



THE MESSENGER

St. Paul Lutheran Church

A Message from Pastor Mathew

³I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.

Philippians 1:3-6

Dear people of St. Paul,

In August of 2019, you welcomed me as your pastor. Pastor Amy and I both had many hopes for ministry at St. Paul and St. Petri. And by God's grace and the power of the Holy Spirit, much good ministry has happened here. I am so grateful for the relationships, experiences, and ministry we have shared together over these past two and a half years.

Now with our son Simon in our lives and an ongoing pandemic shaping our world, the time has come for us to move closer to family. After much prayer for God's guidance, Pastor Amy and I have now been called to serve together at a congregation in Maryland, closer to family.

My final Sunday at St. Paul will be March 6, 2022 and my final day as pastor will be March 10.

It is hard to find the words to express the gratitude I have for all of you. Thank you. Thank you for welcoming me as your pastor. Thank you for entrusting me with all the joys, challenges, and responsibilities that go along with it.

A first call shapes a pastor, and you have shaped me. I will always give thanks to God for the opportunity to serve at St. Paul and alongside all of you.

When you called me as your pastor, I met you on the way. You were already faithfully carrying out the ministry that God calls us to, and I joined you. Together we continued that work: worshipping God, reaching out to our communities, and serving in Jesus' name.

Now God is calling me to something new. God is calling me to serve alongside Pastor Amy and God is calling me to be nearer to family. But I am not the only one being called. God is calling you to continue in the work of ministry, to continue building one another up in love and sharing the good news. And God promises us that this work is not in vain.

I hope and pray that over the next month we will have the opportunity to give thanks for the ministry that has happened here, and look expectantly into what God has in store for us next. The Holy Spirit made our ministry possible in the first place, and even when we have said goodbye, the Holy Spirit will remain here with all of you. And there is no better guide than the Holy Spirit.

You are in my prayers. May God bless you and keep you, always.

In Christ,

Pastor Mathew

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

MARCH BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

March Birthdays

March 2 – Tammy Oliver
March 3 – Amanda Schumm
March 5 – Brenda Russow
March 8 – Wanda Schlueter
March 9 – Kylee Claypool
March 11 – Bryce Claypool
March 13 – Brad Solberg
March 14 – Carley Nourie
March 18 – Carl Thorson
March 21 – Sue Curtiss
March 21 – Brian Schumm
March 21 – Max Gschwendtner
March 21 – Brianna Schumm
March 23- Travis Westergreen
March 23 – Mil Girard
March 26 – Brooklyn Delheimer
March 31 – Jayden Folkerts

March Anniversaries

March 3 – Keith & Natalie Hendershott (2006)
March 9 – Don & Mary Lou Bevers (1995)
March 16 – Hermie & Janice Schmidt (1985)
March 19 – Jeff & Darla Dixon (1988)

Bible & Bagels

The Bible & Bagels will meet on Thursday, March 10, 2022, at Edinger's Filling Station at 9:30 a.m. Any woman who would like to participate an informal Bible study is welcome to attend to this meeting

Rebecca Circle

The Rebecca Circle will meet on Thursday, March 17, 2022, at 1:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall. The hostess will be Maurine Gentes. Devotions will be given by Ginger Bauknecht and the offering meditation will be given by Jean Harrison. The lesson "God, Here and Now" will be given by Mil Girard. All women of our congregation are invited and welcome to attend this meeting.



Ash Wednesday Services

Wednesday, March 2, 2022

12:00 P.M. and 6:30 P.M.

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!

Altar Flowers

A new list is now posted on the kiosk to sign up for altar flower donations. If you would like to donate \$25.00 toward the purchase of flowers in memory of or in honor of someone, please sign your name on the flower chart. Make checks payable to St. Paul Lutheran Church, noting "altar flowers" on the memo line. Thank you in advance for your donations!



Easter Lilies

There is a sign-up sheet on the kiosk for anyone who wishes to purchase Easter lilies. The cost is \$9.99 per lily and the deadline to sign up is April 3.

Easter Candy Donations

The Life Long Learning team is asking for Easter candy donations to be used for our annual Easter Egg Hunt. Candy can be labeled and dropped off in the kitchen. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

Lenten Wednesday Meals and Holden Evening Prayer Services

Beginning March 9, there will be a simple meal at 5:45 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall with the Holden Evening Prayer service to follow at 6:30 p.m. If you would like to read a Bible monologue at one of the services, please contact Sara Solberg, John Mehlberg, or Julie Mehlberg. If you would like to help serve a meal, please contact any church council member.

Lenten Prayer Partners

During this Lenten season, we invite members of all ages to be prayer partners. A prayer partner can encourage and remind others to put their hope and focus on Jesus Christ. You can walk through life together sharing joys, hurts, struggles, and triumphs.

Once you are assigned a prayer partner:

- *Come up with a regular communication plan. It doesn't have to be every single day but you can decide if you are going to meet in person, talk on the phone, email, or text.*
- *If you don't know the person well, get to know them by asking questions about them or their family.*
- *Ask, "How can I be praying for you?"*
- *Pray! Be dependable and trustworthy in your prayer.*

"Let us keep looking to Jesus. Our faith comes from Him and He is the One who makes it perfect." Hebrews 12:2

Please sign up on the kiosk by March 6.

SAVE THE DATE



Lori's Beautification Day

A Community Wide Service Project

Saturday, May 21, 2022

9:00AM-3:00PM

More details coming soon



In Memory of Lori Bristow



STRONGER
for Him

ST. PAUL LENTEN JOURNEY '22

In 2022, we will focus on different ways that the Lenten Journey can make us stronger:

for me - becoming a stronger individual through self-reflection and self-care

for you - creating stronger relationships through connections, communication and prayer

for us - building a stronger congregation through worship and fellowship

for them - becoming stronger in service as we give to those in our community

for Him - becoming stronger for Him

Please join a **STRONGER** *for them* team for our food pantry team challenge. A sign up sheet is on the **STRONGER** *for Him* table in the gathering space at St. Paul.

Congregational Council

President—Mark Mackinson

Vice President—Becky Edinger

Secretary—Shelly Heller

Building & Grounds Liaison—Louis Kehinde

Building Community Liaison—Jessica Mills

Lifelong Learning Liaison—Betsy Westergreen

Finance/Stewardship Liaison—Cody Leach

Worship and Music Liaison—Sandy Erickson

Treasurer—Denny Leach

Financial Secretary—pending