Announcements

St. Paul Lutheran Church
September 20, 2026

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@stpaullc.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!

Future of CYF - Adult Forum
In the weeks since Jenny Brelje resigned to take another position, the CYF Committee and Council have had good discussions regarding the future of ministry for and with children, youth, and families. We would like to open up that conversation to the whole congregation. What has gone well these past few years? Where did you see God at work? What kinds of ministries and events would you like to see more of or less of? Where do you see God leading us? Join us this Sunday following worship from 10:15-11:00 AM in the Lounge as we discuss and discern together.

Installation Vicar Allison
This Sunday, we officially install Allison Klein is our Vicar (pastoral intern) through next September! Thank you to all who personally welcomed her and her husband, Eric, at last week's worship. As a pastor-in-training, "Vicar" will be her official title (see the current newsletter for more background). Although her focus will be on learning and reflecting, she will be a regular member of the pastoral staff and, over time, will take on certain tasks to enrich our ministry. Welcome, Vicar Allison!

October 55+/Senior Worship Service
The October service will be on Sunday, October 4th at 11:00 AM. The menu will include Cub Chicken, Cole Slaw, Corn, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, and Dessert. 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, September 27th. ***Remember - Limited Bus service is available for Stillwater and Oak Park Heights. Please contact Bob Michaelis if you are interested in riding the bus.***

Installation for Bishop Justin A. Grimm
What a day of being church together as we celebrated the installation of Bishop Justin Grimm last Sunday! Nearly 570 people were present at Shepherd of the Valley in Apple Valley, with many more watching online. It was an honor to have so many special guests...Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry, ecumenical leaders from the Presbyterian, Episcopal and Catholic traditions, global partners, ELCA bishops from across the U.S. and of course, a large contingent of rostered ministers and many congregation members from right here in our synod.

From Mission Outreach - It's That Time of the Year Again!
We are kicking off our collection of items for Operation Christmas Child. We have listed needed items on poster board with our display. We already have a number of items filled through the generosity of members. This is Mission Outreach's largest project of the year. This year our goal is 150 shoeboxes (because we did the baby care kits and personal care kits earlier). If you don't like to shop but want to participate, cash donations are welcome, and we will do the shopping. Thank you for making this project successful!

TODAY - Cruise the St. Croix with Us!
Boarding begins at 1:00 PM at the dock. Need a ride? A bus will leave St. Paul Lutheran at 12:30 PM for those who signed up.

Toddler Tuesdays!
Please join us for Toddler Tuesdays, beginning September 22nd! After our kickoff gathering, we'll meet twice a month 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. Don't miss out on this special time to make memories with your little ones!

4th Street Repair and Refresh
The next 4th Street committee meeting will take place on Monday, September 28th at 10:00 AM in the Lower Conference Room. All are invited to join us at this meeting or any future meeting!

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 closer to their homes. 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 18th, 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.

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 Monday, September 28th at 10:00 AM in the Lower Conference Room. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Culver's Night Returns!
Who doesn't love a delicious burger and custard? Mark your calendars for SPLC's popular Culver's Night on Monday, October 5th, from 5:00–7:00 PM at the Stillwater location! Enjoy dinner delivered to your table or car by a friendly SPLC face, while 10% of all sales during the event will support our 4th Street Repair & Refresh Fund. Don't forget to grab a pint or two of custard to take home! It's a great excuse to skip cooking, visit with church friends, and support an important SPLC project. We hope to see you there!

October 6th – Kitchen Repairs Begin
Beginning Tuesday, October 6th, the kitchen will be closed for necessary repairs. Jeff will be removing a portion of the flooring, and the water may need to be shut off periodically while the work is underway. Things may get a little messy for a while, so we appreciate everyone's patience and understanding. We don't have an exact completion date, but know that Jeff will be working hard to get everything repaired and the kitchen back up and running as soon as possible. Thank you, Jeff, for taking on this project!

Trunk or Treat 2026! Saturday, October 24th – 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Get ready for an afternoon of costumes, candy, food, and community fun at Trunk or Treat 2026! 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 splc@stpaullc.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!

All Creation Sings Sing-A-Long!

All are welcome to join us on Wednesday, September 23rd at 7:00 PM in the sanctuary as we explore songs from the All Creation Sings (ACS) Hymnal Supplement. ACS includes over 200 hymns and songs, many being new since the current red ELW hymnal was released in 2006. This body of song supports the rhythms of the whole church year and gives enlarged expression to themes of healing and wholeness, creation care, justice and peace, praise and lament. Joining us will be Deacon Jennifer Baker-Trinity from Augsburg Fortress.

Help Fight Hunger — Your Gift Goes Twice as Far!

The Mission Outreach Committee invites you to support the ELCA World Hunger Drive. To make your generosity go even further, Mission Outreach will match donations up to $1,000! Special giving envelopes are available in the Gathering Area. Donations will be collected through Sunday, September 27th. Together, we can double our impact and help provide hope, nourishment, and support to neighbors in need.

Sarah Bible Study

The Sarah Bible Study will meet in the lounge on Tuesday, September 22nd, at 1:30 PM. We will be studying Fall 2026: "Bold faith on an unexpected journey," by the Rev. Tiffany Chaney - Session 1, "Encountering God in the wilderness," starting on page 40. If you need a copy, there are some available in the office.

What happens to your congregation's mission support?
The gifts our congregation sends to the Saint Paul Area Synod help us to live out the mission of the synod: "As followers of Jesus, we are called to accompany faith communities and equip leaders for God's mission in the world." When we talk about "mission support," we are referring to financial support given by congregations toward the work we do as church together in partnership with over 100 ELCA congregations from Rush City (north) to Rosemount (south). Appearing as an annual line item in our budget, this year's mission support enabled the successful redevelopment of St. Paul Lutheran of Wyoming, Minnesota, support for seminarians and candidates for rostered ministry, and an ethnic-specific mission development, Foundation of Life Church which meets at St. Andrew's in Mahtomedi.

Growing Through Loss
The St. Croix Valley Grief Coalition invites you to Growing Through Loss, a free grief support series offering comfort, connection, and encouragement to adults experiencing loss. The Fall 2026 series will be held on Tuesdays, September 22nd through October 27th, from 6:00–8:30 PM at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, 900 Stillwater Road in Mahtomedi. Each evening begins with sign-in at 6:00 PM, followed by a speaker from 6:30–7:15 PM and small-group support from 7:30–8:30 PM. Participants may attend one session or as many as they wish, and no pre-registration is required. The program is free, open to adults 18 and older, religion-neutral, and community-based. For more information, visit scvgriefcoalition.com, call (651) 413-6698, or email scvgriefcoalition@gmail.com.

HELP NEEDED - Backup Funeral Lunch Coordinator
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.

Say Cheese! It's Time for a New Church Directory!

It's time for a new church directory! The Fellowship Committee is excited to get things rolling this fall, with our very own Stephanie Schingen behind the camera! Photo sessions are planned for Sunday, October 11th; Wednesday afternoon, October 14th; and Sunday, October 18th, with appointments scheduled in 10-minute time slots. Everyone photographed will receive digital access to their photos, with the option to order prints through Stephanie at her regular fee. Since our directory will be created completely "in house," we'll also need a few volunteers to help with phone calls and scheduling.

Once the smiles are captured, Kristin will put the directory together! Watch for scheduling information coming soon. If you'd like to help, please contact the church office or Janine Siverson at 701-391-3008.

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: Elise, Josh, Abby, Family of Marilyn Brower, Family of Joyce Roettger, Family of Judith Rutscher, Preston, and Shirley.

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

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

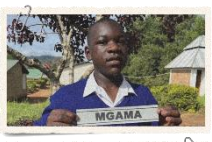
In Loving Memory:

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

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.

Supporting Students Through Education

Meet some of the thirteen students who have benefited from St. Paul Lutheran's contributions to the Scholarship Fund! These students attend several different secondary schools, which is why you may see them pictured in different groups. In Tanzania, government-supported education ends after what is comparable to our sixth grade. For students who wish to continue their education, financial assistance can make all the difference. Through your prayers and financial support, these young people are given the opportunity to continue their schooling and, ultimately, pursue training for specific careers and a brighter future. Applications for the 2027 school year are now being accepted by the joint scholarship committee of the St. Paul Area Synod and the Iringa Diocese. Following student interviews, the amount of assistance the committee can provide will depend upon the funds available. We invite you to prayerfully consider supporting the Scholarship Fund for students from our companion parishes of Mgama and Ibumila. Commitments are requested by October 24, 2026, with donations received by November 2, 2026. Checks may be made payable to St. Paul Lutheran Church, with "Scholarship Fund" noted on the memo line. Your gift is more than financial assistance—it is an investment in a student's education, opportunities, and future.



SPLC Scholarship Fund for the Parishes of Mgama & Ibumila

Count on me/us to support the Scholarship Fund for the Parishes of Mgama & Ibumila. Please make your commitment by October 24, 2026, with your donation given by Nov 2, 2026.

Name: _____ Envelope #: _____ Amount: _____

Please make checks payable to St. Paul Lutheran Church and write "Scholarship Funds" in the memo line. Meeting this deadline is important to ensure the funds are available for distribution to students in January 2027.

Thank you for your generous support from the students whose lives are being touched by your gifts and from the Mission Outreach Committee of St. Paul Lutheran Church.

NEW Coffee Bar!
SPLC Members and Friends, CYF is excited to offer a new Coffee Bar as a thank-you for your continued support and as a way to encourage hospitality, fellowship, and connection across generations! The Coffee Bar is located in the pass-through between the upstairs Gathering Area and the back hallway and is available for you to enjoy anytime you're at church. ***If you're bringing coffee into the sanctuary, we simply ask that you please use a lid on your cup.*** Choose from a variety of coffees, creamers, and flavored syrups and make yourself a cup just the way you like it! Pour a cup, stay awhile, and enjoy! If you have questions or suggestions, please visit with a member of CYF.

4th Friday Community Meal at SPLC!
Join us on Friday, September 25th, at 5:30 PM for the Fourth Friday Food & Friendship Community Meal! ALL ARE INVITED to come to the Fellowship Hall for yummy Sloppy Jo's, along with dessert and beverages. We are planning food for 60 people. Invite a friend or a neighbor; sign up in The Gathering Space! As a congregation, we can our show our neighbors and friends how we welcome them!

SPLC In-person & Online Attendance

Date	In-Person Worship	Online Worship
8/23/2026	61	120
8/30/2026	53	101
9/6/2026	54	118
9/13/2026	55	117

Upcoming Events

Sunday, September 20th Newsletter Deadline
9:00 AM Worship
10:00 AM Coffee & Tea Time
10:15 Future of CYF - Adult Forum - Lounge

Monday, September 21st 10:00 AM Croixdale Worship

Tuesday, September 22nd 10:00 AM Toddler Tuesdays!
1:30 PM Sarah Bible Study

Wednesday, September 23rd 7:00 PM All Creation Sings Hymn Sing

Thursday, September 24th 9:00 AM Quilters
7:00 PM Fourth Dimension AA Meeting

Friday, September 25th 5:30 PM Fourth Friday Community Dinner

Sunday, September 27th 9:00 AM Worship
10:00 AM Coffee & Tea Time

Weekly Worship Assistants

Sunday, September 20th

Ushers Dan and Kristin Nelson

Assisting Minister Chris Shivers

Reader Julian Galvin

Communion Set-up Pam Seekel

Communion Server Cheryl Renne

Monday Counting Team Janine Siverson and Barb LaCosse

Sunday, September 27th

Ushers Jay Swanson, Ashton Bell, Sabrina Bell, and Kamel Benyahia

Assisting Minister Vicar Allison Klein

Reader Shelley Jokinen

Communion Set-up Nancy Schlagel

Communion Server Jennifer Braun

Monday Counting Team Vida MacDonald and Alice Walker

Church Staff

Sr. Pastor	Rev. Nathan Baker-Trinity
Visitation Pastor	Rev. Laurel Halvorson Bernard
Vicar	Allison Klein
Director of Music	Andy Peterson
Casual Worship Leader	Karen Hillmann
Office Coordinator	Kristin Nelson
Accountant	Michael Benson
Maintenance	Jeff Thomsen
Audio-Video Engineer	Tim Schingen

2026 Church Council Officers

President	Shelley Jokinen
Vice President	Pam Seekel
Secretary	Chris Shivers

2026 Committee Chairpersons

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Financial Operations	(Open Seat)
CYF	Sabrina Bell Kristie Mack
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
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