



THE MESSENGER

St. Paul Lutheran Church

A Message from Pastor Mathew

Merry Christmas!

As we move away from Christmas Day and into the New Year, I want to share one last Christmas message with you.

Joseph and Mary found themselves in Bethlehem on the night when Jesus was born because they had gone to be counted in the census.

On Christmas Eve God shows us who **counts**.

It's a poor teenager named Mary and her fiancé Joseph, little known travelers in Bethlehem who were far from home. It's the folks working the night shift out in the field, some of the first people to hear the news of Jesus's birth. It's shepherds from nearby and Magi from a far off country.

Jesus's birth reminds us that the last and the least count and that each of us are beloved by God. That includes you and me!

This is a Christmas message of good news which we can carry with us into the new year, you count.

*Christmas blessings and God's blessings into the New Year,
Pastor Mathew*

A Prayer for the New Year:

God of our future, give us peace and joy as we anticipate the new year ahead with faith, hope, and love through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessings from Taking Faith Home

For the week of January 3rd: May God shine the light of Christ, full of grace and truth, on you now and always

For the week of January 10th: May the Lord give you strength and bless you with peace. (Psalm 29:11)

For the week of January 17th: May the God that searches you and knows you give you hope and peace through Christ our Lord. (Psalm 139:1)

For the week of January 24th: May the steadfast love of God be yours as you place your trust in the good news of Jesus Christ. (Psalm 62:12 and Mark 1:14)



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 30 – Don Bevers
January 31 – Roger Austin
January 1 – Jimm & Becky Edinger (1999)
January 13 – Sam & Ellen Lambert, (1952)
January 24 – Joe & Dawn Boitnott (2008)
January 25 – Sam & Kris Lambert, Jr. (1975)

Flower Donations

We will once again order fresh flowers for worship from County Market. Please sign up on the flower chart if you are interested in donating for a two week span. Please write your check for \$25 to St. Paul Lutheran and put "flowers" on the memo line. We thank you in advance for helping to make our worship space beautiful to bring honor and glory to God.

Serving at St. Paul

Are you interested in serving during worship? Lectors and ushers will be needed when new schedules are created. If you would like to serve, please contact Angie in the church office. All volunteers are much appreciated!

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.

Text Updates Now Available

Updates from St. Paul are now available via text message. These messages will be used to provide important reminders about upcoming church events, changes to worship plans due to inclement weather or health concerns, etc.

If you would like to receive text message updates from St. Paul, **here is how to sign up:** Text @stpaul210 to the number 81010.

It is important to text this exact message "@stpaul210" to the number. After you have done so, you will receive a welcome text from Remind.com with more information. Remind will ask you to identify yourself as a student, teacher or parent because Remind is typically used by schools. Since we are not a school, choosing one of these roles is not necessary.

If you have any trouble you can also text @stpaul210 to (213) 947-9776.

If you are unable to sign up but would like to receive text message updates, please email or call Angie and share your cell phone number and first and last name.

Class of 2020 Honored

The Lay Caring Ministry honored our high school seniors, Max Gschwendtner and Aaron Putnam with a "belated blanket gift!" God's blessings to them both as they continue on life's journey!

ANNUAL MEETING

Annual Meeting Reports will be available toward the end of January in preparation for our Mission Proposal Reading on January 31. Due to the pandemic, we will email this report. If you would like to have a hard copy, please contact the church office and we will mail one to you. If we are back to "in-person" worship, we will have hard copies available. The upcoming Annual Meeting is scheduled for February 14th.



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In-Kind Gifts

In following the IRS rules and tax guide for churches and religious organizations, "a donor cannot claim a tax deduction for any single contribution of \$250 or more unless the donor obtains a written acknowledgment of the contribution from the recipient church." If you have made a non-cash gift of \$250 or more, please contact the church administrative secretary of your purchase and a receipt and a letter of acknowledgment will be provided for your tax documents. If you have any questions, please call the church office.