

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Greater Milwaukee Synod, ELCA

The MESSENGER

Vol. 77- No. 12 – December, 2021

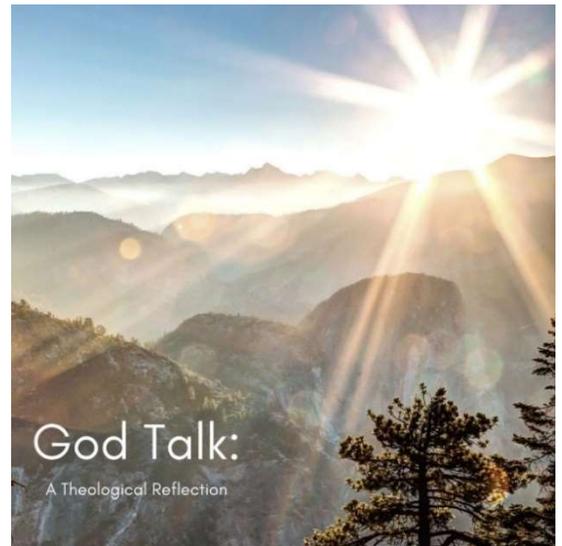


CHRISTMAS EVE
WORSHIP AT 7:00PM
Friday, December 24, 2021

God Talk

*“And Mary said,
My Soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
For he has looked with favor
on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations
will call me blessed.”*

~Luke 1:46-48



These verses mark the beginning of the *Magnificat*, or Mary’s song of praise. She just learned from an angel that she will give birth to the Son of God, and her response is to praise God from the depths of her soul. Shouldn’t Mary be more afraid? She just got some pretty exciting news, sure, but it’s also really scary news. No one understands how she became pregnant, and at that time she could have faced not only the judgment of her community but possibly death for being unfaithful to her fiancé. She doesn’t know how this will all turn out, but she trusts God and sings praise to God. The Lord looks upon her with favor – in the past, the present, and undoubtedly in the future – and that gives her the boldness to praise and rejoice. We, too, face very uncertain times in our world. We have seen the violence that individuals can commit against one another, we know the fear and uncertainty that cause people to lash out against strangers, and we don’t know how anything will turn out. And yet, we trust God’s presence with us. We trust that God will be with

us through whatever comes our way. We, like Mary, can't help but praise God when we consider all that God has done for us.

I pray that in this Advent season of waiting and hoping, we are reminded of God's goodness and love for each of us and moved to praise God with all of our being.

Amen.

- Vicar Charlotte

Church Council met via Zoom on November 10th and received updates from Pastor Delaney and Vicar Charlotte regarding St. Paul's ministries, members, and worship plans through the season of Advent. Council also heard updates on Kim's Table, plans for the full return of Sunday coffee hour, and music and worship updates for the holiday season. Additionally, Council resumed our ongoing discussion about the future of St.



Paul's and we look forward to sharing more details about these conversations with the congregation at our annual meeting in January.



RIC Corner

Gifts from God”

Last spring, we studied the “clobber texts” in Sunday Bible study, unpacking the Bible

passages used to exclude LGBTQIA+ folks from the family of God, and building a broader interpretation. In the course of our study, one of the Bible study participants said, “All people are a gift from God. Who are we to complain about the wrapping?” That insight comes back to me often, when I am frustrated with others, or when I am in awe of someone else. This month, as we prepare for Christ’s coming, and focus on what gifts God offers to the world, I hope this insight may be helpful to you. All people are a gift from God; what would happen if we noticed, admired, and celebrated the wrapping? How would that change your experience of others? How might that change our world?

-Pastor Delaney

In Sympathy...

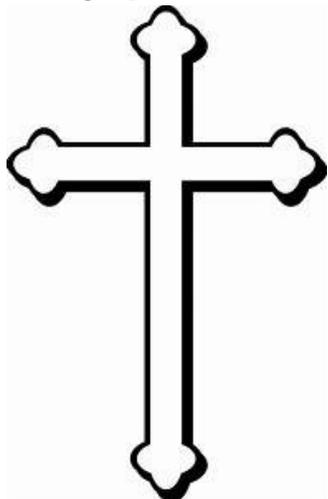
The funeral for Dick Klug will be held on Saturday, December 4, at Bevsek-Verbick funeral home, W195 S6610 Racine Avenue in Muskego, 53150. The visitation is from 9am until the time of the funeral service at 11am.



Dick was a very active member of our St. Paul's family. He was an usher, a greeter, and every December, one could find Dick helping decorate the Christmas trees at St Paul's. Dick was 78.

Raymond Allen Kaisler

Ray passed away on Saturday, October 30, 2021.



Although Ray was home-bound, Ray was a faithful member of St. Paul's. Ray was involved in the life of St. Paul's as a council member, a greeter, as well as a member of the usher team. Ray was 90.

Advent Worship

December brings with it the beautiful church season of Advent, when we light candles and prepare for Christ's arrival into our world and our lives anew. At St. Paul's, we will celebrate the season through Sunday morning worship at 10am, weekly Advent devotionals on YouTube with Pastor Delaney and Vicar Charlotte, and midweek Wednesday Zoom worship at 6pm on December 1, 8, and 15. Join us!



Midweek
Advent Worship
with
Shepherd of the Bay

Wednesdays 6pm
on Zoom 12/1, 8, & 15

ST. PAUL'S VOLUNTEERS:

*Neighborhood
House
Pantry &
Coats
12/1 12pm*

Join us for another visit to Neighborhood House
on **Wednesday, December 1st at Noon!**
This is a great opportunity to continue growing
our relationships in the community!

December

2021

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

			1 12 pm Kim's Table at Neighbor- hood House	2	3	4 11am funeral service for Dick Klug in Muskego
5 Advent 2 8:15am Bible Study 10am Worship Live Stream	6 	7	8 7pm Council Meeting via Zoom	9	10 	11 Decorating the Sanctuary
12 Advent 3 8:15am Bible Study 10am Worship Live Stream	13	14	15	16 	17	18
19 Advent 4 8:15am Bible Study 10am Worship Live Stream	20 	21	22 	23	24 7pm Christmas Eve Worship	25 Christmas Day Worship on Zoom
26 10am Worship Live Stream	27	28 	29	30 	31 New Year's Eve	

NOISY OFFERING



Bring your loose change for special offering collections at the Worship Services every first Sunday of the month.

Neighborhood House - Milwaukee

While we continue to support our friends at Neighborhood House by volunteering monthly for the food pantry, this month is an opportunity to learn more and highlight: health initiatives.

The Neighborhood House **Food Pantry** provides emergency food for families and individuals in the 53208 and 53233 area. We offer a FULL-CHOICE pantry dedicated to serving our community with three days of food for each household member. We are a walk-up food pantry so, no appointment is needed. All you need to bring is a photo ID and proof of address in the 53208 and 53233 zip codes.

***Please note: At this time, we cannot accept food donations.* Our partner Hunger Task Force and other food-providing organizations provides our food pantry with food donations.

Health Initiatives: NH offers direct health/wellness events and engages in community-wide health programs. Specific offerings include our annual health resource fair and fall flu immunization events; Woman 2 Woman Empowerment Program; workshops and health screenings. NH also offers referrals to immunizations, mental health and other community resources. To donate, please use this link

<https://neighborhoodhousemke.org/donate/>



Christmas Eve

Join us for the return of our in-person
Christmas Eve worship service this year!

We will worship at 7:00pm with candles, singing
and joyful wonder at the coming of Christ into the world!



SUNDAY GOSPEL AND PSALM READINGS December 5- 26, 2021

<p><u>December 5</u></p> <p>Malachi 3:1-4 Luke 1:68-79 Philippians 1:3-11 Luke 3:1-6</p>	<p><u>December 12</u></p> <p>Zephaniah 3:14-20 Isaiah 12:2-6 Philippians 4:4-7 Luke 3:7-18</p>
<p><u>December 19</u></p> <p>Micah 5:2-5a Luke 1:46b-55 Hebrews 10:5-10 Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]</p>	<p><u>December 24</u></p> <p>Isaiah 9:2-7 Psalm 96 Titus 2:11-14 Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]</p>
<p><u>December 25</u></p> <p>Isaiah 62:6-12 Psalm 97 Titus 3:4-7 Luke 2:[1-7] 8-20</p>	<p><u>December 26</u></p> <p>1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26 Psalm 148 Colossians 3:12-17 Luke 2:41-52</p>

Birthday in November

11th Ethel Walter

21st Adrianna Eastberg

22nd Wayne Ringwolski



Christmas Decorating

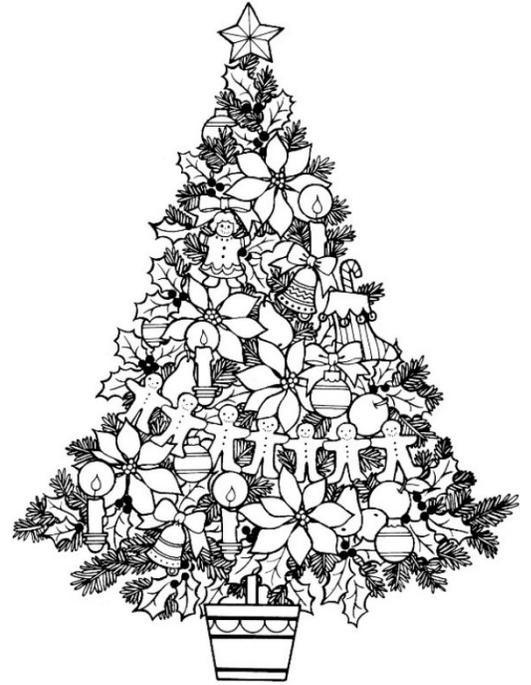
Can't get enough of Christmas?

Do you love putting up a tree?

Join us for church decorating on Saturday, December 11, at 9am! All are welcome, and we

will have opportunities for people of all different skill levels. Don't forget to bring

some Christmas cookies to share afterward!



Poinsettia Plants have been ordered and will



be delivered on December 11 sometime between 830am and 12noon. They will be on display for the Christmas Eve Service and can be taken home afterwards. Thank you for purchasing them!

ANNUAL MEETING



The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on January 30, 2022 following our morning service. At this point the meeting will be in person and live streamed. Voting arrangements for live

streaming viewers will be announced later.

The following items will be considered for action: the 2022 Budget and elections for Council Offices. In addition, we will hold a discussion on future directions for St. Paul's.

The following offices are open for nominations:

President – 2-year term, Mark Voelz has served 2 terms

Vice-President – 1 year term, Marcia Mikich has served 1 year under C 11.02

Secretary – 2-year term Elaine Disbro is eligible to serve a second term

Board of Music and Worship – 2-year term, Jeri Jende is eligible to serve a second term

Board of Outreach – 1 year term. Nancy Day has served 1 year under C 11.02

Board of Parish Education – 2-year term

This position has been vacant

Board of Properties – 2-year term, Mike Polinske has served 2 years under C 11.02



Picture can be found at <https://www.crayola.com/free-coloring-ages/holidays/christmas-coloring-pages/>



Picture can be found at

<https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&url=https%3A%2F%2Fcoloringhome.com%2Fnativity-free-coloring-pages-printable&psig=A0vVaw1Wbw3oMqfFtNRDiPFEqI3k&ust=1637164565825000&source=images&cd=vfe&ved=0CAwQjhxqFwoTCPDTv7-fnfQCFQAAAAAdAAAAABAm>

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