostlund from Bradshaw Funeral Home for a free advance funeral planning seminar at St. Paul Lutheran Church on November 9th following worship in the Lounge. Eric will be discussing the steps involved in getting a funeral plan in place, how that plan will affect your loved ones, and answering your questions on funeral services. Topics discussed include types of services, death away from home, planning financially, and what happens after the funeral service.

Pastoral Care & Services at SPLC

As a follow-up to the seminar with Bradshaw Funeral Home, all are welcome to join Pastors Nathan and Laurel on November 23rd, following worship 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.

Worship Committee

Join us after worship on November 16th 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.

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 26th!

On Sunday, November 16th, 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!



Culver's Fundraiser! October 28th!

Attention All Members!



Are you a member who likes numbers, and finds it easy to count? If so, the church is looking to add Offering Counters to our current teams! We currently have 4 teams and feel it would be best to add two more teams. This would allow for the 5th Sundays of the year (typically 4 per year) to have a counting team, and an extra team to be of help with the holiday offerings, being a substitute on a team, and special fundraising counting.



There will be training in early 2026 for all counting teams. This will ensure that all teams understand the Counting Procedure and how it all works!

The Time commitment is on a rotating basis and would require approximately 2-3 hours of your time when it is your turn to count. Having 2 extra teams, we will have more flexibility in assuring that our weekly offering is counted in a timely manner, as well as needed help when there are holidays and large special offerings or fundraising. The role of being an offering counter is an essential role that helps us accurately process the generosity of our members and friends of SPLC.

How to sign up: If you are interested in serving in this vital ministry, please sign up on Welcome to Worship slip in our weekly bulletin, or contact the church office at 651.439.5970. Any questions, please feel free to talk to any current counters, Jenny Powell, Renee Swanson, Vida MacDonald, Alice Walker, Karen Celski, Roger Harris, Judy Michaelis, or Mugs DeFore.

More Trunk or Treat!



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!

Congregation Vitality Assessment

As the next phase in our Forward in Faith initiative, all are invited to participate in helping our congregation assess its vital signs and areas for growth. The assessment is taken entirely online (easiest with your computer or iPad) and includes 70 quick questions relating to 10 areas of congregational life. The assessment opened this past Sunday afternoon and will run for two weeks through Sunday evening, November 16th. 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. To take the assessment: Pick up a copy of the website address in the church office following worship, or email the office secretary or Pastor Nathan. Don't have easy access to a computer or iPad? Let us know in the church office and we can assist you in taking the survey.



Senior Section

December 55+ Worship

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



No Free Afternoon Movie at SPLC in November

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



More Trunk or Treat!



Simpson Housing Services



New Simpson Community Shelter and Apartments Sneak Peek Event

You're invited to a special preview event at Simpson House on Tuesday, November 18th, from either 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM or 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM at their NEW Community Shelter & Apartments located at 2740 First Avenue, in Minneapolis. They are excited to offer this sneak peek of the new Simpson Community Shelter & Apartments as they approach the finish line of construction! This will be an evening of connection, inspiration, and vision as they provide updates on Simpson's efforts in the community to house, support, and empower people impacted by homelessness. **Please RSVP with your preferred session time by emailing sedevelopment@simpsonhousing.org.**

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 for more information.

Prayer Requests

Congregants: Melinda J., Nancy T., Dan B., Al M., Ron K., Judith K., Alida P., Pastor Laurel, Steve P., Mark C., and Abri B.

Family and Friends: The family of David and Carol S., Connor D., John O., Dan J., Mary A., Renae S., Mike S., Ann B., Katie P., 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: 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.

Congratulations James!

On Sunday, October 26th, we celebrated the baptism of James Jacob Schingen, son of members Tim and Stephanie Schingen. We thank God that James and all who are washed in the waters of baptism are given new life, forgiveness, and eternal rest in God.



Valley Outreach



On Nov. 1st, thousands of Minnesotans experienced a sudden disruption to their SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) food benefits due to the federal government shutdown. They have already seen an increased need, and local community support is more important than ever.

One of the best ways you can help is by assembling Food-to-Go Bags for immediate distribution to families in need. Food-to-Go Bags are pre-packed, shelf-stable bags designed to feed a family of four for one full day. They are easy to quickly distribute to families in need, both onsite at Valley Outreach and through partner locations.

They have clear packing instructions with shelf-stable items that are easy to purchase and widely appreciated. Just pack new, non-expired items on the list in a reusable grocery bag or paper shopping bag and drop them off at Valley Outreach, and they will make sure they get into the hands of neighbors who need them immediately. To donate, simply follow the signs and drive around the West side of their building (to the right side) to pull up to their donation dock with the bright yellow door. Please assist volunteers with unloading donations as you are able.



Food-to-Go Packing Instructions



EACH BAG CAN FEED A FAMILY OF 4 FOR A DAY!
GIVEN TO ANYONE IN NEED WHO VISITS OUTSIDE OF SERVICE HOURS OR
AVAILABLE AT PARTNER LOCATIONS.

1

Collect grocery-sized reusable or paper bags.

Purchase and pack ONE of each of the following food items in every bag.

Food must not be expired.

2

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| • Peanut Butter | • Fast Meal Options* |
| • Canned Tuna or Chicken | • Dry beans (1 lb.) |
| • Canned Fruit | • White rice (1 lb.) |
| • Canned Vegetables | • Pasta (1 lb.) |
| • Canned Broth | • Low Sugar Cereal |

*Mac & Cheese, Hamburger Helper, etc.

3

Drop off pre-packed Food to Go bags at Valley Outreach.

- **20 bags or less:** Drop off during donation hours
M 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. or T/Th 1:30 to 6:30 p.m.
- **20+ bags:** Please coordinate a drop-off time by emailing debbie.kanda@valleyoutreachmn.org



www.valleyoutreachmn.org



1911 Curve Crest Blvd. W. Stillwater, MN, 55082

Updated Valley Outreach Hours

Full Service Hours - Food, Clothes & Services

Mondays from 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM

Tuesdays from 1:30 PM to 6:30 PM

Thursdays from 1:30 PM to 6:30 PM

Fridays from 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM

Temporary SNAP Hours - Extra Food Support

Mondays from 12:30 PM to 4 PM

Extended Pick-Up/Curbside

Tuesdays from 9 AM to 1:30 PM

Food-To-Go Bags Only

Wednesdays from 9 AM to 4 PM

Food-To-Go Bags Only

Thursdays from 9 AM to 1:30 PM

Food-To-Go Bags Only

Fridays from 12:30 PM to 2 PM

Food-To-Go Bags Only

St. Paul Lutheran Church Calendar

As of 11/4/2025

November 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 10:00 AM Yarnsters
2 9:00 AM Service 11:00 AM 55+ Worship	3 10:00 AM Sr. Committee 1:00 PM Women's Reading Club	4 12:00 PM Connect Center Meeting 6:30 PM Worship Committee Meeting	5 12:00 PM Staff Meeting 6:00 PM Grief Support Group	6 9:00 AM Quilters 3:00 PM Mission Outreach Meeting 4:30 PM Fellowship Meeting 7:00 PM AA Meeting in Fellowship Hall	7 6:00 PM Wedding Rehearsal	8 4:00 PM Wedding
9 9:00 AM Service 10:00 AM Coffee & Tea Time 10:30 AM Adult Forum – Funeral Planning	10 5:15 CYF Meeting	11 10:00 AM Toddler Tuesdays! 3:00 PM Memorials & Grants Meeting 5:30 PM Financial Operations Meeting	12 10:00 AM Worship at Oak Park Sr. Living 12:00 PM Staff Meeting 2:30 PM Zoom Executive Committee Meeting 6:00 PM Grief Support Group 6:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal	13 9:00 AM Quilters 7:00 PM AA Meeting in Fellowship Hall	14	15
16 9:00 AM Service 10:00 AM Sunday Shine & Christmas Cards! 	17	18 6:30 PM Church Council Meeting	19 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	20 Newsletter Deadline 9:00 AM Quilters 5:00 PM Sytten de Mai 7:00 PM AA Meeting in Fellowship Hall	21	22 Harvest & Holly Market! 10 AM to 4 PM
23 9:00 AM Service 10:00 AM Coffee & Tea Time 10:30 AM Adult Forum – Funerals at SPLC	24	25 10:00 AM Toddler Tuesdays! 1:30 PM Sarah Bible Study	26 12:00 PM Staff Meeting 7:00 PM Thanksgiving Eve Worship 7:30 PM Pie Fellowship	27 Thanksgiving Day The Office is Closed 7:00 PM AA Meeting in Fellowship Hall	28 The Office is Closed Today	29
30 9:00 AM Service 10:00 AM Coffee & Tea Time						

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: splc@stpaulc.org - Website: www.stpaulc.org