



# THE MESSENGER

St. Paul Lutheran Church

## A Message from Pastor Mathew

**Taste and See** (ELW Hymn #493)

*Refrain*

*Taste and see, taste and see*

*the goodness of the Lord.*

*Oh, taste and see, taste and see*

*the goodness of the Lord, of the Lord.*

*1. I will bless the Lord at all times.*

*Praise shall always be on my lips;*

*my soul shall glory in the Lord;*

*for God has been so good to me. Refrain*

I've been thinking of this song lately especially as we have begun incorporating Holy Communion in our online worship services. The words of this hymn come from Psalm 34 which includes this verse: The Lord is near to the brokenhearted, and saves the crushed in spirit.

As this difficult time drags on, it is my hope that you can notice the goodness of God. This is not to sweep away the struggle of our present reality, instead it is to remind us that we are deeply loved and that our pains and frustrations are known to God.

Whatever happens in the coming weeks is sure to be strange and hard. We can find comfort in knowing that God is near to us in these moments and that our salvation is found not in our productivity, not in our striving or our ability to make things work. Our salvation is found in Jesus Christ. By God's grace we need not wonder if we are loved or if we are good enough. We can trust that we are loved. We can greet each new day with the hope and promise that whatever may be, God's goodness is here.

In Christ, Pastor Mathew

## ONLINE WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Worship can be found at [facebook.com/stpaulpontiac](https://www.facebook.com/stpaulpontiac) Regular email updates with links to the services are being sent. If you have questions or aren't receiving emails, please contact Angie at [stpaulpontiac@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulpontiac@gmail.com)

During this period of online worship, Holy Communion will be included on the First and Third Sundays of each month.

Here is how you can participate:

Before worship begins, have a piece of bread and a glass of wine or juice ready in the space where you are worshipping. If you are worshipping with others in your home, share the bread and cup with the words "The body of Christ given for you" and "The blood of Christ shed for you". If you are worshipping an individual connected to our larger community, hear the words of the pastor "given for you" and "shed for you" as just that, **for you**, and eat and drink in that moment. If you don't have bread or wine, consider something similar that you do have in your home. Crackers, another kind of juice? It is ok to be creative using what you have, those ordinary things in your home.



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

## MAY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

May 7—Marvin Miller  
 May 18—Erik Solberg  
 May 19— Frank Curtiss  
 May 23—Mark Mackinson  
 May 26— Anna Schmidt  
 May 27— Ted Bauknecht  
 May 29— Sara Solberg  
 May 1— Doug & Peggie Schneeman (1971)  
 Jim & Amanda Walsberg (1994)  
 May 28—Marvin & Darlene Miller (2011)  
 May 31—Ken & Danita Lewis (1996)

### Recognition of our Graduates!



*Emma Reichardt, daughter of Andrea Reichardt and Chris Erickson is graduating from Odell Grade School and is looking forward to attending High*



*Hunter Thorson son of Paul Thorson, Jr. and Elizabeth, is graduating from Pontiac Jr. High. Hunter is a talented artist and is looking forward to attending High School, joining FFA and possibly playing baseball in the future.*

## 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.

## Serving at St. Paul

We are always looking for more people to serve during worship. If you would like to share intercessional prayers or read scripture during worship please contact Angie in the church office. We would love to have you involved!

## 2020 Congregational Council

**President**  
Julie Mehlberg

**Vice President**  
Doug Oliver

**Secretary**  
Carla Swieter

**Building Community Liaison**  
Mary Leach

**Lifelong Learning Liaison**  
Tonya Johnson-Wilcox

**Finance/Stewardship Liaison**  
Jake Dixon

**Worship and Music Liaison**  
Shelly Heller

### Financial Officers

**Treasurer**  
Denny Leach

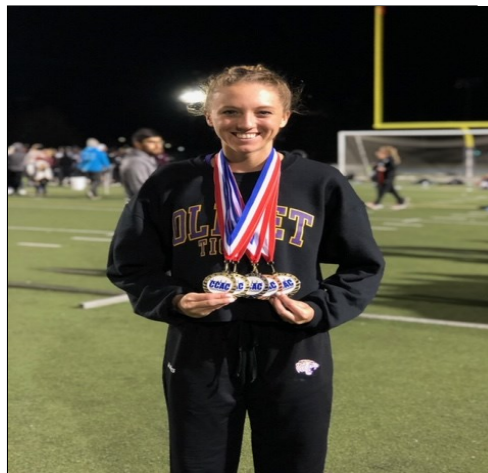
**Financial Secretary**  
Marion Brown



*Aaron Putnam, son of Greg and Tami Putnam is graduating from Pontiac Township High School and is looking forward to pursuing an Associate in Applied Science in Electrical at Heartland Community College.*



*Max Gschwendtner is the son of Dan and Sara Gschwendtner and is graduating from Pontiac High School. He plans on attending Parkland College this fall and studying aviation. This summer he looks forward to earning his private pilot license.*



*Meghan Heller is the daughter of Marty and Shelly Heller. She will graduate from Olivet Nazarene University, with a bachelor's degree in Fashion Merchandise, a minor in Marketing and Hospitality. She also ran in-door and out-door track all four years. She looks forward to working in Chicago after graduation.*



*Colton Bauknecht is the son of Jennifer and Scott Bauknecht. He is graduating from North Central College in Naperville, IL, with a Bachelor of Arts in Marketing and a minor in Philosophy. He is looking forward to his new position with RHM Staffing Solutions in Milwaukee and will be moving in June.*