ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH – STILLWATER, MN

THE MESSENGER

OCTOBER 2025







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.stpaullc.org

Facebook: facebook.com/stpaulstillwater

Message from Pastor Nathan

Baptism is about Being Part of a Household

by Pastor Nathan Baker-Trinity
This article is one of several in a monthly series on
baptism. Each article focuses upon a particular
theme of baptism and includes questions for reflection.

A commitment to "live among God's faithful people" is the first promise we ask of both parents who bring their children to baptism and Confirmands who affirm their baptism. The church is a household of faith, God's house of living stones, a spiritual family of brothers and sisters in Christ. This is an important time in the life of our congregation. Recent years have brought new and welcome changes to our church: calling a new senior pastor, investing in a new youth and outreach director, hosting new community events, and re-engaging our neighborhood with one of most successful ice cream socials in recent years. All the while we have maintained and improved our building, including more visible signage and enhancing our main entrance on 4th Street with the parking lot project—including a recently completed, large and multi-purpose patio! Most important, though, we have continued to care for one another and welcomed new members to our life together.

Now I invite you to "speak from the heart" about what your faith and this church means to you.



This fall, the church council is overseeing a congregationwide initiative called "Forward in Faith: Mapping our Future

Together." At heart of this process will be a time of deep listening and prayer, both in worship on Sunday. During October and November, you are invited to speak from the heart with a trained listener representing the congregation at a time and place of your convenience.

The goal of this deep listening is to give new focus and fresh energy to our vision and values as a congregation, and to adopt these visions and values at our next Annual Meeting on February 1. As our eyes and ears are opened to what the Holy Spirit is already doing in our

midst, what might be God calling us to do? What are three or four things our congregation does well and that we could focus on for the next few years? And how might changes to our governing documents help facilitate our mission? Following that, we will begin working on realigning and creating structures that work to serve the mission of who God is calling us to be and update our constitution to reflect this. Once this is all in place, we will adopt and live into this new mission, ready to ask ourselves over the next few years, "How are we doing? Is this new mission and structure working for us?"

Any member or friend of the congregation is welcome to meet with a Forward in Faith Listener to talk about what is important to your faith through an in-person, face-to-face conversation. 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.

I 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) or contact Pastor Nathan or President Shelley Jokinen. 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.

Questions for Reflection:

- Name someone in your church (not a family member or pastor) who inspires your faith. How might you spend more time with this person?
- 2. If you lived somewhere else away from your family, why or why not would you join a church?
- 3. What does the church offer that no other organization provides?

4th Street Update

We're so grateful for all the positive feedback on the new retaining wall, patio, and upcoming parking lot project. Thanks to several generous donations totaling over \$80,000, we're now able to move forward with resurfacing the main entrance parking lot which is scheduled for completion this fall by Miller Excavating!

We're currently accepting financial contributions only for the project. Many have already shared great ideas for using the new patio, and we look forward to hearing even more!

Our working group is creating guidelines and recommendations for the patio, including furnishings. The Council will finalize decisions on its use and design next spring.

Camp Onomia - Thank You!

Through the generosity of our members, we were able to contribute approximately \$1,700 to the Camp Onomia Scholarship Fund, helping provide financial assistance for children to attend camp.

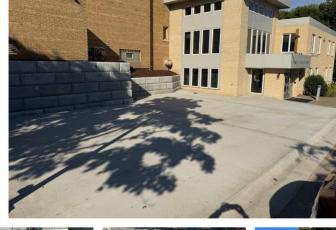
This wonderful support came from the sale of three vintage quilts, two new quilts, two silent auction baskets, and a variety of baked goods at the bake sale. Several members also placed winning bids on quilts during the auction, further increasing our contribution. This scholarship fundraiser is held annually in September at Camp Onomia and is open to anyone who would like to make the trip to Onamia for the weekend—or even just for the day. Thank you again for your support!



















ELCA Bishop-Elect

The Rev. Yehiel Curry has been elected to a sixyear term as presiding bishop of the ELCA. The election took place July 30th during the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in Phoenix, Ariz. Curry, who was elected on the fifth ballot, will be the ELCA's first Black presiding bishop.



Speaking to the assembly after his election, Curry reflected on his membership at Shekinah Chapel in Riverdale, III. He eventually became a lay mission developer while he participated in the Theological Education for Emerging Ministries

(TEEM) program, which prepares individuals for ordained ministry in the ELCA with a focus on emerging ministry contexts like ethnic-specific, multicultural, rural, and inner-city settings. He spoke to the assembly about his initial hesitation in accepting that first ministry role.

"Perhaps I'm out there in one of you," Curry said. "I never saw myself as good enough, so for two years, I said no. I finally said yes. When I said yes, your support, this church's support, of that ministry meant everything. So if you want to know what your benevolence dollars look like, it looks like me, and I want to say thank you. Thank you for your investment."

Curry has served as bishop of the ELCA Metropolitan Chicago Synod since 2019. He previously served as mission developer (2009-2012) and pastor (2012-2019) of Shekinah. He received a Bachelor of Arts from Lewis University in Romeoville, Ill., in 1995 and a Master of Divinity from the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (LSTC) in 2013. The Bishop-Elect will be installed on Saturday, October. 4th, at Central Lutheran Church in Minneapolis.

Children, Youth, and Family

Join us for Toddler Tuesdays on Tuesdays, October 14th and 28th, 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.



5th Quarter for all 6th to 12th Graders on

Wednesday, October 15th from 9:30 PM to 11:00 PM at St. Paul Lutheran Church. After the

football game, head over to St. Paul for food, fellowship, fire, and fun! Bring your friends for an evening of laughter and connection, you won't want to miss it! Questions?

Contact Jenny at jenny@stpaullc.org or call/text 218-770-5754.

Needed: Two Youth Volunteers on October 28th!

Jenny needs two youth volunteers to help with our Culver's fundraiser on October 28th, from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM, in support of the parking lot project! It's a fun and meaningful way to serve together, support our ministry, and connect with the community. If you're able to help, please contact Jenny at jenny@stpaullc.org or call/text 218-770-5754.

Waffle Bar – Sunday, October 19th Trunk or Treat! October 25th!

Mark your calendars for Sunday, October 19th, and join us for a mouthwatering Waffle Bar after worship! A freewill offering will be collected to support the 4th Street Exterior Repair and Refresh Project.

Menu: A delicious breakfast spread featuring waffles with a variety of toppings, sausage, orange juice, coffee, and milk. And for dessert, chocolate waffles topped with ice cream and your choice of sweet toppings!

Volunteer Opportunities - Sign-up sheets are available in the Gathering Area. Ways to help include:

- Lending a waffle maker
- Helping make waffles
- Assisting in the kitchen on the day of the event
- Set-up and cleanup support

Questions? Contact Jenny Powell, our event leader.

Get ready for an afternoon of costumes, candy, and community fun! We're inviting all SPLC members and friends to join us for Trunk or Treat 2025 by decorating your trunks and handing out treats to our little trick-or-treaters. Whether you go spooky, silly, or sweet, your creativity will help make this event a memorable one for kids and families in our community.

We also need candy donations to help fill all those eager hands! If you're able to contribute, please sign up or drop your donation in the box located by the sign-up sheets in the Gathering Area. Every bag of candy helps us spread more joy!

This is a wonderful way to welcome families, share laughter, and shine God's love in a fun, festive way. Questions? Contact Jenny at the church office or email her at jenny@stpaullc.org. Thank you for helping us make Trunk or Treat a safe, sweet, and joy-filled event for everyone!





Culver's Fundraiser! October 28th! Annual SPLC River Cruise!

We're excited to announce a Culver's Fundraiser to support the 4th Street Project. SPLC youth and parents are invited to roll up their sleeves and join us in serving our community while raising funds for this important project. This is a fantastic opportunity to serve together as families and youth, support our ministry by helping raise needed funds, and connect with the community in a fun and meaningful way. If you're able to help, please contact Jenny at jenny@stpaullc.org or call/text 218-770-5754. Let's come together, share some smiles, and make a real difference for SPLC!





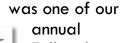
WOW! What a perfect fall day it was for a Sunday afternoon cruise on the St. Croix River aboard the Avalon from St. Croix Boat Works on September

> 28th. We had 16 people join us for a wonderful outing filled with great fellowship, delicious food, and plenty of laughter that made the day truly special.

Everyone even
enjoyed the bus ride
to and from the
dock, and was a
chance to relax
and connect
before and after
our river
adventure.

A heartfelt thank you to the

Senior's Committee and the Fellowship Committee for helping sponsor some of the costs and making this event possible. This cruise





annual
Fellowship
Committee's
events, and it
was a joy to
share it
together!

Women's Unit-

Join us for an inspiring evening featuring guest



speaker Kate Swenson, author of Forever Boy: A Mother's Memoir of Autism and Finding Joy and cofounder of The More Than Project, which provides free mental health counseling to caregivers in need. Kate will speak on The Secret World

of Autism, sharing insights and encouragement from her personal journey.

Tuesday, October 7, 2025 • 6:00 PM.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church 490 Fourth Street North, Bayport, MN 55003 Please use the North Front Door

Registration at the door: \$5.00

We hope you can join us for connection, learning, and community. All are welcome!

Sunday Shine! October 19th!

Join us for our Waffle Fundraiser and a fun-filled

time of fellowship featuring
"Would You Rather" Bible
questions! The morning will
be packed with joy,
laughter, delicious waffles,
and a celebration of our
October birthdays. We hope



you'll come downstairs and join in the fun!

Pastoral and Hospital Calls

You are always welcome to contact the church office at any time you have a pastoral need, especially in the event of a medical emergency or



at the time of death. If you or a loved one are hospitalized, please be aware that hospitals no longer contact pastors directly, so please encourage your family or loved ones to be in touch with

us. The church's phone system can connect you to one of the pastors at any time.

Senior Section

November 55+ Worship

The November service will be on Sunday,

November 2nd at 11:00 AM. The menu will be Turkey, Mashed Potatoes,

Gravy, Vegetables and Pumpkin Pie. Please sign-up in the Gathering Area by Sunday,

October 26th, 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.

Free Afternoon Movie at SPLC!

Join us on Wednesday, October 22nd, at 1:00 PM for a free movie, sponsored by the Senior Committee. Everyone is welcome! Bring a friend and enjoy the show! We will be showing NIGHT

CROSSING, a true story, starring Beau Bridges, Jane Alexander and John Hurt. In the fall of 1979, one of history's most ingenious and courageous flights to freedom took place when the Strelzyk and Wetzel families made a death-defying flight from

Communist East Germany to the West in their own handcrafted balloons. As always, there will be popcorn and snacks!

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

Yarnsters!

He Nailed It!!!



On Sunday, October 26th, St. Paul Lutheran Church will participate in the celebration of Reformation Day, commemorating October 31, 1517, when Martin Luther fearlessly published his Ninety-Five Theses, sending one copy to the archbishop and "nailing" another copy on a prominent church door.

Regardless of how Luther's document was attached to the door, it began a reform that remains notable after over five hundred years.

Please plan to attend Worship that Sunday. Invite your friends and neighbors to experience what St Paul Lutheran Church does to remember that day. As always, there will be amazing music, liturgy, and there will be a baptism. Wearing red on that Sunday is customary because it is a color associated with commemorating Martin Luther. See You There!

Welcoming One Another

Membership: Welcoming One Another - Are you

curious about or interested in church membership? Have you recently joined the church but are unsure

about the next steps in feeling more connected? Or are you a long-time member wondering how you can be a part of welcoming those new to our congregation? Join Pastor Nathan for a conversation about these and any other questions you have regarding church membership

on Sundays, October 5^{th} and 12^{th} , at 10:30 AM in the Lounge.

Join us for the next Yarnsters meeting on



Saturday, October 4, 2025, at 10:00 AM in the Downstairs Conference Room. Whether you love to knit, crochet, or simply "play with yarn," you'll fit right in! Beginners are especially welcome—our many experienced teachers are happy to help you get started. All are welcome come stitch, learn, and share in the fun!

Leadership in the Valley Update

Jenny's next Leadership in the Valley day is coming up on Thursday, October 9, 2025, and the focus will be on Agriculture & Environment!. She's super excited for this session and can't wait to share all that she learns with you!

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 Ismacademy.org for more information.

Valley Outreach



Join the team at Valley Outreach on Wednesday, October 22nd, for their Fall Mixer with a Mission. This one-of-a-kind fundraiser at Valley Outreach features wine tastings (they will also offer some wonderful nonalcoholic options, too!), savory appetizers, sweet desserts, and hands-on activities that bring our mission to life.



Every ticket and every gift helps fund critical programs that provide food, clothing, and support to families and individuals to move their lives forward. Your presence will make a difference. Please buy

your tickets today - They would love to share this meaningful evening with you!

Details:

- Wednesday, October 22nd
- 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM
- Valley Outreach is located at 1911 Curve Crest Blvd. W., Stillwater
- Tickets are \$100 per person.

Did you know that one of the top needs at the Valley Outreach Food Shelf is spices, seasonings, and condiments? These pantry staples can make a big difference for families preparing meals. Here are some donation ideas: salt and pepper, garlic, cumin, cinnamon, salad dressings, olive oil, and condiments. They also appreciate flavorful additions like hot sauce, soy sauce, and fish sauce!

September 15th to October 15th is Hispanic Heritage Month - Hispanic Heritage Month does not cover one month but begins in the middle of September and ends in the middle of October. Like many other months, it started as a weeklong celebration in 1968 and expanded to a month 20 years later in 1988. The timeframe of this month is significant because many Central American countries celebrate their independence days within these dates.

Operation Christmas Child

Operation Christmas Child has shared that



they're receiving only about half the number of shoeboxes compared to past years. Our goal is to fill 259 shoeboxes, and we need your

help to make that happen!

We're especially in need of standard-sized shoeboxes so we can keep packing and spreading joy to children across the globe.

Please note: shoeboxes must be no larger than 13" x 7.5" x 4.7".



Not a fan of shopping? No problem! You can still make a meaningful difference by contributing a cash donation to help cover shipping costs.

Prayer Requests

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

Family and Friends: Mike S., Ann B., Katie P., Gary R., Jerry S., Sophia F., Sonja H., Kellye, Dave, Lucy, Keith, & Josh, Becky O., Mike, Kit, Dana, Emilee, Flannery, Sophie, 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,
Becky Moore, and Len Schrade.

Harvest & Holly Market!

Mark your calendars for one of the most festive days of the season! The Harvest & Holly Market is a joyful gathering filled with handmade treasures, one-of-a-kind gifts, and the cozy spirit of the holidays. Wander through booths featuring beautifully crafted quilts, seasonal décor, unique gifts, and delicious baked goods, all lovingly created by local artisans and talented church members. Whether you're hunting for the perfect present, stocking up on holiday treats, or just soaking up the cheerful atmosphere, there's something here for everyone. Bonus Holiday Magic: We're especially excited to announce 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. Questions or want to help make the day extra special? Contact Kristin to learn about volunteer opportunities.



Simpson Housing Services



Learning Series - Executive Director Steve Horsfield and the dedicated Simpson team invite you to an evening of updates and conversation about the Simpson Community Shelter & Apartments, the expansion of their supportive housing programs, and their ongoing commitment to equity and anti-racism.



Date: Thursday, October 23rd Time: 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM

Location: Simpson Admin. & Program Office 160 Glenwood Ave., Minneapolis, MN 55405

Free on-site parking

Light refreshments provided

ALL ARE WELCOME! To RSVP, please call 612-874-8683.

Join Simpson as they prepare to close their chapter at Zion Lutheran Church and look ahead to the opening of their new shelter in early 2026. From October through December, they're seeking help providing 70 lunches and 50 dinners to ensure every guest enjoys a nutritious meal during this final stretch of their journey.

They also urgently need the following items:

- Men's White T-Shirts, All Sizes
- Travel Size Shampoo, Conditioner, and Body Lotion
- Women's Sports Bras, Sizes 32, 34, 36, 38
- Men's and Women's White Crew Socks
- Rain Ponchos
- Textured Hair Products

Simpson can only accept new, unused quality items. To drop off items, schedule an appointment here or mail to the office at: 160 Glenwood Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55405

Mgama Scholarship Fund

How important is the scholarship support St. Paul Lutheran provides to students in Tanzania? The most meaningful answer comes directly from the students themselves. Below is a heartfelt letter we received from some of those whose education has been made possible through your generosity.

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Mgama Scholarship Fund

October is the time for us to look ahead to the new school year in Tanzania, which begins in January. Each year, our congregation has the opportunity to walk alongside the students of the Mgama Parish and Imbulia Parish by helping provide the financial support needed for their education. Without this assistance, many students would not be able to attend school.

We invite you to prayerfully consider making a commitment to support a student this year. Commitments should be made by October 15th, with funds due by November 1st. Every single gift, no matter the size, makes a difference. Even a small contribution can provide vital resources—tuition, supplies, uniforms, and meals—that allow a child to continue their studies with dignity and hope.

The impact of these gifts is far-reaching. Education is the key to success in every country, and your generosity opens doors to brighter futures. Because of the ongoing partnership of the St. Paul Synod, countless students have been able to pursue higher education and careers, becoming teachers, doctors, financial professionals, business owners, and leaders in their communities. The ripple effect of one student receiving an education spreads far beyond a single classroom—it strengthens families, empowers entire villages, and inspires future generations.

Thank you for following the direction of the Holy Spirit to reach out to others with blessings received.

The Mission Outreach Committee, St. Paul Lutheran.

Forms are also available in the Gathering Area and the Church Office. Please email Kristin at SPLC@StPaulLC.org if you would like to have a copy emailed to you.

St. Paul Lutheran Church Calendar

As of 10/1/2025

		Octo	ber 2	2025		
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 12:00 PM Staff Meeting	9:00 AM Quilters 3:00 PM Mission Outreach Meeting 7:00 PM AA Meeting in Fellowship Hall	3	10:00 AM Yarnsters!
9:00 AM Service 11:00 AM 55+ Worship	10:00 AM Sr. Committee 1:00 PM Women's Reading Club	7 12:00 PM Connect Center Meeting 6:30 PM Worship Committee Meeting	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	9:00 AM Quilters 4:30 PM Fellowship Meeting 7:00 PM AA Meeting in Fellowship Hall	10	11
9:00 AM Service 10:00 AM Coffee & Tea Time	5:15 CYF Meeting	10:00 AM Toddler Tuesdays! 3:00 PM Memorials & Grants Meeting 4:00 PM 4th Street Project Meeting 5:30 PM Financial Operations Meeting	11:00 AM Worship at Boutwells 12:00 PM Staff Meeting 6:00 PM Grief Support Group 9:00 pm 5 TH Quarter Youth Event	9:00 AM Quilters 7:00 PM AA Meeting in Fellowship Hall	17	18
9:00 AM Service 10:00 AM Sunday Shine & Waffles!	20 Newsletter Deadline	6:30 PM Church Council Meeting	12:00 PM Staff Meeting 1:00 PM Movie Time! 6:00 PM Grief Support Group	9:00 AM Quilters 7:00 PM AA Meeting in Fellowship Hall	24	TrunkorTreat 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Reformation Sunday 9:00 AM Service 10:00 AM Coffee & Tea Time 10:00 AM Packing the Shoeboxes	27	10:00 AM Toddler Tuesdays! 1:30 PM Sarah Bible Study 4:00 PM 4 th Street Project Meeting 5:00 PM Supper at Culver's	12:00 PM Staff Meeting 6:00 PM Grief Support Group	9:00 AM Quilters 7:00 PM AA Meeting in Fellowship Hall	31	

