

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH – STILLWATER, MN

THE MESSENGER

OCTOBER 2026

St. Paul Lutheran Church's

Trunk or Treat

Saturday, October 24th
2:00 PM to 4:00 PM

On The Corner of 4th & Walnut Streets

St. Paul Lutheran Church

609 5th Street South
Stillwater, MN 55082
651-439-5970

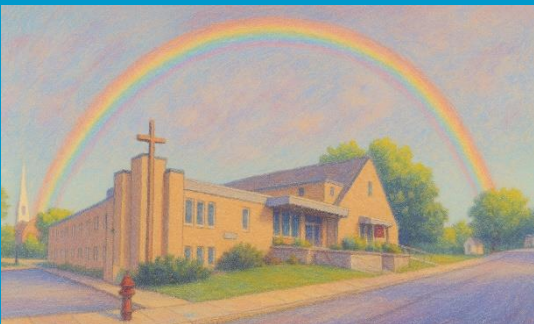
www.stpaulc.org

Trunk or Treat 2026!

Get ready for an afternoon of costumes, candy, food, and community fun at Trunk or Treat 2026! This year's event is on Saturday, October 24th, from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM

We're inviting SPLC members and friends to decorate their trunks and hand out treats to our little trick-or-treaters. We also need candy donations to help make the day extra sweet! And there's more than candy on the menu! The Senior Committee will be serving hot dogs and a beverage, and Pastor Nathan will be manning the popcorn machine, popping up plenty of fresh popcorn!

Sign up to decorate a trunk or drop candy donations in the box by the sign-up sheets in the Gathering Area. Questions? Contact Kristin at the church office or email spkc@stpaulc.org. Help us make Trunk or Treat a fun, safe, and joy-filled event for our entire community. Costumes, candy, hot dogs, popcorn, and plenty of smiles—we hope to see you there!



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

Consensus of Harmony

As I shared a couple of months ago, during my chaplaincy at Lutheran Summer Music this past month, I had the chance to personally meet Pastor Gary Wilkerson, the consultant who helped you early in your pastoral transition in 2021-2022. He spent many hours listening to you in one-on-one conversations. The tough part of those conversations was discovering unhealthy leadership that personally affected and troubled many of you. The gift of these conversations, however, was the development and eventual adoption by the Church Council of a Consensus of Harmony.

What is a Consensus of Harmony? It's a mutual covenant of behavior that promotes healthy relationships and a healthy, "above board" process of decision-making. Those of you who have been on the Church Council and Council Committees within the past four years are already familiar with it because we read it aloud together before every meeting.

Over the past few months, the Church Council took a second look at our Consensus and developed a few updates. A final version was adopted at our September 22 meeting and is being offered as a continuing resolution to the next proposed update of our church's constitution (more on this later this month and into November where you will have opportunities to provide feedback). The main change is at the end where, after going through constructive ways to deal with conflict and promote healthy decision-making, we wanted to say something more about inclusivity and honoring each person's unique identity.

Here's the whole consensus, with the main additions in italics:

Here in God's house, let us focus on worship and fellowship for our conversations, welcome others with faith and love into our conversations, and speak well of others. If you have concerns about someone's conduct toward you or someone else, tell them personally. If you cannot mention it

personally, your only proper course is to raise the issue with the pastor or an appropriate committee in private. Be direct and clear about any issue you might have with a person or a decision. Speak of issues and fixes, not people and personalities, always aware of God's presence. Decisions for the church should be made by committees and council, only after engaging the entire group, and always keeping the love of the Holy Spirit as our guide. *Guided by Galatians 3:26, let us be fully inclusive of one another, not criticizing or condemning another's identity, but focusing on their God-given dignity and the fruits of their faith. "For in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith." - Galatians 3:26*

These final words acknowledge two things at the same time. First, it affirms that no matter how different we are from another, we are still created in God's own image. Our God-given dignity cannot be taken away. Second, it focuses our outlook on the fruits of someone's faith. If their fruits are bad, the consensus gives us a roadmap to follow. But if their fruits are good, we are free to be fully inclusive of one another, even in the midst of disagreement.

In my two years as your pastor, I have been very pleased at how you are all working together. Yes, some meetings get long! But it's all been worthwhile as you care about each other and as, together, we look ahead to what God is calling us to be and to do.

This Week! Culver's Nigh Returnst!

Who doesn't like a delicious burger and custard? Please join us this week for Culver's Night on Monday, October 5th from 5 PM – 7 PM at the



Stillwater location. Your dinner order will be delivered to your table or car by a friendly SPLC face, and we will earn 10% of total sales during this time to go towards the 4th Street Repair and Refresh fund. What a great way to enjoy a dinner out, chat with friends from church, and support our ongoing project! We sure hope we see you there!

2026 Harvest & Holly Market

Everyone had such a wonderful time at last year's Harvest & Holly Market and Bake Sale that we're bringing it back! Mark your calendars for Saturday, November 21st, from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. The Harvest & Holly Market will once again feature a wonderful variety of handmade treasures, seasonal crafts, beautiful quilts, delicious baked goods, and unique gifts from local crafters and vendors. Whether you're looking for that perfect Christmas gift, something special for your home, or simply want to enjoy a fun day out, there will be plenty to see and enjoy. And, of course, you'll want to stop by the bake sale and pick up a few homemade goodies for yourself, or to share, if you're feeling generous! Want to get involved? Come join the fun! We'd love to have you! If you're interested in volunteering on the day of the event, please contact Kristin to see how you can help.

Senior Section

November 55+/Senior Worship Service

The November service will be on Sunday, November 8th (**the second Sunday**) at 11:00 AM. The Thanksgiving menu includes turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes, gravy, vegetable and pumpkin pie. The cost is \$5.00. Sign up is required for the meal; add your name to the list located in the Gathering Area by Sunday, November 1st.

Remember - Limited Bus service is available for Stillwater and Oak Park Heights. Please contact Bob Michaelis if you are interested in riding the bus.

Large Print Bibles

The Senior Committee has two large-print Bibles available for you to borrow. Contact Jenny Powell at 651-439-0821, or the church office.

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.

HELP NEEDED!

We are looking for volunteers to serve as backup coordinators for funeral lunches when our regular coordinator is on vacation or unavailable. Ideally, there would be 2. Having two people in this role will help ensure that someone is always available when needed.

The backup coordinators would work with the family to discuss lunch arrangements and help organize volunteers to assist in the kitchen. You would not necessarily need to work in the kitchen on the day of the lunch—your primary role would be helping coordinate the details and making sure everything is covered.

If you would be willing to help with this important ministry or would like more information, please contact Jenny Powell.



Prayer Requests



Names will remain on our prayer list for one month, unless indicated otherwise. Please use your "Welcome to Worship" card to add or update names.

For those hospitalized or with immediate needs: Joette E, Laura C, Family of Judy Mitchell, Elise, Josh, Abby, and Shirley.

Those beginning or undergoing long-term medical treatments: Olivia E, John B, David, Tony, Ann Marie O, and Jennifer B.

Those with other ongoing needs: Phyllis, Larry F, Angie, Richard H, Kathy B, Vince S, Jim G, Cathy M, Harry, and Mike S.

Those homebound or being cared for by others: Martin W, Ardyce S, Barb Dr, Nancy T, Judith K, Ann B, Mary Jo D, Orville S, Floyd N, Laurie C, Verna W, Karen L, Diane S, Delores K, and Bonnie P.

In Loving Memory:

(names will remain for one year and will be included on All Saints Sunday)

Judy Mitchell, Judith Rutscher, Joyce Roettger, Marilyn Brower, Faye Rothrum, Gary Allen, Barb Dahlke, Mark Christensen, Dale Preston, Bailey Severson, Dollis Harris, Jacklyn Waterman, Jeffrey Thomsen, Donald Teske, Shirley Nolde, Sally Colemier, Carol Scheel, Charles Olson, Scott Anderson, Thomas Schwietz, Janet Stuessy, Sandra Nolan, Mary Richter, Steven Michaelis, Darrel Henton, James Flynn, Patty Thomsen, Marshall Ray Reams, Jim Hockin, and Jacquilyn Pierre.

4th Street Repair and Refresh

The 4th St. Committee continues its work to enhance and beautify the exterior of our church and parking lot along 4th St. From landscaping and outdoor spaces to other improvements that make our church property welcoming and inviting, there's plenty to dream about and plan! Our next meeting will be Tuesday, October 13th at 9:00 AM in the Lower Conference Room. Everyone is welcome to attend

Noisy Offering! October 18th!

The Mission Outreach Committee has received a request from our partner parish of Imbulia in Tanzania for assistance in securing land on which to build their own church. As membership in the area has grown, the Mgama parish was divided, allowing Imbulia to serve members at a location closer to their homes. In addition to purchasing land for a church, their second priority is completing their parish office. We are currently in contact with Pastor Nyenza and other parish leaders to learn more about their plans and specific needs. In the meantime, the Mission Outreach Committee has decided to hold a Noisy Offering on Sunday, October 18, with proceeds helping support these important projects. So start saving those coins! Let's fill the church with a joyful noise and make a sound that reaches all the way to Tanzania! Watch for more information in the coming weeks as we learn more about Imbulia's plans and how we can support our brothers and sisters in Christ.



Yarnsters!



The Yarnsters will meet on Saturday, October 3rd at 10:00 AM in the Downstairs Conference Room. Knitters, crocheters, and yarn-lovers of all skill levels, especially beginners, are welcome. Come stitch and enjoy the fun!



Join Valley Outreach This October! Whether you're already good at planning meals or you're trying to figure out what to do with the vegetables sitting in your refrigerator, there's a place for you in the Save Food, Spend Less Challenge. Take the challenge, try a few new habits, and find what works for you and your household. Ready to get started? Visit savefoodmn.ecochallenge.org to learn more and join the free challenge. Together, we can make the most of our food, stretch resources further, and build a more sustainable community.

Valley Outreach is a community-powered nonprofit in Stillwater, MN, offering free food, clothing, and personalized support for people with low income, including emergency aid for basic needs like housing, utilities, and transportation.

Valley Outreach's Mission & Services:

Valley Outreach helps people move their lives forward through basic needs services such as:

- **Food assistance** - pantry distributions, emergency groceries, and school snacks .
- **Clothing** - over 118,000 items distributed annually.
- **Housing & rental assistance** - help with rent payments and homelessness prevention.
- **Utilities assistance** - support for heating, electricity, and other bills.
- **Emergency financial aid** – short-term cash or other aid for crises affecting basic needs.
- **Resource & application support** - guidance on accessing other programs.
- **Case management** - one-on-one support to navigate systems and meet needs.
- **Emergency financial aid** – short-term cash or other aid for crises affecting.

All services are free for eligible clients and available to residents of the Stillwater Area School District and Washington County. For more information, go to our website at info@valleyoutreachmn.org.



Curiosity Meets Courage Training October 24th. In this workshop, you'll build a shared vocabulary of antiracism concepts, discuss the ways in which racism is a key cause of homelessness, and consider how to take transactional approaches to our work.

Be among the first to meet Tonya Brownlow, Simpson's new Executive Director, on Thursday, November 5th. Get an inside look at the people, priorities, and progress shaping the next chapter at Simpson.

Every year, hundreds of community members come together for the Homeless Memorial March and Service. This year, on December 17th, we will honor the memories of individuals who passed away in 2026: people who died while experiencing homelessness, who were previously homeless, or who were advocates. Submit a name to commemorate a person at this year's memorial. The last day to submit a name is December 3, 2026. For further information on these articles, go to their website at info@simpsonhousing.org.

Update From Mission Outreach

Thank you SPLC Members & Friends! A huge thank to all of you who donated to Operation Christmas Child! We have already reached out to our goals on items needed! There were a number of donations the end of last year when items were on clearance - that gave us a huge head start this year. We will be filling the shoeboxes on Sunday, November 1st and have the blessing of the shoeboxes on Sunday, November 15th. St. Paul Lutheran has an awesome and giving congregation! Thank you all again for making this year another success. Thank you to the committee members. I couldn't do this without you. -Cheryl R.



Toddler Tuesdays Returns!

Toddler Tuesday will be held on most Tuesdays going forward. You can always check the church calendar, but sharing our Facebook post is even better, so spread the word when you see it! New this year is a concluding story-time upstairs in the family corner of the gathering area.



New Church Directory!

Say Cheese! It's Time for a New Church Directory! It's been a while since our last church directory—

and we have some new faces, along with a few familiar faces that may have changed a bit since their last photo!

The Fellowship Committee is excited to get things rolling this fall, with our very own Stephanie Schingen behind the camera! We want to include

as many members and families as possible, so we'll do our best to offer flexible photo times. Photo sessions are planned for: Sunday, October 11th, Wednesday afternoon, October 14th, and Sunday, October 18th. Appointments will be scheduled in 10-minute time slots. If you'd like additional time for more photos, we'll be happy to make arrangements.

Everyone photographed will receive digital access to their photos, allowing you to order or print copies wherever you choose. Stephanie will also be available to provide prints and other photo

services at her regular fee. This directory will be created completely "in house," which means we'll need a few helping hands along the way! We'll be looking for volunteers to help make phone calls and schedule appointments. Once all

those wonderful smiles have been captured, Kristin will work her magic putting the directory together, and creative ideas and input are always welcome! October will be here before we know it, so watch for more information about scheduling your photo session. If you'd like to help with this project, please contact the church office or Janine Siverson at 701-391-3008. Get those smiles ready—we can't wait to see everyone in our new church directory!



Forging peace by turning guns into garden tools

HOW

Anyone can bring unwanted guns. Those bringing guns are anonymous

- 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.

WHY

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

- 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.

2026 WREATH/SWAG SALE

If you wish to purchase one of these products, **please fill out the order form below and leave it in the church office, or mail it directly to Carol Weber at 613 Willard Street W, Stillwater MN 55082, or you can place your order by phone by calling Carol at 651-439-0689** (if no answer, please leave a message with your name, phone number, and what you wish to order). **Final order deadline is Monday, October 26th.** We encourage you to share order forms with friends, neighbors, and relatives – **non-member orders are always welcome!**

In addition to the items listed below, there are other sizes of wreaths available if you would like a smaller or larger wreath – 20-inch is the smallest, and they go up in size to a 60-inch wreath. If you want to know more about the prices of these special items, please talk with Carol Weber.

The plan is for us to pick the orders up sometime during the week of November 16th- 21st, but if the weather and roads are bad, then we would have to reschedule and would let you know if that happens. If things go according to plan, your order will be available for you to pick up starting on Sunday, November 22nd. If you are not able to pick up your order that day, contact Carol at 651-439-0689 to schedule another convenient time for you to pick your order up.

We greatly appreciate your continued support and hope you enjoy these beautiful wreaths, swags, and other items again this year.



PLEASE RETURN YOUR ORDER INFORMATION BELOW TO THE CHURCH OFFICE OR CAROL WEBER BY MONDAY, OCTOBER 26TH.

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

I WOULD LIKE TO ORDER _____ 24" WREATH(S) AT \$18.25 each

I WOULD LIKE TO ORDER _____ DOOR SWAG(S) AT \$13.50 each

I WOULD LIKE TO ORDER _____ 36" CEMETERY CROSS(ES) AT \$23.00 each

I WOULD LIKE TO ORDER _____ 25 FT LENGTHS OF GARLAND AT \$37.00 PER LENGTH

FULL PAYMENT OF \$ _____ IS ATTACHED--**CHECKS MADE OUT TO ST. PAUL LUTHERAN**
Checks will not be cashed until pick-up

WILL PAY \$ _____ AT THE TIME OF PICK-UP

St. Paul Lutheran Church Calendar

As of 10/2/2026

October 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 9:00 AM Quilters 3:00 PM Mission Outreach Meeting 4:30 PM Fellowship Meeting 7:00 PM AA Mtg. in Fellowship Hall	2	3 10:00 AM Yarnsters! 10:00 AM Brower Visitation 11:00 AM Brower Funeral
4 9:00 AM Service 10:00 AM Coffee & Tea Time 11:00 AM 55+ Worship	5 10:00 AM Senior Committee Meeting 1:00 PM Women's Reading Club 5:00 PM-7:00 PM Culver's Night-Stillwater	6 Kitchen Closed for Repairs  10:00 AM Toddler Tuesdays! 7:30 PM Worship Committee - Zoom	7 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	8 9:00 AM Quilters 7:00 PM AA Mtg. in Fellowship Hall	9	10
11 9:00 AM Service 10:00 AM Coffee & Tea Time Sign-Up for Church Directory Photos Today After Worship	12 5:15 PM CYF Meeting	13 9:00 AM 4th Street Meeting 10:00 AM Toddler Tuesdays! 3:00 PM Memorials & Grants Meeting 5:30 PM Financial Operations Meeting	14 10:00 AM Worship at Oak Park Sr. Living 12:00 PM Staff Meeting Sign-Up for Church Directory Photos Today in the Afternoon 6:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	15 9:00 AM Quilters 7:00 PM AA Mtg. in Fellowship Hall	16	17
18 9:00 AM Service 10:00 AM Coffee & Tea Time Sign-Up for Church Directory Photos Today After Worship	19 10:00 AM Worship at Croixdale	20 3:00 PM Newsletter Deadline 6:30 PM Church Council	21 11:00 AM Worship at Boutwells 6:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	22 9:00 AM Quilters 7:00 PM AA Mtg. in Fellowship Hall	23	24 TRUNK OR TREAT! 2 PM - 4 PM 
25 9:00 AM Service 10:00 AM Coffee & Tea Time	26	27 10:00 AM Toddler Tuesdays! 1:30 PM Sarah Bible Study	28	29 9:00 AM Quilters 7:00 PM AA Mtg. in Fellowship Hall	30	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: spc@stpaulc.org - Website: www.stpaulc.org