



THE MESSENGER

St. Paul Lutheran Church

A Message from Pastor Mathew

As we heard at Christmas time, John the Baptist was Jesus's cousin. John spread the Good News even before Jesus did. In this Sunday's Gospel (Matthew 14:13-21) Jesus has just received the news that his cousin John has been murdered. Jesus is grieving and he goes to have some time by himself.

As he is going a crowd of people follows him. Scripture tells us that Jesus had "compassion on them and cured their sick." As the day draws to a close the disciples say "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves."

Jesus says, "There is no need to send them away. You give them something to eat." Someone points out that all that they have is five loaves of bread and two fish.

"Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds."

Jesus blessed the bread, broke it, and gave it away.

Remarkably, there is enough to feed everyone—thousands of people. And there are baskets and baskets of food leftover!

This story and miracle tell us so much about Jesus and the Good News he came to share with us. It's a story of overflowing grace and compassion. It's a story about sharing what we have with one another. And it's a story of God's abundance. Like a parable, this miracle is a picture of the kingdom of God.

In Christ,
Pastor Mathew

A prayer for today*: **Jesus, we have so much to learn from you. Remove the clutter from our hearts and fill us with compassion. Help us to reach out to feed the hungry, heal the sick, care for those in need, and share your love. Amen**

(*prayer from Daily Discipleship written by John and Robin McCullough-Bade Copyright 2008 ELCA)



The people of St. Paul gather to worship, reach out, and serve the Lord.

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

August 3 – Austin Bristow
August 6 – Cody Leach
August 6 – Bonnie Austin
August 7 – Jamie Russow
August 7 – Janice Schmidt
August 8 – Danita Lewis
August 13 – Traeger Green
August 17 – Nathan Joerndt
August 18 – Ginger Bauknecht
August 20 – Jake Dixon
August 21 – Matthew Erickson
August 25 – Gavin Bauknecht
August 26 – Jason Russow
August 30 – Hermie Schmidt
August 30 – Ken Lewis
August 30 – Jordan Snyder
August 31 – Larry Leach

August 4 – Dennis & Mary Leach
(1990)

August 10 – Doug & Tammy
Oliver (1991)

August 11 – Frank & Sue Curtiss
(1973)

August 18 – Jack & Lori Bristow
(1992)

August 19 – Carl & Gail Thorson
(1972)

August 21 – Ryan & Lindsey
Armetta (2010)

August 31 – John & Wendy Boch
(2013)

From Luther's Small Catechism

The 8th Commandment: You Shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

“What does this mean? We are to fear and love God, so that we do not tell lies about our neighbors, misrepresent them or slander them, or destroy their reputations. Instead we are to come to their defense, speak well of them, and interpret everything they do in the best possible light.”

Prayer Chain Requests

If you would like someone added to our prayer chain, please contact Pastor Mathew, Julie Mehlberg, or Angie in the office. Please let them know when names should be removed from the prayer list as well.

Council News

Sanctuary Speaker Update

During a special meeting on June 28, the congregation voted to purchase new sanctuary speakers. The new equipment will be installed on Wednesday, August 19th.

Serving at St. Paul

Are you interested in serving during worship? Lectors and ushers are needed for September as new schedules are being created. If you would like to serve as a lector or usher, please contact Angie in the church office. All are welcome to serve and all volunteers are much appreciated!

Let's Support the Boys and Girls Club!

St. Paul is collecting items to donate to the Boys and Girls Club. The following items are being collected:

Crayons, colored pencils, pencils, pens, construction paper, markers, rulers, notebooks and pre-packaged snacks.

Items will be collected during August and can be placed in the collection tub at the church on Sundays. Please contact the office to drop off items during the week.



Member Spotlight

Mary Leach

Mary Leach began serving as St. Paul's parish nurse around seven years ago after being asked to begin a health and wellness program. As parish nurse, Mary offers blood pressure and blood glucose checks for congregation members. She also offers informational literature on diet and certain medical conditions. Mary most enjoys getting to know church member better through one-on-one sessions. While there are 10 members who visit Mary on Health and Wellness Sundays for regular checks, Mary encourages more members to use this service. Throughout the week, Mary is an RN with the OSF Medical Group. She also serves St. Paul as the Building Community liaison on the council.

Congregational Council

President

Julie Mehlberg

Vice President

Doug Oliver

Secretary

Carla Swieter

Building & Grounds

Janice Schmidt

Building Community Liaison

Mary Leach

Lifelong Learning Liaison

Tonya Johnson-Wilcox

Finance/Stewardship Liaison

Jake Dixon

Worship and Music Liaison

Shelly Heller

Treasurer

Denny Leach

Financial Secretary

Marion Brown

Dinner and Music on the Lawn—July 29

