

St. Paul Lutheran Messenger



Volume 2021 Issue 1

January 2021

Our Mission Statement:

“To Grow in God’s Word and Share
God’s Love”

Our Core Values:

1. Building community inside and outside of our church building.
2. Nurturing and developing faith lives for all ages
3. Serving Others (in our neighborhoods, community, state and beyond)
4. Caring for our members and church building.
5. Investing in children, youth and their families.

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Corner

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Events, Updates

Church Calendar

I think it would be safe to say 2020 was a most unusual and challenging year. Looking back, I realize, in the midst of so many uncertainties, I had many reasons to be grateful which I will carry with me into the new year. How long did your resolutions last before going down in flames? Friends you thought you could count on seemed to abandon you. Each month brought some new reasons to wonder, “Where is God in all this?” Regardless of what kind of year you leave behind, the truth is that none of us have any idea of what the dawning year will bring.

Did you have a year you would like to forget? Nothing seemed to work out as you had hoped. Surely, we can hope for the best, we can try to be optimistic, but who knows? I believe there is one point of stability in the uncertainties of the coming months. It is the bedrock promise that God will be with us every day.

My father-in-law shared a piece of advice with me in the early years of my marriage. He said we don't necessarily get grace in advance, but we do get grace when we need it. This seasoned wisdom came from a man who had farmed the land for many decades through drought and heavy rain, high and low crop prices illness and health. We look back and wonder how we made it through dark nights of the soul. Oh yes, there were times we thought we might not make it. Still in each time of calamity, each moment of doubt, each test of endurance; God was with us – the Holy Spirit did not abandon us.

A good promise we might take hold of in this new year would be to repeat every morning this word from Jeremiah: “God’s mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning.” (Lamentations 3:22-23).

Looking forward to sharing the new year with you in God’s mission field,

Pastor Ralph

Presidents Corner

“A merry heart does good like medicine.”

- Proverbs 17:22

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The holiday season is upon us and we are so grateful to have Pastor Ralph with us.

This world seems so mixed up due to COVID and all the other challenges that we all face each day from having to wear a mask wherever we go to not being able to give hugs to those we love.

I know God has a plan for each of us and our church and with the help of the Holy Spirit and all of you, we will get through this.

I pray that 2021 brings each of you peace and comfort.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!

*In Christ's name,  
Jeff Thomsen*

### **Thank You Yarnsters**

A special, Thank You from Patricia Raleigh to everyone who helped her deliver the poinsettias from the Senior Committee.

Those people are: Pastor Carole Lundell, Nurse Linda, Lloyd and Mary Jo Johnson, Bob and Judy Michaelis, Mary Viers and Vida MacDonald.





## From The Office

*"The secret of change is to focus all of your energy, not on fighting the old, but on building the new."*

Socrates

~~~~~  
Happy New Year!!

Channel 18 Programming

Sunday 4pm
Monday 4am
Thursday 3pm, 9pm
Friday 3am, 9am

People have been asking who the choral singers were in the January 3rd worship service.

Those beautiful voices were the senior students, taught by Kim Alswager, from North High.

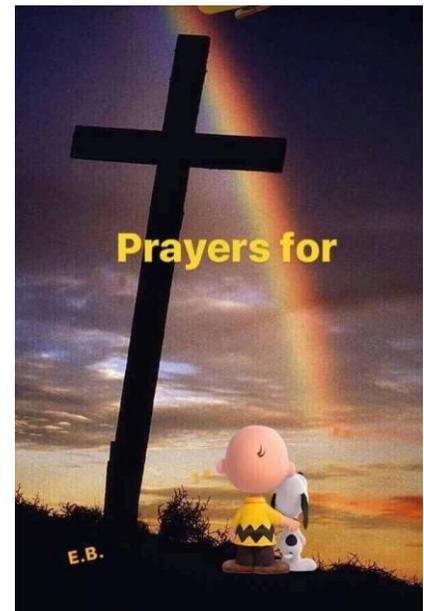
Prayer Box



Members: Meghan Haefs, Margy Carlsen, Ruth Guse, Mary & Larry Viers, Ken Kress, Barb Raleigh, June Carlson, Greg Nelson, Joyce Warner, Martin Withuski, Lorna Lutz, Jane Johnson, Dave Carlsen, Deb Hanson, Dorie Nelson; Audrey Radke, Ted Anderson, Connie Borson, Mike Immel, Karen Celski, Shelley Racine, Mary Jo Drews, Pete Heaney, Woody & Delores Kojetin, Mary Jo Kress

Family and Friends: Ian and Jeff Lundstrom, Lila Powell, Stephanie Rossell, Chloe Hoyle, Becca Larson, Dave Hendrickson, Mary Jean Just, Alice Ault, Anne Emily, Easton Cummings, Tom Schwietz, Debbie Odell, Josephine Wiersma, Beverly Halberg, Marcella Christensen, Brian Utecht, Molly Granat, Robert Heaney, Bill Kaufmann, Perry Dau, Bonnie Lundstrom, Bill and Bonnie Sherrat, Zoe Peterson, Claire Olson, Lindsay Lang, Abby Orton, Kathy Nazworth, Jan Brownlee, the family of Jan Sime, Faye Rothrum, William Reuter, Orlan Youngren, Allison Schilling

Military Personnel: Kenny Helms, Daniel Kaufmann, Jill Meyer, Haydon Dvorak



Upcoming Events, Updates & News

Joy to the World

The Nominating Committee has met and has been reaching out to our members regarding their interest in open leadership positions at church. As a reminder, the following positions are open for election:

- Council Vice President/President Elect: one-year Vice President, one-year President
- Council Secretary: two-year term
- Chair of Property and Grounds Committee: two-year term
- Chair of Memorial and Grants Committee: two-year term
- Chair of Senior Committee: two-year term
- Chair of Education and Youth Committee: two-year term
- Chair of Worship Committee: two-year term

Also up for election are the five members of the Nominating Committee, which serve one-year terms.

If you have interest in serving in any of the above positions, please contact a member of the Nominating Committee to discuss and ask any questions you may have regarding the position.

You can reach each member at the following phone number or e-mail address:

Kristi Mack; 651-472-2281

kristimack55@hotmail.com

Marguerite DeFore; 651-276-1065

mugs1952@gmail.com

Ann Kriesel; 651-303-0358

akriesel48@gmail.com

Kevin Urhammer; 715-441-6760

kurhammer@gmail.com

Ron Kuehn; 651-777-1015

keenron@comcast.net

Bob Michaelis; 615-351-2075 (H), 651-278-0072

mbobmjudymn@yahoo.com

Members of the church and church Council had a wonderful time doing a car parade and caroling to shut ins and nursing homes on Saturday, December 19th!!!

The group included Patricia Raleigh, Vida MacDonald, Kathy Thibodeau, Jennifer Braun, Lynn and Billy Lohmen, Joan Knudsen, Samir Benyahia, and Mary Viers. They spent 3 hours visiting with and singing for 24 of our members. A great time was had by all!!



Upcoming Events, Updates & News (con.)

Five Sponsored Families have a Very Merry Christmas!

From Matthew 22:37 – Jesus states: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself.” Thank you SPLC members for living out these two commandments Jesus talked about in Matthew by being generous to our families.

A heartfelt, and gracious thank you to all of our St. Paul Lutheran Church members, Quilters, and Yarnsters who made this Christmas for our five sponsored families a memorable one. I can visualize the smiles on the faces, and memories in the hearts of each sponsored individual as they opened their gifts.

Blessings to each one of you as we begin 2021 with the hope and promises our Lord gives to all of us!

Congregational Care Ministry Task Force & Senior Ministry

Most of our seniors have now been contacted by a member of the Congregational Care Ministry Task Force regarding the survey of needs for seniors. If you have not been contacted, please let the church office know at 651.439.5970, and someone from the Task Force will follow-up with you.

Several members receiving phone calls, and monthly “surprises” have reached out and asked to share their gratefulness with those creating, delivering, calling, and caring for them a very big THANK YOU! It has helped members stay connected and know they are loved and prayed for.

During the months of January and February, there will not be monthly “surprises” due to the possibility of inclement weather. We will begin again in March to deliver. Phone calls and prayers will continue.

Mugs DeFore

Valley Outreach COVID-19 Response Update

Prior to the pandemic, Valley Outreach saw a 25% increase in the use of food clothing, resource assistance, and case management programs year over year. The need is not going away and continues to grow. In March, Valley Outreach introduced drive-up, contactless food distribution. We are serving nearly 400 families each week. We’ve seen a 40% increase in the use of food programs, with 8% of people new to Valley Outreach.

Please check out our website info@valleyoutreachmn.org for more information regarding fund raising and volunteering opportunities.

Drive-up Service Hours

M/W/F - 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

T/Th - 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Drive-up Donation Hours

M/W - noon to 3 p.m.

The generosity of the community keeps us going strong so we’ll always be here for people when they need help. Thank you!

Valley Outreach Staff

HOPE FOR THE JOURNEY HOME

St. Paul Lutheran and First United Methodist Church will not be volunteering at Hope for the Journey Home in February because of COVID. They have 1-2 families there at a time and because the families can’t be out of their rooms in the house other than meal times and laundry, they don’t see the families very much.

We delivered 4 containers of chili and several desserts left over from our Lenten meals this month. They were very happy to receive this food and wishes to thank everyone for this kind gesture.

The Social Concerns committee will keep in touch with the staff at HJH.

Upcoming Events, Updates & News (con.)

Simpson House Update

Our shelter staff have been true heroes during the entire course of this pandemic. They show resiliency in the face of the most challenging of circumstances.

We are pleased to share Simpson's administrative office is [moving](#)! We have purchased a new building at 160 Glenwood Avenue in Minneapolis. Our new office space will be ready in the summer of 2021.

Would anyone like to donate pre-packaged treats for about 60 people for future holidays: New Year's Day, Martin Luther King, Jr., Day, or Valentine's Day.

Shelter Manager, Marian Wright, shared that pies, cookies, or candy would be appreciated. The items must be commercially made. If we have more than one person or group interested, I will check back with you .



Mississippi Mission Trip

A big thank you to everyone that ordered wreaths, swags, crosses and garland this year. We had an exceptional year for orders - one of the largest orders we have had in awhile! There were 47-24inch wreaths, 3-30 inch wreaths, 27 swags, 6 crosses, and 4-25 foot lengths of garland ordered! Our proceeds from the sale totaled \$389.50 and that amount will be used as part of our donation for materials for the next Mississippi mission trip.

A Mississippi mission trip to build homes is tentatively being planned for the fall of 2021. The date has not been set yet and we'll see how things are going with the COVID pandemic, but we are hoping to be able to go sometime in the fall. Watch for more information as the year goes on.

If you have an interest in being part of this mission trip, you can contact Carol Weber or the church office.





JANUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 Visit our website or Facebook page for Daily Readings 9:00am Online Worship Service or at 4pm on Channel 18	4	5	6 6:00pm Connect	7 3:00pm Virtual Social Concerns Mtg	8	9
10 Visit our website or Facebook page for Daily Readings 9:00am Online Worship Service or at 4pm on Channel 18	11	12 6:30pm Business Mgmt Mtg 7:30pm Executive Mtg	13 6:00pm Connect	14	15	16
17 Visit our website or Facebook page for Daily Readings 9:00am Online Worship Service or at 4pm on Channel 18	18	19 7:00pm Church Council Mtg	20	21	22	23
24 Visit our website or Facebook page for Daily Readings 9:00am Online Worship Service or at 4pm on Channel 18	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 Visit our website or Facebook page for Daily Readings 9:00am Online Worship Service or at 4pm on Channel 18						

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We invite you to worship
with us online by going to
our website
www.stpaulc.org, our
Facebook page or Cable
TV Channel 18.

