

# St. Paul Lutheran

December 2022 NEWSLETTER



## *From the Pastor:*

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

It is often said that familiarity breeds contempt. Watching the same movie a hundred times doesn't give the same level of enthusiasm as watching it the first time. We grow bored or disinterested with things which we are overly familiar. There is always a craving to experience something new and unknown.

For so I find Christmas to be a difficult time in church. It's a story we've all heard hundreds of times. It's easy to go through the motions in this Christmas season and not put too much thought into the same old story. Virgin Mary, manger, shepherds, baby Jesus. Yes. It's all so common, so familiar to us that we are tempted to ignore it.

Familiarity with the Christmas story should not be a bad thing though. There is no greater story for us to know by heart than this one. For there are stories that are meant to stick with us. Those that teach us an important life-lesson, those that alter our viewpoint of life, those that make us cry, or laugh, or smile. We find with such stories that there is always something more to discover. Or rather, with such stories they offer something new every time we read them.

I believe Christmas is such a story. We should be familiar with it, of course, because it's central to our faith. But I want to challenge you to see it even in a new light this year. Just because you have read the story before does not mean you've digested every last detail about it. For it may surprise you what new thing you discover when treated with interest instead of contempt.

For such a story should never grow old to us. Christmas is all about Immanuel. It's about a little baby who was born to live among us. This child, meek and lowly was none other than Almighty God in human flesh! This was the child long foretold, whom all creation had been waiting for to set right all that had gone wrong since the fall. He is Jesus, which means Yahweh saves! In this small child, God has come to save his people from their sin and death. By his birth, our lives are changed forever. For he is not just the child that came in the manger, but he is God who still comes to be with us now and always! "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord," Luke 2:11. Merry Christmas!

Pastor Sorenson



**Happy Birthday!**



Inge Carlson– 12/2  
Bryanna Rakow– 12/4  
Joyce Jensen– 12/12  
Morgan McGill– 12/17  
Roosevelt Dahn–12/19  
Doreen Speirs– 12/21

## *Altar Flowers*



**December 4-**(None)

**December 11-** Kay Daubenspeck

**December 18-** (None)

**December 25-** Christmas Flowers

## *St Paul Online:*

Visit our website: [www.stpaulmadison.org](http://www.stpaulmadison.org)



**Facebook**– @StPaulMadisonLCMS

**YouTube**– St Paul Lutheran Church  
(services and sermons online)



Note: You do NOT have to have an account in order to view these pages.

## **Contact us**

St Paul Office– 608-244-8077  
[office@stpaulmadison.org](mailto:office@stpaulmadison.org)  
Pastor Sorenson (Cell) 317-690-5204  
[pastorsorenson@stpaulmadison.org](mailto:pastorsorenson@stpaulmadison.org)

### Serving in December

#### Altar Guild

Chris Krueger & Linda Williamson

#### Tellers

**December 4-18**– Kay Daubenspeck, Chris Krueger

**December 24-25**– John & Linda Williamson

#### Ushers

**December 4-**

Jerry Meise, Jamie Meise, Dan Dierks

**December 11-**

Richard Beal, Randy Buss, Tom Niemczyk

**December 18-**

Rick Van Dusen, Ray Hellmer, Leo Lakpa

**December 24-**

Jerry Meise, Jamie Meise, Dan Dierks

**December 25-**

Richard Beal, Randy Buss, Tom Niemczyk

### DATES TO REMEMBER

**December 3-** Breakfast with Santa (at Esquire)

**December 11**– Tellers Meeting

**December 11 & 14**– Church Informational Meeting

**December 24**– Christmas Eve Service @6pm

**December 25**– Christmas Day Service @9:30am

### Portals of Prayer

To help us determine how many quarterly Portals of Prayer booklets to order in 2023, there is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. The deadline to sign up is Sunday December 18. If you want to make a donation to cover the cost of your Portal of Prayer, a regular print costs \$9 for one year and a large print costs \$18 for one year.

## Advent 2022

Our season of Advent aims to prepare us for the grand celebration of Christmas. Join with us this year as we follow our Advent theme, “**The Generations of Jesus**”. Each week, we will take up an ancestor of our Lord to learn from their stories of faith.



**December 7**– Son of Judah

**December 14**– Son of Boaz

**December 21**– Son of David

#### Christmas Services:

**December 24**– Son of Joseph

**December 25**– Son of God

Services every Wednesday at 6pm.

### Envelopes

Envelopes for the 2023 calendar year will be available in the Welcome area on December 11. Please be sure to pick up your envelopes.



### *Interested in Volunteering?*

Our Sheep's Clothing closet is always looking for volunteers. Help sort clothes, receive donations, and keep it open to help our community. If interested, speak with Luanne Rommel or Berta Nelson.

## St Paul Financial Update

### GENERAL FUND INCOME AND EXPENSES

October 2022 Actual Income	\$14,534.45
October 2022 Actual Expenses	\$16,290.00
October 2022 Net	-\$1,755.55

### DEBT

Unpaid Balance on Mortgage Loan (10/31/2022)	\$179,502.86
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Take Note

Please send any items and prayer concerns you'd like mentioned in our monthly newsletter to the office at [office@stpaulmadison.org](mailto: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.**

Thank you for your help!