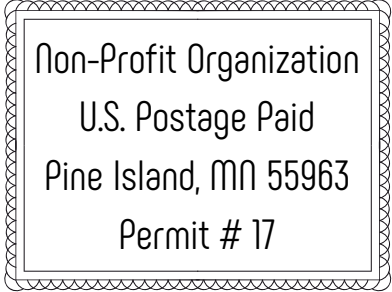


Saint Paul Lutheran Church
PO Box 357
Pine Island, MN 55963-0357

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



June Newsletter 2025

Our Mission

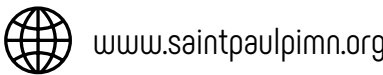
*“Guided by God’s love, we are called to welcome, love, and work for God’s people
.....here, there, and every where.”*

Saint Paul Lutheran Church
214 3rd ST SW
Pine Island, MN 55963-9307

Saint Paul Staff
Rev. Marie AK Anderson
marieannka@aol.com

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 9am to 3pm

**Worship Schedule: 9am Sunday: In- Person, YouTube,
and Facebook**



Printing the newsletter can’t start until I finish writing. I am finding it difficult to choose the few highlights from the 7 years at Saint Paul and 20+ years in Southeastern Minnesota to put on this page.

The first Advent season I spent with you, and each of the congregations I served, I encouraged families to leave out their nativity all year long. I suggested that when a visitor noticed the out-of-season nativity, you could say, I’m a follower of Jesus all year. There were many things like this, including writing council reports, telling Bible stories at VBS, attending meetings, locking up the building after Christmas Eve worship, preaching over crying babies and coughing adults, laughing during children’s sermons and occasionally getting teary over the amazing grace God shows us, that were part of ministry in each congregation I served. There are also many things that were unique to the years I spent at Saint Paul.

COVID entered our world and the highlight is Saint Paul did so much more than survive. Thanks to a few skilled and dedicated volunteers, Saint Paul had quality pre-recorded and then live streamed services while many churches were still relying on the pastor’s cell phone to send out worship. When the public school system was looking for space to get younger kids back in classrooms ASAP, the council said YES to sharing our building. When we could not worship inside, volunteers lit hundreds of luminaries to celebrate All Saints. When Christmas arrived, more volunteers put together a live nativity so successful, cars were lined up past the bridge and in sub-zero temps Saint Paul offered Christmas Eve worship with the sacrament of Holy Communion in the parking lot. I wore Christmas lights instead of my cross to supplement the luminaries. The Red Cross could not stop their live-saving work for a pandemic, so Saint Paul opened the doors again. After all, who would know more about keeping people safe while collecting blood?

The highlight of 2023 was celebrating all that God had done through the people of Saint Paul in the past 125 years. Inviting former pastors back to preach, as well as monthly mini celebrations helped us remember and honor our ancestors in faith and prepare for the future. The remodeling that followed the 125th anniversary is well underway. Thanks to even more volunteers, we now have a noteworthy float for annual use in the Cheese-Fest parade. We changed the structure for Confirmation and Sunday School and in doing so greatly improved attendance and learning outcomes. We took on the task of keeping the local food shelf supplied with toilet paper as well as all the traditional things. In the last 7 years, we hired many new staff members, rewrote job descriptions and I assure you; you have a team of talented, dedicated, Godly staff members. These are just a few of the highlights we lived through together in the years I spent serving God alongside you at Saint Paul.

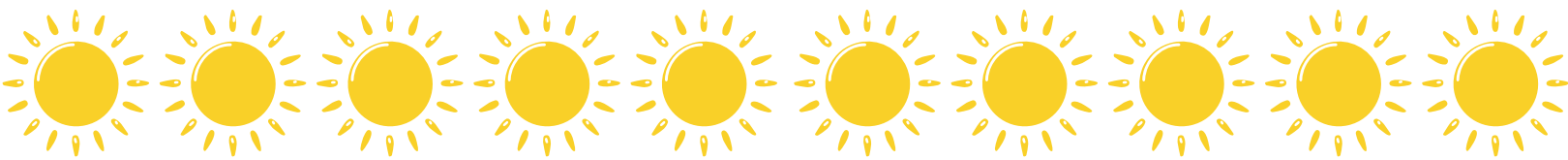
The biggest highlight of my 21 years of ordained ministry started in 2013. After years of fund raising and sending boxes of supplies to Haiti, in support of a school started by a Haitian seminary classmate, I lead a team of 10 from SEMN to Haiti. As part of that first trip, 5 classrooms were begun and in the intervening years more teams have built 6 more rooms, taught VBS to groups as large as 300, held health clinics, and taught basic life skills to men and women. The school that started with 50 kids under a corrugated-tin roof is now 11 rooms with 438 kids and 20 members of staff. In a country where 80% of the people live in poverty and 40% of adults cannot read, God’s unconditional grace, love and acceptance is shown through education and lunch for students who would have neither, without the hands, feet and offerings of Jesus’ disciples scattered across southeastern Minnesota and central Illinois. It has been my great privilege and honor, as the pastor on the team traveling to Haiti, to preach God’s Good News of Salvation and to stand at the beginning of the line as Haitians with nothing to spare were generous in sharing their prayers, blessings, and gifts of food with all members of the team.

A pastor is called to preside over the sacraments, teach and preach the word of God and travel with God’s people through the highs and lows of life. I have been privileged to do all these things; and to sit with families as Jesus came to walk their loved one into eternal life, stand with nervous grooms as they waited at the end of the aisle, baptize many babies and a few adults, lead worship weekly, and remind congregations what an honor it is to be called by Jesus to use one’s hands and feet as his disciples. The most important highlights of 7 years with Saint Paul Lutheran and 20+ years in SEMN synod of the ELCA happened while I was serving God, doing these things amid God’s well-loved children.

Saint Paul Lutheran Highlights: 57 Baptisms, 116 confirmations, 4 weddings, 40 funerals
SEMN Highlights 283 Baptisms, 481 confirmations, 48 weddings, 140 funerals

Shalom Pastor Marie

*A Final Word
From Your Pastor*



Important Dates

June

Cheese Fest Parade.....June 8
Pastor Marie's Last Worship Service.....June 15
Summer with Saint Paul Kids.....June 18
Council Meeting.....June 19 @ 7pm

July

Summer with Saint Paul Kids.....July 16
Council Meeting.....July 17 @ 7pm

August

Summer with Saint Paul Kids.....August 13
Council Meeting.....August 21 @ 7pm

**Wear RED for Pastor Marie's
Final Day of Worship**

hello
SUMMER

Get To Know Your Fellow Members

Get to Know Members of Saint Paul Lutheran!



CARL & BETH CLINGMAN

MEMBERS SINCE: 2016, 2002

HOMETOWNS: CARL: BARABOO, WI
BETH: DODGE CENTER

HOBBIES: CARL: BACKYARD POOL, HUNTING, ARCHERY, WORKING OUT, READING
BETH: READING, PELOTON, DISCOVERING NEW SUPPER CLUBS

ABOUT US

CHILDREN: SOPHIE WENTLAND, NOELLE AND DANNY LANGWORTHY

PLACES OF EMPLOYMENT: MAYO CLINIC

PETS: MOLLY, OUR ADOPTED FULL-SIZED DACHSHUND

FAITH STORY

WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT SAINT PAUL LUTHERAN?
CARL: SEEING AND TALKING WITH OTHER MEMBERS; SERMONS, COMMUNAL SINGING.
BETH: THE PEOPLE, THE PEOPLE, AND THE PEOPLE!

HOW HAVE YOU SERVED HERE AT SAINT PAUL LUTHERAN?
CARL: CURRENT COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT AND CALL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN.
BETH: SERVED AS SECRETARY OF CHURCH COUNCIL, SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER, COMMUNION SERVER, DIRECTED THE CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM ONE YEAR.

FAVORITE VERSE OR STORY
THE PARABLE JESUS TOLD ABOUT THE GOOD SAMARITAN. A STORY DEMONSTRATING THAT COMPASSION AND NEIGHBORLY LOVE SHOULD EXTEND TO EVERYONE, NOT JUST THOSE OF YOUR GROUP.

Get to Know Members of Saint Paul Lutheran!



MOLLY AND RYAN OLSON

MEMBERS SINCE: 2017

HOMETOWNS: RYAN: PINE ISLAND
MOLLY: CANNON FALLS

HOBBIES: TRAVELING, REMODELING OUR HOUSE AND CHASING KIDS AROUND!

ABOUT US

CHILDREN: CLAIRE (12), VIVIAN (5), KATE (2)

PLACES OF EMPLOYMENT: RYAN: OLSON MOTOR REPAIR
MOLLY: UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA ROCHESTER

PETS: CLYDE - OUR GIANT BLACK AND WHITE SAINT BERDOODLE

FAITH STORY

WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT SAINT PAUL LUTHERAN?
HOW IT PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY TO CONNECT WITH OUR COMMUNITY AND HOW MUCH OUR CHILDREN LOVE SUNDAY SCHOOL!

HOW HAVE YOU SERVED HERE AT SAINT PAUL LUTHERAN?
MOLLY - EVANGELISM COMMITTEE, SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER
RYAN - CONFIRMATION MENTOR

FAVORITE VERSE OR STORY
DAVID AND GOLIATH - IT HIGHLIGHTS THE IMPORTANCE OF FAITH AND COURAGE DURING DIFFICULT TIMES.

News and Announcements

A Word From Your Sunday School Director

That's a wrap on our 2024-2025 Sunday school year! We enjoyed our year working through many Old Testament Bible stories. We stayed very busy learning through bible story focused prayer, hands on activities, games & sometimes very messy crafts! Bigger highlights from the year include our fall apple sale where we used money raised to purchase food for our local food shelf, successful Christmas program on an ice storm Sunday & our Lent change round up raising money for the Pine Island Ministerial Fund. Sunday schoolers celebrated their change round up win with an ice cream party on our last day of Sunday school. We also prayed for & wished well for our 6th graders who are moving onto confirmation! I may have shed a few tears as they stood up front in worship, receiving their bibles for confirmation - these 6th graders have been a fantastic group of kids who have been amazing role models for all of our Sunday school kids. Coming up - don't forget to sign up your kids for Summer with Saint Paul kids! First night is on June 18th. Our first day of Sunday school in the fall will be Sunday, September 7, 2025 - also RALLY DAY!!



Senior Quilt Sunday

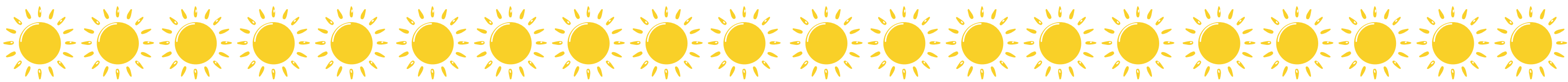
2025

Congratulations
Graduates

Tyler Applen
Ally Boe
Olivia Cordes
Collin Fogarty
Brenna Houdek

Leia Kruse
Makenna Matzek
Zoe Njus
Nicholas Norstad
Kiley Passow

Aubrey Rossow
Anna Rucker
Jade Severson
Dakota Sobottka
Hayden Wees



A Word From Your Youth Director

Level Up News – Growing, Walking, and Leveling Up! 🎉

We are beyond thrilled to share that our Level Up Nights for 3rd–6th graders have been off to an amazing start! We’ve had a fantastic turnout—between 9–12 energetic, awesome kids joining us each Friday evening for a night full of fun, faith, food, and friendship. 🙌

Our monthly Wild Walks have also been a hit, with our most recent adventure taking us to Oxbow Park for an afternoon of nature, trail talks, and growing in faith together. We’re loving the energy, the questions, and the hearts of these kids—and we can’t wait to keep going!

Coming this Summer – Mark Your Calendars!

- Level Up Nights (3rd–6th grade) will continue all summer on the third Friday of each month from 6–9 PM, always meeting at the church.
 - ◆ Next Up: June 20th – “Messy Days, Big Blessings”

Life isn’t always perfect—but God’s love doesn’t change! Join us as we talk about the ups and downs of our week, play games, and discover how to find blessings even when things get bumpy.

- Wild Walks will also continue once a month after a Sunday service, as we head out to local parks for adventure, connection, and faith-filled trail talks.

7th–12th Grade Update:

We’re planning a special kick-off event for our 7th–12th graders to launch summer in a big way—stay tuned for the date announcement! After that, we’ll shift focus to planning for fall gatherings, ensuring we continue to create space for fun, real conversations, and spiritual growth for our older youth.

New Ways to Stay Connected:

Parents, we hear you—and we’re working on a brand-new Youth Ministry webpage and a private Facebook group just for parents! These tools will help you stay updated with upcoming events, photos from our gatherings, and ways to get involved. Keep an eye out for more details soon!

Want to Get Involved?

If you’re interested in volunteering and pouring into the lives of our amazing youth, I’d love to connect with you! Whether it’s chaperoning, helping with transportation, or being a supportive presence at events—there’s a place for you. Let’s chat and go over the next steps to becoming a volunteer.

We can’t wait to keep growing, walking, and leveling up with your amazing kids. Thank you for the trust, support, and energy you bring to this community—we couldn’t do this without you!



A Word From Your Council President

A Season of Change at St. Paul

As we step into June—with school wrapping up and summer beginning—we also enter a season of transition here at St. Paul Lutheran Church.

Pastor Marie will be leading worship for the final time on **Sunday, June 15th**. This will be a special service filled with music and meaningful moments as we celebrate her ministry among us. Following the service, we will gather for a time of fellowship to thank Pastor Marie and wish her well in her retirement.

As part of this transition, it’s important to understand the boundaries set by the Synod for retiring pastors. These guidelines are in place to support both Pastor Marie and our congregation as we move forward. After retirement, Pastor Marie will not:

- Conduct funerals or weddings for members of St. Paul.
- Participate in the pastoral care or mission of the congregation.
- Return regularly or engage in the ongoing life of the church.
- Retain membership at St. Paul.

These boundaries are not personal—they are pastoral best practices designed to help us all move into the next chapter with clarity and care. We kindly ask that you honor these guidelines and refrain from making requests that would place Pastor Marie in a difficult position.

Looking ahead, we want to assure you that the process of calling a new pastor is underway, even if it may not always be visible. While we are not yet at the stage of forming a call committee, we are following the steps provided by the Synod and are right on track. We promise to keep you informed every step of the way.

We are in this together—and we will be OK.

With faith and hope,

Kirby Pace Council President

SEMN Synod Call Process Overview for Congregations and Councils

The time between when a rostered leader announces his or her resignation and the next “settled” roster leader begins his or her call is a special time in the life of the congregation. It is a time filled with hope and expectation, of questioning and experimentation. It can also be a time of anxiety.

The first and foremost task of the congregation and if its leaders during this time is spiritual reflection and prayer. Prayer, bible study, and regular devotions will keep the congregation spiritually centered, responsive to the movement of the Spirit, and focused on what God’s hopes for the congregation and its mission are.

A Four Phase Process: The congregations of the SEMN Synod participate in a Four Phase Call Process.

Phase I: The leave-taking/The Transition-time

At the point that a rostered leader announces that they are resigning their call at the congregation, a representative from the Office of the Bishop will meet with the congregational council to orient them to the call process. It is also at this time that the information about transitional pastoral support is shared with the council in order that they might make the best decision about how the congregation and ministries will be cared for upon the departure of the current rostered leader. This is also the time to celebrate the ministry that the rostered leader and the congregation have shared and the council forms and appoints the call committee.

Phase II: Self-Study Process and Ministry Site Profile Completion

In this phase, the call committee participates in an orientation facilitated by the assistant to the bishop. The call committee explores vision and ministry needs of the congregation by engaging the congregation by engaging the congregation in a self-study which may be accomplished through a variety of ways. The self-study leads to the completion of the Ministry Site Profile (MSP) which becomes an integral document shared with potential candidates as their first exposure to who your congregation is. After the MSP is completed and before it is officially submitted, a congregational town hall meeting may be held to review and comment on the MSP. This is attended by the Assistant to the Bishop in call process. After final edits are made to the MSP, it is submitted by the call committee on the ELCA website.

Phase III: Interviewing Candidate/Discerning the Candidate of Choice.

Once again, this phase begins with an orientation of the call committee. In the orientation the call committee will discuss its interview protocol, develop question for candidates and prepare packets of the information for candidates. It is also at this time that the call committee is ready to begin interviews, they will receive names of candidates from the Assistant to the Bishop in Call Process. The call committee engages in first interviews with each candidate that is presented to them. After the first interviews are completed, the call committee chairperson communicates with each candidate as to whether they will retain or release the candidate. The call committee engages in second interviews and gathers other information (including sermon and reference checks). The call committee discerns the candidate of choice and, with mutual consent from the candidate, presents the candidate of choice recommendation to congregation council. The congregation council sets the date for the special congregational call meeting.

Phase IV: Preparing for and Welcoming the New Pastor

The pastor, the council president and the Assistant to the Bishop coordinate a date for the installation of the new pastor. An assistant to the Bishop will be present to perform the rite of installation. Congregation council and call committee plan activities to welcome new pastor (and family) to the congregation and the community.



June

SUN Jun 1	MON 2	TUE 3	WED 4	THU 5	FRI 6	SAT 7
● 9am Worship ● 10am Fellowship ● 10am Handbell Practice ● 10am Mission Trip Planning Meetir	● 8:30am Loose Threads Quilting ● 1pm Chair Volleyball ● 6:30pm Lion's Board Meeting	● 11am Ministerial Text Study		● 11:30am Ministerial Meeting		
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Kemper Ayotte Baptism ● 9am Worship ● 10am Fellowship ● 10am Handbell Practice ● 1pm Cheese Fest Parade	● 8:30am Loose Threads Quilting ● 1pm Chair Volleyball	● 11am Ministerial Text Study ● 6:30pm Building and Grounds Mee				
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Father's Day Pastor Marie's Last Worship Service ● 9am Worship ● 10am Fellowship ● 10am Handbell Practice	● 8:30am Loose Threads Quilting ● 1pm Red Cross Blood Drive	● 11am Ministerial Text Study	● 6:15pm Summer with Saint Paul Ki	● 7pm Council Meeting	● 6pm Level Up Friday Grades 3-6	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
● 9am Worship ● 10am Fellowship ● 10am Handbell Practice	● 8:30am Loose Threads Quilting ● 1pm Chair Volleyball	● 11am Ministerial Text Study		● 9am Cancer Support Group		
29	30	Jul 1	2	3	4	5
● 9am Worship ● 10am Fellowship ● 10am Handbell Practice	● 8:30am Loose Threads Quilting ● 1pm Chair Volleyball	● 11am Ministerial Text Study		● 11:30am Ministerial Meeting		