



January,
2024

St. Paul Lutheran Church

The Messenger

LUTHER'S SMALL CATECHISM ON PROPERTY AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS. COMMANDMENTS SEVEN, NINE, AND TEN

The Seventh Commandment: You shall not steal.

What is this? or What does this mean?

We are to fear and love God, so that we neither take our neighbors' money or property nor acquire them by using shoddy merchandise or crooked deals, but instead help them to improve and protect their property and income.

The Ninth Commandment: You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

What is this? or What does this mean?

We are to fear and love God, so that we do not try to trick our neighbors out of their inheritance or property or try to get it for ourselves by claiming to have a legal right to it and the like, but instead be of help and service to them in keeping what is theirs.

The Tenth Commandment: You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female servant, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

What is this? or What does this mean?

We are to fear and love God, so that we do not entice, force, or steal away from our neighbors their spouses, household workers, or livestock, but instead urge them to stay and fulfill their responsibilities to our neighbors.

As I think about these three commandments, I am taken to the scene in the Disney classic "Finding Nemo" with the Seagulls when something interesting pops out of the ocean they all begin to cry out "Mine, Mine, Mine. Humanity it seems has a deep personal longing to have! Whether it be money, property, status, people, reputation, or security. We want to be able to get what we want. We often admire or despise those who have the things we desire; we think these things should be mine! While our neighbors are



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Special points of interest

- Food Pantry Needs
- Annual Reports Due
- January Events



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saying these things should be mine!

We will strive to get the things we want through education, training, hard work, developing relationships and community. But sometimes we will try to get what we want through trickery, deceit, use of power, violence, or simply to take the thing we want. Luther reminds us that a life built on the concept of MINE, MINE, MINE, will lead to our collapse, the collapse of our neighbor, the collapse of community, and the collapse of all social structure that protects what is mine and what is the neighbors! Only a concern borne out of our

fear, love, trust of a God who has created us, redeemed us and calls us to HOLY and Whole living can. God calls me and the neighbor to life not based on just getting what is mine, but a call out of concern for and with our neighbor to have what we need. God calls us in the fourth petition of the Lord's Prayer that He sees our need for daily bread and He sees our neighbors need for daily bread and promises that He gives daily bread to all, but invites me and my neighbor to protect each other's property, and relationships and community.

Blessings!

Pastor Wayne

Bibles & Bagels will meet at 9:30 am on January 11 at Edinger's Restaurant. We will continue with our studies of the previous Sunday's gospel.



If you have a confidential prayer request that you would like members of our church prayer chain to pray over, please contact Julie Mehlberg at jjmehlberg@gmail.com or call 815.848.6256. If you have a prayer request to be added to

the worship service prayers, please sign the sheet on the office desk. St. Paul prayer partners stand ready to surround you with prayer!

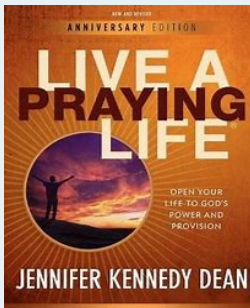


Altar Flowers

If you would like to donate flowers in memory of or honor of someone, please sign your name on the flower chart located on the kiosk. Flowers

are \$25. Make checks payable to St. Paul Lutheran Church, noting "altar flowers" on the memo line. Thank you in advance for your donations.

Reminder! Annual Reports are due in the office by January 15!



BIBLE STUDAY AVAILABLE!

This book study helps us discover the difference in having a prayer life and living a praying life! Please join us on January 10 at 6 pm at the Church.

Books are available on Amazon or contact Tami Putnam. Please join us!

"Live a Praying Life" by Jennifer Kennedy Dean.



L.E.O. (Let's Eat Out)

L.E.O. gathers St. Paul members and friends on the third Wednesday of each month to enjoy dinner out. This month we will meet on Wednesday, January, 17 at 5:30 pm at Family Kitchen!

WELLNESS SUNDAY

Health and Wellness Sunday is the third Sunday of each month. Mary Leach or one of our parish nurses will be on hand before and after worship to check blood pressure, blood sugar, and to help with questions about your health.



REBECCA CIRCLE

Rebecca Circle will meet on Thursday, January 18 in the fellowship hall. Jean Harrison will be the hostess, and Lucy Kehinde will lead the Bible study. We will begin a new series of lessons from Gather magazine, entitled "Scripture and Nature: Teachers of Faith". The one for January is "Weather: Powerful Force of Change".

TEXT MESSAGES

If you would like to receive text messages with reminders and special announcements, please sign up for the St. Paul Texting Service by completing the following: Send a text to 81010

Text the message: @stpaul210

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

Our food pantry collections for the month of January & February are Paper Products, Pancake Mix (the complete, just add water) and Syrup. Thanks for being the hands and feet of Jesus in our community!



Red Bag!

We will continue with Red Bag collections on the 2nd Sunday of each month.

January - Mission & Vision (ELCA)

Sunday Pastoral Schedule

Jan. 7 - Pastor Wayne
Jan. 14 - Pastor Wayne
Jan. 21 - Bishop Busboom
Jan. 28 - Pastor Wayne

Newsletter & Announcements

Please send any announcements or articles for the February newsletter to stpaulpontiac@gmail.com by January 25.

Announcements for the bulletin are due by 9 am Thursday mornings.

Birthdays

Joel Rapp - Jan. 1
Tenley Westergreen - Jan. 4
Remington Wilcox - Jan. 8
Tonya Wilcox - Jan. 8
Steve Rapp - Jan. 13
Sue Garfinkle - Jan. 15
Peggie Schneeman - Jan. 15
Shelly Heller - Jan. 18
Judy Sykes - Jan. 19
Scott Bauknecht - Jan. 20
Greg Putnam - Jan. 27
Roger Austin - Jan. 31

January Church Events

Jan. 7 - Worship Service - 10 am - Pastor Wayne Shelksohn
Jan. 10 - Live a Praying Life Bible Study - 6 pm
Jan. 11 - Bibles & Bagels - 9:30 am @ Edinger's
Jan. 14 - Worship Service - 10 am - Pastor Wayne Shelksohn
Jan. 14 - Red Bag Sunday - Mission & Vision (ELCA)
Jan. 15 - Council Meeting - 6 pm (Annual Reports Due)
Jan. 17 - LEO @ 5:30 pm—Family Kitchen
Jan. 18 - Rebecca Circle @ 1:30 pm - Church
Jan. 21 - Worship Service - 10 am - Bishop Busboom
Jan. 24 - Live a Praying Life - 6 pm
Jan. 25 - Newsletter Articles Deadline
Jan. 28 - Worship Service - 10 am - Pastor Wayne Shelksohn
(Mission Proposal after worship)

ANNIVERSARIES

Jim & Becky Edinger - Jan. 1
Sam, Sr. & Ellen Lambert - Jan 13
Joe & Dawn Boitnott - Jan. 24
Sam, Jr. & Kris Lambert - Jan. 25

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