



# THE MESSENGER

St. Paul Lutheran Church

## A Message from Pastor Mathew

<sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup> to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. (Luke 2:10-11)

Merry Christmas!

The long-awaited birth of our Savior is here! I pray that in the midst of this season's pain and struggles you have each been touched by God's gifts of hope, peace, joy and love this Christmas. If you long to keep the tree up a little longer or to sing another carol, I have good news. The Christmas season is not yet over; there are 12 days of Christmas after all! The Christmas season lasts until Epiphany on January 6<sup>th</sup>.

For the past few years, I've been reminded of this Christmas poem written by Madeleine L'Engle, author of *A Wrinkle in Time* and other classics:

“God did not wait till the world was ready,  
till...the nations were at peace.

God came when the heavens were unsteady,  
and prisoners cried out for release.

God did not wait for the perfect time.

God came when the need was deep and great.

God dined with sinners in all their grime,  
turned water into wine. God did not wait

Till hearts were pure. In joy God came  
to a tarnished world of sin and doubt.

To a world like ours of anguished shame

God came, and God's light would not go out.

God came to a world which did not mesh,  
to heal its tangles, shield its scorn.

In the mystery of Word made Flesh  
the Maker of the stars was born.

We cannot wait til the world is sane  
to raise our songs with joyful voice,

for to share our grief, to touch our pain,

God came with Love: Rejoice! Rejoice!” (‘First Coming’ by Madeleine L'Engle)

As we look ahead to a new calendar year and dream of what will be for ourselves, our families, and our community, I pray that we will continue to allow the good news which the angels proclaimed, to shape us. The New Year is a time of hopeful expectation, but it can also be a frightening time: knowing we will enter the year without a certain loved one, wondering if the new year will be easier than the last ones.

The miracle of Christmas is that Jesus Christ has come to us precisely in our fear and worry and doubt. As this poem reminds us, God did not wait until we had everything together and our lives perfectly sorted out. God did not wait until we followed through with our resolutions. God came into our messy, grief-stricken world so that Christ could *share* in our struggles and pain, and in his presence with us there is unending love and salvation.

No matter what the New Year will bring, friends, Christ has been born to us and will be with us every step of the way. This truly is good news of great joy for all the people.

Peace be with you,  
Pastor Mathew

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

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

January 1 – Joel Rapp  
January 4 – Tenley Westergreen  
January 8 – Tonya Wilcox  
January 8 - Remington Wilcox  
January 13 – Steve Rapp  
January 15 – Lori Hyde  
January 15 – Gladys Knudson  
January 15 – Peggie Schneeman  
January 18 – Shelly Heller  
January 18 – Jessica Mills  
January 19- Pastor Mathew Berger  
January 19- Judy Sykes  
January 20 – Scott Bauknecht  
January 21 – Mary Lou Bevers  
January 25 – Brooklyn Armetta  
January 27 – Greg Putnam  
January 30 – Don Bevers  
January 31 – Roger Austin  
January 1 – Jimm & Becky Edinger (1999)  
January 13 – Sam & Ellen Lambert, (1952)

### Bible & Bagels

The Bible & Bagels group will meet on Thursday, January 13th at 9:30 a.m. at Edinger's Filling Station. Any woman who would like to attend an informal Bible study is welcome to come to this meeting

### Annual Reports, Meeting, Etc.

The Annual meeting will be held on February 13, 2022. All reports are to be turned into Angie for review on or before 1/31/22. We will meet on January 30th for the Mission Proposal readings.



## Sunday School

Children 3 years old and up are invited to join us from 9:15 a.m.—9:50 a.m. each Sunday during the school year. Join us for Bible stories, songs, and activities that help us learn about God's love!

### Adult Sunday School

Adult Sunday School meets at 9:00 a.m. in the Hospitality Room and studies a scripture passage from that day's worship service.

### Children's Chapel During Worship

Children are welcome to go to Children's Chapel during worship following the Children's Message. After the sermon children will be brought back into the sanctuary. If your child prefers to stay in worship for the entire service, that's great too!

### Rebecca Circle

The Rebecca Circle will meet on Thursday, January 20th in the fellowship hall. The hostess will be Jean Harrison. Devotions will be given by Marian Brown and the offering meditation will be given by Carol Thorson. The lesson "Jesus teaching on the Kingdom of God: Beautiful feet, and at Jesus' parables about the present life," will be given by Mil Girard. All women of our congregation are invited and welcome to attend this meeting.



### Congregational Council

President—Doug Oliver  
Vice President—Mark Mackinson  
Secretary—Shelly Heller  
Building & Grounds Liaison—Louis Kehinde  
Building Community Liaison—Mary Leach  
Lifelong Learning Liaison—Tonya Johnson-Wilcox  
Finance/Stewardship Liaison—Jake Dixon  
Worship and Music Liaison—Sandy Erickson  
Treasurer—Denny Leach  
Financial Secretary—Marian Brown

