



St. Paul's
Evangelical Lutheran Church



The Disciple's Connection

January 2022

Worship Services

Saturday 6:00pm

Sunday 9:30am

Sunday Bible Study

Adult 8:30am & 10:45am

Children 10:45am

Staff

Paul D. Sundbom, Pastor

Marlyss Sekki, Director of Music

Peggy McDonnell, Admin Assistant

Church Office

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St. Paul's Preschool

Amy Marizek, Director

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A New Year? Already?

Am I the only one? Or are there others like me out there? It felt to me like 2020 & 2021 were way too similar. The calendar says we're near the end of 2021 [9 days left as I'm typing this], so that's what I'm going with 😊.

The end of a year gives each of us a chance to look back and see different things. Blessings, difficulties, learning moments, teaching times, triumphs, setbacks, and everything in between. I trust that believers do look back at the end of a year for God's blessings. So, how has God blessed you in 2021? How much of the year was he seemingly carrying you through? What do you want to be different, better in 2022? I trust 2022 will be different for you because it seems no 2 years ever turn out the same. I hope the New Year brings new opportunities for you and your family.

I like to give people a small suggestion to consider at the beginning of each year. Take it for what it is meant to be; a suggestion, a place to start a new year. It's something that I have recently been finding my thoughts returning to again & again. Life is a battle, but I'm armored up for the battle. Yep, the good ol' Armor of God. Helmet of salvation, breastplate of righteousness, belt of truth, shield of faith, feet fitted with the readiness of the Gospel. Oh, and the sword of the Spirit, the Word of God. Medieval armor might seem out of place in this modern age. It isn't by any means. And it's not so much about the physical pieces of armor, as it is about what is covering us in the battle. Salvation, righteousness, truth, faith, the Gospel of peace, the Word of God. These are what protect us in battle. Protection hopefully leads to confidence, reassurance. No matter what we have faced in last 12 months, no matter what we may face in the coming months, God gives us confidence & reassurance. He has always been there, is here now, and always will be. Present and in control of all things.

This last part for me doesn't change much over each year. As we begin this New Year, let us begin it in prayer. Pray that God will lead you and guide you. Pray that you will be ready go where He leads you. Pray that the enemy will not find a way to deceive you. Pray that in the midst of uncertainty, that the Holy Spirit will calm you with the sure & certain Word of God. Pray for your Council members & Elders. Pray for them as they serve God and seek to do His will. Pray for each other as brothers and sisters in the faith who need encouragement every day. Pray for people of this community that all may know Jesus as Lord and Savior and may be brought into a saving relationship with Him. Pray continuously, for the prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.

In Christ

Pastor Sundbom



Temporal and Eternal

By Gene Edward Veith

The two kingdoms doctrine in Lutheran theology is not just distinction between the church and the state, the sacred and the secular, or the spiritual and the physical. Luther often described them as the “temporal kingdom” and the “eternal kingdom.”



Though temporal and eternal includes the other senses, the distinction between the temporal and the eternal is a classic Christian concept that is often neglected today. The temporal is within time; it is the realm of change, instability and what passes away. Creation is time bound, and, as part of the temporal order, so are we. We grow up, grow old and die. The eternal is beyond time; it is the realm of God, everlasting life and salvation.

The Bible contrasts these two realms. “Surely the people are grass,” says Isaiah. “The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever” (Isaiah 40:7–8).

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal,” says Jesus, “but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matt. 6:19–21).

Despite its impermanence, the temporal realm is still important. God rules as King here too. It is His creation. We inhabit the temporal realm as fish inhabit water. Here we come to faith and grow in faith. God has called Christians to temporal vocations — in our families, the workplace, our citizenship and the church — in which we live out our faith in love and service to our neighbors.

But we can get so wrapped up in our temporal life that we neglect our citizenship in God’s eternal kingdom. When Jesus and His disciples visited Mary and Martha, Martha complained that her sister Mary was not helping. Martha “was distracted with much serving.” As a result, she was “anxious and troubled about many things” (Luke 10:40–41).

This is an occupational — indeed, a vocational — hazard for all of us. We become so caught up in serving others that we become distracted, anxious and troubled.

Jesus commended Mary for choosing the good portion, for recognizing that only “one thing is necessary” (Luke 10:42). And what was that? She “sat at the Lord’s feet and listened to his teaching” (Luke 10:39).



Article continued

This account is not about the superiority of the contemplative life over the active life, as it is often taken in defenses of monasticism. The Swedish Lutheran pastor and novelist Bo Giertz unpacked the vocational implications of this text ([A Year of Grace, Vol. 2](#): “Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity”). He writes, addressing Martha: “Certainly, there is much you have to do. But behold, there is only one thing needful, and Mary has chosen this” (p. 104). Even in the midst of our busy temporal concerns, we can sit at Jesus’ feet and listen to His teaching by means of the Word and the Sacraments. “When His teachings are received, then He goes with you in your work so that you shall get along with it too” (p. 108).

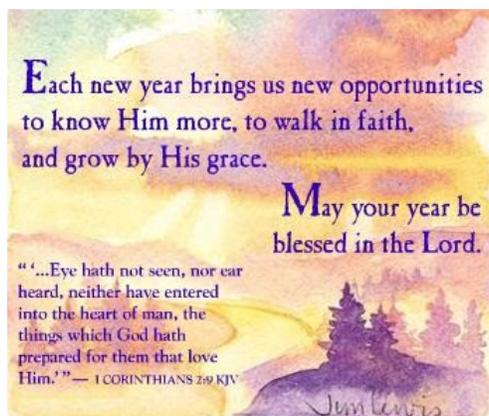
Cultivating an eternal perspective does not mean rejecting our life in the temporal world, rather it puts it into perspective. Like Martha, we can easily become distracted, anxious and troubled by political issues, economic problems, sickness and other trials and tribulations of a fallen world.

Though moths, rust and thieves can take away our treasures on earth, however, we have treasures in heaven. This is because “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever” (Heb. 13:8). He rules both realms, and, because of the Gospel, we have a secure place in His eternal kingdom.

“We are forgiven sinners and at the same time God’s beloved children,” says Rev. Giertz. “That is the one thing needful” (p. 108).

Dr. Gene Edward Veith is the author of over 20 books on different facets of Christianity and culture, including, most recently, [Authentic Christianity](#) (CPH), with A. Trevor Sutton. A retired English professor and college administrator, he also directs the Cranach Institute at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, and blogs regularly at patheos.com/blogs/geneveith.

Vieth, Gene Edward, (2020, November 25). Temporal and Eternal. The Lutheran Witness. <https://witness.lcms.org/2020/temporal-and-eternal/>





Life Quotes for Month

January 2 "Friend of Jesus, no matter what painful or wonderful endings you marked in the past year, please watch for the early signs of new beginnings. Seize them as opportunities for you and God to develop together. Think about what the Bible teaches about life, appreciate God's love for you, gather up bits and pieces of experience, and put them in a file named 'lessons learned.' Then keep it handy." *Jason Nelson, Time of Grace* – A Life Quote from *Lutherans For Life* • lutheransforlife.org

January 9 "[E]very human life, no matter the size, level of development, environment, or degree of dependency, is indispensable in fulfilling God's plans." *Lynette Auch, president of Lutherans For Life* – A Life Quote from *Lutherans For Life* • lutheransforlife.org

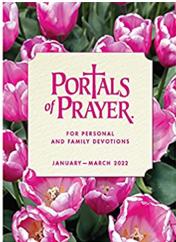
January 16 "You are not and never have been simply a number, a blob of tissue, or an invisible nobody. Rather, you are now and always have been God's handcrafted gift to the world." *Michelle Bauman, director of Y4Life* – A Life Quote from *Lutherans For Life* • lutheransforlife.org

January 23 "The Lord called all things into being, from the greatest to the least, with His mighty mere Word. But He formed the human bodies with His own fingers and His very breath. He lovingly, intimately, and meticulously knits us together in our mothers' wombs." *Pastor Michael Salemink, Lutherans For Life* – A Life Quote from *Lutherans For Life* • lutheransforlife.org

January 30 "Because of Christ's life, death, and resurrection, our Father now holds His hand out to each and every human being: perfect inclusion, perfection belonging—no exceptions! You are chosen! You are a branch who has received the Life of the Vine!" *Marie MacPherson, author* – A Life Quote from *Lutherans For Life* • lutheransforlife.org

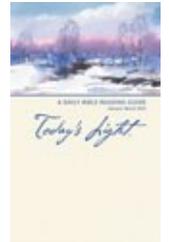


Announcements



January—March 2022 *Portals of Prayer Now Available*

The January—March 2021 Portals of Prayer daily devotions are now available. Copies can be found at the back of the sanctuary by the double doors, or on the resource area table. Also available is the Today's Light daily bible reading guide.



1-2-3 FRIDAYS
\$1 SODAS \$2 HOT DOGS \$3 SELECT BEERS
PRESENTED BY

St. Paul's is having a group outing at the Cleveland Monsters hockey game on Friday, February 4th at 7 pm at Rocket Mortgage Fieldhouse. Tickets are \$18/each. It is 1-2-3 night. \$1 sodas, \$2 hotdogs, and \$3 beers.

The tickets are available through Dale Kerver. Payment should be made to Dale Kerver by check or cash. Monies can be put in his church mail box. Being that tickets are now digital only you must get a Seat Geek app so the tickets can be transferred to you on your smart phone. There are NO paper tickets. If this does not work well for you then you will need to make arrangements with Dale to meet at the Fieldhouse since the tickets are on his account.

Signup sheet will be on the back doors of the sanctuary. Please supply your name, number of tickets, and your email address to send the tickets to you in your Seat Geek app. You need to sign up by January 26th.

Women's Bible Study—New Year's Resolution

Make a New Year's resolution to be in the Word in 2022.

You are encouraged to be a part of the women's Bible study group which meets at the church 6:30-8:00 on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month (not during Lent). Mark these dates on your calendar:

- January 12 & 25
- February 9 & 23
- April 27
- May 11 & 25

All studies come from the LWML Quarterly. We hope to see you there!





WHAT'S YOUR 80?

1942–2022 — 80 Years of God's Grace

The LWML Turns 80 in 2022!

Since 1942 the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) has been proclaiming Christ, supporting missions, equipping women, and serving others. The LWML Board of Directors (BOD) is encouraging all districts, zones, groups, and individual members to celebrate with "80 something."

To that end, the Friendship Circle hopes to collect 80 items to support the Mentor Birthright Lake, Inc. during the month of January (Right to Life month). Suggested items:

- Preemie, Size 3, 4, 5, 6 diapers
- New and gently used/washed boy and girl clothing - 24 months and above, and in particular 4T and 5T
- Pajamas sizes - 18mo. girls and boys and girls 4T and 5T
- Baby wash and wipes
- New 8 oz. plastic bottles
- New Newborn and toddler socks
- Gently worn/clean baby and toddler - preschool size shoes
- New pacifiers/teethers

Items may be placed in the bassinet by the Friendship Circle Board during the month of January. Please fill in a blank spot on the tally board when you add something to the bassinet to show how we are progressing in meeting the goal of 80 items.

(Check <https://www.birthrightlake.org/current-needs.html> for updates on current needs).

LWML Mite Contribution

St. Paul's Congregation contributed \$3,692.33 in mite money during 2021. To God be the glory and may we continue to prayerfully feed our mite boxes in 2022 to further the mission work of the LWML.



Prayer Quilt Thank-Yous

Two thank-you cards have been sent to the church for the prayer quilts that were recently presented to ill congregational members. They have been posted up on the double doors at the back of the Sanctuary. Please feel free to stop by and read them.



Hearts of Mercy & Compassion (HMC)



Crosses for Losses provides a physical and spiritual symbol through the giving of hearts to families and friends who have suffered a loss or are experiencing the illness of a loved one. The heart itself is universal and conveys love. The color blue is the color of hope and the fish is a symbol of God's saving grace.

The Outreach Committee has placed six hearts on the table near the entrance to the Narthex. They are for the family members of:

James West

Russ Tuttle Jr.

Anna McVan

John and Kathy Doeing

Larry & Kathy Sekki

Terry House (Son of Charlene Sullivan)

Louise Klebe

Susan Geyer (Niece of Gretchen Tracey)

Joe Doeing

We ask that all congregational members stop by the table and write an uplifting message and/or add their signature to each heart. Thank-you.

2022 Offering Envelopes Are In

The envelopes are on the table by the mailboxes. If we accidentally missed you or if you have never received envelopes before and would like to start, please let Pastor or Dennis Concoby know and we will prepare a box for you.



2022 Altar Flower Chart

Is there a special someone, date, or event you would like to celebrate, honor or remember. A great way to do that is with Altar Flowers. The Altar Flower Chart for 2022 has been posted on the wall next to the double doors leading out of the sanctuary. All you have to do is sign up next to the appropriate weekend. Be sure to print clearly what occasion is being honored and who the flowers are given by. Altar flowers are \$40.00. This can be placed in an envelope labeled "Altar Flowers" and the date of the weekend, then place in the collection plate.



January Anniversaries

Star Graziadei	2nd	Annikki Tompkins	18th	Lia Graziadei	28th
Kevin Kiel	3rd	Terry Wakelee	21st	Norm Salminen	29th
Marisa Szoradi	7th	Nathan Lelle	25th	Sue Snodgrass	29th
Andy Kujala	9th	Matthew Chaffe	28th	MacKenzi Dewit	30th
Julie Greig	17th				





Those Who Serve January 2022

ELDERS:

6:00 P	Saturday	Dale Kerver
9:30 A	Sunday	Rich Szoradi

LECTORS:

6:00 P	Saturday	Frank McVan
9:30 A	Sunday	Craig McConnell
6:00 P	Saturday	Pastor Sundbom
9:30 A	Sunday	Ken Chaffe
6:00 P	Saturday	Frank McVan
9:30 A	Sunday	Eric West
6:00 P	Saturday	Pastor Sundbom
9:30 A	Sunday	Dale Kerver
6:00 P	Saturday	Frank McVan
9:30 A	Sunday	Jennifer Drake

COUNTERS:

Terry Wakelee, Connie Concoby, Dennis Concoby

GREETERS:

6:00 P	Saturday
9:30 A	Sunday

SIGN UP IN MONTH TO WAVE YOUR
GREETING TO YOUR FELLOW DISCIPLES.

Sign-up sheet located on the double
doors at the back of the Sanctuary.

January 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <p>COMMUNION SERVICE</p>		<p>WORSHIP SCHEDULE Saturdays - 6:00pm Sundays - 9:30am Sunday School - 10:45am Adult Bible Study—8:30am & 10:45am</p>		<p>Bulletin Announcements Due Wednesdays</p> <p>January Birthstone: Garnet</p>	<p>Office Hours Monday-Friday 9:00am-2:00pm</p> <p>January Flower: Carnation</p>	<p>National Mentoring Month</p> 
2	3	4 Preschool Back in Session 7 pm Choir Practice	5 6:30 pm Council Meeting	6 7 pm Virtual Bible Study 8 pm Confirmation Class	7	8  10 am Church Un-decorating
9 	10	11 7 pm Choir Practice	12 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm Elder's Meeting	13 7 pm Virtual Bible Study	14	15 National Hat Day
16	17 	18 Winnie The Pooh Day 7 pm Choir Practice	19 National Popcorn Day	20 6pm Outreach Meeting 7 pm Virtual Bible Study 8 pm Confirmation Class	21  National Hug Day	22 
23 	24	25 7 pm Choir Practice	26 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	27 7 pm Virtual Bible Study	28	29
30	31 National Hot Chocolate Day					