



# St. Paul Lutheran

No Judgement. Just Grace.

January 2021 NEWSLETTER

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Happy New Year! Here we are again at the start of a new year. A new year brings new hopes, new plans, and new joys into our lives. Yet, a new year is also sure to bring new challenges. In many ways, we can look at the new year as a simple continuation of life as it was. I mean, it is just another day, right? But there is something to be said about closing the book on the previous year and looking ahead to a blank slate in front of us.

While we all have faced so many challenges in 2020, not just as individuals but as a church as a whole, God reminds us that these challenges can be for our benefit. Every challenge and struggle is meant to turn us back to God as our source of strength and encouragement. For when we look to God, we don't turn to despair and anguish at the state of the world, but rather to hope! We need not fear the future or what it might hold for us, because we know that it's all in God's hands! Just as it says, "The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness," Lamentations 3:22-23. Every day is a new day to experience the joys and mercies of God. And a day is just a microcosm of the turning of a year.

As we look toward a new year, may we be reminded of the grace and mercy of our God. He has carried us through the suffering of the previous year. He has continued to protect and care for us even amidst a pandemic. He will be sure to carry us through the twists and turns of a new year and help us to grow even deeper in our faith in Him. For Jesus has closed the book on your past... all your errors and mistakes, all your struggles and fights, all your evil and sin. By Christ's death on the cross, He has turned the page for you! All that is in the past can no longer hold you back... nor can the future frighten us. It is all covered by the blood of Christ shed for you on the cross. For this is what St. Paul writes, "For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord," Romans 8:38-39. Let us then, look forward to the New Year with hope. For we know that God remains with us through all of life. His mercies are new every morning! In Jesus' name!

Pastor Sorenson

**Search for St. Paul Madison on Facebook for weekly Wednesday devotions from Pastor Sorenson. You do NOT have to belong to Facebook to check out our page.**



**Happy January Birthdays!!**

**Andrew Hopfensperger (1/8), Marilyn Gramdorf (1/12), Renee Taylor-Jackson (1/12), Linda William-**

## Financial Statistics - 12/24, 25, and 27

### 12/24 and 12/25

General Envelope - \$4,760.00

Plate - \$56.00

General Fund Total = \$4,816.00

Altar Flowers - \$25.50

**Total = \$4,841.50**

### 12/27

General Envelope - \$2,160.00

Plate - \$65.00

General Fund Total = \$2,225.00

Dream Big - \$125.00

Budget Shortfall - \$500.00

**Total = \$2,850.00**

Altar Flowers for January 31 are give to the Glory of the Lord by Rick Van Dusen, in honor of his grandson, Weston Farnsworths' third birthday.

## SERVING IN JANUARY

**Altar Guild** - Bonnie Kaschinske and Berta Nelson

**Tellers** - Cheri Niemczyk and Jamie Meise

**Januray 3** - **Ushers** - Randy Buss, Dave Evert, Tom Niemczyk

**Acolyte** - Moses Dahn

**January 10** - **Ushers** Rick Van Dusen, Ray Hellmer, Maria Huckleberry

**Acolyte** - Tahji Jackson

**January 17** - **Ushers** - Jamie Meise, Jerry Meise, Rick Germann

**Acolyte** - Moses Dahn

**January 24** - **Ushers** - Randy Buss, Dave Evert, Tom Niemczyk

**Acolyte** - Tahji Jackson

**January 31** - **Ushers** - Rick Van Dusen, Ray Hellmer, Maria Huckleberry



Does your keychain look like this? Do you sound like a janitor when you walk? Perhaps you have extra keys for St. Paul's! Please check your keys and turn in any unused keys to the office. Thank you!

**Take Note**

Please send any items and prayer concerns you'd like mentioned in our monthly newsletter to the office at

office@stpaulmadison.org, or please call the office at 608-244-8077. If no one is able to take your call, please leave a detailed message and a number where you can be reached in your message.

**ALL NEWSLETTER ITEMS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE LAST MONDAY OF EACH MONTH.**

St. Paul office phone - 608-244-8077

Office@stpaulmadison.org

Pastor Sorenson - cell phone -

317-690-5204

pastorsorenson@stpaulmadison.org

## Come, Thou Badly-Needed Coffee

The Church Curmudgeon

HYFRYDOL



Come, thou badly-need-ed cof-fee; Come to make thy peo-ple see.



From our wea-ry slum-bers wake us; Let us end our rest- with thee.



This real bra-cing con-so-la-tion bids us from our beds a-rise;



Wa-ter, beans in com-bi-na-tion, o-pen up-our sleep-ing eyes!