

St. Paul's Epistle – January 2021

O God, Our Help!

A New Year is upon us. Perhaps we will see an end to the pandemic that has already gripped our nation and world for more than nine months. In a few weeks, there will be a presidential inauguration, causing some citizens to be happy, and others, not so much. By the way, the Scriptures can help us here: 1) We are always to pray for whomever the Lord allows to lead us (1 Timothy 2:2 – “[praying] for kings and all who are in high positions”); and 2) we should never place our hope or trust in them (Psalm 146:3 – “Put not your trust in princes, in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation”). Our salvation is in Christ and Christ alone!

Come what may, and that could be many things—more earthquakes, hurricanes, wildfires, disease and illness, as well as many personal sorrows and difficulties—come what may, we are people of hope BECAUSE we know from where our help comes—“Our help comes from the Lord who made heaven and earth” (Psalm 121:2).

A hymn that has often been called “the greatest hymn that was composed in the English language,” was written by Isaac Watts around 1714, not long before Queen Anne’s death, when all England was anxious about her probable successor. In fact, the hymn tune is called “St. Anne.” The hymn is:

*O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast, And our eternal home:*

*Under the shadow of Thy throne, Thy saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is Thine arm alone, And our defense is sure.*

*Before the hills in order stood, Or earth received her frame,
From everlasting Thou art God, To endless years the same.*

*A thousand ages in Thy sight, Are like an evening gone,
Short as the watch that ends the night, Before the rising sun.*

*Time, like an ever-rolling stream, Soon bears us all away;
We fly forgotten as a dream, Dies at the op’ning day.*

*O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,
Be Thou our guard while troubles last, And our eternal home!*

“May the peace of God guard your heart and mind in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:7).

*Pastor
Poganski*

Worship Notes

In 2021, let us cling to our God of HOPE for strength amid life's challenges; let us thank our God of PEACE for the comfort He brings in His promises; and, let us praise our God of JOY for the life He grants us thru His Son, Jesus Christ.

We have opportunity to worship Him:

Sunday, January 3rd- The Second Sunday after Christmas. We hear of "The Father's Business" in the Sermon based on the Gospel lesson from Luke 2:40-52. We share readings from 1 Kings 3:4-15 and Ephesians 1:3-14. We sing "once in Royal David's City" (LSB 376); "Within the Father's House" (LSB 410); and, "From God the Father, Virgin-Born" (LSB 401).

Sunday, January 10th we observe The Baptism of Our Lord. Mark 1:4-11 provides the text for the Sermon titled "Jesus' Baptism and Ours". Genesis 1:1-5 and Romans 6:1-11 are the Old and New Testament reading respectively. We may share "When All the World Was Cursed" (LSB 346); "To Jordan's River Came Our Lord" (LSB 405); and, "The Star Proclaims the King Is Here" (LSB 399).

Sunday, January 17th is the Second Sunday after Epiphany. In the Sermon based on the Gospel reading from John 1:43-51, we are invited to "Come and See". We also hear from 1 Samuel 3:1-10 and 1 Corinthians 6:12-20. Our hymns may include: "When Morning Gilds the Skies" (LSB 807); "By All Your Saints in Warfare" (LSB 518, special emphasis on verse 23); and, "Spread the Reign of God the Lord" (LSB 830).

Sunday, January 24th is the Third Sunday after Epiphany. We turn to Jonah 3:1-5,10, our Old Testament reading, for the text of the Sermon, titled "Jonah's Preaching". The New Testament lesson is 1 Corinthians 7:29-31 and the Gospel, Mark 1:14-20. We sing "O, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing" (LSB 528); "O Christ, Our True and Only Light" (LSB 839) and, "O God of Light" (LSB 836).

Sunday, January 31st is the Fourth Sunday after Epiphany. We hear from Mark 1:21-28 as our Gospel reading and text for the Sermon titled, "Even the Demons Obey Him". Our other lessons include Deuteronomy 18:15-20 and 1 Corinthians 8:1-13. The hymns may include: "Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness" (LSB 849); "Away from Us!" the Demon Cried (LSB 541); and, "Son of God, Eternal Savior" (LSB 842).

Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!

Bow down before Him His glory proclaim;

With gold of obedience and incense of lowliness,

Kneel and adore Him; The Lord is His name! (Words: John A. V. Monsell 1811-1875)

To the praise of His glorious name,

Karen Broach, Worship Committee member

Congregational Officers for 2021

The following members are our new officers for 2021. Please keep them in your prayers:

President - Lynn Tallman

Vice-President - Mark Klein

Secretary - Pat Tavare

Treasurer - Kermitt Dickey

Financial Secretary - Coleen Tallman and Doak Whitley

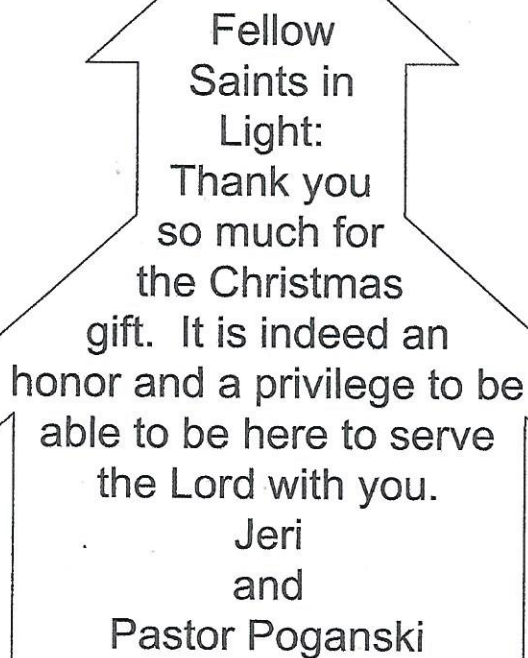
Elders - Gil McMillan and Howard Holman

Board of Trustees Chair - Steve Broach

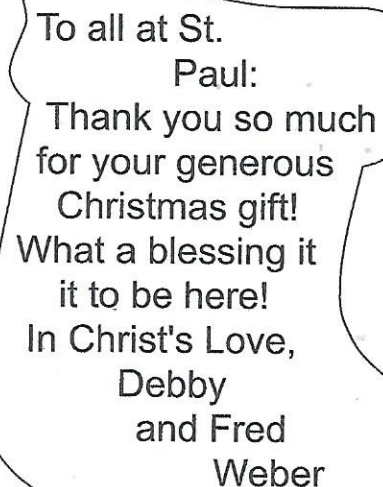
Board of Education Chair - Barb Whitley

Fellowship Committee - Jan and Oscar Timmons

Also, we thank Ala Mae Voigt for having served as our secretary in 2020.



Fellow
Saints in
Light:
Thank you
so much for
the Christmas
gift. It is indeed an
honor and a privilege to be
able to be here to serve
the Lord with you.
Jeri
and
Pastor Poganski



To all at St.
Paul:
Thank you so much
for your generous
Christmas gift!
What a blessing it
is to be here!
In Christ's Love,
Debby
and Fred
Weber

God's blessings to All,

This is an update from your friends and family of Our Savior Lutheran, exactly two years after the Camp fire. It has been an eventful year, hasn't it? With everything that has been going on in the world, the rebuilding of Paradise and our surrounding community seem to be rather insignificant. But seeing homes being built, businesses re-opening and town events happening once again, brings us tremendous joy. Now on to the update...

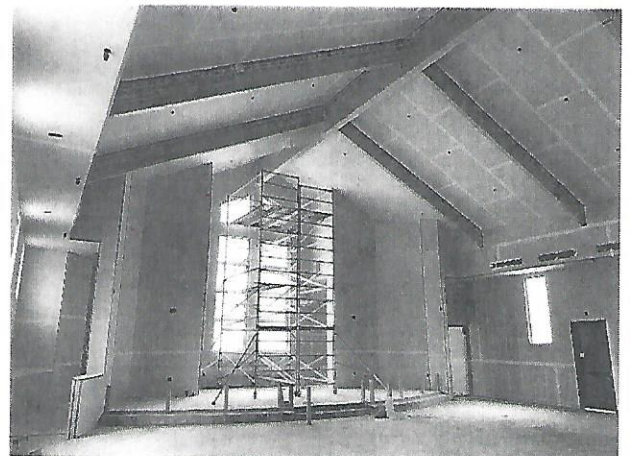
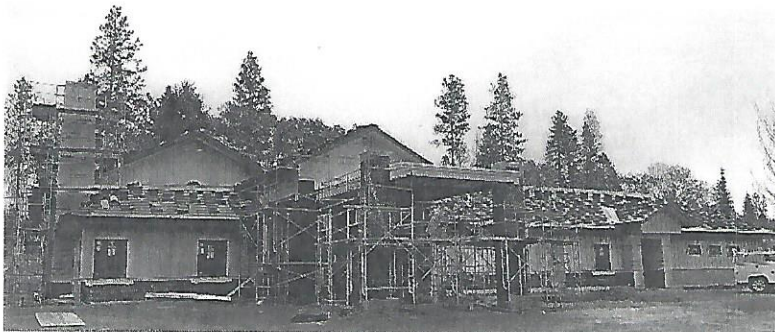
The church is still on schedule to be finished by Christmas, but that doesn't mean that we will necessarily be able to worship there on Christmas. However, we are excited to see the progress and are very grateful for our contractor who has been phenomenal during this whole process. There have been a lot of decisions being made over the last month and now we have our stained-glass window being designed, all of the colors, flooring and cabinetry picked out and being built. All of the exterior doors were set this past week, the roof will be finished, the interior walls are ready for texture and all of the HVAC system finished this coming week. We are planning to re-open the pre-school as soon as possible and are looking at other ways to continue to support the rebuilding effort in Paradise and Magalia. God continues to bless us every step of our journey and have grown closer together as a church family and closer to Our Father in heaven. We have moved back the date of our celebration service to after Easter because of COVID 19 and will keep everyone up to date when we finalize our plans.

We are so very thankful for all who have been praying for us and supporting our church family and community over the last two years. Without the foresight of those who served before us and your help, this would not have been possible. Above all, we praise our Heavenly Father who continues to demonstrate His love and mercy for all who call on His great name.

To get the latest information and progress of the rebuilding, further information about the ribbon cutting ceremony (sometime in early January) and dedication service (tentatively planned for May 2nd), you can follow us on Facebook. To find us just look up "Our Savior Lutheran Church, Paradise, CA".

Thank you again for your generous gifts and for lifting us up through this journey. May God continue to bless you all,

Pastor Brandon Merrick
Our Savior Lutheran Church
Paradise, CA



January Mission of the Month - GIDEONS

Travelers have been finding bibles left by the Gideons in hotel and motel rooms since 1908. The Gideons International is the result of a meeting between two men who wished to band commercial travelers together for evangelism. What began in 1908 as an Association of Christian businessmen placing Bibles in hotel rooms has evolved into an expanding mission to provide Scriptures to all people in nearly every facet of life. Today, the Gideons have taken more than 2 billion Scriptures in more than 95 languages to 200 countries, territories and possession across the globe. St. Paul has supported this ministry for many years.

If you would like to give a gift, please use your offering envelope which states on it "Designated Gift for January".

You may also give an earmarked gift to Gideons. [Note: Please make any checks out to

"St. Paul Lutheran Church"—Thanks]

January 2021 - St. Paul, Auburn

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

		Circumcision and Name of Jesus		New Year's Day			
Second Sunday after Christmas 9 a.m. Online Worship 10:30 Zoom Bible Class	4	5	6	7	8	9	
Baptism of Our Lord 9 a.m. Online Worship 10:30 Zoom Bible Class 2 p.m. Parking Lot Communion Service	11	12	13	14	15	16	
Second Sunday after Epiphany 9 a.m. Online Worship 10:30 Zoom Bible Class	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Third Sunday after Epiphany 9 a.m. Online Worship 10:30 Zoom Bible Class 2 p.m. Communion	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany 9 a.m. Online Worship 10:30 Zoom Bible Class	31						

