

# THE MESSENGER

# JANUARY 2021

*And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true" (Revelation 21:5).*

Dear Saints,

During the past few months, most of us have been "getting ready." We made plans for Thanksgiving (even if they were much smaller this year). We made lists for shopping. We decorated our homes and our Church for Christmas. We made food, cookies, and sent out our Christmas cards. We prepared for special services at St. Paul's – Advent services in anticipation of the coming of the LORD; then Christmas services to celebrate His birth. Following Christmas, we had more "getting ready" to do as we prepared for the final days of 2020.

After all of the "getting ready" has been completed: the decorations have been taken down, the gifts have been put into use or returned for a different size or color, and the last of the Christmas cookies have been eaten – some of you may experience somewhat of a "let-down." Christmas and New Year's this year looked a lot different for many of us than in the past. As the weather gets colder and the skies become grayer, we might feel a little disappointed that some of our long-standing traditions were broken, and realize that we're no longer getting ready for much of anything even as the New Year begins.

I'd like to suggest that there is plenty of "getting ready" yet to be done. It starts right here – in God's house – where we hear and study God's Word. I would encourage you to use the beginning of this New Year as a time to get ready for whatever the Lord has in store for St. Paul's in 2021. That means tending to your prayers and attending church and Bible study. It also means "finding your spot" and "working your spot." What a great tragedy it would be if we let the faithful works, completed by the saints who have gone before us, go unattended.

For Christians like you and me, every day of the year – every day of our lives – is and should be a day of "getting ready." Ready, not just for cooking and presents and celebrating holidays together, but getting ready for Jesus. Getting ready for our Savior, who promises to come again.

Ready or not, here comes Jesus!

Keep up the good work; continue the positive momentum; and let's always "walk in the light of Christ" in all that we say and do.

Cheers!  
Pastor Hoem

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## PRAYERS

### Ongoing Chronic Concerns

Harris Beck • Myra Carrier • Davis Dean • Doug Doehrmann • Ron Fishbaugh • Rev. John Hamer • Lonni Helmchen • John Huitt • Juanita Jefferson • Dennis Jordan • Barbara Nelson • Janice Schmidt • Sam Suarez • Sharon Williams

### Serving the Armed Forces

KiVuan Edwards • Cierra Germann • Brian Hamer • Zachary Harmeyer • Jarrell Harris • Jasmine Jackson • Austin Kerr • Courtney Linnemeier • Jamara Moore • Brandon Screeton • John Sheaffer Jr • Ryan Sheaffer • Brandon Skalicky

## PRAYERS CONT'D

### Our Homebound Members

Neva Aldridge • Joan Badders • Eleda Barille • Marilyn Berning • Maxine Bienz • Helen Busche • Helen Carr • Connie Colby • MaryAnne Cordes • Elinor Doenges • Alex Early • Betty Elliott • Phoebe Fett • Betty Gotsch • Rodney Hall • Gloria Hamer • Ralph & Ruth Herb • Laverne Linnemeier • Leah Maier • Beverly Maxfield • Lois Meyer • Mary Mundt • Richard Mundt • Lois Pasche • Steve Pollock • Leona Puff • Judith Rekeweg • Walter Schroeder • Wanda Schweyer • Ralph Sielaff • Gladys Teekaram • Dorothy Taylor • Eileen Weber • Mary Weick • Beverly Williams • Anna Witte

## IN THE CONGREGATION

### Sunday Divine Service at 10 A.M.

If you are unable to join us in person we welcome you to view the service (live stream) on Facebook or YouTube. \*

### Wednesday Masked Services

We resume our noon and 6:30 pm (masked) Wednesday Divine Service on Wednesday, January 6.

### Adult Instruction Class

Pastor Hoem resumes the Adult Instruction Class Sunday, January 10 immediately following the Divine Service (approximately 11:20 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.) in the Neger room. This is a chance for us to get to know each other.

### Wednesday Bible Study Resumes Jan. 6

In-person study resumes on Wednesday, January 6. Join Pastor Cage Wednesdays at 2 p.m. in the Neger Room (or watch online\*) as we study "The Gospel According to Isaiah".

### Online Bible Studies

Join Pastor Cage online for his Bible Study "Angels and Demons". It can be viewed along with all other available Bible Studies online on either YouTube or Facebook.\*

### Monday Morning Prayer

Parents, grandparents, and church members, are encouraged to join us every Monday morning at 8:30 a.m. to pray for our church and school. Please enter by the elevator doors to pray in the church chapel for 20 minutes. If you would like to pray from home, contact Jill Clem (403-0273) and she will share the weekly prayer guide with you.

### REMINDER: Financial Books Close Dec. 31

The church's financial books will close on 12/31/20. All contributions must be received, or postmarked, on or before 12/31/20 to be credited for the 2020 year. Please plan your contributions accordingly. Thank you.

### Join Us for our New Year's Eve Services

Join us Thursday, December 31 for the 7pm Divine Service. Ring in the New Year with worship!

### Church Office Closed Friday, January 1

### Baby Items Campaign Begins January 3

Consider giving new or like-new baby items: burp cloths, bath items, baby bathtubs, pacifiers, teething rings, diaper cream, toys, baby clothing, socks, etc... We will begin collecting items after the service beginning on January 3. Each item will help local charities, such as Shepherd's Hand. Drop off your items in front of the church office in the baby bassinet by February 15.

### Help Remove Christmas Decoration Jan. 9

Join in and lend a hand to help remove the Christmas decorations from the church. Our team of volunteers will begin on Saturday, January 9 at 10:30am. We need your help!

### Seminary Food Co-op – January 2021 Needs

The needs of the Seminary Food Co-op change from week-to-week. Now, more than ever, additional donations would be welcome and appreciated. Let's keep up the good work and focus on donating Cereal, Oatmeal, Pop Tarts, Breakfast Bars, Hot Chocolate, Juice, Muffin Mix, Pancake Mix, Syrup, Coffee/Tea, Canned Fruits, and Applesauce. Also, any and all baking items, laundry detergent, toilet paper, paper towel, or cleaning supplies. Our Food Co-op donation cart is located near the elevator/church office hallway. Let's fill the cart to overflowing once again! Be creative - Be generous - Have fun!

### Sign Up for 2021 Altar Flowers Now Available

We have openings on **January 3, 10 & 24 and most of February**. Please sign up for Altar or Chancel flowers on the date of your choice for 2021. Monthly sign up sheets are located in the Flower Order Binder on the counter near the elevator or call the church office to sign up. Cost is \$40.00. Please make checks payable to St. Paul's Altar Guild and place the checks in the locked Altar Guild mail slot in the church office area or mail to 1126 S. Barr St. Fort Wayne, IN 46802. Flowers are available to pick up after the service or on Mondays. Please call Lynn with any questions at 755-8532.

### 2021 Offering Envelopes & "Initial" Envelope

The "Initial" offering Envelope, the very first one of your 2021 envelopes, is used to defray the expense of purchasing the envelopes. Last year's cost was \$1,384.00. Please pick up your new envelopes in the front cloister.

### Electronic Giving in the New Year

Your sacrificial offerings are crucial during this time. Please mail in your offering envelope or use the online giving options. For your convenience we offer electronic giving via our website [www.stpaulsfw.org](http://www.stpaulsfw.org) by clicking on the online giving tab. You have the option to donate directly through the website, text your offering, or instructions are available to download the secure mobile giving app. If you have questions or need assistance please call the church office.

### Fort Wayne March for Life January 23

January 23rd, at the USF Performing Arts Center 431 W Berry St. Keynote by Mark, brother-in-law of the late Dr. Klopfer, the man who discovered the 2,411 babies' bodies. Noon Rally (also Live on YouTube), 1pm March.

### Cross Connections Counseling

At St. Paul's we care about your mental and emotional health. We care about your relationship with friends and family. Regular pastoral care and Biblical counseling are a great help through rough times. Appointments are made by Pastoral referral to Cross Connections. Please talk to Pastor Cage or Pastor Hoem. For general information, you can visit their website at [www.CrossConnectionsCounseling.com](http://www.CrossConnectionsCounseling.com)

\* Facebook (search St. Paul's EV Lutheran Church LCMS)  
YouTube (search St. Paul's Lutheran Church Fort Wayne)